



Centennial Park/Moore Park/ Paddington/Woollahra

Distance to Sydney CBD: 4 km

OVERVIEW

The name Centennial Park brings to mind the expansive area of greenery, majestic lakes and sprawling playing fields in the 2.20 km² of the suburb's parklands. This is often the scene of some of the city's biggest concerts and other events, but even a simple walk through this park is a fascinating way to pass the time.

Fortunately, there is a small residential area to the west of the suburb, where you can find Victorian-themed homes and gardens, many with views looking out on to the open parklands.

Centennial Park is attached to Moore Park, which also plays host to a variety of sports and entertainment events. The entertainment precinct of Fox Studios, a shopping centre, and the prestigious Sydney Boys and Girls High Schools are all located here.

Basking in unrivalled charm and comfort is the suburb of Paddington, which will transport you right back to the childhood days of storybooks and tea parties. Paddington's architecture is adorned with Victorian influences, and the rows of pastel-coloured terraces perched atop hills that tumble down to the city below will effortlessly steal your heart.

Best known among shoppers for its designer boutiques and among diners for its superlative restaurants, Paddington exemplifies some of Sydney's best cultural attributes. The suburb is instantly recognisable, and its exquisite historical architecture accompanied by the effervescent aura that surrounds the entire area makes it a sought-after location for Sydney's uber-trendy crowd.

Ornamental shopfronts, leafy avenues and old heritage houses are just a few reasons why Woollahra is such an attractive locale. Like Paddington, Woollahra is full of character and sophistication, and is blessed with an array of art, entertainment, dining and shopping venues to suit any mood.

The suburb's prime location - set atop the city and harbour and only walking distance to some of the city's hotspots - has not gone unnoticed by Sydney's elite, who have taken over the suburb's grandest properties and views. The tranquil setting in the heart of the bustling city is another major drawcard for the suburb's residents.



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HISTORY

The open land in Centennial Park was first used by Governor Lachlan Macquarie for crops. The park's southern Lachlan Swamps were later named after the Governor, and beginning in 1830 the swamps supplied water to the city through the Bushy's Bore Tunnel for 50 years. The park was also the site of a famous duel in 1851 between the State's first Premier, Sturt Donaldson, and the Surveyor-General at the time, Thomas Mitchell. Neither man was killed.

In 1888, the park was deemed a public space by Sir Henry Parkes, and the ceremony commemorating the establishment of the federation was held there in 1901. The Federation Pavilion still stands in the park as a tribute to the birth of Australia.

Moore Park was named after Sydney's mayor from 1867 to 1869, Charles Moore. The mayor ensured that the land would be held as a public space for all of Sydney's residents to enjoy.

The area that is now used to house Sydney Girls High was once the site of Sydney's first zoo, 1867-1917. The zoo then moved to what is now Taronga, where it still stands. Sydney Boys High School opened shortly afterwards, in 1928.

Aboriginal Cadigal tribes were the first locals in Paddington. In the 1820s, businessman Robert Cooper was one of the first Europeans to live in Paddington; he also had the privilege of naming Paddington after the London suburb that bears the same name. Cooper built himself an extravagant estate, complete with panoramic city views, which he named Juniper Hall. Today the property still stands, as Paddington's oldest home.

Soon after, many mansions started to spring up, and by the end of the 19th century terrace houses earmarked for Sydney's emerging middle class began to be built. This clustering of houses eventually created an overpopulated and generally undesirable suburb, an image that lasted until 1960. At that point gentrification took off, returning the suburb to its former exclusivity, with its fine reputation renewed.

The State's first Legislative Assembly speaker, Daniel Cooper coined Woollahra's name from the Aboriginal term for "meeting ground". Cooper can be

credited with the construction of Woollahra House as well as the suburb's initial growth and development.

WHO LIVES THERE

Centennial Park and Moore Park are ideal family neighborhoods because there are endless opportunities to satisfy a child's need for amusement just outside the front door. Nevertheless, there are only a few houses in the area so the immediate vicinity is not crowded.

Paddington and Woollahra are typically occupied by wealthier residents because of the area's high profile, status and property values. The dominant age range fluctuates throughout these suburbs, with the younger crowd flocking to Paddington while older people tend to reside in Woollahra.

PLACES OF INTEREST

It's nearly impossible to run out of things to do in the area, be it taking part in outdoor hobbies, visiting one of numerous art galleries, going on a shopping spree, or heading out for a stroll and enjoying the superb buildings all around you. Centennial Park and Moore Park are a welcome retreat from the hustle and bustle of the city. To many locals, Centennial Park is simply magical - and absolutely vital in such a big city. In addition to the countless sports and pastimes you can engage in, it is one of those rare and cherished venues where you can go horseback riding. The park's appeal is made complete with night-time movies, a café, an exhibition centre and a concert venue. These are popular with locals and visitors alike.

Moore Park is the entertainment hub of the adjoining parklands because it is the home of Fox Studios and Hordern Pavilion. Seasonal sports take



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place at a variety of fields, including McKay Oval, Aussie Stadium and the E.S. Marks Athletic Grounds, to name a few. The Moore Park Golf Course is another popular spot in the parklands, ideal for locals keen to get out on the greens.

A wander through Paddington presents you with impressive architecture at nearly every turn. Quite aside from the gingerbread Victorian residences, the Town Hall is a magnificent European-influenced structure, and is presently home to a movie theatre, library and radio studio. Juniper Hall is Paddington's oldest-standing Georgian estate, and is permeated with historical significance.

If you're interested in Australia's military history, Victoria Barracks will most certainly catch your eye. It was used as a training ground from its formation in 1848, and today the barracks are the site of Headquarters Land Command and Headquarters Training Command.

Sydney's famous shopping district, Oxford Street, runs through Paddington, and the suburb's segment of the elongated road arguably stocks some of the best designers both from Australia and worldwide.

Buildings of colonial and Victorian influences are located throughout Woollahra, and are enough of an attraction on their own, with many dating back well into the 1800s.

WHERE TO SHOP

The best shopping in the area is undoubtedly Paddington's Oxford Street, where an array of bookstores, art galleries, fashion boutiques and delicatessens will tantalise and tempt you. The Paddington Markets are held along the thoroughfare every Saturday, and the collection of speciality handicrafts and gourmet fare is not to be missed.

There are a few retail shops in the entertainment district of Moore Park, as well as a Farmers Market on Wednesdays and weekends for you to stock up on fresh produce. If it's collectable antiques you're after, then look no further than Woollahra's Queen Street, the heart of Sydney's antique exchange. Of course if you still cannot find what you're looking for, the bountiful Westfield in Bondi Junction is just up the road.

SCHOOLS

Sydney Boys High; Sydney Girls High; Paddington Public; Glenmore Rd Public; St Francis of Assisi Regional Primary; Sydney Grammar School Edgecliff Preparatory; Woollahra Public School.

EMPLOYMENT

The retail and hospitality sector in these areas is thriving, so it's a natural place to look for work. Art enthusiasts will find a multitude of possibilities in the art galleries spread throughout the area, and there is a small commercial sector as well.



GETTING AROUND

Train stations: Bondi Junction, Edgecliff

Motorway: Eastern Distributor

Bus company: Sydney Buses

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Most of the homes and buildings around the area have been standing for decades now, and while there is the occasional construction of new apartment buildings, particularly in Moore Park, the initiation of new development is not common. This is largely because there is little community desire for modern structures to be built in this area. The classic designs already on show are what makes the whole precinct so charming. Interiors are a different matter from facades: renovation of a property's interior is widely undertaken throughout the area.

SMART BUYS

One of the best options for investment is to renovate an older property in any of these suburbs. Demand for these less well-maintained properties, however, remains incredibly high and it is rather difficult to find a property that hasn't already been snatched by another person with an equally keen eye. Nonetheless, rising property values make the search worthwhile, because you are likely to get much more out of a property than you put into it.

BEST STREETS

Centennial Park's best streets are those bordering the parklands and near to the neighboring shops, cafés and transport. These include Centennial Road, Martin Road and Oxley Lane. In Moore Park, you'll find some newer properties on Lachlan Street and Crystal Street, some of which offer resort-style living as well. Some timeless Paddington addresses include those on Selwyn Street, Renny Street and Cambridge Street, but there are many others where you will find superb estates coupled with enviable views. Woollahra also boasts some magnificent streets. Moncur Street, Jersey Road and Edgecliff Road will start you down the right track - but there are many more.