

**My Three-Hour Vacation**

After the longest of long hauls, Sydney offered me a whirlwind respite

BY JOE BONAVITA

## Under and Out

Sydney is the ultimate road-warrior test. You know you're committed when you fly 21 hours for a two-hour pitch meeting. You also realize how insanely competitive this business is when a rival banker takes the same flight to pitch the same client and, after beating you out for the account, hops on another flight back to New York the *same afternoon*.

But there are some advantages to being the second-most-gonzo guy on the plane. On my recent dash Down Under, I gave myself 48 hours to recalibrate my circadian rhythms and prospect new business in Perth, leaving me a whopping 180 minutes to tour Sydney. Just enough to salvage a g'day.

**ITINERARY**

**5–5:10 P.M.:** Change into casual clothes. Take a moment to get straight what time your body thinks it is. (Let's see, it's 3 o'clock this morning to me. . . . So tonight is tomorrow?) Starting at the Sheraton on the Park — right across from Sydney's own Hyde Park — walk down Market Street until you hit Darling Harbour.

**5:10–5:15 P.M.:** Gaze out at the famous view. Buy your A\$27.50 (\$22) ticket to the Sydney Aquarium.

**5:15–5:50 P.M.:** Start at the platypus exhibit, showcasing one of the only mammals on earth that lays eggs. Fun platypus fact: The first specimen sent back to England by Aussie settlers was thought to be a hoax. Stand in awe at the shark tank (below) to pick out which species remind you of which counterparts back home.

**THE FILE  
Sydney**

**Sheraton on the Park**  
161 Elizabeth Street  
011-61-2-9286-6000;  
starwoodhotels.com

**Sydney Aquarium**  
Aquarium Pier,  
Darling Harbour  
011-61-2-9251-7800;  
sydneyaquarium.com.au

**Star City Casino** 80  
Pyrmont Street, Cockle Bay  
Wharf: 011-61-2-9777-  
9000; starcity.com.au

**I'm Angus Steakhouse**  
The Promenade, Cockle Bay  
Wharf: 011-61-2-9264-5822;  
imangussteakhouse.com.au

**5:50–6 P.M.:** Walk over to Cockle Bay Wharf across 104-year-old Pyrmont Bridge, the world's oldest electrically operated swing span.

**6–6:05 P.M.:** Head to Star City, home to the most spectacular views of the skyline and harbor, plus New South Wales's only casino.

**6:05–6:50 P.M.:** Pick out a lucky blackjack table with "Perfect Pairs," the optional side bet that wins if the first two cards dealt are a pair.

**6:50–7:45 P.M.:** Hike down the waterfront to spend your winnings (or cap your losses) at the chic I'm Angus Steakhouse. Help yourself to a hefty portion of "Angus Pie," made of prime flame-broiled steak, Guinness, mushrooms and fresh herbs.

**7:45–8 P.M.:** Stroll back to the hotel to pack up and head to the airport for your five-hour flight to Perth. Try not to beat yourself up too much for not being on the red-eye to New York. **D**

Joe Bonavita, 34, is head of the U.S. Private Placement Group at BNP Paribas. He specializes in private debt placements for primarily investment-grade domestic and overseas companies.



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