

## **International Symposium on Music Acoustics. Sydney and Katoomba, Some local knowledge**

### **Space and time**

Sydney is about 151° E and 34° S. So 10 hours ahead of Universal Time in August. The sun is *North* at its zenith, which can be disorientating for Laurasians.

### **Money**

The Australian dollar is US\$0.91 and Euro 0.70 at the time of writing

### **Traffic**

Trains, road traffic and pedestrians keep left. Boats keep right.

### **Weather**

[www.bom.gov.au/nsw/](http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/)

Say 10-20°C in Sydney, 0-15° in Katoomba. Ocean at 15°.

### **Electricity**

240 V @ 50 Hz but the plugs are unlike US, Europe or UK. Adaptors sold at the airport, hardware and tourist shops.



### **Transport in and around Sydney**

There is a trip planner at [www.131500.com.au](http://www.131500.com.au)

**Airport to conference centre:** train to central (ticket at the station) and tram (ticket on board) from there to convention centre.

**Katoomba** Trains leave Central to Katoomba approx every 30 mins on week days, every hour on Sunday. The trip normally takes 2 hours. *However, there is work on the tracks on Saturday and Sunday 28-29 August*, so a bus service replaces part of the train service and it will take longer. ISMA will run a bus from Central to Katoomba at 9:15 am on Sunday 29 August.

**Tram** (aka light rail) goes from basement of Convention Centre to Central Station. Approx every 10 minutes

**Ferries** A service runs from Darling Harbour to Circular Quay (main ferry terminal) approx every 30 minutes [www.sydneyferries.info](http://www.sydneyferries.info)

**Monorail** Runs a circuit including Convention Centre and City Centre approx every 5 minutes

The ICA site has a list of possible ways (<http://www.scec.com.au/location/directions.cfm>) to get to the Convention Centre, including driving, which we don't recommend. We recommend tram from Central Station (every 10 mins) and monorail from downtown (every 5 mins). Ferries go from Circular Quay (North of downtown) but are less often ([www.sydneyferries.info](http://www.sydneyferries.info)).

## **Trips in and around Sydney** (suggestions for Saturday)

The government tourist site has suggestions at [www.visitnsw.com](http://www.visitnsw.com) including suggestions for rainy days.

### **Day trip slightly out of Sydney**

Hawkesbury River and Brooklyn. The Hawkesbury River is an impressive and attractive stretch of water north of greater Sydney, while Brooklyn is a quiet suburb along the river. Catch a train to Brooklyn by alighting at Hawkesbury River Station along the Newcastle & Central Coast Line (starting at Central Station). Cafes across the train station supply Sydney rock oysters farmed right at the river, while McKell Park nearby is great for picnics and offers superb river views. The Riverboat Postman leaves Brooklyn Wharf adjacent to the railway station on its daily run (Mon-Fri) delivering mail and supplies to the river community, departing at 9:30am and takes 3 – 4 hours to complete a trip.

### **Half-day trips in Sydney**

Bondi to Coogee cliffwalk\* – allow about 3-4 hours at a leisurely pace. Catch bus 333 or 380 from circular quay and along Elizabeth Street towards Bondi Beach. Head south – there is a well marked walking/jogging path hugging the cliff. Return to the city/Circular Quay from Coogee Beach by taking bus 373 or 374, or to Central on 372. For a meal with stunning sea views, drop by the Bistro at Bondi Icebergs, a local life-swimming club. Sit on the balcony and enjoy the best views over Bondi Beach. Entry to the club is open for tourists (but not locals living within a 5 km radius) but you will need to sign in as a visitor at the reception.

The Rocks, a short stroll from the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House, is Sydney's historical quarter from the time of the earliest convict settlement. Here, one can explore Cadman's Cottage, eat in restaurants located in some of the oldest surviving buildings in Sydney, have a pint in a pub, learn from a guided walking tour, or browse boutique shops and art galleries in the place where Australia's European history began. <http://www.therocks.com/>

Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens + Mrs Macquarie's Chair (and Point). Hugging the harbour foreshore east of Circular Quay, the garden is just beyond the Opera House. Bring your own lunch, find a patch of grass to sit and watch boats go by. At dusk, watch resident flying foxes begin their day. Further along the water is Mrs Macquarie's Point, with classic views of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House (but mind the tourist throngs!).

### **Harbour trips**

It's a harbour city and the harbour has ~ 100 bays. So:

Ferry from Circular Quay to Manly\* Beach. Goes NW past opera through main harbour. Walk across corso to beach that's pretty good for a city beach.

Ferry from Circular Quay to Taronga Park Zoo, which has spectacular views of harbour, opera, bridge... and some animals. Hold koalas if you must. Platypus and echidna in the dark house operate on Europe time for your convenience.

Ferry ('Rivercat') from Circular Quay to Parramatta. Goes West up the Parramatta River, past the Olympic site, parks, ex-industrial sites and lots of mangroves.

Ferry to Watson's Bay and walk to South Head. Watch the sun set over the harbour.

Spit Bridge to Manly\* walk [http://www.visitnsw.com/Spit\\_to\\_Manly\\_P676.aspx](http://www.visitnsw.com/Spit_to_Manly_P676.aspx)

Along the West of the main harbour, views out to sea, lots of national park

Coast walk\* [http://travelinsider.qantas.com.au/sydney\\_coastal\\_walks.htm](http://travelinsider.qantas.com.au/sydney_coastal_walks.htm)

\* Take your swimmers, goggles and a swimming cap. The beaches and rock pools have subtropical corals, angel fish, gropers, leafy sea dragons etc. At the beginning of August the ocean temperature is 15°C.