

Exploring Sydney Part 2

[00:00:13] Sid

G'day, welcome to Western Sydney University. I'm Sid Sharma and I've got things every student should know. This is part two of the best places to visit in Sydney for next to nothing. If you've missed part one, hit pause and check it out. You're hanging out with travel specialist, Georgia Rickard who's taking you through her top Sydney picks. All right. So we've got the Harbour Bridge. We've got the Opera House. What is your third place to go and see in Sydney? Your must do.

[00:00:45] Sid

Number three - the Manly Ferry.

[00:00:47] Georgia

Another super fantastic local take on an icon definitely has to be the ferry that you take from Circular Quay, which is by the Sydney Opera House to Manly beach.

[00:01:02] Sid

The Manly to Sydney ferry, of course, it's such an institution!

[00:01:06] Georgia

It is! And that's what it is an institution. I mean, it's again, it's a very local thing like everybody hops on the ferry on their way into the city if they live in Manly and they work in the city. That's how they get to work each day. So you're on this cruise through like one of the most beautiful stretches on the planet and its cost you like \$11 - \$11 return and then you get dropped off at the other end, you know at one of our most famous beaches and the day is yours for the taking.

[00:01:37] Sid

I love that the cruise itself is also like sufficiently long, right? I think it takes about half an hour and that's the perfect amount of time for you to you know, get a great view of the harbour as it kind of leaves you behind, because I mean you're sailing from Sydney Harbour towards I guess some of the northern beaches in Sydney. So you see the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge right? Like all you need to do is tap on with your opal card.

[00:02:00] Georgia

Yeah, I mean, I personally I just love that you called it a cruise because you know, I mean it's a ferry ride. It's supposed to be this, you know, like just a pragmatic public transport experience, but it's not, it's beautiful. It's cheap and it drops you off at Manly beach doesn't get better.

[00:02:16] Sid

And then there's a ferry that goes right back to Circular Quay and you know, there's a straight train from Circular Quay to Parramatta so -

[00:02:21] Georgia

Easy.

[00:02:21] Sid

Yeah.

[00:02:22] Georgia

There's actually a couple of other ferries you can take from Circular Quay that also drop you off to islands that are in the middle of the harbour and I don't think a lot of people don't know that Sydney actually has a bunch of islands in its harbour.

[00:02:33] Sid

Yeah, which ones?

[00:02:34] Georgia

So you could go to Cockatoo Island, which is like a UNESCO world heritage listed site, and there's all this, you know, there's convict history there and they often have festivals and concerts and there's a little cafe, a little cafe. And yeah, that's pretty cool or you can jump on a ferry to Shark Island and it's like right in the middle of the harbour again views of the Harbour Bridge.

[00:02:53] Sid

The Manly Ferry, all of the other ferries that leave Circular Quay, just being able to explore the harbour by boat is really fun.

[00:02:59] Georgia

It is really fun. You don't even have to take the train. You can take a ferry from Parramatta to Circular Quay and then jump on the ferry from Circular Quay to Manly and your basically doing a huge cruise of Sydney.

[00:03:12] Sid

So yeah, what do you do when you get to Manly?

[00:03:14] Georgia

Okay. There's one thing that you have to do when you get to Manly and it's not just because it's an Australian rite of passage to eat ice cream on a beach, but because Sydney is embroiled in the grips of a love affair with a very special type of ice cream called Messina.

[00:03:33] Sid

Wait, hold on - Messina. There's one of those in Parramatta as well, right?

[00:03:37] Georgia

There is, so you need to take yourself there as soon as you get off the ferry, grab that and then you're either going to go to the beach or just next to the ferry stop, there's actually a really beautiful little grassy patch and it's known by the locals as the office and they call it the office, so that if anybody calls on a Friday [00:04:00] afternoon and says, "where are you", you can say "I'm at the office".

[00:04:03] Sid

So it's a like unofficially known as the office?

[00:04:05]

It's unofficially officially known as the office.

[00:04:09] Sid

Oh, I love that. That's so Australian as well.

[00:04:10] Georgia

It's very Australian. So you're either going to do that, or you know, I would also recommend taking the walk from Manly beach over to Shelly beach which is really short and very picturesque and you can actually go snorkeling, there's fantastic snorkeling around the rocks at Shelly. But I don't want to talk too much about that because I'm about to tell you about my favorite walk in Sydney.

[00:04:38] Sid

Number four - the Bondi to Bronte walk.

[00:04:41] Georgia

So, the Bondi to Bronte, as its colloquially casually known as, is a walk that traces the coastline between Bondi Beach - our most famous beach.

[00:04:53] Sid

Arguably one of the most famous beaches in the world.

[00:04:56] Georgia

This walk, you know that, that goes from the northern end of Bondi and then wanders around the coastline to a couple of beaches further south Bronte is so iconic and it does attract so many people but again, it's one of those local phenomenons that people are very loyal to right. I mean you can do this at any time of day, any day of the week and you'll see some, you know, some travellers and tourists definitely but you'll also not only see locals but you'll probably even see a local celebrity or two doing it because it's stunning like it traces the bays of some of Sydney's most beautiful beaches so Bondi Beach, then Tamarama Beach and then Bronte and along the way you go up and around these cliff faces and you walk past cafes and depending on the time of year, every year there's an annual event called Sculptures by the Sea.

[00:05:52] Sid

Oh, yeah.

[00:05:53] Georgia

Yeah. Yeah. Have you been?

[00:05:54] Sid

Oh, yeah, I go every year it's really really fun.

[00:05:57] Georgia

And it's totally free.

[00:05:59] Sid

And of course we can't talk about Bondi [00:06:00] without mentioning the lifeguards - the Bondi lifeguards, they are so famous.

[00:06:05] Georgia

They are, they are so - I mean, I think that TV show is in something like a hundred and eighty countries or something around the world now, in fact, if you want to go swimming anywhere in Sydney, Bondi Beach has to be one of the safest places because those lifeguards are always on duty and goodness me they do such a good job.

[00:06:24] Sid

We've talked about the bridge we have talked about the Opera House, the ferry system and Manly beach. We've now also covered the Bondi to Bronte walk. What is the final thing on your list Georgia? I'm so excited to hear.

[00:06:37] Georgia

This was really tough to narrow down, but I chose this because it's super easy to get to, much more so than people realise and that is the world heritage listed Blue Mountains.

[00:06:58] Sid

Number five. The Blue Mountains - are they really blue?

[00:07:01] Georgia

They are! They are blue, which is nuts right?

[00:07:04] Sid

Yeah!

[00:07:05] Georgia

Who's heard of Blue Mountains? But no, because they're covered in in eucalyptus trees, which is very Australian and that actually creates a kind of mist that hangs just above them. And so they're, they're coated in this light blue haze. It's stunning and there's so, I mean from Parramatta it's such an easy train ride to get there. As I said, it's world heritage-listed. Like UNESCO protected for its inc- very significant natural beauty. And while you're there, I mean, yes that it's naturally beautiful and there's lots of gorgeous bush walks you can take and so on but there's also a bunch of really cool little towns to explore.

[00:07:39] Sid

Yeah.

[00:07:40] Georgia

But you've also got like, art deco trendy little spots like Katoomba, it's quite bohemian. So there's a really fantastic shopping scene, lots of kind of antiques and secondhand stores, really cool thrift clothing and a really great food scene or you could go to Blackheath, which is, it's hipster heaven, basically, I think.

[00:08:03] Sid

The thing that I really love about going to the Blue Mountains, you are just completely out of this city, right? You're like immersed in nature. You can go and have you know, like a really nice lunch or dinner.

You can also go on a hike or you know, you can just go and sit down in a National Park somewhere and just chill out right? And who doesn't need that every now and then.

[00:08:21] Georgia

Absolutely and I think you know for that to be so close to a global city is just a privilege.

[00:08:29] Sid

It's madness. And like, who can talk about the Blue Mountains without mentioning the Three Sisters, the three big I guess rock formations at Katoomba or very close by to Katoomba. And yeah, it's like, you know, you go to this kind of look out and you can see all of the, the eucalyptus covered valleys and the and the mountains and the Three Sisters are just there in the distance, presiding over all of it. It's really really beautiful.

[00:08:54] Georgia

It can actually get so cold up there that it's snows each -

[00:08:57] Sid

Really?

[00:08:57] Georgia

Yeah, so they even have Christmas in July events in Sydney winter.

[00:09:03] Sid

That would be so nice!

[00:09:04] Georgia

It's so magical, it's actually, there's also a town up there called Bilpin, which is, takes advantage of that cold weather and and grows apples. So you can go and pick apples there and buy like fresh homemade apple pies and apart from the fact that it's you know, foodie heaven, it's also extremely beautiful. They filmed quite a bit of Great Gatsby with Leonardo DiCaprio.

[00:09:28] Sid

Oh, that huge Hollywood film!

[00:09:29] Georgia

Yes!

[00:09:29] Sid

It was filmed there?

[00:09:29] Georgia

Yes, and they've got these huge like major gardens that you can go wandering through and these very old gorgeous mansions. I mean, it's pretty beautiful.

[00:09:38] Sid

It's a completely different speed to a lot of the things that you can do in the hustle and bustle of Sydney.

[00:09:42] Georgia

Yeah, I think I mean that's what's so wonderful about Sydney. You know, you do have this global city that's on the water's edge. So you've got beaches, you've got mountains. You can go down the south coast and escape, you know to the world's whitest sand at Hyams beach, which is only three hours south, or you can you can go north to [00:10:00] Newcastle. I mean, there's any number of amazing adventures to be had that are so close to the city centre and we're so lucky to have that.

[00:10:15] Sid

Thanks for listening. Make sure you check out the other episodes. If you have any more questions, head to westernsydney.edu.au. I'm Sid Sharma. See you next time.