



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

Welcome to Wollongong

5th Australian Conference on Industrial Engineering and Operations Management
24–26 November 2026

About Wollongong

Wollongong is a coastal city nestled between the ocean and the Illawarra Escarpment, approximately 90 km south of Sydney. Australia's 10th largest city, it offers a unique blend of world-class beaches, lush escarpment hinterland, excellent dining, and a thriving arts and culture scene — all within easy reach of the conference venue.

Getting to Wollongong

From Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport (SYD)

Sydney Airport is the main international gateway and is approximately 80 km north of Wollongong. Most international and domestic visitors will arrive here.

By Train (Recommended)

- From Sydney Airport (both Domestic T2 and International T1 terminals, to either Hurstville or Central to change to the South Coast Line heading south (towards Wollongong, Port Kembla, Dapto, Kiama, or Bomaderry). Visit Transport New South Wales (<https://transportnsw.info/>) to plan your trip.
- Alight at Wollongong Station or North Wollongong Station — both are close to the UOW main campus.
- Journey time: approximately 1.5–2 hours including connection. Cost: approximately AUD \$25–35 with an Opal card or contactless payment.
- Trains run roughly every 30–60 minutes. Stations are directly inside the airport terminals — follow signs to Airport Station.

By Car

- Drive south from Sydney Airport via the M5 and then the Princes Motorway (M1). Journey time is approximately 1 hour 15 minutes in normal traffic; allow extra time during peak hours.
- Parking is available on the UOW campus. Check the UOW website for current permit information.

From Wollongong Airport (WOL)

Wollongong Airport (also known as Shellharbour Airport) is located approximately 20 km south of the city in Albion Park Rail. Link Airways operates flights from Melbourne and Brisbane.

- Albion Park Rail Station is an 11-minute walk from the airport.
- From Albion Park Rail, catch a northbound South Coast Line train to Wollongong Station (approx. 25 minutes).



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Getting Around Wollongong

Wollongong is easy to navigate, and the UOW campus is well-connected to the city centre.

Free Bus — Gong Shuttle

Routes 55A (anticlockwise) and 55C (clockwise) connect Wollongong Train Station, CBD, Hospital, UOW campus, TAFE, Innovation Campus, and beaches. This service is FREE.

Taxi / Rideshare

Uber and local taxis are widely available. The CBD to UOW campus is approximately 5–10 minutes by car.

Walking & Cycling

The CBD and beachfront are very walkable. Wollongong has an excellent coastal walking and cycling path.

Accommodation

The following hotels are recommended for conference attendees. The UOW main campus is located approximately 3 km from central Wollongong. We recommend booking early, as November is a popular travel period.

Hotel	Category	Distance to UOW	Notes
Novotel Wollongong Northbeach	4-star	~3 km	Beachfront, pool, multiple dining options
Sage Hotel Wollongong	4-star	~3 km	Business-friendly, city centre, pool
Adina Apartment Hotel	4-star	~3 km	Apartment-style, city centre, pool
Hotel TOTTO	4-star	~3 km	Stylish & modern, city centre, on-site restaurant
Quest Wollongong	3-star	~3 km	Serviced apartments, CBD, self-catering
Quality Suites Pioneer Sands	3-star	~5 km	Near convention centre, business-friendly
Best Western City Sands	3-star	~3 km	Golf course and ocean views, free parking

For budget options, serviced apartments, or Airbnb-style stays, the suburbs of North Wollongong and Wollongong CBD offer the best proximity to campus and the beach.



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Exploring Wollongong

November is a wonderful time to visit - the weather is warm and sunny, the ocean is beginning to heat up, and the city is buzzing. Here are some highlights:

Nature & Coast

- Wollongong City Beach & North Wollongong Beach — golden sand beaches right in the city, excellent for a morning swim or a sunset walk.
- Wollongong Head Lighthouse — a heritage-listed lighthouse with stunning harbour views; spot humpback whales during migration season.
- Sea Cliff Bridge — an iconic coastal road bridge south of the city, one of Australia's most scenic drives. A short detour on the Grand Pacific Drive.
- Mount Keira Lookout — sweeping panoramic views of the city, coast, and escarpment. A short drive with an easy walk to the summit.
- Wollongong Botanic Garden — a peaceful garden at the foot of Mt. Keira with Australian native and exotic plant collections.

Culture & Heritage

- Nan Tien Temple — the largest Buddhist temple in the Southern Hemisphere, located just south of the city. A serene and architecturally stunning visit.
- Illawarra Museum — local history exhibits in the heart of the CBD.
- Wollongong Art Gallery — free entry, with rotating exhibitions of Australian and international art.
- Wollongong Harbour — stroll the harbour, watch the fishing trawlers, grab fish and chips, and enjoy the pelicans and ocean views.

Food & Drink

- Crown Street Mall & surrounds — the heart of Wollongong's dining and café scene, with everything from casual cafés to contemporary restaurants.
- Basta Trattoria (Hotel TOTTO, 60 Market St) — popular Italian, wood-fired bread, live music Fridays, good for groups.
- Wollongong Fish Market — fresh local seafood, great for a quick lunch.
- The Harbour precinct — several waterfront cafes and restaurants with ocean views, perfect for a conference dinner or evening drinks.



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Day Trips

- Kiama Blowholes (approx. 30 min south) — dramatic ocean blowholes and a beautiful coastal village; highly recommended.
- Royal National Park (approx. 40 min north) — stunning coastal walks and native bushland, accessible by train.
- Symbio Wildlife Park (Helensburgh, approx. 20 min north) — koalas, kangaroos, red pandas, and more.

Useful Links

- Visit Wollongong (official tourism site): visitwollongong.com.au
- UOW campus map and directions: uow.edu.au/about/locations/wollongong
- Transport NSW (trains, buses, Opal card): transportnsw.info
- Gong Shuttle (free city bus): uow.edu.au/about/locations/wollongong/getting-to-campus/public-transport