

SIDNEY

Sydney is the state capital of New South Wales and the most populous city in Australia. Located on Australia's east coast, the metropolis surrounds one of the world's largest natural harbours, and sprawls towards the Blue Mountains to the west. Residents are known as "Sydneyiders" and constitute the most multicultural city in Australia and one of the most multicultural cities in the world. Indigenous Australians have inhabited the area around Sydney for vthousands of years. The first British settlers arrived in 1788 with Captain Arthur Phillip and founded Sydney as a penal colony. Since convict transportation ended in the mid 1800s the city has become a global cultural and economic centre.

The population of Sydney in 2011 was 4.39 million. Many people were born overseas and represent many different countries from around the world. There are more than 250 different languages spoken in Sydney and about one-third of residents don't speak English at home. Sydney is an important centre for finance, manufacturing, and tourism. There are many foreign banks and multinational corporations in Sydney. In addition millions of tourists come to Sydney each year to see the city's landmarks. These include Sydney Harbour, the Royal National Park, Bondi Beach, and the Royal Botanic Gardens. Man-made attractions such as the Sydney Opera House and the Sydney Harbour Bridge are also well known to international visitors.