

First Stop Transport

Guide to making your trip easier

Planning your trip

Using public transport can be a convenient and enjoyable way to travel. The key is to plan ahead to make your trip as smooth as possible. Below is a quick overview of the steps to consider in planning a trip.

The place to go for all the information you need to plan your trips on public transport is **transportnsw.info**.

Trip planning & timetables



You should use the **trip planner** or check a **timetable** to make sure you don't miss your service. For buses you should also check that the service is not deviating from its regular route.

You should plan to arrive at the station, stop or wharf 5 minutes before the scheduled departure time of your service.

For help on using the trip planner please visit the **transportnsw.info** help page

Finding the right station, stop or wharf



Simplified letters, colours and codes are used for each type of transport to help you better navigate from one transport mode to another. The codes are T for Train, B for Bus, F for Ferry and L for Light rail. Train and ferry lines also have codes for each line (for example T1, T2, F1, F2).



Stations, stops and wharves may also have a range of **services and facilities** to help you on your trip.



When travelling by bus you must signal to the driver for the bus to stop at the designated bus stop.

Tickets



To travel on public transport, you'll need a valid **ticket or pass**. For some services you may need to pre-purchase a ticket.

Opal cards can be used in Sydney, Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Hunter, Illawarra and Southern Highlands. Opal is an easy, convenient option for travel on trains, buses, ferries and light rail.

You only need to get an Opal card once by going directly to one of the 2,100 Opal card retailers. Opal retailers including many newsagents, post offices, convenience stores and supermarkets. You will need to add value or top up your card balance and then you're ready to travel.

Find an Opal card retailer at retailers.opal.com.au.

Service disruptions



Although most services operate consistently, there may be times when services are running out of order, or not running at all.

Check in advance to see if the service you want is operating normally by visiting transportnsw.info or using **transport apps**.

Note: **Ferries at low tides** may not operate to schedule. Buses replace ferries between Parramatta and Rydalmere when tides are low.

Interchanges



Some trips may involve catching more than one train, bus, ferry or light rail service, or a combination of modes.

The **trip planner** can tell you if you need to change between services, the distance between them, and how long you may need to wait.

Getting to and from public transport

When you're planning your trips on public transport, you should consider the whole trip – all the way from door to door. Getting to and from public transport is an important part of a trip. Depending on where you live, this may involve anything from a few steps to a few kilometres.

The **Centre for Road Safety website** contains useful information to help you make it to and from public transport safely, including **pedestrian crossings, motorised wheelchairs, vulnerable pedestrians and tips for pedestrians**.

Google Maps is another handy tool for preparing for your trip. The Street View function allows you to see a realistic view of the area you will be visiting. This can be helpful if you want to see if you will have to climb stairs, cross a busy road, or find other details specific to your journey.

Note: Google Maps is regularly updated, but not all information and images are guaranteed to be current.