

English in Sydney and much more...



When I received the ABB Sprachpreis I knew from the beginning where I would go. Sydney was my destination. To flee from the cold weather in Europe, Sydney just would be perfect. I had never been to this city before and so it was a good chance to explore a new place.

The course I took here is the CAE at the 'Australian College of English' in Bondi Junction, which is a five hours per day course with the CAE Exam at the end of the ten weeks course. The school is fantastic, placed between the city centre and the famous Bondi Beach. Thus, it is quite common to go for a swim in the sea or to get a tan at the beach, if there is any sun.

Unfortunately, 2008 had been the worst summer in Australia ever; it was just raining all day long. Anyway, because the course started at the strange date of 31st December, I arrived in Sydney before the New Year. Like this I had the chance to celebrate the unique and well known Sydney New Year with its gigantic fireworks on the Harbour Bridge.



However, Sydney has much more to show than just the New Year. During the first two months of the year there are several festivals and celebrations, such as the Sydney Festival, where many artists from all over the world perform during three weeks. The festival ends with the big bang on Australia Day, including many free concerts, a ferry race and an emotional firework in Darling Harbour. Besides all these attractions, the school's Boomerang Club organises daily activities in and around Sydney – such as a

Dolphins Trip to Jervis Bay, where I saw and experienced the real countryside of Australia – and many other visits to attractions and parties. Of course, the visit to the two icons, the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge, is a must for everyone. The city and its indescribable and remarkable parks invite you daily for a walk and to have a drink with friends to enjoy the time there. Furthermore, there are plenty of beaches to go to and a coastal line including a view you can only dream of. As you may know, to hold BBQ is a hobby of Australians and so we often went to the beach with friends and relaxed in the warm summer breeze, while grilling the fresh seafood and drinking delicious Australian wine.



Not all attractions are placed in Sydney, the famous Australian Open was being held during these days and I had the unique chance to be part of it. Thus, I grabbed some friends and went to see the tennis in Melbourne. Because I decided to go spontaneously, there were no tickets left for the Rod Laver Arena. Thus, I had to be content with the Vodafone Arena. Anyway, it was a fantastic and unforgettable weekend down there in Melbourne.

During my ten weeks in Sydney I lived in a small room close to the school. I decided not to live in a homestay, as some of them are far away from school and due to the size of the city it can take you hours to manage the daily school journey. I stayed in an old house next to the Waverly Park. A huge comfort is that the city buses drop you 24/7 in front of your door.

Anyway, the life in Sydney was fantastic and I fell in love with this city. Even though the sun was not shining often, I had a fantastic time down under. I would like to thank ABB for this fantastic offer.



Marcel Meyer, Sydney 2008