

EXPLORE A NEW SIDE OF SYDNEY

With its historic laneways, futuristic skyscrapers, natural beauty, lively multicultural precincts and laidback atmosphere, Sydney's neighbourhoods are full of contrasts that surprise and energise. Here, locals share their favourite places to fuel up on inspiration.





Soak up the sun at Mona Vale Rockpool.

RENEW YOUR VIEW ON... THE NORTHERN BEACHES



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Pilates and yoga instructor and founder of KAAIAA

The view: PITTWATER AND SURROUNDS

I'm really looking forward to my next Northern Beaches staycation, where I'll reconnect with my loved ones in nature. Whenever I visit this saltwater playground – whether for a day or a week – I return feeling exhilarated and ready to take on anything.

There's a real spirit of community wherever you go, and that's because the Northern Beaches feels more like a series of seaside villages, far away from the buzz Sydney, even though it's only a 30-minute ferry ride across the harbour. The outdoor lifestyle really agrees with the locals, too. In this vibrant wellness mecca, catching up with friends might include anything from an outdoor yoga class or snorkelling in Cabbage Tree Bay, to a bike ride from beach to beach. And there are excellent festivals and events all year round, including the Northern Beaches Music Festival, Narrabeen Lakes Festival and more.

restaurant, I'd wander through the maze of John Street's arcades and Freedom Plaza, snacking on the Vietnamese-Cantonese street food. As a family we'd go out for casual street-food style dishes at the BKK Food Court, northern-style chicken pho at Huong Xua, or to Lao Village in neighbouring Fairfield, where my favourite dishes were ox tongue with papaya salad and raw beef larb. It's always so deliciously nostalgic when I visit these restaurants again as an adult.

Every visit to Cabramatta is inspiring, especially when you're looking for ingredients. In the markets between John and Hughes streets you'll find a range of exotic fruits, rare vegetables, seafood and cuts of meat that you won't find anywhere else in Sydney – and that's because the produce is tailored to suit the everyday tastes of Cabramatta's multicultural community.

There are so many diverse cultural pockets to explore across the region, too. From the Middle Eastern and Afghan cuisine of Lakemba and Auburn, to the colour and spice of Little India in Harris Park. When you eat with the locals there's an honesty that brings you closer to the community. While the flavours are very different wherever you go, food really is the universal language of generosity and kinship.

My favourite locations are on the coast's far north, where the Barrenjoey Headland signposts where Sydney ends and the Central Coast begins. All around, there are peaceful places to unwind in, from the beach to the bush. Pittwater is wonderful for families because it offers so many options for adventure. It's backed by Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, where you can bushwalk to ancient Aboriginal rock art sites, and picnic or pitch your tent at The Basin. When you're ready to cool off, you can take a dip in the estuary's calm waters, perfect your SUP yoga technique, or go kayaking (hire one from Paddlecraft Sydney).

Nearby, the waterfront reserve at Coasters Retreat is a hidden haven. It's a wonderful spot to recharge your soul as it has a real sense of isolation, and there are no cars to disrupt your solitude (the only access is by ferry from Palm Beach).

Whether you're looking for memorable dining, safe swimming spots for the little ones or world-class surf breaks, there really is a beach for everyone here. Avalon has charming boutiques and a village vibe that's so welcoming to families, and sharing a meal at Bert's Bar & Brasserie in Newport is always a highlight, thanks to its beautiful 1930s-inspired interior, Pittwater views and laidback feel.

If you only have a day to soak up the area's natural beauty, treat yourself to a Sydney Seaplanes flight to the Cottage Point Inn for lunch, where the fresh salty air and wild scenery are as moreish as the modern Australian cuisine.



Take your taste buds on tour at the Little India precinct in Harris Park.

RENEW YOUR VIEW ON... WESTERN SYDNEY



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The view: CABRAMATTA AND SURROUNDS

It takes less than an hour to drive to Western Sydney from the city centre, and visiting my childhood stomping ground of Cabramatta is something I always look forward to. It's where I found my passion for food, and even today the area's authenticity and vibrancy excite me.

Sydney is Australia's most multicultural city, with many diverse neighbourhoods; the whole world seems to come together across the region – especially through food!

I spent most of my childhood at my parents' restaurant, Thanh Binh, right in the thick of the action in Cabramatta. When I wasn't hanging around the

RENEW YOUR VIEW ON... SYDNEY CITY



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Restaurateur and chef, Chat Thai

The view: CHINATOWN AND BEYOND

With its beautiful mash-up of colonial and futuristic buildings, diverse flavours and small bars with big character, Sydney city has an effervescence all of its own. Rediscovering my favourite places – and finding new ones – is always so rewarding.

Sydney shows its generous, innovative heart at various eateries across the city. At Gumption, you can sip a feel-good coffee – they'll donate proceeds from their WIRED blend to wildlife rescue organisation WIRES. At Restaurant Leo, the rabbit for their dreamy ragu is sourced from a sustainable farmer, and at Chat Thai, premium local ingredients are highlighted (try the yellow crab curry).

Everyone has a favourite memory of dining in Sydney, and I'll never forget visiting Pendolino with my mum – it was her favourite Italian restaurant and the ravioli *di magro* was her go-to. We

also loved going to Marigold in Chinatown for dim sum; I've always grabbed the red braised tendons from the trolleys first!

Away from the table, surrendering to Chinatown's bustle is always exciting, with so many interesting little shops to explore. When I visit Chinese Ginseng and Herbs Co, I love sifting through all the dried ingredients and trying to recall which ones Mum used in her soups. It always brings back special memories. There's more great shopping right across the precinct, as well as nearby at World Square, Paddy's Markets, Westfield Sydney, Market City, the iconic Queen Victoria Building and The Galleries.

When Chinatown flicks on its neon lights for the evening, wander through the Night Markets and let your senses get carried away by the colourful stalls, aromatic street food and lively entertainment, before heading to nearby Haymarket, Darling Harbour and Barangaroo for late-night dining. Or, stop for a drink in the ultra-cool Bāncho Bar, tucked away on Thomas Lane – it's Chinatown's only small bar and it has an excellent selection of whisky and a cocktail list inspired by the neighbourhood. Sometime soon, I'm looking forward to catching up with friends in the YCK Laneways, where we can make new memories in its 17 small bars, cosy speakeasies and glam rooftop watering holes.



Explore Sydney's vibrant China Town.

RENEW YOUR VIEW ON... SYDNEY HARBOUR



TIM ROSS
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Comedian, radio host and TV presenter

The view: CIRCULAR QUAY AND BEYOND

There's an energy to Sydney Harbour that's utterly magnetic – it's a place where the everyday can be magical. Even the simple act of catching a ferry from Barangaroo to Circular Quay brings so much joy. You feel your jaw drop when you pass beneath the Harbour Bridge and see the Sydney Opera House come into view – and whether you're passing by it, inside it watching theatre, comedy or a concert, or having a cocktail at Bennelong, its beauty always takes you by surprise.

At night, the harbour's sparkle sets the mood across the city, whether

you're enjoying a brew with a view at the MCA Cafe or Opera Bar; feasting at Quay or Cafe Sydney; or catching up with friends a few streets back at Felix or The Morrison Bar and Oyster Room.

Exploring Sydney Harbour with my two boys brings us closer, especially when we take in the sparkle of Vivid Sydney or visit Taronga Zoo. Other days, we'll explore the Museum of Sydney then walk to the Museum of Contemporary Art or through the Royal Botanic Garden to the Art Gallery of New South Wales – there's so much to see and do in such a short distance.

And, all around, there are great boutique galleries and shopping precincts to trawl through, with excellent finds to discover at the MCA Store, the Opera House Shop and The Strand Arcade on Pitt Street.

Wherever you venture, don't forget to look up! Sydney is a city of sandstone, concrete, glass and steel and there are so many fascinating layers to its architecture. You can see all the eras of our heritage represented, particularly in the new Quay Quarter, where the old and new come together in thoughtful design. There really is a fresh surprise at every turn.



A ferry ride on Sydney Harbour is a magical way to explore.



Kick off the perfect weekend with a surf at Bondi Beach.

RENEW YOUR VIEW ON... SYDNEY'S EAST



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Journalist, meteorologist and cookbook author
The view: BONDI BEACH AND BRONTE

I love an opportunity to spend a weekend with my family in my old neighbourhood, around Bondi Beach and Bronte.

Sydney's beaches are always revealing new ways to fall in love with them – whether it's a sunset surf or satisfying your need for great coffee or a meal. And that feeling of sand underfoot and salt on your skin, as you watch your kids paddle in the shallows, is the very definition of contentment.

No matter which time of year, Sydney's arts and culture scene is world class and a reason in itself to visit – whether you're seeing a stage production like *Hamilton* at the Lyric Theatre, catching a live band at The Metro or enjoying the art, music, food and family fun at the annual Sydney Festival. And nearby, community-oriented Bondi is also rich in the arts with events like Bondi Festival, Sculpture by the Sea and Flickerfest

all inviting you to feel at home on Australia's most famous stretch of sand.

On warm days, Bondi Beach's northern end is ideal for a family dip, with sheltered swimming and excellent snorkelling. Nearby, Bronte Beach and its park offers kids not just a wide sandy beach to explore, but also miniature train rides and an old-school kiosk for chippies and ice-blocks. There's no need to choose between the beaches, either – you can visit both on the Bondi to Coojee Coastal Walk.

While it's tempting to just roll out a beach towel and soak up the natural beauty, the area's welcoming community of chefs and providores creates a village atmosphere that keeps me returning. On Saturdays, you can grab coffee from Skittle Lane or Harry's then head to Bondi Farmers Market for seasonal fruits and vegies, organic meats, gourmet cheeses, artisanal breads and fresh flowers. Or, pop over to Bronte's lively Macpherson Street for breakfast at Iggy's Bread Down Under or Three Blue Ducks.

Long lunches at Sean's in North Bondi are something I always look forward to – with its unpretentious decor, incredible ocean views and famous roast chicken, its vibe is quintessentially Sydney. And after a day of surfing and swimming, nothing beats cocktails and dinner at Rocker – I often find myself craving chef Stuart Toon's coastal Italian food long after we've returned home.

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RENEW YOUR VIEW ON... INNER SYDNEY



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Chef, restaurateur and TV presenter

The view: SOUTH EVELEIGH AND REDFERN

There's a real feeling of community, collaboration and innovation in inner Sydney – especially around South Eveleigh and Redfern. I've been really looking forward to welcoming everyone back, and seeing what we can create together.

Sitting on Gadigal country, South Eveleigh has a long connection with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and we're all looking forward to continuing our enriching collaborations with the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence, DeadlyScience, Tribal Warrior, Redfern Youth Connect, Weave Youth and 107 Projects. During events such as International Women's Day, Urban Agriculture Month, South Eveleigh Solstice Festival, NAIDOC Week and other community get-togethers, local elders share their wisdom and everyone is welcome to connect over delicious food and drink, music, live

performance, great art and powerful storytelling. And South Eveleigh's natural spaces reflect a deep connection to the land – especially at the Indigenous Cultural Landscape Garden, which features botanicals with cultural significance, and the South Eveleigh Community Rooftop Garden, where First Nations' sustainability methods nurture native plants grown for local chefs.

Lucky Kwong, my Australian-Cantonese eatery, which I opened earlier this year, is located in the historic Locomotive Workshop, and is inspired by the rich terrain of the Redfern-Eveleigh neighbourhood that's sustained cultural production for thousands of years. Throughout the area there's a real feeling of creativity, multiculturalism, community and respect, with diverse food offerings from Bekya Egyptian Spice, Eat Fuh, RaRa Chan, Fishbowl and Pepper Seeds. There's also great bars, including Matt Whiley and Maurice Terzini's game-changing Re, the world's first permanent no-waste bar.

All around the precinct, there's energy in the air. Carriageworks houses Australia's largest contemporary multi-arts centre and one of our most-loved weekend farmer's markets. And when you're ready to get hands-on, you can do a blacksmithing course at Eveleigh Works. This vibrant and welcoming precinct always inspires.



Explore South Eveleigh's eateries.