

Moving To Newcastle, NSW: A Guide for Families



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Abstract

Newcastle is a beautiful city based in New South Wales, Australia. This city is offering everything which is needed to spend quality life with a family. So, if you are preparing to relocate to this beautiful city, then here we are with a complete guide that will be helpful for you. It contains some key things that you must know about the Newcastle city when you are planning to get settled here. So, read the entire guide carefully and make your family move easier and smoother.



1. Introduction

Moving to another city is always a challenging task that we have to do with a lot of planning. You must know about your new city and should have knowledge about your new locality. So, here in this guide we have everything that can be helpful for you if you are moving to the Newcastle. Whether you want to know about the best suburbs around the Newcastle city or want to find out the best school for you kids in Newcastle, we have discussed everything here with our readers. So, read the entire guide carefully and know about your new city.

2. What to Consider Before Moving to a New City

Ask yourself these questions to know whether you're making the right decision.

Whether you're serious about packing up and calling an entirely new city home—or simply daydreaming about a fresh start somewhere far, far away—there are a few questions to consider before you start looking up moving companies and plunking down deposits (or

down payments). These gut checks can help you decide whether you're making the right choice.

What Type of Environment Do I Thrive In?



Do you like bustling cities or do you need a little space between you and your neighbor? Think about the places where you feel the most comfortable, so you can narrow down whether you should live in the heart of a city, out in the suburbs, or way out in the country. (This list of the top 10 cities to move to right now may help you on that front.)

What's the Weather Like There?

Fixer Upper may have made you fall in love with Chip and Joanna Gaines's world, but before you move to Waco, imagine 90+ degree temperatures for one third of the year. If you can handle the heat, keep it in the running.

Can I Find a Job There?

So you've narrowed it down: You need your own private island! Perfect! How will you pay your mortgage on this beachfront dream? If you work remotely, you can skip ahead. For everyone else, check out one of these top 25 cities for jobseekers.

How Much Does it Actually Cost to Live There?

Some of the most desirable places to live come with the least desirable price tags. Do a sweep of sales listings in the area to see what you could get for your budget—and get a sense of how long your commute may be to get the square footage (or setting) you crave near the area you've been dreaming of.

What Are the Schools Like?

As you zero in on a neighborhood, it's a critical question to consider—and not just if you have kids or plan on raising a family. If you don't have kids, you may find that moving to worse districts works in your favor: On average, homes near high-ranking schools cost 49 percent more than the national median.

What Are the Property Taxes Like?

If you're buying a house, this can make a huge difference in your annual expenses. Don't gloss over it.

How Safe Will I Feel There?

While it's worth asking people in the area about the neighborhood, you can also use sites like CrimeReports and the Department of Justice's Sex Offender Search to get a sense for what types of crimes have been reported in your area, how that compares to the national average, and how close you'll be living to a registered offender.

Why Do I Really Want to Move?

Ah, the deep, soul-searching question that only you (or you, with the help of a therapist) can answer. Are you trying to escape your past? Is your family driving you nuts? Are you running away from a problem...that will likely follow you wherever you go, until you get to the root of what's bothering you? Knowing your true intentions behind a big move can make it a lot easier to adjust to a new area, and prevent that "I gotta get out of here!" feeling from creeping up again, once you've settled in to the minutiae of everyday life.

3. Living in Newcastle



Are you thinking about coming to Newcastle to study or work? Newcastle, Australia is a vibrant and diverse city with a population of 550,000.

"Newcastle is a place where if you want to work hard and have innovation, you can open your own business, you can get involved with the University and do your own research. Newcastle is an incubator for great ideas." Professor John Fischetti.

Newcastle, Australia has been named as one of the world's top 'Smart Cities' to watch in 2017 by Global magazine National Geographic Traveler.

In 2011, the highly respected travel guide Lonely Planet listed Newcastle - Australia's seventh largest city and economic hub of the Hunter region - among the world's Top 10 Cities.

Discover Newcastle

Nestled on Australia's spectacular NSW coast and surrounded by some of the state's most popular destinations, Newcastle is an all-round great choice as a safe and friendly place to live.

The city itself has a lot to offer - great weather, beautiful surrounds, an unbeatable lifestyle and a vibrant cultural identity that is truly its own. The city is recognised world-wide for its ongoing transformation and has come a long way since its 90 year history as the 'Steel City'.

There are lots of ways to get to know the city of Newcastle and plenty of information available to help you. Visit our Getting to know Newcastle page to get started.

Beautiful surrounds



When you choose the University of Newcastle, Australia for work or study, you will enjoy the area's stunning scenery and world-famous destinations, including the Hunter Valley Wine region, historic Maitland, Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens and Barrington Tops National Park. Newcastle is also the gateway to the state's north coast.

The city itself is an interesting mix of old and new architecture, dominated by the magnificent Christ Church Cathedral that sits atop The Hill, with views over the busy harbour, the city and coastline.

A thriving arts scene

With the support of fantastic programs like Renew Newcastle, Newcastle is fast developing a reputation as the 'place to be' for the creative arts. We have the highest ratio of artists per head of population in the country.

On top of the thriving local scene, Newcastle has always been a popular destination for major international and national artists and shows touring Australia.

Venues range from world-class galleries, museums and theatres to shopfronts and the emerging small bar scene.

Hunter region a leader in health and education



Newcastle offers world-class health care via the Hunter New England Health Service. The John Hunter Hospital, one of Australia's leading teaching hospitals, is the hub of health services in the region, and the recently upgraded Calvary Mater Hospital is a two-minute drive from the University campus.

The Newcastle region boasts quality education facilities. Many of the region's primary and secondary schools rate among the best in the state and in addition to the University of Newcastle, TAFE NSW – Hunter Institute offers more than 450 courses.

4. Popular Suburbs To Live Around Newcastle, NSW

We absolutely love Newcastle, Lake Mac and the Hunter Valley, and so do you guys! Ever wondered what the most popular suburbs are in Newie? Well we've done the numbers for you and come up with Newcastle's Top 5 most searched suburbs.



Cue the drum roll...

Charlestown: Coming in at fifth place is Charlestown, centrally located just minutes from the shores of Lake Macquarie, Newcastle's southern beaches and a mega shopping centre. Charlestown is convenient, yet family-friendly and peaceful, with plenty of shopping, entertainment and coffee options at your fingertips.

Newcastle: This inner city suburb has everything at its doorstep: cafes, beaches, bars and boutiques. With heaps of new developments springing up in recent years, there are more apartments options in Newcastle than ever, with everything from high-end penthouses through to entry level studio apartments.

Here you needn't worry about having a car, you'll be walking everywhere, which won't necessarily be a bad thing. With so many local dining options, pounding the pavement will help ensure the kilos don't creep on. Let's go out for dessert and cocktails, again!

Tighes Hill: nestled between cosmopolitan Hamilton and up-and-coming Mayfield, Tighes Hill has a beautiful community vibe to it. Surrounded by bike paths, parklands and walking distance to some great cafes like Baked Uprising, Little Birdy and the main strip of shops in Islington. Tighes Hill strikes a wonderful balance between family-friendly and inner city.

Out of the hustle and bustle, but close enough to the city that you can easily ride your bicycle to work, Tighes Hill rocks.

Merewether: Perennially popular Merewether is without a doubt one of Newcastle's most popular suburbs. With a Summer uniform of a bikini or boardies, Merewether is all about living the beach lifestyle.

With a quick surf before work or a sunset dip on a hot Summer's night, Merewether offers a Summer holiday lifestyle just kilometres from the city. Coupled with plenty of options for eating out, like Blue Door on Merewether Beach, Surfhouse, The Burwood Inn and the classic Beaches Hotel to name a few. Plus Darby Street is within walking distance!

Mayfield: And the winner of Newcastle's most popular suburb is Mayfield! Once an industrial, blue collar suburb, Mayfield has reinvented itself in recent years to become the go-to suburb for first home buyers. It's just 10 minutes from the city and is full of beautiful period feature homes ripe for renovating.



Maybe it also has something to do with the fact that Mayfield has amazing cafes and some of the best coffee in Newcastle, including: Zaaki Espresso, Side Pocket, Portafilter, the Spanish tapas bar Barrio 2304, or the cheesy goodness of Pork Ewe Deli - the list goes on.

Mayfield sure is a delicious suburb to live in!

Adamstown: Adamstown is one of the most popular suburbs in Newcastle because it offers numerous residential and commercial properties at an affordable price. This is so many people move to this place. If you are looking for a spacious house, this suburb has many options within your budget. The median house price here is \$670k while the rent is \$473 per week. As the price is not that costly, majority of the people have purchased their own house. Around 54 per cent of the houses are occupied by the owners. Adamstown has a low crime rate, less pollution and a lot of greenery. It has five big parks that cover nearly 12 per cent of the total suburb area.

5. Find Best Schools For Your Kids



Our high schools provide students from Years 7 to 12 with a quality education in a broad range of subjects.

High schools are different from primary schools in several ways:

- classes are organised differently
- there are a greater number of subjects - core and elective
- schools are often larger in size
- there is a greater level of personal responsibility expected of students.

Learning in high school

Subjects offered by secondary schools follow the requirements set by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) to enable students to receive their Record of School Achievement (RoSA [External link](#)) or Higher School Certificate (HSC [External link](#)). Some schools also offer vocational education and training (VET) programs.

For more information, visit [NSW Education Standards Authority \(NESA\) useful information External link for parents](#)

Special learning needs

The department provides specialist support classes, as well as schools for specific purposes (SSPs). Discuss options with the principal of your local school if your child has special learning needs.

For more information and assistance with special learning needs, you can:

- call the educational services team on 131 536
- visit [Disability, learning and support](#).

Practical help for parents and carers

Our digital online learning packs are easy-to-use activities for parents and carers to use with their child.

Visit [Parents and carers](#) for useful information and strategies to help your child with tests, exams, and homework in general.

Specialist high schools

As well as comprehensive high schools, some schools focus on a particular area.

Creative and performing arts high schools

Our creative and performing arts high schools provide opportunities for students to pursue excellence within the creative and performing arts while studying the core curriculum prescribed by NESA.

Creative and performing arts high schools offer artistic education programs to prepare students for exciting careers in the arts and associated industries. These schools offer a specialised environment with performance and creative spaces, lighting and sound systems, dance studios and specialist teachers.

In addition to the core subjects prescribed by NESA, students can specialise in subjects such as dance, drama, music and visual arts.

Intensive English

Intensive English Centres (IECs) and the Intensive English High School (IEHS) provide intensive English as an additional language or dialect (EAL/D) tuition to recently arrived, high school students whose first language is not English. In addition to intensive English tuition, the IECs and the IEHS provide orientation, settlement and welfare programs to prepare students for learning in a NSW public high school and participation in Australian society.

Newly arrived students from language backgrounds other than English who present for enrolment in high school should be referred to an IEC or the IEHS for assessment and possible enrolment.

Recently arrived Year 6 students may transfer from a primary school to an IEC or the IEHS to prepare for entry to high school the following year. These students must be 11 years of age by 31 July in the year of enrolment. For more information, including IEC and IEHS contact details, visit Intensive English Centres.

Language high schools



Our language high schools provide specialist language education in combination with the core curriculum prescribed by NESA. Language high schools have specialised language equipment and rooms. They help talented students expand their vocabulary and perfect their pronunciation in a range of different languages.

Secondary College of Languages

The Secondary College of Languages provides a pathway for students to maintain education in their heritage language when that language is not available for study at their own school. Campuses operate on Saturdays and are located across Sydney, and in Newcastle and Wollongong.

Approximately 3,000 Years 5 to 12 students follow NESA syllabuses in 23 languages. These subjects are assessed as part of their Stage 5 and HSC studies.

Visit [Secondary College of Languages](#) External link for enrolment forms.

Sports high schools

Our sports high schools provide opportunities for students to achieve sporting and academic excellence. Sports high schools offer flexible educational programs which are supportive of students' training and competition commitments. Talented students study the core curriculum prescribed by NESA as they pursue their chosen sport. These schools also offer specialised training facilities and fields to help students excel.

There are 7 department sports high schools in NSW:

- Endeavour Sports High School
- Hunter Sports High School
- Illawarra Sports High School
- Matraville Sports High School
- Narrabeen Sports High School
- The Hills Sports High School
- Westfields Sports High School.

Search for more information about each sports high school by [Using the School Finder](#)

Technology high schools

Technology high schools focus on the use and application of technology across a range of fields, including a rural context.

In addition to the core subjects prescribed by NESA, students can study specialist technology subjects to help prepare them for the changing needs of today's society.

Selective high schools

NSW public schools offer a range of opportunities for gifted and talented students including selective high schools.

- Students sit a placement test to gain entry to a fully or partially selective high school in Year 7
- Students applying for placement to a selective high school for Years 8 to 12 follow assessment and enrolment procedures.

6. Things to Do in Newcastle with Kids



Want some local knowledge about what to do in Newcastle, NSW with kids? As a local mum and founder of Newy with Kids, here's 15 places I recommend to visit with your family.

Enjoy a holiday in Newcastle with your kids. This former steel city, located two hours north of Sydney, boasts amazing beaches, fun-filled parks, fantastic cafes and restaurants and unique shopping. Whether you have a baby, toddler or school-aged child, Newcastle is an ideal choice for parents craving a relaxing holiday while still keeping little ones entertained

So what you should do when you're in Newcastle with kids? As a local mum, here's 15 places I recommend to visit.

1. Nobby's Beach

Start your tour of Newcastle at one of the city's many beaches. Nobby's Beach is a favourite with tourists and locals alike for its views of Nobbys Headland and Stockton Bight. Work up a sweat walking to the end of Nobbys breakwall and then cool off with a swim at Nobby's Beach. The kids will love building sandcastles and frolicking in the surf.

For sweeping views back to Newcastle, visit Nobbys Headland. The Lighthouse Grounds are open from 10am to 4pm every Sunday and entry to the site is free. It's a 10 minute walk (550 metres) from Nobbys Beach carpark to the gate. From the gate, it's a 5 minute (220 metres) uphill walk to get to the Signal Master's Cottage. It's all paved so suitable for those pushing prams or strollers.

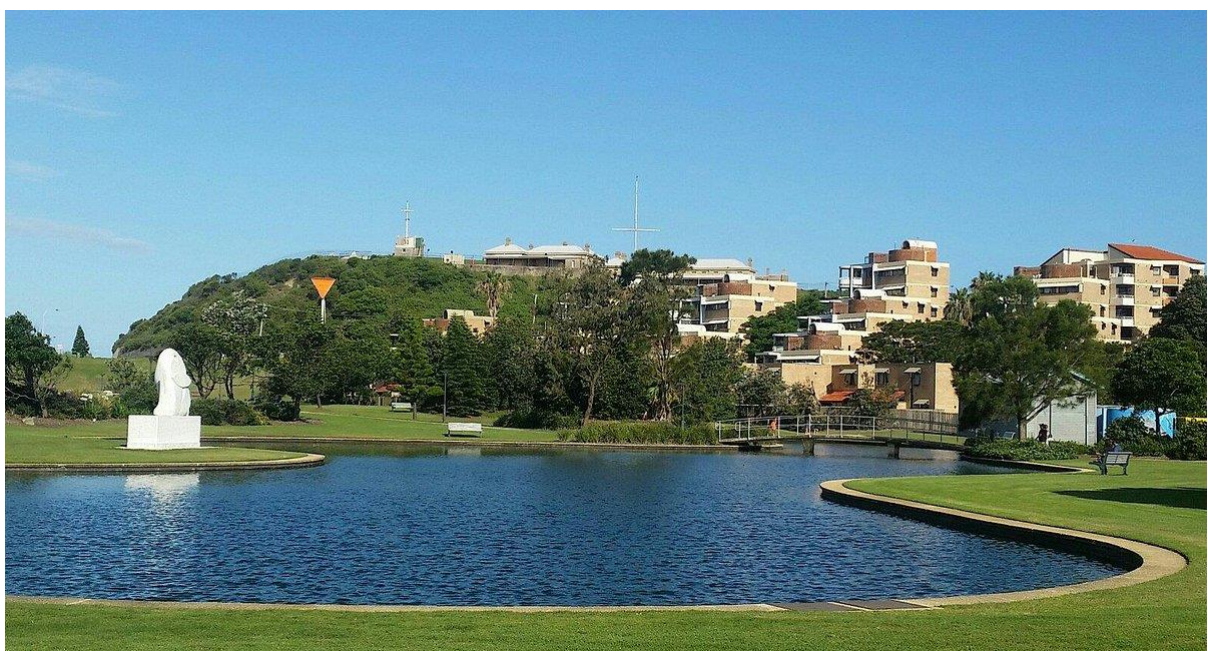
2. Newcastle Beach, Newcastle Ocean Baths & Canoe Pool

Once you've visited Nobbys Beach, walk around for a swim at Newcastle Beach.

If the waves are a bit rough, take the kids for a swim at the nearby Newcastle Ocean Baths. With its historic Art Deco façade, it's a great place to float and count the coal ships moored offshore. There's plenty of room to swim laps or splash around and the sandy bottom of the pool feels lovely squished between your toes.

For toddlers, the Canoe Pool next door is ideal. It's a safe, shallow sandy pool that's rumoured to have a concrete map of the world buried deep underneath. Set up a sun shelter and let the kids splash around and chase the resident seagulls and pelicans who hover nearby.

3. Newcastle Foreshore



Swap ocean views for harbour views and walk along Newcastle's working harbour. The wide harbour path is perfect for pushing a stroller or following kids on a tricycle or a scooter. Children will love the hustle and bustle of the working harbour. If you're lucky, you might spot a massive coal ship entering or leaving the harbour dwarfing the tugboats besides them. When it's time to continue your travels, walk up to Queen's Wharf and have a drink while you watch the Stockton Ferry zip back and forth across the harbour.

4. Queen's Wharf

Nearby is Newcastle's renowned seafood restaurant Scratchleys. Having a tot doesn't mean you have to miss out on the scrumptious seafood as Scratchleys offers a takeaway window where you can order a variety of things including fish and chips and ice cream cones. Grab a seat at one of the outside tables and chairs and wait until your order number is called and then enjoy both the food and view!

5. Stockton

If you have time, take the ferry (it takes 5 minutes) over to Stockton is a real treat for kids. With ferries running every 15 – 30 minutes departing from Queen's Wharf, you can check out Stockton by foot or by bike before returning on the ferry. From the wharf in Stockton, you can walk to Stockton Beach and out to the breakwater on the Shipwreck Walk. There you'll see remnants of shipwrecks.

6. Honeysuckle precinct



Honeysuckle is a waterfront dining precinct featuring numerous cafes and restaurants with cuisines including Modern Oz, Seafood, Italian, Thai, Japanese and Korean. There's also plenty of places to get a drink including Honeysuckle Hotel, Dockyard Cafe and Five Sawyers.

7. Newcastle Museum

While in Honeysuckle, check out Newcastle Museum. (There's no charge for admission).

The interactive Supernova science exhibits will keep children entertained while the Newcastle exhibition will educate parents on the history of the region. (SUPERNOVA CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19)

Be sure to catch the 6 minute BHP Steelmaking show which features special effects. It runs every hour on the hour and provides a fascinating and entertaining history about the local steelmaking industry. For more information about Newcastle Museum including opening hours, visit the Newcastle Museum website.

8. Anzac Memorial Walk

Go for a walk along the Anzac Memorial Walk to spot coal ships and dolphins. This 450 meter cliff top walkway at Bar Beach is one of the top places for a view. It features incredible 360 degree views of Newcastle from the coast to city.

As it's a tribute to Anzacs, it features history panels with information about different aspects of the conflict as well as listing the geographic place names of various conflicts. The walk is also pram and wheelchair accessible from the Strzelecki Lookout section enabling you to travel all the way to the viewing platform before looping back.

9. Bathers Way



For a scenic city walk, stroll along Bathers Way. It links Newcastle's beaches from Nobbys Beach to Merewether Ocean Baths. It is 6 kilometres long with a large 4 to 6 metre wide shared path and forms part of the Great North Walk from Merewether Ocean Baths to

Sydney. You might not be able to do the whole distance with kids but break them up into different sections.

10. Fort Scratchley

Visitors can take a self-guided tour around the fort viewing the cannons and other above ground defence structures. Kids will be fascinated by the large cannons and views of the ocean. If you would prefer a full site tour and a chance to explore the underground tunnels, pay for a guided tour with one of the Fort Scratchley Historical Society volunteers. General admission to Fort Scratchley is free. Fort Scratchley is open six days a week, 10am to 4pm (closed Tuesdays). For more information, visit the Fort Scratchley website.

11. Bogey Hole

If it's a hot day, check out this popular bathing spot located in King Edward Park. The Bogey Hole is a favourite with tourists and locals alike. The Bogey Hole was built by convict labour by order of Commandant Morisset who served as Commandant of Newcastle from 1819 to 1822. It's best for families with older kids as the rocks can be slippery and watch out for the waves.

12. Glenrock Lagoon



Imagine a walk through the bush that ends up at a secluded beach. Welcome to the Yuelarbah Walk at Glenrock State Conservation Area near the suburb of Kahibah. This 500

hectare area between Dudley and Merewether is a wonderful nature escape so close to the city and offers opportunity for fishing and mountain biking as well as hiking.

As much as I love this 2.3km each way walk, I have to advise that it suits families with babies in carriers or older kids over 5 who don't mind walking a lot. So for kids in between, I would recommend doing the first part on the boardwalk or halfway to Leichardt's lookout or be ready to carry them back. Bring your swimsuit and towels in summer.

13. Blackbutt Reserve

See Australian animals up close at Blackbutt Reserve. Blackbutt Reserve is a 182 hectare reserve in the middle of Newcastle's suburbs which features walking trails, children's playgrounds and tranquil picnic areas with free electric barbeques.

However, its wildlife exhibits at the Carnley Avenue entrance are the main attraction as it is home to koalas, emus, wallabies, wombats and peacocks. A series of boardwalks make it easy to push a stroller and let young ones view the creatures up close in the enclosures. Admission is free but there is a parking fee. For more information, visit the Blackbutt Reserve website.

14. Merewether Beach & Merewether Baths



Another popular Newcastle Beach is Merewether Beach. Home to the famous surfing competition Surfest, it's popular with surfers and swimmers alike. Definitely worth a visit.

Go for a swim at Merewether Baths, the largest ocean baths complex in the Southern Hemisphere. As well as being a massive pool, it's extremely scenic with views out to the ocean. The baths feature two large swimming pools, one suitable for kids. There's also picnic tables and shelters nearby.

15. Hunter Wetlands Centre

For more nature, visit the Hunter Wetlands Centre in Shortland. It's a great nature outing with kids with a playground and plenty of picnic spots. Just don't forget the Aerogard! There

can be lots of mozzies around at certain times of the year. Go for a stroll around the wetlands on the walking tracks. The Sensory Trail is a big hit with the kids. There are informative signs that explain what plants to touch and smell. In addition, to the walking trails, there are plenty of boardwalks to get up close to the native birdlife.



There's also the Discovery playground, suitable for kids of all ages. It's conveniently located adjacent to a BBQ shelter and picnic facilities. This is a perfect location to cook up a BBQ lunch or enjoy a picnic from home. There's also daily programs such as reptile talks, bird feeding talks, guided walking tours and dipnetting. Kids will be enthralled by the large tanks containing snakes, lizards, turtles and fish at the main entrance of the Centre.

Enjoy your time in Newcastle!

Conclusion

Whether you are moving with your family or moving alone, you should have a better idea about your new city. By reading this guide, now you have a better understanding about the Newcastle city. This city can offer you everything to live a happy life with your family. This is why thousands of people from all around the world are relocating to this beautiful city in New South Wales. Here we have explained some key things that you must know when you are moving to the Newcastle, so read the entire guide carefully and make your move smoother in Newcastle. All The Best!

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