

Harbour Trust

Visit and Stay on Cockatoo Island

UNESCO World Heritage listed Cockatoo Island has a fascinating past to discover and a unique present-day personality to explore.



Welcome to Cockatoo Island

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners of the land. Cockatoo Island connects to the waterways and homelands of the Wallumedegal, Wangal, Cammeraygal and Gadigal people.

Cockatoo Island, Sydney Harbour is an extraordinary foreshore site protected and managed by the Harbour Trust. In 2010, the convict penal establishment was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, together with ten other historic convict sites in Australia.

In addition to heritage accommodation, we offer the world's first urban waterfront campground, with unbeatable views of the 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!

Stop by the Visitor Centre and speak to one of our volunteers if you need help planning your visit. The Visitor Centre is open seven days a week 10am-4pm.

Cockatoo Island Highlights

Transport

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.

School Camping

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

cockatooisland.gov.au

Stop, Indulge, Unwind

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*)

Société 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*)



Marina Café & Bar (Dock's Precinct)

What's On

Duration: 90 minutes
When: Saturdays
Suitable for: Kids, families and overnight groups.

Haunted History Tour (all ages)*

Secrets. Scandals. Skeletons. Cockatoo Island has its fair share of all three. As you explore the island's most atmospheric landmarks, our guide masterfully blends history with mystery.

*Tour content may not be suitable for very young children.

Duration: 120 minutes
When: Saturdays
Suitable for: Adults

Cockatoo Island Ghostyard — A Paranormal Tour

From unconfirmed sightings of ghostly apparitions to dread-inducing felt experiences, Cockatoo Island has a history of paranormal occurrences. Tap into the supernatural with our adults-only tour.

Duration: 60 minutes
When: During school holidays
Suitable for: Kids, families and overnight groups.

Crooked Characters Tour (free)

Get to know the charlatans, rogues, thieves and cut-throats that once populated Cockatoo Island. Families will embark on a hilarious and fascinating journey through the island's colonial history.

Duration: Approximately 90 minutes
When: Every day
Pick up from our Visitor Centre.

Audio Tour

Hear about the lives of convicts incarcerated in the upper island's sandstone gaol and learn about the day-to-day work of the thousands of people who made Cockatoo Island the biggest shipyard in Australia in the 20th century.

Duration: 60 minutes (Lower Island) or 90 minutes (Upper and Lower Island)
When: Monday – Sunday
Minimum booking 10 people.

Seniors Tour (on demand)*

Book an experienced Harbour Trust tour guide for your group and enjoy a fascinating day out. Tours are on-foot and cover the island's history incorporating anecdotes and stories from the island's past.

*A good level of fitness and mobility is essential for participants to enjoy this tour. Bookings must be made at least seven days in advance.

Visit cockatooisland.gov.au to find out what's on and how to book.



Heritage Houses located on the Upper Island



Dog-Leg Tunnel



Cockatoo Island Ghostyard — A Paranormal Tour



Beam Benders – Remnants of a 1920 Hugh Smith Plate Bending Machine.



Harbour Trust

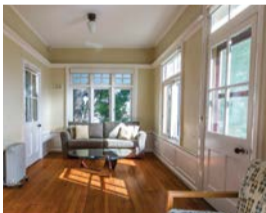
The Harbour Trust protects and manages extraordinary foreshore sites on Sydney Harbour.

In addition to Cockatoo Island, our portfolio includes Headland Park (Mosman), North Head Sanctuary (Manly), Sub Base Platypus (North Sydney) and more.

Enjoy these distinctive urban foreshore parklands — they're free for everyone to visit all year round.

Accommodation

The only harbour island where you can stay overnight, Cockatoo Island offers unique accommodation options, suitable for all budgets and tastes.



Heritage Houses

Cockatoo Island has two Federation-style Heritage Houses. Set amidst lush gardens on the upper island, these self-contained, five-bedroom houses are ideal for groups of up to eight people, or twelve with additional bedding.



Harbour View Apartments

The Harbour View Apartments include one single room apartment and two double bedroom apartments. Each apartment has a large entertaining balcony facing east, with incredible views across Sydney Harbour and to the city.



Garden Riverview Apartment

The Garden Riverview Apartment is a semi-detached, self-contained two-bedroom apartment that sleeps up to four people. With a large entertaining balcony and a spacious enclosed garden area, the apartment is perfect for families or people who just want some extra room to relax.



Fire Station Studio

Formerly the island's Fire Station, Building 164 is now a comfortable studio apartment which boasts impressive harbour views from the open plan living area and bedroom.

Camping on Cockatoo Island



Deluxe Waterfront Camping package

Deluxe Camping Packages

Deluxe Camping Package

Includes a pre-erected 2.4m x 2.4m tent set back from the water's edge, two raised single beds with mattresses, linen, towels and chairs. (Note: Esky and lantern not included)

Deluxe Waterfront Two-bedroom Camping 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.

Deluxe Waterfront Camping 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.



Cockatoo Island's Campground

Check into our award-winning waterfront campground, featuring unbeatable views of Sydney Harbour as well as access to scenic picnic spots, BBQ facilities and cafés!

You can choose from five camping options, catering for a range of budgets, group sizes and occasions, from romantic getaways to family vacations.

BYO tent camping sites

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

Camping Packages

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

Prices*

Heritage Holiday Houses — 24A and 24B | Four bedroom

Sleeps eight guests.

(Max 12 with additional sofa, roll-away bed and fifth bedroom)

Monday – Thursday: \$625/night — two night stay rate
\$825/night — one night stay rate

Friday – Sunday: \$950/night — two night minimum stay

Weekly: \$3560 (seven days/six nights) — not available online

Sofa or roll-away bed: \$50/night

*See website for five bedroom configuration rates.

Harbour View Apartments — 23A and 23B | Two bedroom

Sleeps four, or five guests with additional roll-away bed.

Apartments can be interconnecting.

Monday – Thursday: \$390/night

Friday – Sunday: \$495/night — two night minimum stay

One bedroom midweek: \$315

Roll-away bed: \$50/night

Harbour View Apartment — 23C | One bedroom

Sleeps two guests.

Monday – Thursday: \$285/night

Friday – Sunday: \$345/night — two night minimum stay

Garden Apartment — 21B | Two bedroom

Sleeps four, or five guests with additional roll-away bed.

Monday – Thursday: \$360/night

Friday – Sunday: \$450/night — two night minimum stay

One bedroom midweek: \$300

Roll-away bed: \$50/night

Fire Station Studio

Sleeps two, or three guests with additional roll-away bed.

Monday – Thursday: \$265/night

Friday – Sunday: \$315/night — two night stay rate

Friday – Sunday: \$330/night — one night stay rate

Roll-away bed: \$50/night

Camping Site Only (BYO tent)

Four people per site.

Monday – Thursday: From \$45/night

Friday – Sunday: From \$50/night

Additional person: From \$12.50/night

Camping Package

Sleeps up to three adults OR two adults and two small children.

Monday – Thursday: From \$89/night

Friday – Sunday: From \$99/night

Deluxe Camping Package

Sleeps two guests.

Monday – Thursday: From \$130/night

Friday – Sunday: From \$155/night

Deluxe Waterfront Two Bedroom Camping Package

Sleeps four guests.

Monday – Thursday: From \$310/night

Friday – Sunday: From \$360/night

Additional person*: From \$30/night

Deluxe Waterfront Camping Package

Sleeps two guests.

Monday – Thursday: From \$150/night

Friday – Sunday: From \$175/night

Additional person*: From \$30/night

For a complete overview and to make a booking visit cockatooisland.gov.au or email stay@cockatooisland.gov.au for further information and general enquiries.

*For Deluxe Waterfront Camping Packages, additional persons will need to bring their own sleeping bag. Prices valid as at May 2019. All prices are seasonal and subject to change without notice. Visit cockatooisland.gov.au for package inclusions, pricing, FAQs & accommodation deals.

Convict Precinct
In 2010, the convict penal establishment was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, together with ten other historic convict sites in Australia.

Industrial Precinct
A powerhouse of industry for over a century (1857–1991), Cockatoo Island was Australia's primary shipbuilding and repair facility.

Docks Precinct
Cockatoo Island was Australia's first naval dockyard for the Royal Australian Navy (1913–1921) and continued to support and build ships until its closure in 1991.

Ship Design Precinct
Learn about the 'clean trades' conducted on the Island and stop by some of the trade-specific buildings, such as the Pattern Shop, Joiners' Shop or Estimating and Drawing Offices.

Historic Residence Precinct
Cockatoo Island features more than two centuries of architectural style, with Biloela House the most prominent residential building on the island. These residences were constructed to house various officials and their families, with many additions being added throughout their lifetime.

Please Note
Cockatoo Island is a former industrial site. There are occasional unmarked and uneven surfaces, voids, trip hazards, cliffs and steep drops. There are also occasional construction activities, events and the presence of vehicles. To ensure you enjoy your visit, please mind your step, wear appropriate footwear and keep a close watch on any children with you and take care at all times.



Legend

→ → → Suggested pathway trail — Lower Island		→ → → Suggested pathway trail — Upper Island	
Visitor Centre	Buildings form part of the UNESCO World Heritage listing	Cockatoo Island Wharf	Defibrillator (AED)
Toilets	Accommodation	Dog-Leg Tunnel Cinema	Ferry tickets
Accessible toilets	BBQ	First Aid	Firepit
Café	Camber Wharf	Emergency Assembly point	Lockers
		Lookout	Ranger/Security office
		Shipyard Stories at Biloela House	Vending machine
		Stairs	Water fountains
		Tunnel entry/exit	

Accessibility

The campground is wheelchair accessible, with an accessible shower and toilet available.

Please Note: Tents have a step to enter, which is not suitable for wheelchair access. To discuss accessibility, contact stay@cockatooisland.gov.au

Volunteer

Would you like to volunteer at this iconic site? Join our volunteer teams: Visitor services | Gardening | Restoration harbourtrust.gov.au/volunteer

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