

Attending the Amitabha Centre

Accommodation

Check booking.com for your dates and price bracket, as they list some one-off apartments as well as hotels and motels.

Air bnb is also worth checking.

There is little accommodation available within a reasonable walking distance of the venue. Most are serviced apartments (ie no meals service; cook your own or eat out) and there is only one local motel with a restaurant (basic). A hotel or inn can provide meals, but providing accommodation is generally secondary to serving alcohol.

If you are willing to hire a car or travel by train you can look further: Pennant Hills and Thornleigh have some accommodation.

Chatswood is the closest cosmopolitan centre with modern accommodation and many dining options, largely Chinese. It is about 20 mins by train to Waitara station, then about 15 mins walk to the Centre, or go one more stop to Hornsby station and get a taxi – BUT see below (Transport) on cautions if relying on public transport!

Please note that “Hotel” or “Inn” generally means public house (pub) ie there will be an emphasis on alcohol and possibly noise. Anything on or close to the Pacific Highway or Pennant Hills Road is likely to be noisy, as these are major roads. As always, you are likely to get what you pay for....check reviews carefully.

The serviced apartments are often quieter but heavily booked.

Please make your own arrangements directly with these venues as we regret we are unable to book accommodation.

Waldorf Apartments Waitara

41-45 Waitara Ave Waitara NSW 2071

Website: www.waldorf.com.au

5-10 minutes walk from Centre. Popular and heavily booked. The closest and sometimes described as the best local option. Serviced apartments.

Waldorf Hornsby Apartments

71 Albert St, Hornsby NSW 2077

Website: www.waldorf.com.au

Just outside Hornsby town centre, about 15-20 minutes walk from Centre.

Waldorf Wahroonga Apartments

1 Woolcroft Ave., Wahroonga.

Website www.waldorf.com.au

Close to highway.

About 15mins walk to Centre.

Ascot Motor Inn

18 Ingram Rd Wahroonga NSW 2076

Website: www.ascotmotorinn.net.au

Basic. Check reviews.

Restaurant on site.

Close to highway, approx.10-15 minutes walk from Centre.

Other local options

Blue Gum Hotel (pub)

Hornsby Inn (pub; basic)

Transport**By car**

The Centre is located at 79 Edgeworth David Ave Waitara on the corner of Palmerston Rd.. It is clearly visible, being an old church with spire, attached hall and separate house. There is parking in the carpark which can only be entered travelling east on Edgeworth David Ave, or by turning left from Palmerston Rd. If our carpark is full there is ample unrestricted parking in surrounding streets. Please do not park in the small shopping centre opposite the Centre.

By train

From the City or Chatswood take the North Shore Line to Waitara station, from which it is a 15 minute walk to the Centre. Taxis are available from Hornsby station (not Waitara) and cost about \$15 to the Centre. Hornsby is a major station accessible on both the North Shore and Northern line from the City or Chatswood and from country services between Sydney and the Central Coast. It has lifts for luggage and is more suitable for people with mobility difficulty than Waitara. Hornsby station is approx. 20 minutes walk from the Centre.

Before relying on train transport to the Centre, please check www.transportnsw.info or www.131500.com.au for dates of trackwork on the North Shore or Northern Line train line. Go to Plan, and then to Alerts and Trackwork. Work on the tracks is generally scheduled for weekends and buses (much slower) replace trains.

By bus

There is a bus service from Hornsby station to Macquarie University which stops in Jubilee St., 5 minutes walk from the Centre. The bus is Shorelink Transdev Route 575. Route information and timetables can be found at www.shorelink.com.au.

By air

There is a rail service between the airport and Hornsby station. Allow approximately two hours as delays are frequent. Change trains at Central for the Airport line, and take the north shore or northern line between Central and Hornsby stations. Taxis are available to/from Hornsby station (call 132522 or use the taxi rank outside the station.)

Following some unreliable experiences, we can no longer recommend private airport pickups by pre-booked and pre-paid mini-bus operators.

A taxi from the airport to Waitara would probably cost at least \$AUD110, depending on time of day. This may prove economical for a group, as trainfares to/from the airport can be expensive for several people. Taxis in Australia are metered.

Paying Fares

Train and bus fares are paid by Opal Card, which can be purchased by visitors for single or multiple trips at the airport and other venues (see www.transportnsw.info).

Catering and Meals

Unfortunately, Amitabha Foundation does not have the facilities to provide meals. In the shopping centre opposite the Centre there is a small supermarket and greengrocer as well as Chinese and Thai takeaways and a pizzeria. Westfield shopping centre in Edgeworth David Ave is a 20-25 minute walk from the Centre and has a range of food options, including big supermarkets (Woolworths and Coles), a greengrocer and a (basic) food court, with a couple of restaurants outside in the mall. Its parking is generally extremely busy.

The local area is not known for wonderful restaurants! There are a couple in the Wahroonga shops (a short car trip or longish walk from the Centre) and plenty in Chatswood (20 mins by train.)