

Sydney Coach Trip – Sunday 13 October 2024

Join us for a day in Sydney with visits to **Elizabeth Bay House, Paddington Reservoir Gardens and Vaucluse House.**

Elizabeth Bay House



With harbour views, sweeping staircases and spectacular landscaped gardens, Elizabeth Bay House was Sydney's ultimate trophy home. Built for colonial secretary Alexander Macleay, after the governor, the most important public official in Sydney, it was by all accounts the finest house in the colony. Yet it tells a familiar story: of ambition and passion, of riches to ruin.

Elizabeth Bay House is a superb example of colonial architecture in a magnificent setting overlooking Sydney Harbour. The house was restored and opened as a house museum in 1977. Elegantly furnished to the period of 1839 to 1845, the interiors reflect the lifestyle of the Macleays and present an evocative picture of 19th century life. The house was once surrounded by an extensive 54-acre garden and described as a 'botanist's paradise'. Alexander Macleay was a renowned gentleman scientist who established a significant library and entomology collection and had extensive interests in botany.

On route to our lunch location, we will stop briefly at the Paddington Reservoir Gardens on Oxford Street. The gardens incorporate the former Paddington Reservoir, which is on the NSW State Heritage Register. The reservoir was part of Sydney's third water supply system, and was designed to contain water pumped from Lords Dam at Botany Bay which had been built in 1815.

Paddington Reservoir Gardens



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The Paddington Reservoir was the high-level reservoir which worked in tandem with the low-level reservoir in Crown Street,

Surry Hills, both designed in 1857. Crown Street was finished in 1860 but work did not begin on the Paddington Reservoir until 1864 and it was completed in 1866. Ten years later the reservoir was enlarged at the eastern end creating a total capacity of 2 million gallons (9,092 megalitres) with a dimension of 33 metres long, 31 metres wide, and a water depth of 5 metres.

Paddington Reservoir operated between 1878 and 1899 when the Centennial Park Reservoir was commissioned. After it closed in 1899 Paddington Reservoir was used for storage by the Water Board, and from 1914 to 1934 it housed the Board's garage and workshop. The reservoir was sold to Paddington Municipal Council in 1934 which leased the western chamber for a service station while the eastern chamber was still occupied by the Water Board until the later 1950s. The service station continued to operate under various lessees until 1990 when the roof collapsed. Since then, the reservoir has been closed off and unused, with a further roof collapse occurring in 1993.

Walter Read Reserve was established on the roof of the Paddington Reservoir in 1953. Walter Read was an alderman of Paddington Council 1937-1948 and Mayor in 1942, 1947 and 1948. The adjoining John Thompson Reserve, opened in 1976 on the former Grand View Hotel site, is named after one of the founders of the Paddington Society. Both reserves provide open space in the Paddington civic precinct which includes the Town Hall, Post Office and Juniper Hall (1824).

Paddington Reservoir Gardens, incorporating both the Walter Read Reserve and John Thompson Reserve, opened in 2009 following major restoration and landscaping.

We will be able to enjoy **Rushcutters Bay Park** where you can either buy your lunch at the kiosk or consume your own picnic.



Vaucluse House

Following our lunch, we will make our way to one of Sydney's most treasured harbourside estates. **Vaucluse House** is one of Sydney's few 19th-century mansions still surrounded by its original gardens and grounds, with the rambling estate stretching down to the harbour's edge. Surrounded by 10 hectares of picturesque gardens and grounds, Vaucluse House is one of Sydney's only surviving 19th-century harbourside estates, dating back to 1803.





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The sandstone mansion built in the 1830s was the home of explorer, barrister and agitator for self-government William Charles Wentworth and his family. Stretching down to the harbour, the estate is a peaceful oasis away from the city bustle, and many of the Wentworth family's possessions are displayed throughout the house

Cost is \$60 pp (excluding lunch)

Travel will be via coach only and you can board at either **Moss Vale Station** or at the **Mittagong RSL**.

The itinerary for the day is:

7.45am	Arrive at Moss Vale Station and board bus, or	
8.15am	Arrive Mittagong RSL and board bus	
9.00am	Pheasants Nest petrol station	comfort stop
11.00am	Arrive Elizabeth Bay House	visit: 11.00am – 12.00pm (Toilets available)
12.15pm	Arrive Paddington Reservoir	visit: 12.15pm – 12.40pm (No amenities)
12.50pm	Arrive Rushcutters Bay Park	lunch: 12.50pm-1.45pm (Toilets available)
2.00pm	Arrive Vaucluse House	visit: 2.00pm – 3.30pm (Toilets available)
5.30pm approx.	Mittagong RSL drop-off	
6.00pm approx.	Moss Vale Station drop-off	

Please email Sue Trudeau to indicate which pick-up location you will be using:

sue.trudeau@gmail.com