



Discover Australia's 'Green House' on the Airbnb Sustainability Tour

Sydney – Tuesday 11 October, 2016. For the first time, the public will be able to explore beneath the sails of the world's most famous house to find out how this pioneering green building is making itself more environmentally friendly, thanks to a new sustainability tour supported by Airbnb.

The new pilot program launched today will give people access to previously unseen areas of the Sydney Opera House, including its innovative seawater cooling system and waste recycling centre, and the award-winning, energy-efficient lighting system in the world-renowned Concert Hall.

In addition to uncovering how Utzon's masterpiece – globally recognised for its innovative sustainable design – continues to reduce its environmental impact, the one-hour Airbnb Sustainability Tour will inspire visitors to Sydney to follow suit with advice on how they can implement environmentally friendly practices on a smaller scale in their own homes.

NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Renewable Energy, Adam Marshall said: "As one of a select few World Heritage buildings to achieve green certification, the Sydney Opera House sets the standard in sustainability. This new tour is a great way to invite more people inside Australia's most famous building to be inspired and to learn about how they too can live more sustainably in their daily lives. I would like to congratulate both the Opera House team and Airbnb on bringing this fantastic idea to life."

Sydney Opera House Director of Building, Greg McTaggart, said: "In the past 12 months we have made significant progress in sustainability, earning a coveted *4 Star Green Star – Performance* rating from the Green Building Council of Australia and unveiling our latest Environmental Sustainability Plan, which includes ambitious targets that extend the savings, efficiencies and environmental legacy of the Opera House.

"This new initiative with Airbnb provides an exciting opportunity to share our successes and lessons first hand, while empowering visitors to the Opera House to create change in their own homes. As the symbol of modern Australia, it's great to be able to set an example that inspires others."

Today's launch is part of an ongoing partnership between the Opera House and Airbnb, which includes support for key 'Greening the House' initiatives.

Airbnb Australia Country Manager Sam McDonagh said: "Airbnb enables people to share their homes, promoting a more efficient use of existing resources and is an environmentally sustainable way to travel. Home sharing results in significant reduction in energy and water use, greenhouse gas emissions, and waste generation, and also encourages environmental awareness among residents and visitors.

"We're proud to launch this sustainability tour in partnership with the Sydney Opera House to further inspire locals and visitors to be more environmentally aware by learning about the sustainable practices of the world's most famous house."

The Airbnb Sustainability Tour will run at 8am on Tuesday mornings from 18 October to 22 November for a group of up to 15 guests and costs \$50 per person. Included in the price is a specially designed Frank Green SmartCup and handy sustainable living guide.

Book online at www.sydneyoperahouse.com/airbnbtour or contact Tours Reservations on +61 2 9250 7250 / tourismbookings@sydneyoperahouse.com.



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Images available for download here: <http://bit.ly/2dMZd2p>

For further media information, please contact:

Danielle Edwards, Publicity Coordinator, Sydney Opera House

+61 2 9250 7209 / +61 424 548 876 / dedwards@sydneyoperahouse.com

Alexandra Constantinides, Communications, Airbnb Australia & New Zealand

+61 402 901 084 / alexandra.c@airbnb.com

Sydney Opera House

The Opera House is a masterpiece that belongs to all Australians. It is the country's number one tourist destination and its busiest performing arts centre, welcoming more than 8.2 million visitors a year on site and hosting more than 2000 performances attended by more than 1.5 million people. Deloitte has estimated the total cultural and iconic value of the Sydney Opera House to Australia at \$4.6 billion. On its 40th Anniversary in 2013, the Opera House embarked upon a Decade of Renewal to prepare it for future generations of artists, audiences and visitors.

About Airbnb

Founded in August of 2008, Airbnb is a trusted community marketplace for people to list, discover, and book unique accommodation around the world – online or from a mobile phone. Whether an apartment for a night, a castle for a week, or a villa for a month, Airbnb connects people to unique travel experiences, in more than 34,000 cities and 191 countries. And with world-class customer service and a growing community of users, Airbnb is the easiest way for people to monetise their extra space and showcase it to an audience of millions.