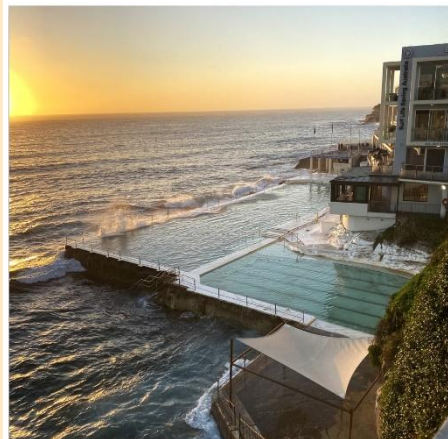




Bondi Icebergs Pool

Coogee Beach

The Rocks Markets

Summer Cinema

7 Cool Summer Things to Do in Sydney

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Every destination has something that sets it apart from other places – a unique charm that captivates the hearts and souls of its visitors.

During the summer months, with average daily temperatures around 27°C, Sydney transforms into a pulsating hub of warmth, light, and energy, offering a totally unique summer experience.

Imagine celebrating the festive season in the sun-drenched landscapes of Sydney, with warm days, dazzling New Year fireworks, bustling markets, and exciting beachside festivities.

Sydney is a place where the spirit of summer and the festive cheer intertwine, creating the opportunity for a really memorable holiday vacation.

In this Post, I outline seven different ‘cool’ things to do in Sydney during summer-time.

7 Cool Summer Things in Sydney

A quick scan of 7 Cool Summer Things in Sydney:

1. [Market Mania – From The Rocks to Bondi](#)

A sample of three popular market-places in Sydney

2. [Sydney Cinematic Experiences](#)

Three night-time outdoor summer cinema options in Sydney

3. [The Sydney Opera House Light Show](#)

Evening light-show projections onto the sails of the Sydney Opera House

4. [Yoga Under the Sydney Harbour Bridge](#)

Try an early-morning session of ‘bending and balancing’

5. [Go Beach Hopping](#)

Visit some of Sydney’s glorious ocean-coast beaches

6. [Visit One of the Oldest Pubs in Sydney](#)

Old Sydney had a pub on every corner: here are three worth a visit

7. [Find Weird and Wonderful Shit in the Sydney CBD](#)

Enjoy your own self-guided walk through downtown Sydney

[Essential Summer Tip: Stay Hydrated While Exploring Sydney](#)

Don’t forget to keep your fluid levels topped up in the summer sun

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Gadigal and Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the lands described in this Post, and we pay our respects to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.

We recognise that although the Gadigal and Bidjigal people may no longer be the title-holders to these lands, they are still connected to the culture and Country of their ancestors, and as custodians of their

culture, legitimately consider themselves caretakers of their Country.

We also extend our respects to all other First Nations peoples across Australia, and support the continuation of their cultural, spiritual and educational practices.

1. Market Mania: From The Rocks to Bondi



The Rocks Markets, along Playfair and Atherden Streets

Every time I visit a city I'm drawn to its local markets, and that's certainly true for Sydney. There's something utterly captivating about the vibrant energy of a market scene: the sights, the aromas, the chatter, the bargains, and the tastes!

Here, I have chosen three of the many summer markets held across Sydney.

One is at The Rocks, each Friday, Saturday and Sunday; the other two markets are at Bondi Beach.

The Rocks Markets

The **Rocks Markets** are centered around Playfair and George Streets, and is full of life.

The **Rocks Markets** are not just about shopping; it's also about listening to artisan stallholder's stories, enjoying the various wafting aromas, and experiencing the range of new flavors. You may even be lucky, and arrive when a live band is playing, adding to the atmosphere of this local event.

The artisan vibe, the wonderful creativity on display, and the general fun of being there, all make for an enjoyable visit.

During summer, The Rocks Markets are open on Friday 10am to 3pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am to 5pm.

(The Markets are closed Fri 26 Dec and Fri 2 Jan; also Sat 27 and Sun 28 Dec)

Markets at Bondi

The **Bondi Farmers Market** offers everything you would expect at a farmers' market.

Located at the Bondi Beach Public School, the **Bondi Farmers Market** is just a stone's throw away from the iconic Bondi Beach. Go, and you will find yourself wandering among stalls laden with the freshest fruit and vegetables, the most tantalizing gourmet eats, and other specialty items.

Bondi Farmers Market is open Saturdays, from 9am to 1pm, throughout the year.

The Bondi Market, also at the Bondi Beach Public School, is open on a Sunday, from 10am to 4pm.

The **Bondi Market** has a different kind of allure. Whether you are looking for vintage clothing, a piece of speciality jewellery, or a handmade item, then this market is for you! And, of course, there's also a selection of good market food.

Whether it's the historic charm of The Rocks, or the laid-back appeal of Bondi Beach, Sydney's markets are a testament to the city's rich tapestry of cultures and flavors, inviting you to dive right-in and explore!

Extra Info:

Check out what's happening at these markets:¶

<https://www.therocks.com/whats-on/market-overview>



The Rocks Markets area takes over parts of George Street



Festival fun at The Rocks Markets

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2. Sydney Cinematic Experiences

Sydney, a city that never sleeps under its starry summer sky, offers something magical for movie buffs and night owls – the outdoor cinema.

Imagine lying back on a warm summer's night, with the stars twinkling above you, as you indulge in one of three, or maybe all, of these cinematic adventures, during Sydney's summer.

Laneway Cinema at The Rocks

First, is the quaint **Laneway Cinema** at **The Rocks**, in Atherden Street.

The **Laneway Cinema** has free screenings at 7pm every Wednesday, from 12 Nov 2025 to 25 Feb 2026.

You can either register for a free ticket (and choose your beanbag), or ‘rock up’ and take your luck!

Doors open at 5:30pm.

During January, a minimum donation of \$2 is requested to support a charity.

Westpac Openair Cinema

Second, is the grand **Westpac Openair Cinema** at Mrs Macquarie’s Point, which looks towards Sydney’s two famous icons – the **Sydney Opera House** and the **Sydney Harbour Bridge**; what a spectacular movie night backdrop!

An amazing paid experience can be had from Friday 9 January to Tuesday 24 February 2026, with al fresco dining, drinks, and a movie seat. The big screen is raised at 9pm.

The full film program will be released on Friday 28 November.

Mov'in Bed Cinema at Barangaroo

Lastly, an outdoor movie experience in bed at the **Mov'in Bed Cinema** at Barangaroo, takes the outdoor movies to the next level!

From \$12 pp to \$75 pp, choose your level of luxury to watch cult favourites, romance, action, and classics.

While you’re lying there, you can order pizza that will be delivered right to your bed!

The summer season runs from Friday 28 November 2025 to Sunday 5 April 2026.

For this experience, it is advisable to book ahead. Gates Open at 6:00pm.

Any of these three movie venues are truly unique summer experiences, and a perfect way to end a summers day sightseeing!



The Westpac Big Screen at Farm Cove. Some viewers even manage to find free seats on the First Fleet Steps.

Extra Info:

For The Rocks Laneway Cinema, be early for the best beanbag seats:

<https://www.therocks.com/whats-on/campaigns/laneway-cinema-@-the-rocks>

For good seats at the Westpac Openair Cinema, you will need to book online:

<https://westpacopenair.com.au/>

Check out what movies are screening at Mov'in Bed Cinema:

<https://movinbed.com/>

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3. The Sydney Opera House Light Show

Another one of Sydney's summer highlights is watching the light show projections on the sails of the iconic Sydney Opera House.

On this architectural canvas of shell shaped sails, this summer's projection celebrates the vibrancy of Australia's First Nations culture Badu Gili. In the local language of the Gadigal people, Badu Gili means 'water light'.

Badu Gili: Healing Spirit will display on the eastern sails. This features the works of First Nations artists, including the late Bidjigal elder, Esme Timberly and her children.

This nightly six-minute projection can be seen at sunset, 8:30pm, 9pm, 9:30pm and 10pm, until 24 November.

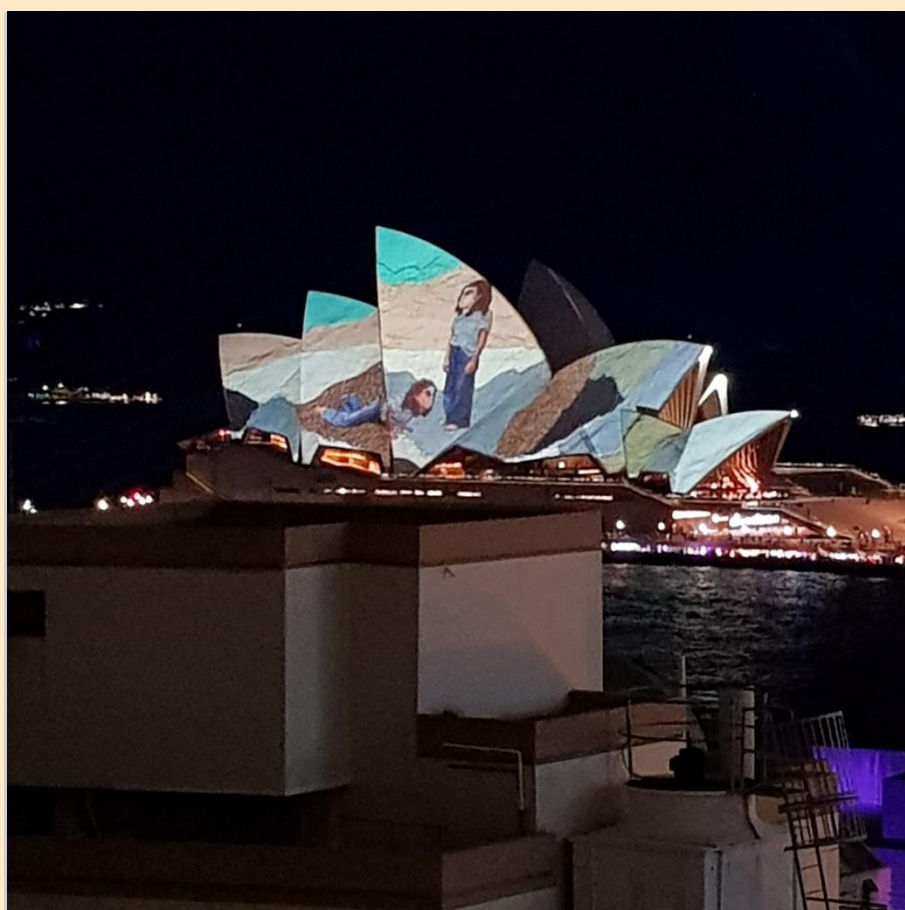
From 26 November, screening will be from sunset, 9:00pm, 9:30pm, 10:00pm and 10:30pm. During January/February 2026, timings will change again.

Extra Info:

A hot tip: the best viewing spot is from the Podium, at the top of the Monumental Steps of the Opera House.

Want to know more?

<https://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/experiences/badu-gili>



The western sails of the Sydney Opera House, illuminated during the annual Vivid Festival (The Opera House Light Show is projected onto the sails of the eastern side)

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4. Yoga Under the Sydney Harbour Bridge

What a wonderful start to your day, if you are a ‘yogi’.

As the morning sun starts to climb in the sky, you can start your bend into the ‘downward-facing dog’ in the shade of the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge, which is right above you.

You can experience this free yoga session on Sundays at 8:30am or 9:30am right under the bridge, at the corner of Lower Fort St and George St at Dawes Point Park (opposite the antique cast-iron ‘pissour’).

To join, all you need is your yoga mat, water, towel, and perhaps a hat and sunscreen to shield you from Sydney's summer sun on your return home.

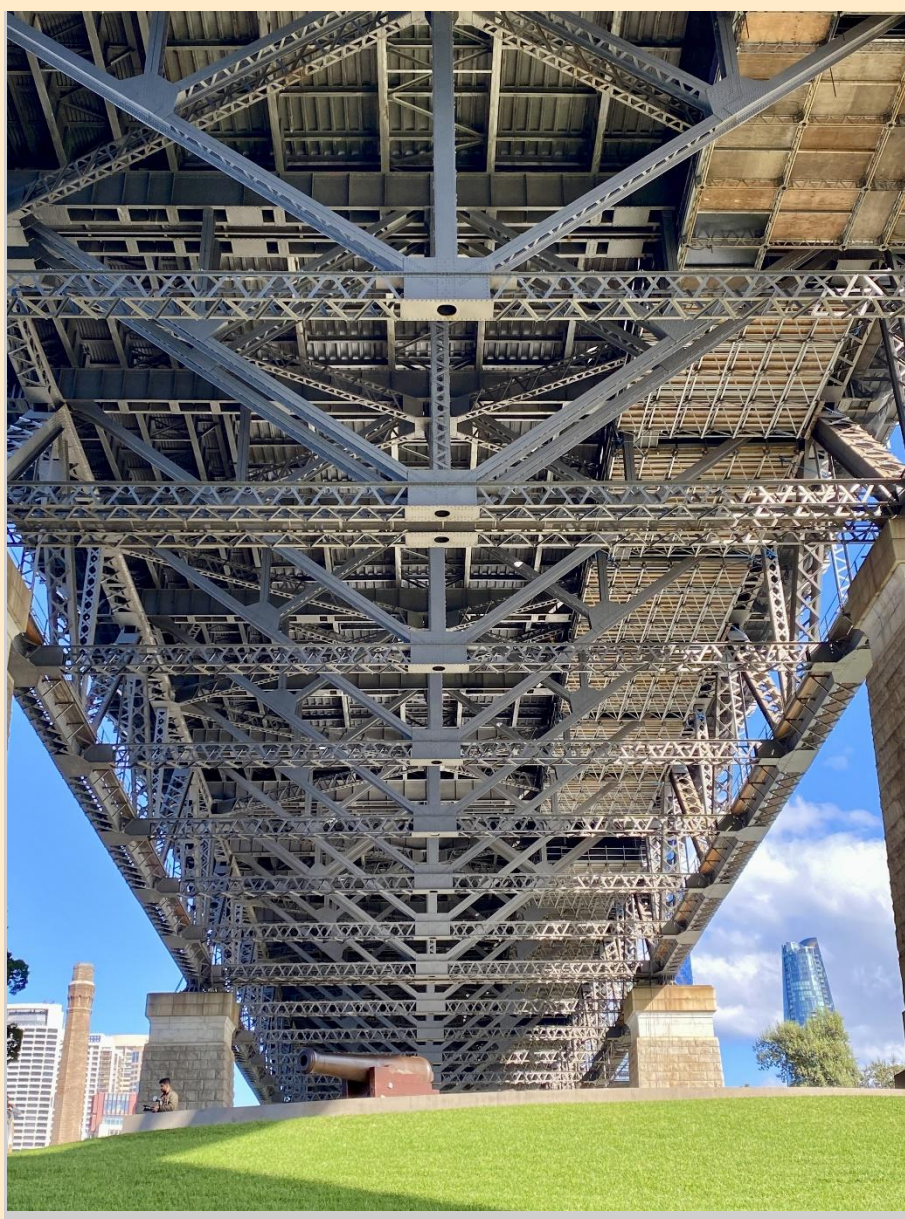
Should the weather decide to be less cooperative, there’s no need to fret; the 9:30 session goes online, ensuring your yoga fix is just a mat-roll away, come rain or shine.

h

Extra Info:

Check here for dates, as they do have a short break at the start of the New Year.

<https://www.therocks.com/whats-on/events/yoga-in-the-park>



Open space beneath the Sydney Harbour Bridge, viewed from near Dawes Point. The Yoga classes are conducted beyond the canon, at the top of the lawn area.

5. Go Beach Hopping

When the weather is fine, especially during the summer holidays, most Sydneysiders head to their favourite beaches.

Why not do the same? Pack a picnic, sunglasses, sunscreen, hat, swimsuit, towel, something to drink, and get out and enjoy the coastline!

Visit some of the smaller, less crowded beaches, such as can be found along the 6km Bondi to Coogee Coastal Walk, like Tamarama, Bronte, or Clovelly.

Each of these beaches has its own unique charm and vibe.

Start at Bondi Beach, and slowly make your way to the next beach for lunch. Not only are there beautiful beaches to see, but several of the cliff top views are also quite breath-taking.

Finish your beach-hopping day at Coogee, with a meal at one of the restaurants, or an Aussie schooner at one of the local pubs.

If you visit over the Christmas–New Year period, you’ll likely see people dressed in Christmas-themed clothing, and probably playing various beach sports.

Extra Info:

Some useful tips:

ALWAYS swim in the safe zone *between* the yellow and red flags.

The famous open-air Bondi Icebergs Pool is **closed on Thursdays** for cleaning.

Watch this video to see the coastal walk and the terrain, as there are steps to negotiate:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3Y8nyDvTpl&t=194s>



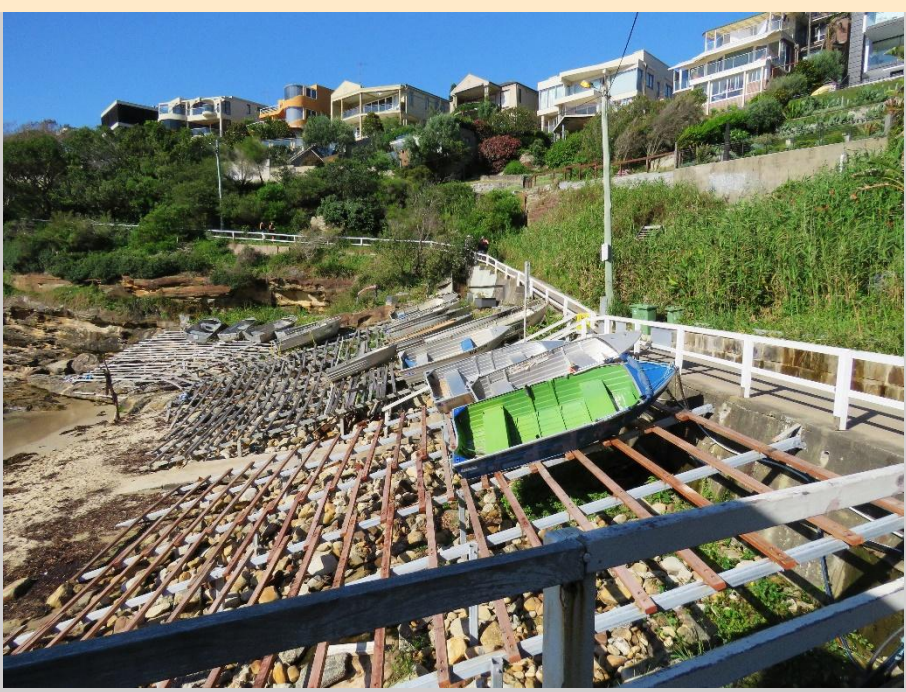
Icebergs Pool, Bondi Beach, at sunrise (closed Thursdays)



Coogee Beach, the McIver's Ladies Only outdoor baths can be found around the coastline to the right of the picture



Bronte Beach, looking towards the ocean pool



Boat racks at Gordons Bay, often display a range of 'dinghies' or 'tinnies' belonging to the locals

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6. Visit One of the Oldest Pubs in Sydney

Below I've listed three (of several) of Sydney's early colonial-era pubs.

The Fortune of War

Sit in the alfresco area of **The Fortune of War** colonial pub, at 137 George Street in The Rocks area.

The original Fortune of War was built in 1828, the one you may visit was built in 1922.

The alfresco area on George Street is a perfect summer spot for a drink or a casual pub meal; they even have a small kids' menu.

During summer evenings you could hear the lyrics from one of Bruce Springsteen's or Bob Dylan's songs, performed by local musicians, from Wednesday to Sunday (*and sometimes on Mondays and Tuesdays*).

The Lord Nelson

If you want to experience an authentic pub, that's still in its 'original skin', then make your way to **The Lord Nelson Brewery Hotel** at 19 Kent Street, Millers Points (above the Barangaroo Train Station).

The Lord Nelson was opened in June 1842, by William Wells, after he had received a liquor licence for his

Georgian home (this building) in May 1841.

The Hero of Waterloo

The third candidate is **The Hero of Waterloo**, at 81 Lower Fort Street, also at Millers Point (not far from The Lord Nelson).

In June 1845, George Paton, a Scottish stonemason, who also built the nearby Garrison Church, received a licence for the Hero of Waterloo.

The Hero offers live music on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. This hotel also conducts Ghost Tours of its haunted cellar, with its dark history.

Extra Info:

What live music is on at The Fortune of War?

<https://www.fortuneofwar.com.au/events/category/live-music/list/>

To learn more about The Lord Nelson Hotel:

<https://lordnelsonbrewery.com/>

The Hero of Waterloo Ghosts Tours:

<https://heroofwaterloo.com.au/hero-red-coat-history-ghost-tour/>



The Fortune of War Hotel, at The Rocks. The Summer alfresco outdoor dining is waiting for patrons



The Lord Nelson Brewery Hotel, at Millers Point. The hotel features nine boutique accommodation rooms



The Hero of Waterloo Hotel, Millers Point. Apparently, once a favourite drinking hole for the colonial troops

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7. Find Weird and Wonderful Shit in the Sydney CBD

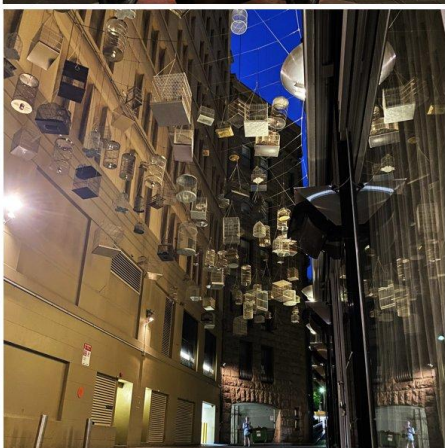
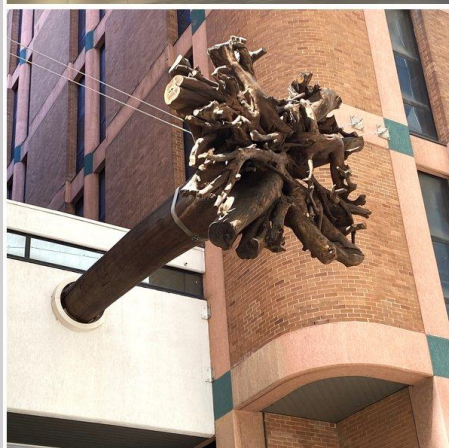
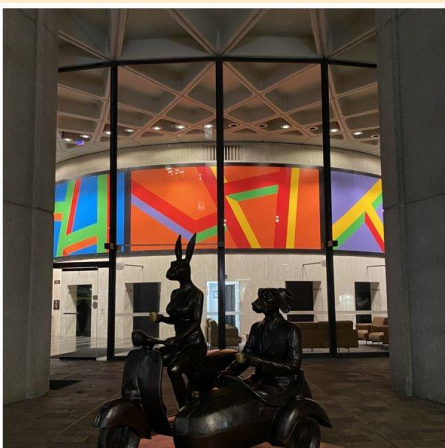
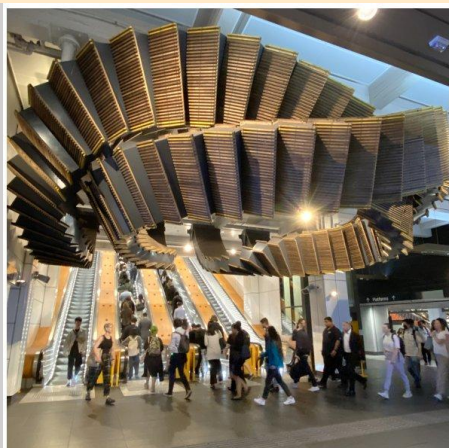
Every city has its secrets, and Sydney is no exception!

Let's find some of Sydney's Hidden Gems: Take my FREE, self-guided walk to visit 11 of these 'Unusual Attractions', all within the inner CBD.

As an urban explorer, I'm always on the hunt for those quirky attractions that reveal the true spirit of a place.

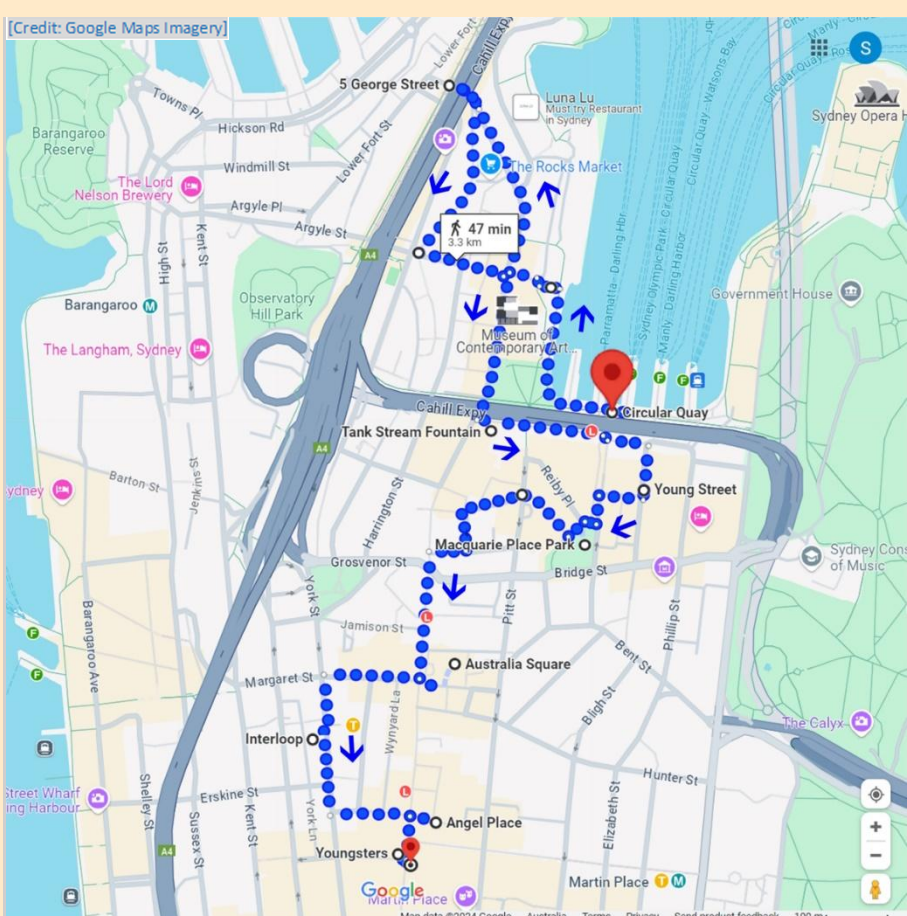
When I explore a new destination, I'm drawn to its offbeat spots and unusual places that others might walk right past.

These weird and wonderful attractions might not make it to an Instagram feed, but they're what gives the city its unique character.



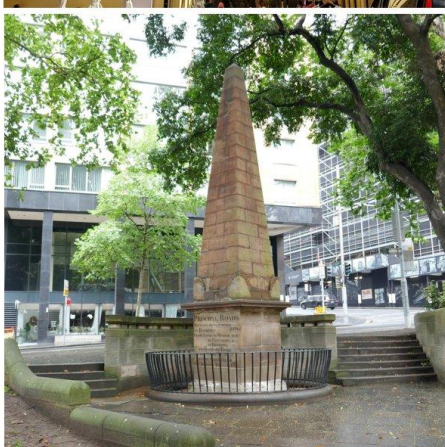
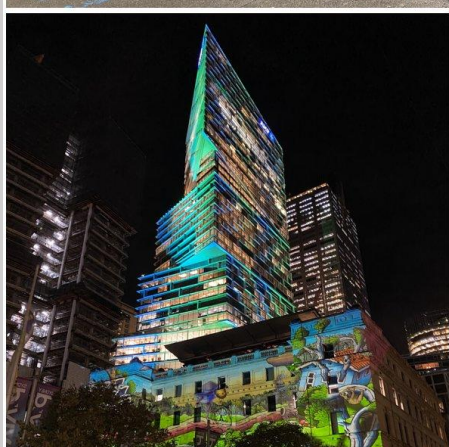
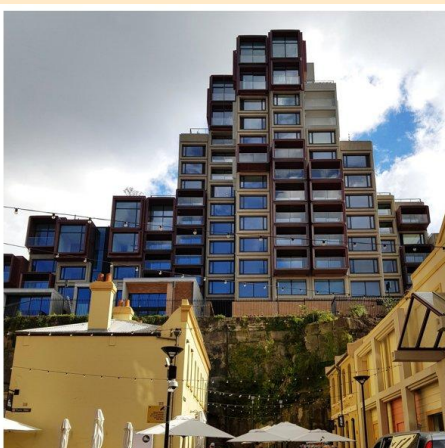
Some of the Weird and Wonderful sights in Sydney

I've crafted the perfect FREE self-guided walk that showcases 11 of these hidden treasures, all conveniently located near Sydney's iconic Circular Quay.



The route for your FREE, self-guided walk to visit 11 of Sydney's 'Unusual Attractions', all within the inner CBD

Are you ready to explore the unconventional side of Sydney?



More of the Weird and Wonderful sights in Sydney

Extra Info:

Here's where to find your FREE, self-guided walk to visit 11 of Sydney's 'Unusual Attractions':

<https://afootwego.com/11-weird-and-wonderfully-unusual-sights-in-sydneys-cbd/>

[To 7 Cool Summer Things in Sydney ↑](#)

Essential Summer Tip: Stay Hydrated While Exploring Sydney

Every adventure has its secrets to success, and one of the most crucial is surely proper hydration. Just like finding those hidden gems in unexpected places, maintaining the right hydration balance is key to unlocking the full enjoyment of your journey.

As a seasoned traveler, who loves seeking out unique experiences, I've learned that staying hydrated while traveling is just as important as finding those quirky local attractions.

Whether you're exploring urban landscapes or venturing off the beaten path, proper hydration can make the difference between an amazing adventure and a challenging experience.



Hydration is about more than just water – our bodies need regular resupply of fluids AND electrolytes to function well

Check out my travel hydration wellness guide, where you will find useful (*and essential!*) tips on how to stay hydrated while traveling. They are simple and easy to implement.

Extra Info:

You can find my Post “Hydration – It Keeps Us Alive and Well” on my website, at:

<https://afootwego.com/hydration-it-keeps-us-alive/>

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