



Cockatoo
Island™

School camping trips

Cockatoo Island / Wareamah is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the heart of Sydney Harbour. Discover why you should camp here with your students.



cockatooisland.gov.au

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Overview

Seeking a one-of-a-kind setting for your next school camping trip or youth group adventure? Escape to Cockatoo Island / Wareamah – a UNESCO Heritage listed Convict Site with an incredible history.

Located in the heart of Sydney Harbour, the island has served as a prison, an industrial school and reformatory for girls, the site of 2 nautical schools for boys and a major dockyard where ships and submarines were built and repaired.

Archaeological features from the island's bygone eras survive to this day, providing children and teenagers alike with a window into Sydney's layered past.

Our waterfront campground is available for hire by schools, scouts, Duke of Edinburgh participants and other youth groups between Monday and Thursday. Bordered by eye-catching historic landmarks, it is a great launch pad for outdoor exploration and learning.

As you lead your group in fun team building exercises and challenges, they'll forge new friendships and strengthen old ones. Plus, free and paid activities are available to enrich your group's stay (see page 9).

Cockatoo Island / Wareamah is an extraordinary place protected by the Harbour Trust. It connects to the waterways and homelands of the Wallumedegal, Wangal, Cammeraygal and Gadigal peoples. In their common language, Dharug, Cockatoo Island is known as Wareamah. We acknowledge these Traditional Custodians and Owners and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



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 and full payment is required prior to arrival.

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:

\$45 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 (\$10).

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

Cost:

\$84 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. Plus: 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 (\$10).

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 guests – be they teachers, supervisors or students – 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, pillows, 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.

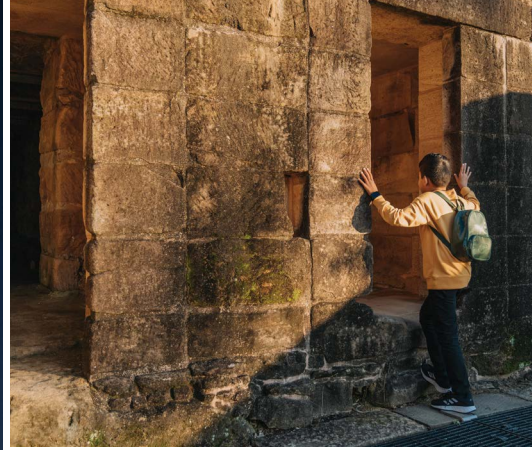
Cost:

- Deluxe Camping Package – \$120 per night
- Deluxe Waterfront Camping Package – \$130 per night.
- Two-bedroom Deluxe Waterfront Camping Package – \$299 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 (\$10). Toiletries are also available. Items can be preordered or purchased from the Visitor Centre.

CAMPER 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. Heaters and wet weather blinds are available for use in winter. It is closed between 10:30am and 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 (\$7 per bag).
- **Mould Loft cinema:** Located on the upper island and available free of charge to campers. Family-friendly and mature-age films screen at set times each night. Confectionary and other snacks available for purchase at the Visitor Centre. Prefer a private film screening? A second venue, known as the Convict Cinema, is available for hire by small groups at a cost of \$350. See page 7 for details.
- **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 store food and 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.

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.



School camping trips - Booking form

To request a booking, complete all fields in this form and email it to studentcamping@cockatooisland.gov.au.

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. Once your group's requirements have been confirmed, you will be sent a confirmation email.

You will receive an invoice for your stay 2 weeks prior to arrival. In most cases, payment will fall due no later than 1 week prior to arrival. However, in certain circumstances groups will be required to pay at the time their booking is confirmed – this will be discussed with you once we receive your initial request.

[Note: 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 ☐ Girls ☐ Boys ☐				
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 ☐ Yes ☐ (If yes, please provide details)									
Camp contact		Name			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?									
CONTACT FOR INVOICING									
Name									
Email address		Telephone							
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 (\$45 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 (\$84 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 (\$120 Per Night) Unpowered tent that sleeps 2 adults or 2 students			PACKAGES FOR 1 PERSON		PACKAGES FOR 2 PEOPLE				
Deluxe Waterfront Camping Package (\$130 Per Night) Unpowered tent that sleeps 2 adults or 2 students			PACKAGES FOR 1 PERSON		PACKAGES FOR 2 PEOPLE				
Two-bedroom Deluxe Waterfront Package (\$299 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 (\$10 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.		

CONVICT CINEMA – VENUE HIRE

Our Convict Cinema can be hired by small groups seeking a private film screening. The venue has a capacity of 30 people. Venue hire is \$350 and can be arranged with the accommodation team, using this form.

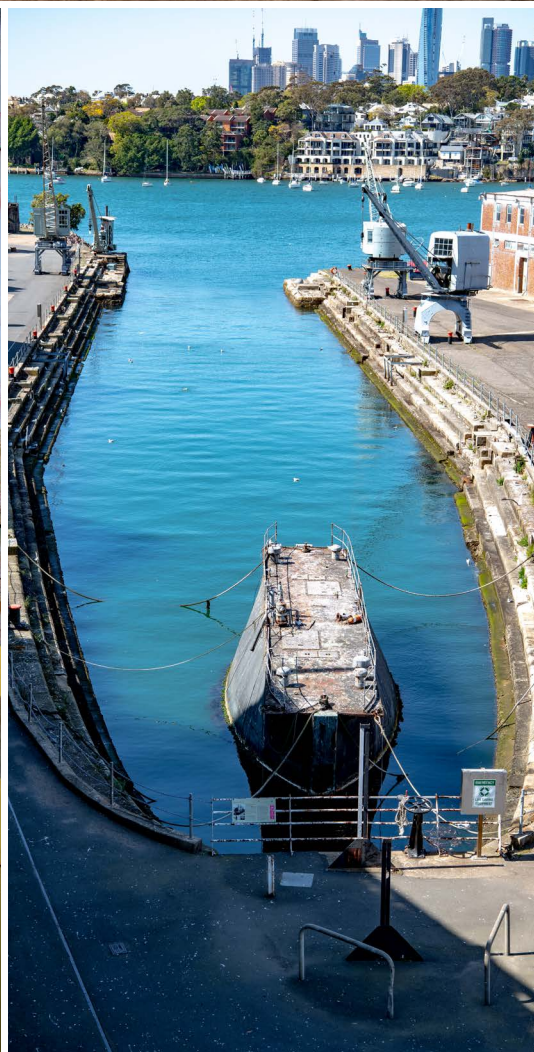
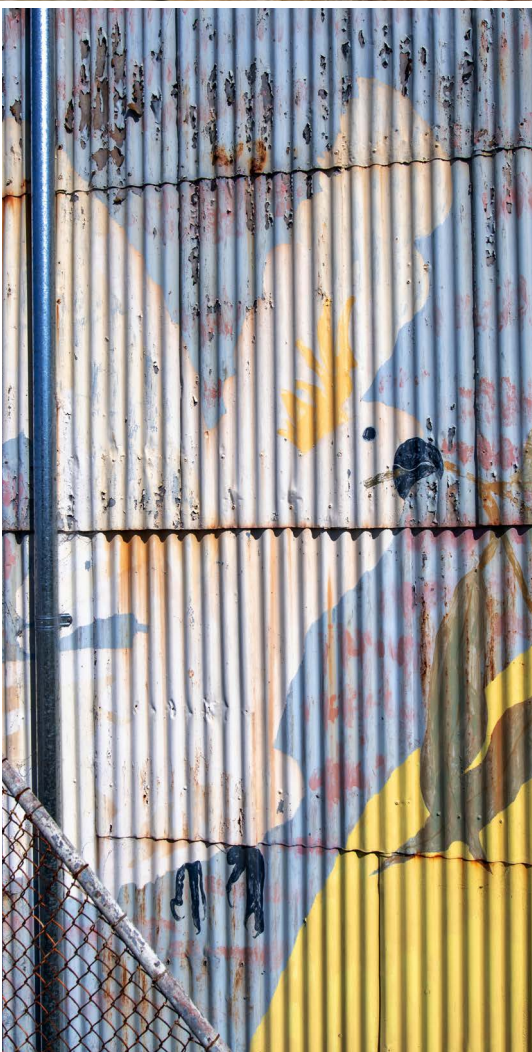
Note: Other great experiences are also available to school groups. For details, see pages 9 and 10.

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 name and mobile phone number of a supervisor who will be attending.			
No ☐ Yes ☐	Name	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) 9700 4111** or email studentcamping@cockatooisland.gov.au



ACTIVITIES

Looking for ways to keep your students active and engaged during their school camping trip? A range of school group experiences are offered at Cockatoo Island.



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Curriculum-based education programs are available for Stages 1 to 6 at Cockatoo Island. These engaging and fun learning experiences complement and build upon history lessons taught in the classroom. Critically, each program is led by an education guide who specialises in helping primary and high school students develop their historical enquiry and critical thinking skills. As they explore historic spaces across the upper and lower island, your students will exercise their curiosity and consider how historical events have shaped the present.

Available: Monday to Friday (subject to guide availability)

Duration: Each program is 90 minutes.

Cost: \$14 (incl GST) per students. Teachers/supervisors FREE.

Inclusions: Comprehensive pre- and post-lesson resources are provided to primary school groups. High school groups perceive

Bookings: Education programs 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

ACTIVITIES

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Basketball: Play a game of basketball at our harbour-side court, a short distance from the ferry wharf. Bring a basketball or hire one from the Visitor Centre for \$5.

Films: Located on the upper island, our Mould Loft cinema is available free of charge to campers. Family-friendly and mature-age films screen at set times each night. Confectionary and other snacks available for purchase at the Visitor Centre. Prefer a private film screening? A second venue, known as the Convict Cinema, is available for hire by small groups at a cost of \$350. See page 7 for details.

Campfire stories: As night falls, head to our campground firepit and trade stories as you enjoy flame-roasted marshmallows. Marshmallow bags (incl. sticks) available for \$7 from the Visitor Centre. The availability of our firepit is weather dependant.

Giant chess: What's better than playing a game of chess in your living room? Playing a game on our giant, outdoor chess board! Head to the island's Eastern Apron, it's your move!

Orienteering: Your group can enjoy a scenic workout with one of 4 orienteering courses, each commencing at the island's Muster Station. An initiative of Orienteering NSW, these courses cater for different fitness levels and experience and can be completed with the official orienteering map or the MapRunF mobile app (FREE).

Steam crane demonstrations: Toot, toot! Specialist volunteers carry out maintenance checks on the island's historic steam cranes on the first Tuesday of every month. If your visit coincides with an upcoming maintenance check day, your students will get to see an 'Iron Giant' in action.

Vintage lawn games: A true test of hand-eye coordination and depth perception, corn hole is a game where players take turns attempting to throw beanbags into a raised hole. We also offer addictive variations on the classic ring toss game (Finska, Quoits and Hoopla) plus Frescobal – a paddle ball game popular in Brazil. Games available at the Visitor Centre. Corn hole is free. Quoits, finska, frescobal, hoopla can be hired for \$5



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. Consider using the F8 ferry service for large groups as it offers greater capacity. 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. F8 service to Cockatoo Island 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). Parking fees apply between 8am and 8pm daily.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

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

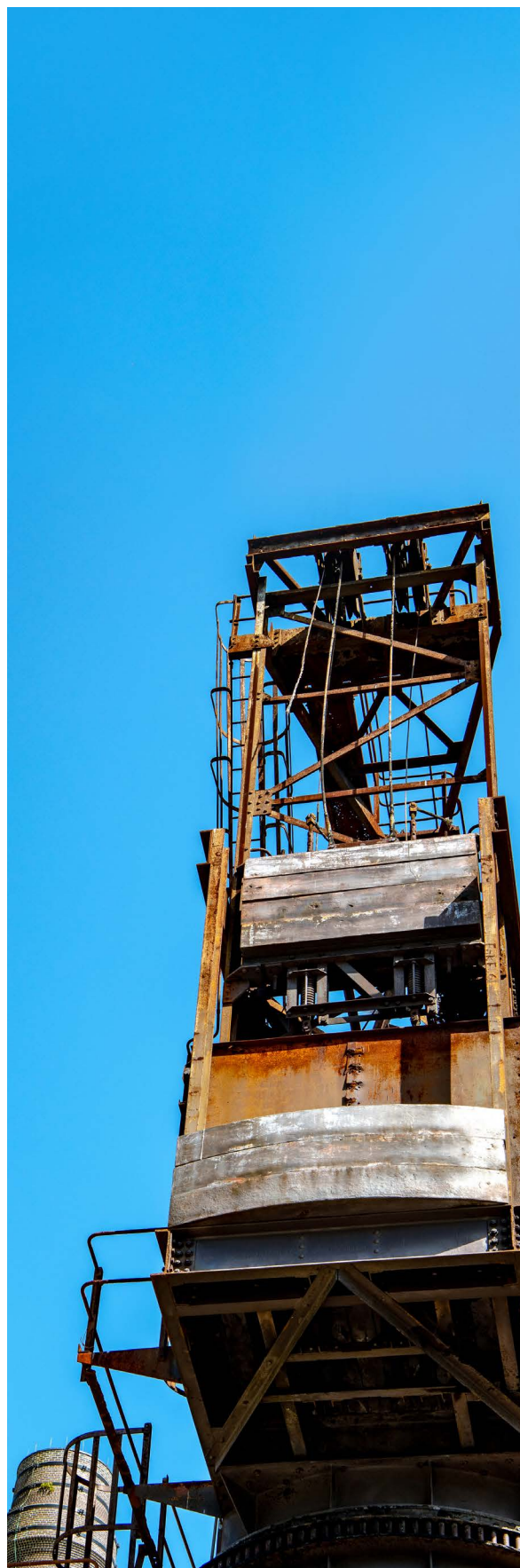
Cockatoo Island is a former industrial site with cliffs and steep drops as well as occasional unmarked and uneven surfaces, voids and trip hazards. For your safety (and that of your students), mind your step, wear appropriate enclosed footwear, stay alert for vehicles and monitor your group.

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.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Groups should complete a risk assessment of their camping trip, with risks and appropriate controls identified. To assist with this exercise, [view our sample risk assessment here](#).



Campground map



Legend

- | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|
| Holiday accommodation | Campground kitchen (for use by campers only) | Mobile device chargers |
| Camping packages | Conference and meeting venues | Mould loft cinema |
| Waterfront deluxe camping | Croquet lawn | Public ferry |
| Deluxe camping package | Defibrillator (AED) | Parent room |
| Premium waterfront package | Emergency assembly point | Ranger/Security office |
| Access through tunnels | Ferry tickets | Shower |
| Accessible toilets | Firepit | Stairs |
| BBQ | First aid | Toilets |
| Basketball court | Gallery and exhibition space | Tunnel entry/exit |
| Cafe | Laundry | Vending machine |
| Chess | Lockers | Visitor centre |
| Convict cinema (private bookable space) | | Water fountain |

Get in touch

ENQUIRIES

Any questions? We're here to help!

For camping-related enquiries,
email studentcamping@cockatooisland.gov.au
or call (02) 9700 4111.

For more information about accessibility on Cockatoo
Island, please email
studentcamping@cockatooisland.gov.au

STAY IN THE LOOP

To stay in the loop about Cockatoo Island's school group
experiences, sign up for our school eNewsletter at
cockatooisland.gov.au/education-eneews.



Harbour
Trust

