

Best Time to Visit Sydney

Sydney, sweet Sydney! With its iconic harbour, fabulous beaches, dramatic cliff-top walks, hedonistic nightlife, world-class cuisine, museums, art galleries and superb shopping, Sydney is one of the world's great international cities.

The only difficult decision to make is just when is the best time to visit Sydney?

Summer In Sydney: Peak Season

Undoubtedly, the best time to visit Sydney is when it is embraced by its glorious summer weather. From December through to the end of January, Sydney is at its best. Sunshine and electric blue skies make being outdoors a blissful experience.

Whether you are swimming at any of Sydney's superb beaches, sailing or kayaking on the harbour, or enjoying a stroll along the Sydney Heads dramatic cliff walks, the balmy summer days will welcome you with open arms.

Airfares: Peak (High) Season

Airfare pricing to and from Sydney are significantly affected by the dates you chose to travel. Typically there are three travel seasons: Low, Shoulder, and Peak. Low season is the cheapest time to fly and typically features cooler temperatures resulting in the lowest demand for travel. Shoulder season is in-between Peak and Low. Peak or the high season sees the most demand for travel and typically falls over the Christmas and New Year holiday season and local school holidays.

Peak airfares to and from Sydney generally run from the 11th December through to the 31st January.

Average Temperature

Sydney's weather in December ranges from an average top of 25°C and an overnight of 18°C through to 26°C and an overnight of 19°C in January

Average Rainfall

Sydney's average rainfall in December is 77mm falling on an average of 11 rainy days and 101mm in January falling on an average of 12 rainy days.

Highlights

Summer in Sydney is a great time to sample the best of the city's al fresco lifestyle. Whether you are working on your tan and people watching at Bondi Beach, trying your hand at surfing on Sydney's northern beaches, exploring the flora and fauna in one of its national parks or plunging into the whirlwind of cultural activity as the city's live theatre, street performances, and art exhibitions burst into summer activity, you'll discover the many faces of this dynamic city .as the weather brings its denizens out to enjoy its endearingly sunny way of life.

Summer also brings you the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras one of the biggest parades of its type in the world.

On Boxing day, watch one of the world's great yacht races get off to a flying start as the annual Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race is unleashed in Sydney Harbour. If your schedule permits see in the New Year with Sydney's world-famous fireworks centered on the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge. It's the experience memories are made of.

In Sydney: Low Season

This is a far quieter and less expensive time to visit Sydney than in the peak summer months.

Sydney's low season embraces its autumn, winter, and spring. The low season for air travel runs from 1 February to 5 April, from 1 May to 21 June, from 24 July to 17 September and finally, from 1 November through to 30 November.

Average Temperatures

Sydney's weather in February ranges from an average top of 26°C and an overnight of 19°C through to 23°C and 15°C in April, 20°C and 12°C in May, 17°C and 9°C in June, 17°C and 8°C in July, 18°C and 9°C in August, rising to 20°C and 11°C in September, 22°C and 14°C in October and 23°C and 16°C in November.

Average Rainfall

Sydney's average rainfall in February is 77mm with an average of 8 rainy days, April 125mm (8 rainy days), May 125 mm (8 rainy days), June 130 mm (8 rainy days), July 100 mm (6 rainy days), August 85 mm (5 rainy days), September 70 mm (6 rainy days), October 75 mm (7 rainy days) and November 80 mm (8 rainy days).

Highlights

Sydney is beautiful all year round, so just because its a little chilly and occasionally rainy, doesn't mean Sydney hibernates through winter. It's the best time of the year for a walk in the Royal National Park and the annual migration of humpback whales is truly a spectacular sight. Winter is also the perfect excuse to immerse your artistic sensibilities in Sydney's wonderful art galleries and fabulous museums. Afterwards, refuel by exploring Sydney's legendary cuisine and fine wine scene. Low season or not, there's always something to see and do in this dynamic city.

February also brings you the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras one of the biggest parades of its type in the world.

The weather is still beautiful, so take a harbor cruise or ferry ride. If you are in town in May, you are in for a treat with the Vivid Sydney Festival. Your cruise provides a perfect ringside seat for this astonishing laser light and interactive display, all choreographed to music. The laser lights are projected onto prominent city buildings, with the lighting of the magical Sydney Opera House being the highlight of the festival.

Sydney's Shoulder Seasons

Sydney's shoulder seasons predominantly overlap Sydney's autumn and winter months together with early spring in the city. It's a great time to avoid the tourist crush and enjoy the best Sydney has to offer.

Airfares: Shoulder Season

There are effectively four shoulder seasons for buying airfares to and from Australia. These run from 6 April through to 30 April, from 22 June to 23 July, from 18 September to 31 October and from 1 December to 10 December.

Average Temperatures

Sydney's weather in April ranges from an average top of 23°C and an overnight of 15°C, to 17°C and 9°C in June, 17°C to 8°C July, 20°C to 11°C September, 22°C and 14°C October, through to a high of 25°C and 18°C in December.

Average Rainfall

Sydney's average rainfall in April is 125mm (8 rainy days), June 130 mm (8 rainy days), July 100 mm (6 rainy days), September 70 mm (6 rainy days), October 75 mm (7 rainy days) and November 80 mm (8 rainy days) through to 77 mm (7 rainy days) in December.

Sydney, spectacularly wrapped around its seemingly endless harbour with its iconic opera house, 'coat hanger' bridge and sublime golden sandy beaches, offers a visual overload to the senses like few other international cities can summon. Your answer to the question, "when is the best time to visit Sydney?" is likely to be, anytime!

Highlights

Spring in Sydney ushers in some of our favorite outdoor activities and high voltage festivals. Channel your inner Zen with kite flying on Bondi Beach, check out the native wildflowers coming into bloom on an unfussy coastal walk, or people watch on an inner-city stroll.

In October the wonderful Sculpture by the Sea festival kicks off. Combining outrageous outdoor art installations with a scenic cliff-top walk, this is not to be missed. If its November, it must be the Sydney Spring Racing Carnival when

Sydney's glamour set come out to play as million-dollar thoroughbreds thunder past the winning post.

So, grab your diary, make a date not to miss everything from major music festivals to touring theatrical shows and stage productions, there is plenty to keep you occupied. Afterwards, check out Sydney's fine rooftop bars and picnic spots. Don't miss the Botanical Gardens for a relaxing afternoon in the sunshine.