

A WEEKEND IN

PITTWATER

Your mini
winter getaway
from Sydney.



GO FAR.
STAY NEAR.

This Winter



DAY 1 | FRIDAY

UNWIND ON SYDNEY'S DOORSTEP

If the 9-to-5 is grinding you down, the reset button is closer than you think. Why fly halfway around the world for the still water and forests of Canada's Emerald Lake region when Sydney actually has its own version tucked inside Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, and you can get there cheaply with an Opal card and a ferry timetable?

AFTERNOON & EVENING

From Sydney, take the B1 and 156 buses to Church Point, then hop on the 10-minute ferry to Halls Wharf before the short uphill walk to the YHA. Checking in at YHA Pittwater Eco is easy, and there's always an on-site caretaker to greet you personally and show you around. Arrive before dark for the smoothest check-in.

Best nights: Slow right down tonight, grab a spot by the fire and toast a few marshmallows with fellow guests. Trade endless scrolling for Uno, Monopoly Deal, a good book or a journal and lean into the slow pace. When the stars come out, rug up and head outside because the night sky seriously puts on a show. Finish the evening in a hammock or on the porch, soaking up the kind of peace that's getting harder to find.

Can't miss: Sunset is around 5pm during winter, and if you time it right, you'll be able to watch it from the deck of the property, with your bag still on your shoulder.





DAY 2 | SATURDAY

THE ART OF DOING LESS

The vibe: Wake up surrounded by bushland, with the city literally kilometres away. Today, there's no agenda or schedule, and that's exactly the point.

MORNING & AFTERNOON

Sleep in, order a barista-made coffee from your **YHA Pittwater Eco** host, and ease into the morning on the deck as kookaburras provide the soundtrack. It feels worlds away from Sydney, with fresh air, sunshine and Pittwater Bay in front of you. Keep your eyes peeled for wallabies, echidnas, goannas, colourful birdlife and maybe even Fred, the resident possum, stopping by to say hello.

Best sites: When you're ready to move, lace up your hiking shoes because the bushwalking starts right from **YHA Pittwater Eco's** doorstep. Wander through **Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park** to discover waterfalls, sandstone cliffs and epic lookouts, with the **Morning Bay Trail** serving up some of the best views over Pittwater. Your host can point you to their favourite hidden spots, or simply hire a kayak or stand up paddleboard from the YHA for a small fee to explore the surrounding bays and islands.

Can't miss: Catch the ferry to explore beyond **Morning Bay**, with easy day trips to **Elvina Bay** and **Scotland Island**. Hike to the **Elvina waterfall** and ancient Aboriginal rock engravings, or spend the day picnicking, swimming and soaking up the laid-back island vibes on **Scotland Island**. Just remember to pack plenty of water, snacks and check the ferry timetable before you head off.



DAY 3 | SUNDAY

REST, ROAM THEN HEAD HOME

The vibe: Keep Sunday to yesterday's pace. The switch-off is working its magic, and you'll be feeling more like yourself again. Ease into the morning, and don't rush anything.

MORNING & AFTERNOON

Start the morning with yoga on the deck or claim a hammock and ease into the day surrounded by birdsong instead of notifications. Then grab a coffee made by YHA's on-site caretaker and choose your own adventure, whether that's another hike, a swim, kayaking, or simply doing absolutely nothing.

EVENING

Best sites: Eat down the last of your food and drop any fruit and veggie scraps in the compost, where they'll be put to work on the property.

Catch the 4:45pm, 5:45pm or 6:45pm ferry back to Church Point (arriving at 5:10pm, 6:10pm or 7:05pm respectively), then the 156 bus to Mona Vale and the B1 into the city. If you're not ready to face Monday yet, book a night or two at **YHA Sydney Harbour** or **YHA Sydney Central** and let the relaxing continue.

Can't miss: Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is Australia's second oldest national park and home to the Guringai people, whose stories live on through one of Sydney's richest collections of Aboriginal rock art. See the ancient Elvina Bay engravings up close for the perfect final adventure before heading home.



REFLECTIONS

Sit back, slow down & reflect on the moments, memories and favourite spots from your trip.





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