



Feeling the heat in Sydney, Australia

By Andrew Redfern, [GlobalWanderers](#)

Celebrations in Sydney start at the end of November with the lighting of the Christmas Tree in Martin Place, accompanied by a parade and visit from Santa. As Christmas in Sydney is during Summer, the nights and days are warm and the annual Carols in the Domain mean you can sit outdoors on a picnic blanket and sing along to your favorites.

In many suburbs, locals decorate their houses with lights, inflatable Santas, reindeer and nativity scenes and there are often competitions for the best lit house. In central Sydney, the windows in David Jones Department Store are a treat for kids of all ages. They often have animated displays of Santa's workshop or the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Throughout December, the lights on St Mary's Cathedral are spectacular with choir performances nightly. The display is finely tuned to use the features of the Gothic Revival style architecture.

Visiting the Sydney Fish Markets on Christmas Eve is a tradition for many, buying prawns and seafood for Christmas Day lunch, which is usually celebrated with family. Oh, and don't forget the Boxing Day Sales (day after Christmas) which are more akin to a wrestling match rather than a shopping experience!