

BONDI BEACH TO BRONTE BEACH

This is a classic Sydney beach experience, beloved by locals and tourists. Think stunning ocean views, invigorating salt air, and the chance to cool off in surf or saltwater baths.

Begin on the promenade at the northern end of Bondi Beach (via bus #333 or 380). Enjoy the eclectic crowd and natural beauty of this iconic crescent of golden sand, named after the Aboriginal word for the sound of crashing waves. Head south along the promenade and pass **Bondi Surf Bathers' Life Saving Club (1)**; Queen Elizabeth Dr.), the oldest such club in the world, known for 100 years of sea rescues, and the area's main landmark, the **Bondi Pavilion (2)**, a thriving hub for music, theater, and art. The coastal path then climbs up to the **Bondi Icebergs Club (3)**; 1 Notts Ave.), so called because members swim year-round in its saltwater pool; it's also home to a trendy bar and restaurant that are open to the public. The path hugs the water's edge around Mackenzies Point, where there is a well-placed lookout spot. Continue past the sandstone cliffs to tiny Tamarama Beach. This spot of sand, nicknamed Glamarama by locals, boasts some of the most bronzed and buffed bodies on any Sydney beach. From here, walk across the beach to the steps on the other side, then follow the path past crumbling apartment complexes and multimillion-dollar mansions to Bronte Beach. The ocean pool is popular with kids as are the miniature train ride and sea-themed playground in Bronte Park. Look for the sweet strip of outdoor cafés across the street; try Turkish toast at the **Bogey-Hole Café (4)**; 473 Bronte Rd.) or fruit frappes at **Jenny's (5)**; #485). In November, Sculpture by the Sea, an annual art exhibit along the route, takes full advantage of the dramatic seaside backdrop. Exit on Bronte Rd. via bus #378 to Railway Square.

COOGEE BEACH TO MAROUBRA BEACH

This is the less-traveled leg of a trio of seaside hikes that, together, form the Eastern Beaches Coastal Walk (Walks 26, 27, and 28).

Begin at the southern end of Coogee Beach (via bus #373 or 374). Climb up the steps to reach the path and check out **Wylie's Baths (1)**; Neptune St.), a popular saltwater swimming pool adjacent to Grant Reserve. Continue beyond the large green Trenerry Reserve to a wooden boardwalk surrounded by native bush and swamp where croaking frogs will serenade you. Benches along the way provide perfect places to contemplate the sea. Pods of dolphins and migrating whales are not uncommon sights. When the boardwalk ends, look carefully for a small gray wooden post with a curling wave and a 3km marker, set between two garages. Take this narrow alley and turn right onto residential Cuzzo St. Walk uphill and turn left onto the busy thoroughfare Malabar Rd. Shortly after, turn left onto pleasant Mermaid Ave. and left onto Lurline St., which connects to steps that take you back down to the coastal trail. You'll be rewarded with panoramic ocean views at Jack Vanny Memorial Park. At the edge of the park, **Mahon Pool (2)** is a sweet spot for a splash. Or continue on the path to where Marine Promenade intersects with The Corso, and cross the street to reach the **Pool Caffè (3)**; 94 Marine), a cute stop for a hearty breakfast or seafood lunch. Then head down onto Maroubra Beach, a lovely wide expanse of sea and sand, to watch some serious surf action. Catch bus #376, 377, or 396 on Marine to return.

ROSE BAY TO NIELSEN PARK

This walk rewards with spectacular harbor and city views and some of the more pristine bushland in inner Sydney. Note: there are some steep steps and uneven trails on this walk.

Begin at New South Head and Bay View Hill Rds. in Rose Bay (via bus #324 or 325). Head down Bay View Hill, sandwiched between two exclusive private schools, Kambala on the left and Kincoppal-Rose Bay, with its huge Gothic-style convent, on the right. Turn right onto Bay View Hill Ln. and take the steps to the signposted start of the Hermitage Foreshore Scenic Walk. Keep following the signs along the trail, which incorporates scrubby native bush, patches of rain forest, and several tiny strips of sand—Queens Beach, Hermit Point, and Milk Beach. Stop at any one of these for a splash or picnic and admire the Harbour Bridge, opera house, and city skyline from afar. Continue along the trail and cross over the grounds at historic **Strickland House (1)** to reach **Greycliffe House (2)**, a large Victorian-era sandstone residence, now an office for the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Beyond Greycliffe House sits Nielsen Park, a beloved harbor-side haunt with shaded promenade and picnic areas. The white-sand beach and calm seas make this an ideal place for a swim; fortunately, Shark Bay is protected from its namesake by a netted enclosure. In summer, the beachside **Nielsen Park Café (3)**; Greycliffe Ave.) does a roaring trade in ice cream. Nielsen Park is a prime spot to watch Sydney's extravagant New Year's Eve fireworks display, the colorful spinnakers from the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race on December 26, or just the everyday harbor views. To leave, walk up through the park and catch bus #325 on Vaucluse Rd. near Greycliffe Ave to return.