

## EXPLORE THE MAGICAL CHRISTMAS PLAYGROUND AT DARLING HARBOUR

FROM CHRISTMAS CLASSICS TO DELICIOUS HOLIDAY TREATS, ENJOY THE FESTIVE CHEER DOWN BY THE HARBOUR



From mid-November, Sydneysiders can enjoy the magical delights of the festive season in Darling Harbour, the one-stop destination for all your holiday fun. Festivities kick off with a range of Christmas-themed installations, markets, workshops, entertainment and food experiences for all to enjoy. The waterside precinct will transform into a Christmas wonderland, making it the go-to destination for creating memorable experiences this season.

### **Explore interactive and giant installations by the Harbour**

The iconic six-metre-tall **Giant Bauble** makes a spectacular return to the precinct. It is lit up in all its glory at the front of the ICC forecourt every evening, 6pm to 11pm, until Thursday, 26 December. The installation is the perfect selfie destination as visitors can wander through the mirrored tunnel or take in the dazzling exterior light display with the incredible harbour background.

Swing to new heights on the **Interactive Swinging Bell** at the Darling Square Green. Three oversized bells, each with a built-in swing and LED lights which will twinkle in the night sky, will be situated on the Green from Wednesday, 27 November until Wednesday, 25 December.

Visitors can get wrapped up in the excitement of Instagrammable moments at the Chinese Garden of Friendship forecourt which will be home to **six giant Christmas presents**. Over at Druitt's Landing, visitors will get the chance to capture some silly snaps and share across their socials at the **Ugly Christmas Jumper Photobooth**.

### **Unique and special gifts at the Christmas markets**

The **Darling Quarter Christmas Markets** will provide gift buyers and Kris Kringle hunters with the perfect stocking fillers. The markets will run, 10am to 6pm, from Monday, 2 December until Sunday, 22 December, making it the perfect destination for any last-minute shoppers.

### **Become Santa's little helper at the Christmas workshop station**

From 18 to 24 December, 11am to 2pm, the **Christmas Workshop Station** at Tumbalong Park will play host to free rotating Christmas craft activities for the kids to enjoy. From creating decorations, to gingerbread designs and everything in between, the kids can enjoy the chance to be Santa's little helpers. A free face-painting station will also operate on the lawn. The kids will have their pick of a number of Christmas-themed options, including Santa, Dasher, Dancer or Prancer.

### **Experiences for the whole family to enjoy**

Sydneysiders can take a break from the Christmas shopping and enjoy some quality time with friends and family at the Darling Quarter Village Green outdoor cinema. Returning for another year, the cinema will host three nights of classic **Christmas Movies** from Friday 20 to Sunday 22 December. Take in the atmosphere while relaxing on beanbags and munching on popcorn. Enjoy the Christmas music, roving entertainment, your favourite gelato from the Gelatissimo cart, as well as a wide selection of other food offerings.

Sydneysiders can also enjoy a visual masterpiece in the night sky during the holidays, with **fireworks** taking place over Cockle Bay at 9pm every Saturday. From 30 November to 21 December, the Saturday fireworks are accompanied by a special Christmas soundtrack to really get you into the festive spirit! Those who want a better view can grab the best seat in the harbour on the **Star of the Show Ferris Wheel**.

To take in the full experience, guests can dine-in or take away their favourite dishes from the surrounding harbourside restaurants.

### **The perfect spots to feast with friends**

Soak in the Christmas spirit while in the company of good friends and delicious food, whether it be indulging over a three-course menu or a snack-to-go, Darling Harbour is the place to celebrate this festive season.

Excite your senses at **Auvers Café**, the French-inspired cafe situated in Darling Square. Open both morning and night, guests can experience a slice of France with Escargot, Confit Duck and Beef Eye Fillet. This charming café makes for the perfect destination for the holidays.

For those seeking a contemporary take on Vietnamese food, look no further than **Hello Auntie**. A great destination to celebrate the festive season with the office crew while enjoying the restaurant's take on traditional cuisine, and pairing dishes with an extensive list of Sakes and Asian-inspired cocktails.

**Planar Restaurant**, situated right on the harbour, is a reflection of the contemporary Modern Australian cuisine, offering its guests an eclectic menu from around the world. Take in the magical views and reminisce on the year that was with friends both old and new!

For a city escape, venture into **The Gardens by Lotus**, where you will feel inspired by the lush greenery and culture. The tranquil atmosphere provides a unique dining experience at the oasis right in the heart of the city. Take a stroll through the garden with your friends or loved ones to enjoy the festive atmosphere while treating yourself to delicious teahouse style dining.

**Raise a glass and be merry with your best mates**

Celebrate the joy of Christmas at **Café Del Mar** where you can take in the beauty of the harbour as you enjoy the premium Mediterranean cuisine offering. Soak in a stunning summer sunset at the Terrace bar where beer, wine and standard spirits are \$6 and their famous espresso martini and Aperol Spritz are \$12 every Monday to Friday between 4pm-7pm.

Just across the water, **The Port** is offering guests the perfect waterfront setting to escape the hustle and bustle this festive season. Whether it be to wind down after a day of Christmas shopping or a place to catch up with friends, The Port will have all bases covered!

Take in the harbour from new heights at the **Champagne Bar at Sofitel**, this romantic setting oozes with sophistication and class, with panoramic views and the world's finest selection of champagne, vintage cuvees and exclusive bottles. Guests can enjoy their Champagne hour and savour a glass of bubbles; Veuve Clicquot Brut or Rose, whilst enjoying the spectacular display of Christmas cheer below.

The perfect destination to catch up with friends and enjoy some of the greatest beer from Australia and around the world can be found at **Bucket Boys Bar**. Situated in the heart of Darling Square, the wide selection of beers on tap, cocktails, spirits and wine won't be leaving any Santa thirsty!

For further information, please visit [www.darlingharbour.com](http://www.darlingharbour.com).

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