

ROAD NETWORK

NSW has an extensive, well-developed network of highways connecting the State's major population centres. The principal highways that form part of the National Network include the Pacific Highway, New England Highway, Hume Highway, Great Western Highway, Newell Highway and Sturt Highway.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

An efficient network of transport options connects the attractions and suburbs of Sydney and regional NSW, including buses, trains, ferries and light rail. To use the network, either an [Opal card](#) (available for purchase and can be 'topped up') or a contactless credit card, debit card or mobile device (with payment options) is required.

Sydney's train [network](#) is an efficient way of traveling around the city. Use the [Trip Planner](#) tool (downloadable app) to map your route. This allows you to plan your route most easily and swiftly while providing constant updates on changes or alternative routes.

Sydney's main rail terminus for local and regional trains and buses is Central Station at Railway Square, close to Chinatown. Trains operate North to the CBD and across the harbour to North Sydney and beyond, as well as east to Bondi Junction and South past and including Sydney Airport.

Ferries provide a fast and convenient way to cross the harbour and offer a fantastic vantage point of the city.

A bicycle is a great way to get around Sydney. Cyclists use kerbside bike lanes and are permitted on most of Sydney's multi-lane roads. Helmets are a legal requirement.

Intercity & Country NSW trains - Trains depart Central Station for many NSW destinations, including the South Coast, Blue Mountains, Southern Highlands, Central Coast, North Coast, Country NSW and Outback NSW. Travelling long distances is easy and affordable on [regional train and coach services](#).

DRIVING IN SYDNEY

Australians drive on the left-hand side of the road. Use of seat belts is compulsory in Australia, with the driver being responsible for ensuring that all passengers are wearing them. Using a hand-held mobile phone is prohibited when driving. It can however be used if mounted in an approved cradle but through voice command only, not touch. Penalties for misuse apply.

The blood alcohol limit is 0.05% throughout Australia and is enforced with random breath tests. Pay attention to speed limits – speed cameras are used across Sydney and NSW. Note that there are zero alcohol limits for certain classes of driver including heavy vehicle, bus and probationary/learner drivers. These limits are strictly enforced.

Sydney has a number of toll roads and tunnels, including the Harbour Bridge, Harbour Tunnel, Cross City Tunnel and Eastern Distributor. Tolls are charged via an electronic system. Rental cars may have an **e-tag** installed with contractual billing arrangements but when a tag is not used toll payments must be made on-line within 24 hours to avoid penalties.

RENTING A CAR

There are many car rental companies operating in Australia, rates vary depending on the type of car required and the length of hire time. Some of the popular companies are Budget, Hertz, Thrifty, Avis, Sixt and others.

Alternatively, **GoGet** is a car-sharing service where a car can be hired for a specific day or amount of time, this might be a suitable alternative when a car is needed for a limited time.

PURCHASING A CAR

There are various ways to purchase a car in Australia depending on needs. New cars are purchased from preferred brand dealerships and used cars can be purchased from used car dealerships or private individuals.

Before finalizing the deal on a secondhand car, it is highly recommended to have it checked thoroughly with an independent mechanic or automotive center. A pre-purchase inspection of a used car can be arranged and purchased through the NRMA (National Roads and Motorist's Association) which will provide a thorough and unbiased report on a car's condition.

CAR INSURANCE

Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance is a mandatory pre-requisite for a vehicle to be registered in NSW. CTP insurance (also known as a green slip) provides compensation for other people injured in an accident when the person driving the vehicle is at fault, and in certain circumstances, regardless of who was at fault.

Comprehensive and third-party car insurance options can be purchased providing additional cover and where appropriate, agreed values. More information about the different insurance plans and pricing can be found on comparison websites that provide quotes from a range of participating insurance providers. Nuss can provide further details on sourcing quotes and information.

GETTING AN NSW DRIVERS LICENSE

Currently, a temporary resident is permitted to drive in Australia with a foreign driver's license for up to 6 months after arrival as long as that license is in English. If the license is not in English, it is necessary to obtain an International Driver's Permit (IDP) to use in Australia; note that this **MUST** be obtained in the country in which the drivers licence was issued so would need to be obtained before traveling to Australia. The NSW driver's license will be required after 6 months. There are certain common eligibility factors that must be met to apply for and obtain a driver's license. The application and process are completed at the [Service NSW Centre](#) who also manage several government services for residents and businesses. Please refer to this site for specific information.