

Sydney Workshop on Mathematics of Data Science

4-6 December, 2024

Local Information

Getting there

The University of Sydney is easily accessible by public transport. It is served by buses on all sides, the vast majority of which run to Central station (1–2km away). It is also 15 minutes' walk from Redfern station. To pay for all public transport, you tap on and tap off with your credit/debit card.

The workshop venue is on campus in the New Law School Annexe room 340. In other words, it is in the triangular building on Eastern avenue, 3 levels up.

The hotel for speakers (Rydges Camperdown) is 20 minutes' walk from the workshop venue, either along Parramatta Road or through campus (see map).

To get here from the airport, there are two options:

* Take a taxi. This costs \$30–50 depending on traffic.

* Take the T8 train to Central, walk through the long tunnel at the Devonshire Street end of the station, and catch a bus from Railway Square (Stand N for the workshop venue, Stand M for hotel). This costs around \$23 including the airport station access charge.

Australia contains dangerous beasts

known as Sydney drivers. They all drive on the left-hand side of the road and can be aggressive. Please take care crossing roads and look both ways.

On the other hand, the poisonous animals are timid, and rarely found in the city.

Electronics

Australia has type I power sockets, and runs on 240V power. You can buy adaptors from travel shops.

WiFi is available on campus through **eduroam**, which may require set-up at the participant's home university before travel. If you do not have access to eduroam, please contact the organisers.

Food, drink, etc

On campus, there is food of varying quality. The better choices are Forum (on Eastern Avenue) and the Boardwalk cafe (across City Road).

Off campus, there is almost uniformly good food and coffee 10 minutes' walk away in Newtown (King Street) or Glebe (Glebe Point Road). The quick and no-frills spots tend to be at the end closest to the uni, with fancier options a little further.

You can find all sorts of bars, pubs, and other attractions in nightlife hotspot Newtown and the quieter Glebe.

Tourism

Sydney is famous for its natural beauty. At this time of year, sunset is around 8pm. There are several very nice places within easy reach of campus:

(1–2 hours) **Glebe** is a beautiful old suburb that backs onto the water. It is pleasant and rewarding to simply wander around in, and there are also self-guided walks available with historical information (<https://glebewalks.com.au>).

(2+ hours) **Sydney Harbour** is best accessed from Circular Quay station, 15 minutes' train ride from Redfern or Central. An evening visit is easy and very worthwhile.

From Circular Quay, you can see and visit the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House. It is possible to walk along the foreshore a long way in each direction (going east, the Botanic Gardens are beautiful and close at 8pm). Close by too is The Rocks, the site of the original British settlement.

You can also take a very scenic 20 minute ferry ride to the beachside suburb of Manly. There are also ferries to Taronga Zoo, the most likely place in Sydney to see native wildlife.

(3–6 hours) December is the pleasant end of summer here, and there are many **beaches** of note. The easiest beaches to get to from the University are probably Coogee via a 50-minute ride on the 370 bus (caught from City Rd in the direction away from the city), and Bondi via a 15-minute train ride from Redfern/Central to Bondi Junction followed by a 20-minute walk or short bus trip. The coastal walk between these two beaches is justly famous.

(day trip) Sydney is surrounded by **national parks**, the best of which are accessible by train.

It is quite easy to make a day trip to the Blue Mountains (1.5–2 hours from Central depending on where you go). Here, you will find quaint towns and many beautiful and easy walks, some of which look out over very spectacular canyons.

Closer to home, there are some very nice walks in the Royal National Park to the south, and Ku-ring-gai Chase to the north. Both are around 50 minutes' train from Central.

Check in advance if the walk you want to do is open (<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park>). Avoid hiking on very hot days, take adequate water, sunscreen, and a hat, and look out for snakes sunning themselves on the track.

