

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

SITES 1–8

To find out more about public transport services within the CBD phone 131500 or visit www.131500.gov.au and use its trip planner, or www.cityrail.info and <http://sydneybuses.info> for information about trains and buses. The CBD shuttle (Route 555) which runs from Circular Quay to Central is free and connects with rail, metro buses, ferries, light rail and the monorail. It operates every 10 minutes in both directions from 9.30am to 3.30pm on weekdays (or until 9pm on Thursday) and 9.30am to 6pm on weekends.

The gardens, historic buildings, galleries and museums in the heart of the city provide an excellent starting point to learn about Sydney's Aboriginal heritage and cultures.

Sites 1–8 are all located within a one kilometre radius of the Central Business District (CBD). As parking can be difficult, the most convenient way of reaching these sites once you are in the city is by bus, train, light rail and on foot. The suggested order or site visits presumes starting and ending at Circular Quay, but all the sites are able to be reached from the CBD.

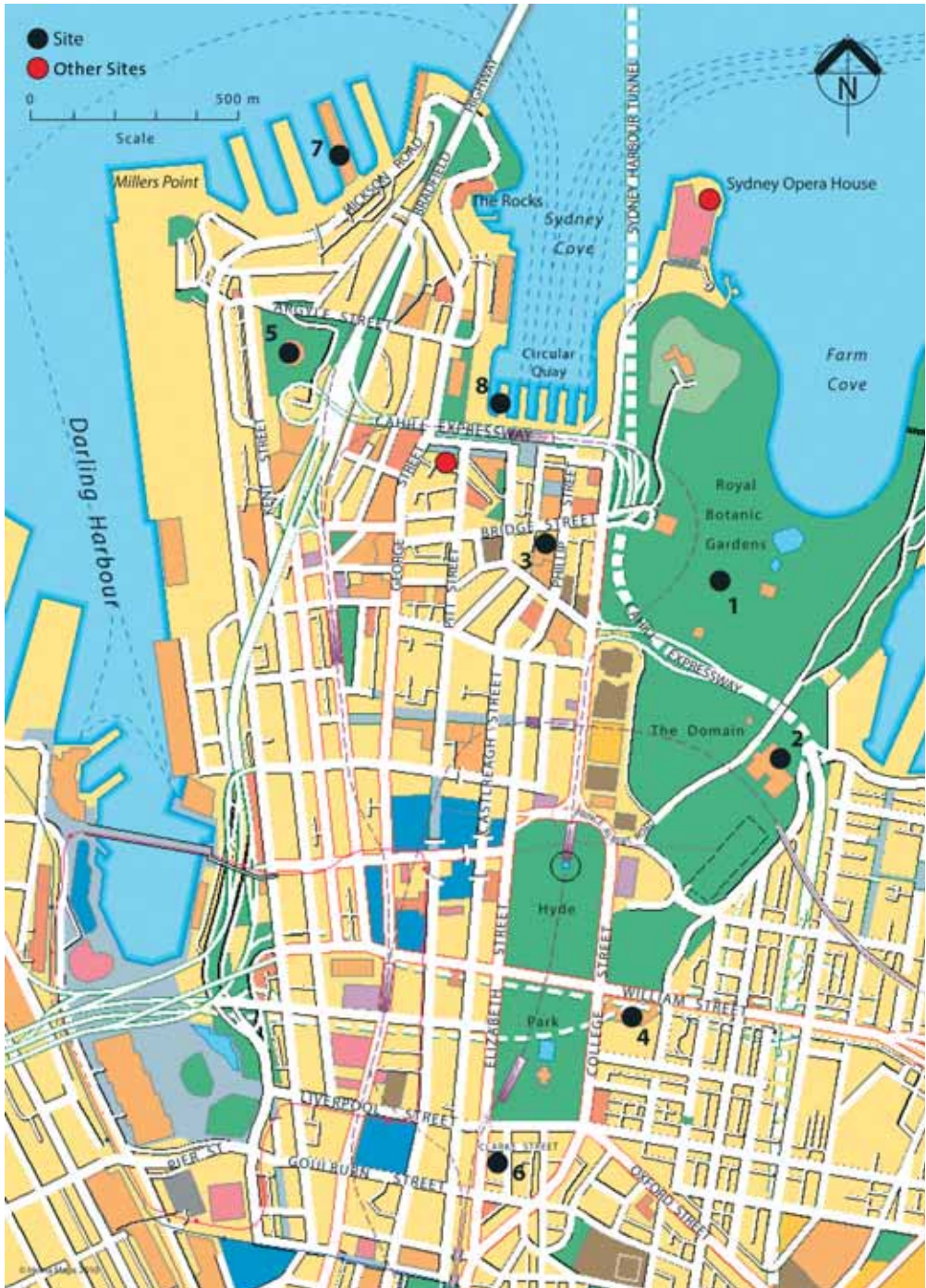
Aerial view of the Central Business District. *Tourism NSW; Robert Wallace*

- 1 Cadi Jam Ora display, Royal Botanic Gardens
- 2 Yiribana Gallery, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 3 Museum of Sydney, site of the first Government House
- 4 Indigenous Australians Exhibition, Australian Museum
- 5 The Sydney Observatory
- 6 The Australian Hall building
- 7 Bangarra Dance Theatre
- 8 Tribal Warrior Association

Other sites

Tank Stream public artworks
Bennelong Point, the Sydney Opera House

Aboriginal Sydney 2nd Edition Sample Chapter



<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/aspbooks/aborsydney2nded.html>



SITE 1

CADI JAM ORA DISPLAY, ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS

Cadi Jam Ora is translated as 'I am in Cadi', the local Aboriginal name for the Sydney Harbour area. The garden display in the Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG) explores the life of the Cadigal (the area's original occupants) through their use of plants and relationship to the land. A storyline traverses the period 60,000 years BP to the present, highlighting important events in Aboriginal history and placing them in the context of long-term environmental changes and other world events. Interpretive stories focus on the first three years of British colonisation of Sydney and the meeting of two vastly different cultures, through their different attitudes to the environment. Text on the storyline was compiled from a number of sources including more than forty interviews with local Aboriginal people.

Royal Botanic Gardens. *Hamilton Lund, Tourism NSW.*

Description: These public gardens are on a site of great significance to Aboriginal people. A separate Indigenous garden area explores the history of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal contact in Australia, as well as Aboriginal plant use in the Sydney area.

Location: UBD map 1 P16
Gregory's map 2 D16
The Botanic Gardens are 500m from the centre of Sydney and border the Opera House precinct.

Getting there: Walk from Circular Quay railway station, bus stops and ferry terminal. The Cadi Jam Ora display (three garden beds) is located between the First Farm Garden and the Botanical Stream. Alternatively, people can enter from the gates on Mrs Macquarie's Road.

Facilities: Ideal place for a picnic; kiosk, public toilets available.

Time: Allow up to three hours.

Further Information:
Tel. (02) 9231 8111
www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au



Aboriginal Education Officer, Clarence Slockee, Royal Botanic Gardens. *Botanic Gardens Trust Sydney, photographer Simone Cottrell.*

Specialised and group tours can be arranged on weekdays. Phone Community Education on (02) 9231 8134 for more information.

The design of the Indigenous garden reflects the original landscape: rainforest species along the creek — once an important water source for the Cadigal — progressing to woodlands closer to the 'First Farm' display. The arrival of the British and their attempts to cultivate the soil is depicted in a bed planted with roughly hewn tree stumps, cleared ground and grains.

Take a self-guided walk around the RBG to learn more about the significance of native plants to Aboriginal culture. The walk, which includes Cadi Jam Ora, takes about an hour to complete and returns to the Palm Grove Centre. On Fridays at 10am you can take an Aboriginal Heritage Tour with the RBG Aboriginal Education Officer. Learn about Aboriginal heritage, experience traditional music, dance, and artefacts, and taste some bush foods. Tours cost \$28 for adults (\$25 for Friends or groups of 7 or more), and \$15 per student/child; tours last approximately one to one and a half hours and depart from the RBG Information Centre.

Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens occupy the site which the Aboriginal people of Sydney knew as Wuganmagulya, and Governor Arthur Phillip later named Farm Cove. It was here that the British made their first attempts to grow crops. When these attempts failed, Phillip directed his men to search for more fertile areas of land. It was this journey that led to a second settlement being established at Parramatta (see pp. 119–30).

The Botanic Gardens Trust works with local Aboriginal communities to acknowledge the significance of these lands to past and present Aboriginal people. Each year on 26 January, the first official event of Sydney's annual Australia Day celebrations is held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, with Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples alike joining in the Woggan-ma-gule Morning Ceremony. This ceremony is performed in the spirit of reconciliation, and to remind people of Australia's Aboriginal history. Some people refer to this day as Survival/Invasion Day.