

new south wales Sydney



For gay action you can't get much better than Sydney, the capital of NSW. With its world famous Mardis Gras Festival, parade and parties, flamboyant and very public gay culture and the prolific nightlife of Oxford Street, Sydney is a gay traveller's Mecca.

The annual month-long Mardis Gras celebration draws thousands of gay visitors from all over the world in March, while Sleaze Ball in September/October is an unmissable party. A weekend trip to the NSW capital could easily be spent sampling the drag shows, lesbian bars and gay male pubs along Oxford St, Darlinghurst, and then backing up the next day with a respectably late breakfast on the harbourside at Rose Bay, Elizabeth Bay or Circular Quay. As an alternative to the Oxford St scene, revel in the alternative atmosphere of King Street in Newtown with its bohemian cocktail bars and restaurants.

Sydney's Harbour is one of the most spectacular in the world, with its glittery Opera House and Harbour Bridge. Jump a ferry to cruise the Harbour and whisk your partner away for dinner at Manly Beach to the city's north. There is plenty to do in Sydney: enjoy Coogee to Bondi coastal walk in the eastern suburbs stopping at Bondi for brunch; or tackle the northern equivalent, the Many to The Spit walk. The adventurous traveller can even climb to the top of the Harbour Bridge with Bridgeclimb. Sydney has a wide variety of entertainment. It is one of the first stops for major touring musicals such as *The Boy From Oz* and *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, international music artists and travelling art exhibitions. Each summer it hosts the Festival of Sydney, The Queer Film Festival, Queerdoc (the world's only queer documentary film festival), and the Spring Racing Carnival.

More info: www.visitnsw.com.au

travel tips

- ▲ Last year there were a phenomenal 6500 entrants in the 1.6km Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade and more than 300,000 lining the streets, you'd better get there early next year for a good viewing position.
- ▲ Shopping is almost a full time occupation in Sydney. Don't miss the high street boutiques of Oxford Street in Darlinghurst and Paddington, the boutique gems at the city's restored Queen Victoria Building, or the eclectic weekend street markets in Paddington, Balmain, Bondi, Glebe and The Rocks.

