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Doyles On The Beach,
Watsons Bay

Watsons Bay



WATSONS BAY FOR LAZING

Sydney is synonymous with beaches and while the first one you think of is inevitably Bondi, personally I'm not a huge fan - too big, too sunny and too many backpackers. I really only go to Bondi if I'm eating at Icebergs (www.idrb.com) which is a wonderful spot up high above the beach. If I have some free time on a sunny day I prefer the Watsons Bay area, specifically Camp Cove and Parsley Bay. Tucked into the harbour, just around from the south head, the Watsons Bay neighbourhood is sleepy and slightly nostalgic. The houses are lovely and Camp Cove and Parsley Bay are both charming, intimate, small bays. Take a picnic or get a snack from the simple little cafes each has. Of special note, the coconut ice cream served in the shell at Camp Cove is a must. Also good for a bite is the Watsons Bay Tea Gardens Café (www.teagardenscafe.com) on the water and perfectly situated ten minutes walk from either of the two bays.

WATSONS BAY FOR EATING

If you decide to spend the whole day at the beach in the Watsons Bay area then you might as well stay and have dinner there too at Doyles On The Beach (www.doyles.com.au). It's a tourist trap, the

food's not the best in the world and it's pricey but it's all worth it for the view. Go early and get the primo table on the water's edge looking right up the harbour to the city. The interior's refreshingly anti-trendy and the vibe is chilled. Be careful to avoid the beer garden and pier restaurant in the same area. It's the original, old school spot you want.

WATSONS BAY FOR SLEEPING

If you're spending the day at the beach and the evening at the restaurant you might as well stay the night! And you can. Thanks to the Watsons Bay Hotel (www.watsonsbayhotel.com.au) situated just upstairs from Doyles on the Beach. The interior's generic and the service perfunctory but the location and the views from your bed (make sure you get one of the water front rooms) can't be beaten. It's the only accommodation in the neighbourhood and ideal for a weekend off.

Be warned: this neighbourhood's easy to get into but hard to get out of. Cabs seem to disappear into a black hole rather than come to a booking at Watsons Bay so best to take the ferry which leaves from the bay or book a car service if you have to be punctual.

Woolloomooloo Wharf



If I'm not going to have any spare time, or the weather's no good, I stay at the Woolloomooloo Wharf. What was the W Hotel is now Blue Sydney and though it has gone down hill slightly since the switch it's still an ideal spot in one of Sydney's greatest buildings. The wharf was completed in 1915 and is the largest timbered-piled structure in the world. Russell Crowe has a \$14,000,000 apartment there too. Because you're over water most rooms have a view of the sea but request one as far down the wharf as possible to make the most of the view. The café/bar is a good spot to start or end the day and the walk from the hotel along the water's edge of The Domain and ultimately to Sydney Opera House is a lovely way to start the day. If you're staying at Blue Sydney it's worth having dinner one night at Guillaume at Bennelong at Sydney Opera House (www.sydneyoperahouse.com) just because it's the most extraordinary building and you should never miss an opportunity to enjoy it. Also while staying on the wharf make sure you eat at Otto (www.otto.net.au) - one of Sydney's classic spots and always reliable. Take a table outside to enjoy the water and the boats moored about you.

Otto Ristorante for a modern Italian cuisine



IncuCity Women

Paddington

The heart of Sydney and home too many good things, Paddington can be hit and miss though so be targeted when you go there. The best fashion spots tend to be more off Oxford Street than on, with the exception of Incu (www.incuclimbing.com). Glenmore Road and William Street are current favourites with fashionable Sydney folk. One of my favourite stops in this neighbourhood is Paddington Alimentari (2 Hopetoun Street) just off William Street for a casual lunch stop.



IncuCity Men



Woolahra

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Woolahra is one of Sydney's swankier suburbs with lots of yummy Mummies and gorgeous houses. A wander along Queen Street any afternoon is nice – the art galleries and antique shops are notable and there are many good spots to eat. Also worth a stop is Simon Johnson (www.simonjohnson.com.au) for great deli items.



A fine range of imported and home grown quality food is available from Simon Johnson



The City



Café Sydney captures the essence of Sydney

Two of my favourite spots in the city are Pendolino (www.pendolino.com.au) in The Strand Arcade for a quick little lunch bite – great Italian. Also Glass Brassiere at Hilton for a more formal dinner setting in classic Sydney style and Café Sydney (www.cafesydney.com) for the best dinner views in town. Make sure you eat on the terrace and try to be there on a night when there are fireworks over the harbour bridge.



Pendolino is located in Sydney's historic Strand Arcade



Newtown

Newtown is a cool Sydney neighbourhood, slightly grungy and with lots of very cool little shopping and eating spots around. My favourite amongst them is Pretty Dog (1a Brown Street, Newtown) for a wonderful edit of fashion with sensational service.

Fratelli Fresh

Fratelli Fresh is one of Sydney's best spots to eat right now and one you'll never find by chance. Located in an almost industrial suburb, one must walk through the indoor carpark to get to this, one of Sydney's best loved providers, Fratelli Fresh (www.fratellifresh.com.au). Go through the market, then upstairs into a spacious, light café that serves some of Sydney's best brunches and lunches. No reservations taken so get their early to avoid standing in line.



Fratelli Fresh is also the home of Cafe Sopra



Getting around



Getting in and out of Sydney in style adds to the magic of the trip. When I'm there I choose Ecolimo (www.ecolimo.com.au) for their Lexus hybrids and great service.