

money



ONE Australian dollar buys:  
 US \$1.0664  
 UK Stg 0.6621  
 Canada \$1.0301  
 China, yuan on app  
 Denmark, krone 5.5923  
 Euro 0.7568  
 Fiji, \$1.8926  
 Hong Kong, \$8.2585  
 India, rupee 47.0600  
 Indonesia, rupiah on app  
 Japan, yen 90.29  
 Kuwait, dinar 0.2944  
 Malaysia, ringgit on app  
 New Cal-Thaiti, fr 89.15  
 New Zealand, \$1.3828  
 PNG, kina 2.8362  
 Philippines, peso 46.4330  
 Singapore, \$1.3489  
 Solomon Is, \$ 8.5234  
 South Africa, rand 7.2398  
 Sri Lanka, rupee 117.21  
 Sweden, krona 6.7394  
 Switzerland, fr 0.9803  
 Thailand, baht 31.9300  
 Vanuatu, vatu 108.83

weather



Amsterdam 06 11 rain  
 Athens 07 17 partly cloudy  
 Auckland 12 18 rain  
 Bangkok 24 31 rain  
 Barcelona 12 20 clear  
 Beijing 03 18 clear  
 Berlin 05 15 rain  
 Dili 24 30 clear  
 Dubai 27 36 clear  
 Hanoi 17 20 rain  
 Hong Kong 17 22 rain  
 Honolulu 20 28 rain  
 Jakarta 24 33 partly cloudy  
 Johannesburg 12 18 rain  
 Kuala Lumpur 25 34 partly cloudy  
 London 09 13 rain  
 Los Angeles 12 22 clear  
 Madrid 09 25 clear  
 Mexico City 13 28 partly cloudy  
 Moscow 02 08 clear  
 New Delhi 15 35 clear  
 New York 05 19 rain  
 Paris 06 18 partly cloudy  
 Rio de Janeiro 24 29 rain  
 Rome 09 20 clear  
 San Francisco 10 16 partly cloudy  
 Singapore 24 31 rain  
 Tokyo 05 14 clear  
 Toronto 02 06 rain  
 Turin 07 21 clear  
 Washington 05 22 rain  
 Vienna 07 14 rain  
 Zurich 02 17 partly cloudy

# Miles from care

Manly is cautiously stylish with European resonance

By Gillian Wills

**M**ANLY, 17km north-east of Sydney has a suburban heart that beats with the spirit of a resort.

It is surrounded by water on three sides and is cautiously stylish with European resonance.

Taking the ferry to Manly is an opportunity to see some of the sights of the Sydney Harbour including Admiralty House and Kirribilli House.

The trip also offers a look at the Opera House and Fort Denison, the shoreline's luxury waterside dwellings and the magnificent sandstone cliffs wrapped around the harbour.

As the ferry passes the heads, the boat bucks and rolls until the choppy sea evens out once the hustle and bustle of the fashionable Wharf at Manly Cove comes into view.

Walking away from the urban sophisticates enjoying the dock with its crop of wine bars and inviting cafes, the impression is of endless movement from the sea's rolling rhythm, the spiralling seagulls overhead and the steady traffic of roller bladers and skateboarders.

Since an influx of Brazilian migrants arrived, Manly's pulse has quickened.

The injection of churrascaria dining at "Brazuca" where the barbecued and subtly charred meat selections of fish, duck, lamb, pork, sausage and filet mignon arrive at the table with steaming tangy sauces on the side, is popular with the gourmet dollar.

Dance schools blaze with forro and lambada routines and the hybrid Capoeira.

Brazil is a country of highs and lows and the resilience of its people to the "low" is channelled through Manly's invigorated nightclub scene humming with exotic beats and energy.

Edward Fitzgerald, a former engineering student from James Cook University, likes the surfing, the nightlife, learning to be a cox on and taking samba classes.

Beaming he says, "I have no plans to live anywhere else soon".



Shelly Beach earned its name because of the carpet of shells that once covered the powdery sand and while these are few and far between nowadays, the peaceful shoreline must surely be what inspired the slogan: 'Manly - seven miles from Sydney and a thousand miles from care'

Conservation and environmental issues have long been of concern for Manly Councils.

In the 1870s, a tree-planting project was instigated and the signature Norfolk pines were planted along the ocean beach.

The Manly Environment Centre has mounted its own patrols to guard the colony of 120 Fairy Penguins that nest along the West Esplanade.

There are frequent warnings urging people to respect these endangered creatures.

Oceanworld reveals the vulnerability of the grey nurse shark and the crucial role it plays in marine ecology.

After staring at these sharks gliding through the vast aquarium, a grey encounter of a different order is found at the spooky Quarantine Station on North Head.

A brooding eeriness lingers here particularly on overcast days.

Visitors speak of footsteps, heart-rending cries and of shivering with cold at certain places during the tour.

The Corso, the heritage streetscape linking the jetty to the ocean beach, is scarred by a sprinkle of unsympathetic buildings.

Even so, a festive vibe targeting backpackers prevails.

If the surfing shops, the galleries of indigenous art, the alfresco entertainment and the historical Hotel Steyne are resisted, it's a brief stroll to Manly beach.

Long-dead nineteenth century residents would turn in their graves if they knew that this busy stretch, once a stronghold of modesty and decorum, is feted as one of the world's best topless beaches.

Walking to Shelly Beach along Marine Parade is not the only rewarding walk by far but it's a Manly institution.

Eco-sculptures of local marine life, including the weedy sea dragon are grafted on the stone wall and the Eastern Blue Groper sculpture pushes halfway through.

On the right of the pedestrian pathway, awkwardly shared with bicycles, motionless water dragon lizards sun bake on the grass.

On the left flashes of rock pool activity draws the eye. Shelly Beach earned its

If you go

- Try a Caipirinha Brazilian cocktail at Brazuca.
- Follow the numbered plaques on the Manly Heritages Plaques Walk to discover snippets of Manly's history.
- Tour the Quarantine Station Sydney Harbour National Park, Scenic Drive, North Head.
- Go to Manly's Art Gallery and Museum.
- Dine at the Pavilion a world-class restaurant with views to match.

name because of the carpet of shells that once covered the powdery sand and while these are few and far between nowadays, the peaceful shoreline, must surely be what inspired the former Port Jackson and Manly Steamship Company to adopt the slogan: 'Manly - seven miles from Sydney and a thousand miles from care'.

hot deals

Airlie Beach

In the June school holidays the Big4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort in Airlie Beach will host a mini-Olympics including guest sports personalities and lots of activities for all the family. Powered sites start from \$75 a night and the deluxe en suite cabins from \$215 a night (sleeps up to 4). Valid from June 24 to July 15. Details: BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort on 1800 640 587 or see www.adventurewhitsunday.com.au

Adelaide

Enjoy a wine tour in the Barossa Valley

with a four-night deal from Flight Centre. The package is priced from \$509 per person twin share, including four nights at the five-star Rendezvous Hotel Adelaide, an Ultimate Barossa wine tour and return airport transfers. Valid for travel from April 16 to May 2. Details: Flight Centre on 1300 939 414 or see www.flightcentre.com.au

Port Macquarie

Sundowner Holidays are offering a range of packages for Easter. For example, they have a three-night Easter package for \$1125, which includes accommodation at Spa

Riverside Cottage, a cheese and wine platter on arrival, free kids' club and a barbecue on Good Friday. Details: Sundowner Holidays on 1800 636 452 or www.breakwall.sundownerholidays.com

Melbourne

Stay at any of the Art Series hotels (The Olsen, The Cullen and The Blackman) until April 30 for only \$199 a night in a studio suite. Details: Art Series Hotels on 1800 278 468 or see www.artserieshotels.com.au

Sydney cruise

Enjoy a cruise on Sydney Harbour with

this three-night deal. This Flight Centre package is priced from \$239 per person twin share, including three nights at the three star Travelodge Sydney. Valid for travel from April 16 to May 2. Details: Flight Centre on 1300 939 414 or see www.flightcentre.com.au

Spain

See the world-famous Madeira Flower Festival on the May on Explore's eight-day walking tour of the Spanish island's Levada Trails. Details: Venture Holidays on 1300 414 151 or see www.exploreworldwide.com.au.

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