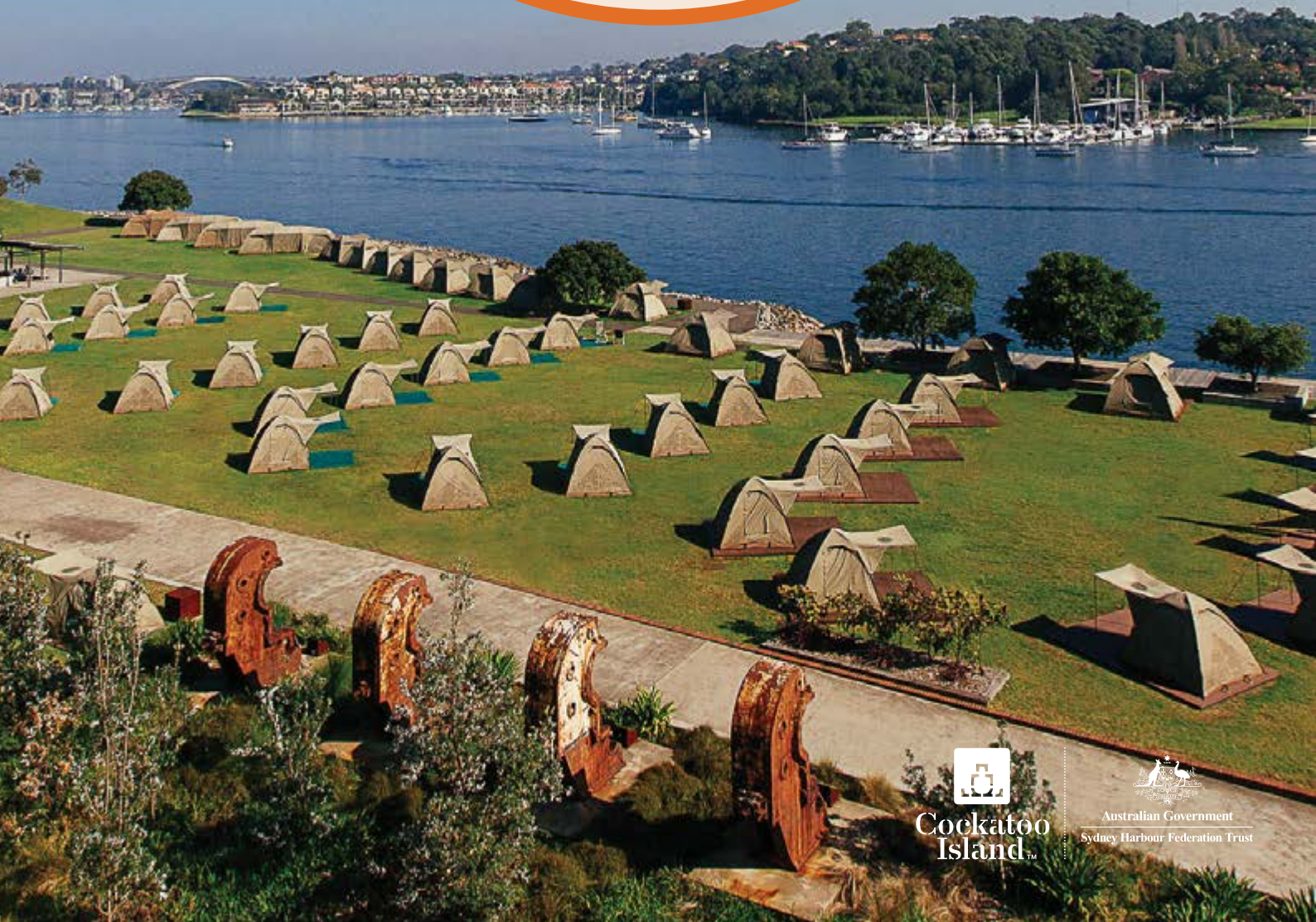


Cockatoo Island School Camping

TEACHER'S INFORMATION PACK

UPDATED MAY 2025



Cockatoo
Island™



Australian Government
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

Learn Create Play

Take your classroom to Cockatoo Island and sleep under the stars

As one of Australia's most historically and culturally significant sites, Cockatoo Island offers the perfect destination for your school group.

The island's history starts with its First Nations use and encompasses many of the major landmarks of colonial and post-colonial Australian history. Its structures and relics tell the stories of convicts and orphans, of workers and wars, offering a unique opportunity for your students to interact with living history through our engaging primary and secondary programs.

As a UNESCO World Heritage site, Cockatoo Island presents a unique opportunity for students to engage with living history – and have fun – while still being in the heart of Australia's largest city.

Our campground makes the learning experience even more fun. Cockatoo Island has all the amenities your school group needs — including hot showers, a large camp kitchen, ten BBQs, fridges, microwaves and access to boiling water. Plus, groups can arrange catering through the island's family-friendly cafes.



CAMPING OPTIONS

We offer school groups, including teachers and supervisors, 5 camping options. These options are also available to scout, Duke of Edinburgh and other youth adventure groups. The below rates are only available for stays occurring across Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. Prices include GST.

OPTION 1 – CAMPING SITE ONLY*

This BYO tent option is an opportunity for students to have an authentic, DIY camping experience and pitch their own tent.

Cost:

\$40 per night.

Includes:

An unpowered 4m x 4m site for a tent that sleeps up to 4 students. Tent not included.

Paid extras:

The following items are available for hire – sleeping mats (\$15), raised stretcher beds (\$20), pillows (\$10) and towels (\$5).

What to bring:

Tents, sleeping mats, sleeping bags and pillows, torches and eating/ drinking/cooking utensils.

** For every 10 unpowered camping sites you book, your group will receive one free site. We can cater for up to 50 unpowered sites*

OPTION 2 – BASIC CAMPING PACKAGE**

This affordable and hassle-free option includes a pre-pitched tent, allowing teachers and students to focus on exploring.

Cost:

\$80 per night.

Includes:

A pre-pitched, unpowered 2.4m x 2.4m tent that sleeps up to 2 teachers/ supervisors or up to 3 students. Also includes 2 single sleeping mats and 2 reclining chairs.

Paid extras:

An additional sleeping mat – for a third student – can be hired for \$15. Other items available for hire: raised stretcher beds (\$20), pillows (\$10) and towels (\$5).

Note: Raised stretcher beds only available to hire for tents that sleep up to 2 students.

What to bring:

Sleeping bags, pillows, torches and eating/drinking/ cooking utensils.

*** For every 10 basic packages you book, your group will receive one free basic package. Up to 48 basic packages available.*

OPTION 3 – DELUXE CAMPING PACKAGE***

OPTION 4 – DELUXE WATERFRONT CAMPING PACKAGE****

OPTION 5 – TWO-BEDROOM DELUXE WATERFRONT PACKAGE*****

Our deluxe, deluxe waterfront and two-bedroom deluxe waterfront packages enable teachers and supervisors to combine their love of the great outdoors with their desire for a truly hassle-free excursion.

Includes:

The deluxe and deluxe waterfront packages include a pre-pitched, unpowered 2.4m x 2.4m twin-share tent with 2 single raised camp beds, linen, quilts, towels, 2 reclining chairs and toiletries.

Meanwhile, the two-bedroom deluxe waterfront package features 2 pre-pitched, unpowered 2.4m x 2.4m twin-share tents with a covered communal area. This package also includes with 4 single raised camp beds, linen, quilts, towels, 4 reclining chairs and luxury toiletries.

What to bring:

Torches and eating/drinking/cooking utensils.

Cost:

- Deluxe Camping Package – \$115 per night
- Deluxe Waterfront Camping Package – \$124 per night.
- Two-bedroom Deluxe Waterfront Camping Package – \$288 per night

**** Up to 21 deluxe packages available.*

***** Up to 14 deluxe waterfront packages available.*

****** Up to 4 two-bedroom deluxe waterfront packages available.*

KEY INFORMATION**PAID EXTRAS**

The following items are available for hire – sleeping mats (\$15), raised stretcher beds (\$20), pillows (\$10) and towels (\$5). Toiletries and torches are also available. Items can be preordered or purchased from the Visitor Centre.

CAMPGROUND FACILITIES

Camping groups have access to communal toilet, shower and kitchen facilities.

- Campground kitchen: Features 10 barbeques, boiling water, 2 fridges, a toaster, microwaves, a vending machine and seating for 50 people. It is closed between 10:30am to 12:30pm for cleaning.
- Showers, toilets and laundry: The shower block features 13 stalls, all equipped with hot water. There are 5 male, 5 female and 3 unisex/ accessible toilets, located across 2 toilet blocks. A token-operated washing machine and dryer is also available. Tokens available to purchase from the accommodation desk for \$4.
- Campground firepit: Located towards the slipways and managed by the accommodation team. Use of the firepit is free; however, it's availability is weather dependant. Marshmallows, for toasting around the campfire, available for purchase at the Visitor Centre.
- Campground cinema: Located in the historic Mould Loft (next to the Convict Precinct) and available free of charge. Family-friendly and mature-age films screen at set times each night. Confectionary and other snacks available for purchase at the Visitor Centre.
- Charging stations and lockers: Located opposite the Visitor Centre. Available at an additional cost.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

The island's family-friendly food and beverage venues, Cockatoo Overboard and Marina Cafe and Bar, operate daily.

School groups can arrange catering with either cafe. Visit cockatoomarinacafe.bar and cockatoooverboard.com.au to view their catering menus and make an enquiry.

School groups can also take advantage of the campground kitchen to prepare meals.

SUPERVISION

Rangers and security personnel patrol the island between 24/7 and are on-call for general assistance or to respond to emergencies. However, the campground is accessible to the general public and teachers/supervisors are responsible for supervising their students at all times. Further, measures for adequate supervision must be covered by the group's risk assessment. [View our sample risk assessment here.](#)

Ahead of their trip, teachers/supervisors can arrange to have a dedicated security guard stationed with their group at a cost of \$70 per hour.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

CHECK-IN/CHECK-OUT

Check-in is from 2pm and check-out is by 10am. If your group arrives ahead of check-in or wishes to remain on the island after check-out, you can arrange to store your baggage in the buggy shelter located outside the Visitor Centre.

HOW TO GET HERE

The easiest way to get to Cockatoo Island is by public ferry. The F3 and F8 services operate to Cockatoo Island daily, departing from Circular Quay, Darling Harbour and Barangaroo as well as from wharves along Parramatta River. For further information, including timetables, visit the Transport NSW website.

- If your group is travelling to Cockatoo Island by ferry, each person will need to be in possession of an Opal, debit or credit card with sufficient funds.
- If you are catching a ferry to Cockatoo Island with a large group, we encourage you to notify Transdev Sydney Ferries via their contact form at transdev.com.au/contact-us. Please ensure they are made aware of the size of your group, the ferry service you intend to use (e.g. F3 Parramatta Service at 10am on 17 July) and where you are travelling to and from (e.g. Circular Quay to Cockatoo Island).

NEARBY PARKING

- On-street parking is available for cars near the ferry wharves at Woolwich, Greenwich, Chiswick, Huntleys Point, Drummoyne, Birchgrove and Balmain.
- The Harbour Trust has a car park at the Hunters Hill Sailing Club (accessible via Clarke Road, Woolwich). The car park can accommodate a coach and is a short walk from the Woolwich ferry wharf. Email education@harbourtrust.gov.au to arrange parking.

BARGING

Groups may wish to barge a vehicle to the island in the event they have lots of equipment, food or other supplies. Barging can be arranged through the Cockatoo Island Marine Centre (PH: 0424 042 833). The vehicle operators must also review, complete and sign the Harbour Trust's driver induction form prior to the trip.

SAFETY AND 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. For your safety (and that of your students), mind your step, wear appropriate enclosed footwear, stay alert for vehicles and monitor your group.

The lower island is generally accessible by wheelchairs and mobility scooters; however, there are uneven surfaces and some buildings are not suited to mobility aids. Accessing the upper island requires visitors to climb stairs or ascend steep rises. Due to the heritage nature of buildings, some buildings on the upper island are only accessible via stairs. 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.

Priority works 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. Assistance animals (as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1992) are permitted on Cockatoo Island.

School camping trips - Booking form

To request a booking, complete all form fields and email it to stay@cockatooisland.gov.au. Once your group's requirements have been confirmed, we will email you an invoice together with an information kit.

Submission of this form does not constitute a confirmed booking. Our accommodation team will first need to check the availability for your requested dates. They will then contact you to finalise details. This may include arranging alternative dates if those requested aren't available. Full payment is required no later than 1 week prior to arrival. The rates listed in this booklet are only available for stays occurring across Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. Prices include GST.

GROUP DETAILS							
Name of school / group				Co-ed <input type="checkbox"/> Girls <input type="checkbox"/> Boys <input type="checkbox"/>			
Postal address							
Email address							
Telephone			Fax				
Year / age			No. of children				
Will any students with special needs be attending? (Note: the supervision ratio for special needs students is 1:1)							
No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> (If yes, please provide details)							
Camp contact (Name and mobile number)							
How many supervisors will be attending?							
Identify your group's nominated first-aider.							
Name			Mobile				
Will you need to barge a vehicle and/or equipment onto the island?							
CAMPING DETAILS							
Arrival date & day							
Departure date & day							
Is it the same group of Students each night or will there be a change over?							
Option	No. of students	No. of adults	Quantity required per night [NOTE: Include any unpowered site or basic package you are eligible to receive for free.]			Total cost [Note: Exclude the cost of any unpowered camping site or basic package you are eligible to receive for free.]	
Camping site only (\$40 Per night) Unpowered site for a tent that sleeps up to 4 people. [Note: For every 10 unpowered camping sites you book, you are eligible to receive one FREE site.]							
Basic Camping Packages (\$80 per night) Unpowered tent that Sleeps 2 adults or 3 students. [Notes: For every 10 Basic camping Packages you book, you are eligible to receive one FREE site. For each package that sleeps a third student, you must hire an additional sleeping mat for \$15.]			PACKAGES FOR 1 PERSON	PACKAGES FOR 2 PEOPLE	NO. PACKAGES FOR 3 PEOPLE		
Deluxe Camping Package (\$115 Per Night) Unpowered tent that sleeps 2 adults or 2 students			PACKAGES FOR 1 PERSON	PACKAGES FOR 2 PEOPLE			
Deluxe Waterfront Camping Package (\$124 Per Night) Unpowered tent that sleeps 2 adults or 2 students			PACKAGES FOR 1 PERSON	PACKAGES FOR 2 PEOPLE			
Two-bedroom Deluxe Waterfront Package (\$288 Per Night) Two unpowered tents (incl covered communal area) that sleep up to 4 people in total			PACKAGES FOR 1 PERSON	PACKAGES FOR 2 PEOPLE	PACKAGES FOR 3 PEOPLE	PACKAGES FOR 4 PEOPLE	

Booking form continued

PAID EXTRAS	QUANTITY REQUIRED	TOTAL COST
Towel hire (\$5 each)		
Marshmallows (\$7 per bag)		
Pillow hire (\$10 each)		
Sleeping mat hire (\$15 each)		
Raised stretcher bed hire (\$20 each)		
Dedicated security guard (\$70 per hour, min 4 hours)		
Note: Once your group's requirements have been confirmed with us, we will email you an invoice for payment. Full payment is required no later than 1 week prior to arrival. If you require changes to your booking, you must notify us prior to confirming your requirements with us and receiving the invoice.		

SCHOOL GROUP EXPERIENCES

You can organise a range of great school group experiences during your stay. Activities include curriculum-based education programs (\$14 per student, teachers/supervisors free) and the after-hours Dark Past Tour (\$14 per student, teachers/supervisors free). Note: Programs and tours must be arranged through the Harbour Trust's education team. Due to demand, it is recommended you book at least 2 months in advance. Learn more and request a program:

cockatooisland.gov.au/education-programs

Meanwhile, films screen at set times in the campground cinema each night and screenings can be attended free of charge. However, group cinematic experiences can be arranged through the accommodation team at a cost of \$8 per person (includes popcorn). Note: The cinema has a capacity of 30 people. Further, marshmallows can be purchased (\$7 per bag) for toasting around the campfire (weather dependent)

Please indicate if your group is interested in a group cinematic experience for up to 30 people.	
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ORGANISER'S DETAILS

Name			
Email address			
Telephone		Fax	
Mobile			
What are the best ways and times to contact you?			
Will you be camping with the group? If not, or unsure, please provide the mobile phone number of a supervisor who will be attending.			
No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Mobile		
Have you or your group previously visited Cockatoo Island?	How did you hear about Cockatoo Island Camping?		

For any camping-related queries, please contact accommodation team on (02) 8969 2111 or email stay@cockatooisland.gov.au