

Visit and stay at Cockatoo Island / Wareamah

Formerly a convict penal establishment and naval shipyard, Cockatoo Island / Wareamah is a source of intrigue and inspiration for visitors owing to its heritage buildings, distinctive terrain and panoramic harbour views.



Dark Past Tour

Welcome to Cockatoo Island / Wareamah

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Custodians and Owners of the lands, waters and sky of Sydney Harbour. Cockatoo Island / Wareamah connects to the waterways and homelands of the Wallumedegal, Wangal, Cammeraygal and Gadigal peoples.

Cockatoo Island is an extraordinary destination protected and managed by the Harbour Trust. Notably, the convict penal establishment was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2010, together with 10 other historic convict sites from across Australia.

In addition to heritage accommodation, Cockatoo Island features a waterfront campground with unbeatable views of Sydney Harbour as well as picnic spots, BBQ facilities and cafés.

Plus, there are plenty of activities for history buffs and adventure-seekers of all ages. So, what are you waiting for?

Jump on a ferry and escape to Cockatoo Island!

Getting here

Catching a public ferry is the easiest way to visit us. The F3 and F8 ferry routes provide regular daily services, connecting Cockatoo Island with Circular Quay, Barangaroo and Parramatta, as well as many other wharves along the Parramatta River. You'll find the latest information, including prices, timetables and ticket retailers at transportnsw.info.

You can also visit Cockatoo Island by water taxi, private boat or kayak.



Ferry to Cockatoo Island / Wareamah

Food and beverage

With its panoramic harbour views, tranquil picnic spots and waterfront cafés, Cockatoo Island is an ideal rest and relaxation setting, removed from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Marina Café & Bar

Open daily (licensed café)
A family-friendly environment serving wraps, salads, cakes and a range of snacks, along with coffee, tea and cold drinks. (Map ref 3E)

Cockatoo Overboard

Open daily (licensed café)
Try a great range of burgers, fish and chips, and mezze plates. BBQ packs are also available for campers to order. (Map ref 7H)

School camping

Owing to its layered history, Cockatoo Island is the perfect camping spot for school groups. We also offer curriculum-based education programs that provide students with opportunities to participate in outdoor activities and engage with the living history of the island.

Convict Precinct



Guided tours



Island Highlights Tour

Want a crash course in Cockatoo Island's storied history? Book tickets for our Island Highlights Tour.
COST: From \$16 per person
DURATION: 60 minutes
WHEN: 11am, Saturdays & 1:30pm, Sundays



Dark Past Tour

Cockatoo Island has its fair share of secrets, scandals, and skeletons. Find out for yourself.
COST: From \$16 per person
DURATION: 90 minutes
WHEN: 6:30pm, select Saturdays



Lower Island Tour

Explore the lower island as we paint a vivid picture of the destination throughout the ages.
COST: From \$16 per person
DURATION: 60 minutes
WHEN: 11am, Sundays

Make a booking

Visit cockatooisland.gov.au/guided-tours to book a tour or purchase tickets from our Visitor Centre. Tours subject to guide and ticket availability. Our Visitor Centre is cash-free/card-only and in-store sales are subject to operating hours.

Select tours, including the World War 2 Shipyard Tour, are available for private group bookings between Monday and Friday. For details, see: cockatooisland.gov.au/request-tour



Convict Prison Tour

Discover iconic landmarks from Cockatoo Island's turbulent convict era (1839 to 1869).
COST: From \$16 per person
DURATION: 60 minutes
WHEN: 1:30pm, Saturdays



Ghost Tour

As the witching hour approaches, journey into Cockatoo Island's supernatural realm.
COST: From \$37 per person
DURATION: 2 hours
WHEN: 9pm, Saturdays
Check website for additional times.

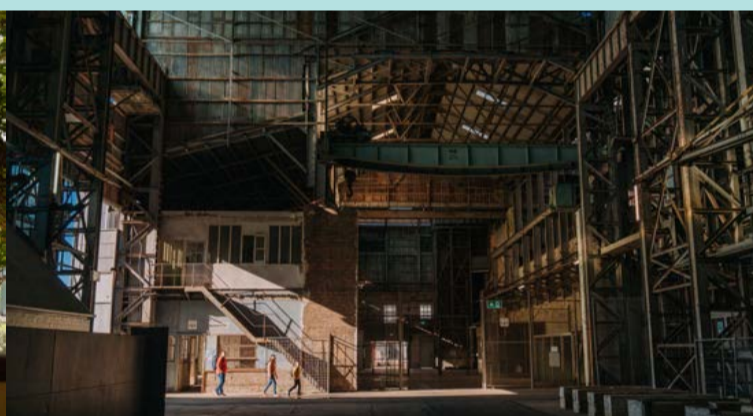


World War 2 Shipyard Tour

Learn how Cockatoo Island's dockyard contributed to the Allied war effort during the Second World War.
COST: From \$16 per person
DURATION: 60 minutes
WHEN: Private group bookings only. Available by request.



Heritage Holiday House



Turbine Shop



Aboriginal Tent Embassy mural

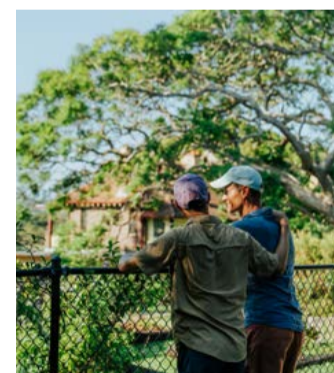


Remnants of a 1920 Hugh Smith Plate Bending Machine

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (Harbour Trust) manages extraordinary places on the world's best harbour and provides the public with access to precious bushland, parks and open spaces. Our destinations include Cockatoo Island / Wareamah, North Head Sanctuary in Manly, Sub Base Platypus in North Sydney and the precincts of Headland Park in Mosman – namely, Chowder Bay / Gooree, Georges Heights and Middle Head / Gubbuh Gubbuh. We also protect Woolwich Dock and Parklands, Macquarie Lightstation in Vaucluse and the Former Marine Biological Station at Camp Cove.

Heritage accommodation

Cockatoo Island's holiday houses and apartments combine authentic heritage character with modern amenities and harbour views. For details and to make a booking, visit cockatooisland.gov.au/stay



Garden Riverview Apartment

The Garden Riverview Apartment (21B) is an ideal sanctuary for vacationers thanks to an outdoor deck and barbeque area, which backs onto a tranquil, enclosed garden.

21B can sleep 4 guests across 2 bedrooms. Add a roll-away bed to your booking to accommodate a 5th guest



Heritage Holiday Houses

Set amidst lush gardens on the plateau, the island's 2 Federation-style houses (24A and 24B) each boast an outdoor barbeque and entertainment area with views across to Hunters Hill.

24A and 24B can each sleep 8 guests across 4 bedrooms. Add a roll-away bed and a 5th bedroom to your booking for a maximum of 12 guests per house.



Harbour View Apartments

The Harbour View Apartments (23A, 23B and 23C) situated near Bioloela Lawn truly live up to their name. Each boasts a large balcony overlooking the Sydney Harbour.

23A and 23B can each sleep 4 guests across 2 bedrooms. Add a roll-away bed to your booking to accommodate a 5th guest. Book both together to unlock the interconnecting doors and accommodate up to 10 people under one roof.

23C can sleep up to 2 guests in a single bedroom.



Fire Station Studio

This tastefully restored studio apartment (Building 164) features an open plan lounge, living and kitchen area. It is located above the Visitor Centre, just seconds away from Cockatoo Overboard.

Building 164 can sleep up to 2 guests in a single bedroom. Add a roll-away bed to your booking to accommodate a 3rd guest.



Waterfront campground

Stay in Cockatoo Island's award-winning urban campground to enjoy unbeatable views of Sydney Harbour plus access to picnic spots, waterfront cafés and historic landmarks.

Our campground caters for all budgets, group sizes and occasions, with 6 options to choose from. Visit cockatooisland.gov.au/camping for rates and inclusions.

BYO tent option

If you're a seasoned camper or on a budget, you can book a 4m x 4m site and pitch your own tent.

Maximum of 4 people per site.



BYO tent option

Basic package

Includes a pre-erected 2.4m x 2.4m dome tent with two sleeping mats and camping chairs.

Sleeps up to 3 adults OR 2 adults and 2 small children.

Premium waterfront package

Looking for a glamping getaway for 2? Our premium waterfront package is perfect for those seeking a slice of luxury.



Deluxe waterfront camping package

Deluxe camping packages

Deluxe package

Includes a pre-erected 2.4m x 2.4m tent set back from the water's edge, 2 raised single beds with mattresses, linen, towels and chairs.

Sleeps 2 guests.

Two-bedroom deluxe waterfront package

Includes two pre-erected 3m x 3m tents with a covered communal area, a waterfront location, four raised single beds with mattresses, linen, sun lounges, an esky and a lantern.

Sleeps 4 guests. Bedding for up to 2 additional guests is available for hire; however, they will need to supply their own sleeping bag.

Deluxe waterfront package

Includes a pre-erected 3m x 3m tent on the waterfront, two raised single beds with mattresses, linen, sun lounges, an esky and a lantern.

Sleeps 2 guests. Bedding for an additional guest is available for hire; however, they will need to supply their own sleeping bag.



Waterfront views

Did you know?

The places protected by the Harbour Trust are located in First Nations countries and are known for their natural beauty. They also feature heritage-listed structures and other remnants from Australia's colonial, maritime and military history. For these reasons, they have significance on a national and international scale.

Our vision includes making our destinations accessible to diverse audiences, amplifying their heritage and environmental values through storytelling and – through their conservation, remediation and adaptive reuse – fostering a sense of place and belonging.

Be involved

Interested in volunteering, signing up for our e-newsletter or finding out more about the Harbour Trust?

Visit us at:
harbourtrust.gov.au
cockatooisland.gov.au

Stay connected

Send us an email:
info@harbourtrust.gov.au

Or follow us on social media:

- @HarbourTrust
- @CockatooIslandSydneyHarbour
- @HarbourTrust
- @CockatooIsland

Emergency

In case of emergency, phone Triple Zero (000) or 112 if mobile coverage is limited and state your location.

Then contact:

- Ranger: 0434 652 153 | 7am – 4pm
- Security: 0433 632 791 | 4pm – 7am

Did you know?

In 1914, the Department of Defence approved residences at Cockatoo Island for essential dockyard staff. A limited number of residential buildings were constructed. They survive to this day and are now holiday accommodation. Learn more: cockatooisland.gov.au/accommodation-history

Legend

- → → Suggested pathway trail — Lower Island
- → → Suggested pathway trail — Upper Island

Structures that form part of the Australian Convict Sites, UNESCO World Heritage Listing

- ♿ Accessible toilets
- 🛏 Accommodation
- 👶 Baby change facilities
- BBQ
- ☕ Café
- ⚓ Camber Wharf
- 🍳 Campground kitchen (for use by campground guests only)
- 🚢 Cockatoo Boat Storage
- 🚢 Cockatoo Island Wharf
- 🏢 Conference centre
- 🚑 Defibrillator (AED)
- 🚒 Emergency assembly point
- 🎫 Ferry tickets
- 🔥 Firepit
- 🏠 First aid
- 📍 Gallery and exhibition space
- 🔒 Lockers
- 📷 Lookout
- 👶 Parent room
- 🌳 Public ferry
- 👮 Ranger/Security office
- 🪜 Stairs
- 🚻 Toilets
- 🚪 Tunnel entry/exit
- 📺 Vending machine
- 👤 Visitor centre
- 🔧 Volunteer workshops
- 💧 Water fountain



First Nations

Cockatoo Island intersects the homelands of the Wallumedegal, Wangal, Cammeraygal and Gadigal Peoples who know it as Wareamah.

Sydney's First Nations Peoples inhabited the area for thousands of years prior to European settlement; however, visible signs of their historical connection to Wareamah have been eroded by the island's transformation.

Artworks on the upper island, including murals on the timber shed and searchlight tower, are reminders of a land claim pursued by a branch of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in 2000.

Convict Precinct

In 2010, Cockatoo Island's Convict Site was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List with 10 other convict sites nationwide. Remnant structures from the island's penal establishment (1839–1869) offer a window into a period when people were exiled to Australia and put to work on the colony's building projects. The Convict Precinct is part of Cockatoo Island's broader Convict Site.



To delve into the layers of history, visit cockatooisland.gov.au/history

Industrial Precinct

Cockatoo Island has a remarkable history as a shipbuilding and ship repair facility, contributing significantly to Australia's maritime affairs between 1857 and 1991. The buildings in the Industrial Precinct, notably the Turbine Shop, feature exposed steel beams, soaring ceilings, sandstone details and fascinating relics from this golden era.

Docks Precinct

Built between 1847 and 1857, Fitzroy Dock is the earliest graving dock commenced in Australia and the only surviving example, nationally, of a dry dock constructed by convicts. It is neighbored by Sutherland Dock, constructed during the 1880s to enable the island to accommodate larger vessels.

Ship Design Precinct

Located on the upper island, the Ship Design Precinct is a remnant of Cockatoo Island's maritime era. During a self-guided tour of the upper island, stop by some of the trade-specific buildings, including the Pattern Shop, Joiners' Shop and Estimating and Drawing Offices.

Historic Residence Precinct

Cockatoo Island's buildings reflect architectural styles from across three centuries, and Biloela House – built circa 1841 for the superintendent of the penal establishment – is the most prominent residential building. Explore Biloela House for the Shipyard Stories exhibition, book a stay in our charming heritage dwellings located nearby, and enjoy tranquil picnic spots with harbour views.

Accessibility

Cockatoo Island is a former industrial site with cliffs and steep drops as well as occasional unmarked and uneven surfaces, voids and trip hazards. To ensure you enjoy your visit, please mind your step, wear appropriate footwear, stay alert for the presence of vehicles and construction activity, and keep a close watch on any children with you.

The lower island is generally suitable for wheelchairs and mobility scooters. Owing to the island's industrial heritage, however, there are uneven surfaces as well as some buildings not accessible by wheelchair. Further, accessing the plateau requires visitors to climb stairs and ascend rises.

The campground is wheelchair accessible, with a dedicated shower and toilet available; however, tents have a step to enter, which is not suitable for wheelchair access. To discuss accessibility, contact stay@cockatooisland.gov.au

Priority works, including repairs, and major events may disrupt visitor access to areas of Cockatoo Island. Check our website for details and speak to our Visitor Centre staff for help, including alternative routes.