



THE ROCKS CHRISTMAS VILLAGE COMES TO LIFE THIS DECEMBER A GIANT SNOW GLOBE, CHRISTMAS TALES AND VILLAGE MARKETS

Sydney's oldest neighbourhood comes to life this festive season with visitors set to wander the streets of The Rocks Christmas Village. Here Sydneysiders can find the perfect unique present, delicious dining destinations and even discover tales of Christmases past in this harbourside community.

With the aura of Christmas waltzing in the air, visitors are welcomed to take a stroll through The Rocks and discover the magic of Christmases gone by with interactive installations entitled *Tales of Christmas in The Rocks*. Acclaimed Australian poet, and two-time Banjo Patterson Prize winner, Tug Dumbly, lyricises 12 fascinating stories of Christmas time in this Sydney suburb, telling tales of a young girl watching the ships dance in the harbour waiting for her London doll to arrive just in time for Christmas, to a group of young university gents playing cricket under the Harbour Bridge on Boxing Day.

"It was delightfully inspiring creating these mini-fictions and monologues for such a varied and colourful cast of characters, all set in The Rocks, spread over a long timeframe, and largely inspired by actual historical documents," said Tug Dumbly.

"I found myself quite vividly inhabiting the voices and worlds of the characters, wishing I could expand upon them and turn their lives into full stories or novels. Maybe I will one day."

The Rocks Markets continues to be the place for Sydneysiders to celebrate Christmas in style, with unique and unusual gifts or gourmet goodies, including fresh flowers, handmade chocolates and specialty olive oils. The markets will extend their trading hours to 8pm on Fridays, creating the ideal location for people to sit back and reflect on their purchases for friends and family. Last-minute shoppers can enjoy perusing Christmas stalls amidst the familiar charm of cobblestone streets and a relaxed harbourside breeze, with the markets set to remain open on December 22, 23, and 24. Roving performers, **The Brasshoppers**, will also be appearing around the precinct to provide a musical backdrop to the festivities throughout December.

Christmas shoppers can explore all the secret nooks and crannies of the district to find the perfect present for their loved ones. Show Mum and Dad you're thinking of them with a batch of delicious goodies from the baking extraordinaires at **Whisk and Pin**. Stuff the kids' stockings with hand-crafted, traditionally-made candy with a modern twist from the ever-sweet team at **Sticky**. Pamper your partner with meticulously made cosmetics for the hair, skin and body from **Aesop**. Unfurl your inner art aficionado and find your home a hidden masterpiece amongst Graham Atwell's mesmerising artwork on display at **Atty Gallery**.

From the freshly brewed, all-Australian beer at **The Endeavour Tap Rooms**, to the charming aromas of an intimate dinner at **Saké**, there is a Christmas dining destination for everyone in The Rocks. Get a jump on the Christmas fun with a Mexican Christmas Eve outing to **El Camino**, or celebrate getting that last-ditch shopping ready for the big day with a laneway dining experience at **Pony**. For those looking to round up their friends and family for Christmas lunch out of the house, head down to **Munich Brauhaus** for Christmas Day and relish over a delicious festive spread with a stein of Bavaria's finest beer. And to finish off the Christmas weekend, Sydneysiders can watch the Aussies bowl over the Brits in the Boxing Day Test while enjoying a selection of local beer and the lively atmosphere at **The Australian** or **The Glenmore**.

Those who have always wondered what a white Christmas in The Rocks might look like can wonder no more, with a model replica of iconic locations within the precinct to be encapsulated in a fully functioning, five-metre-tall **Snow Globe**. Sitting atop the First Fleet Park stairs, the Snow Globe will add a little hint of winter wonder to a shimmering summer Christmas, while making for a great place for a festive photo. Not to be outshone, Kendall Lane will be home to a freestanding **Light Tunnel** to make Christmas strolls through the area all the merrier.

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For further information and imagery requests, please contact:

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The Rocks Christmas events

Tales of Christmas in The Rocks

November 23 – December 27
Various locations

Snow Globe

November 23 – December 27
First Fleet Park Stairs, George Street

Light Tunnel

November 23 – December 27
Kendall Lane

The Rocks Markets

9am – 8pm, Fridays
Jack Munday Place and Playfair Street
10am – 5pm, Saturdays & Sundays
Playfair Street, George Street and Jack Munday Place

Roving Band (The Brasshoppers)

Thursday 7, Friday 8, 15, 22 December
Various locations

The Rocks venue openings

Christmas Eve

The Endeavour Tap Rooms, 12pm – late
El Camino, 12pm – 10pm
Munich Brauhaus, 11:30am – late
The Argyle, 11am – late
The Glenmore, 11am – midnight
The Australian, 11am – midnight
Pony, 12pm – 3pm and 5:30pm – 10pm
Push, 12pm – late
Sake, 12pm – 3pm and 5:30pm – 10:30pm

Christmas Day

Munich Brauhaus, 11:30am – late

Boxing Day

The Endeavour Tap Rooms, 11am – late
El Camino, 12pm – midnight
Munich Brauhaus, 11:30am – late
The Argyle, 11am – late
The Glenmore, 11am – midnight
The Australian, 11am – midnight
Pony, 12pm – 3pm and 5:30pm – 10pm
Sake, 12pm – 3pm and 5:30pm – 10:30pm