

Welcome to Cockatoo Island



Tours

Duration:
90 minutes

Suitable for:
Kids, families and
overnight groups
The tour content may
not be suitable for
very young children

Haunted History Tour

Skeletons, scandals and secrets will spill out of the closet when you join us at dusk for a special tour of Cockatoo Island's hidden histories and mysteries!

With its early colonial beginnings as a prison from which there was no easy escape, to reformatory for orphans and wayward children, and working shipyard for more than a century, no wonder Cockatoo Island is haunted by its history.

Duration:
60 minutes

Suitable for:
Kids, families and
overnight groups
Bookings can be
made on the day at
the Visitor Centre

Crooked Characters Tour

Cast your mind back to a water locked penal settlement populated by stories overflowing of charlatans, rogues, thieves and cutthroats — and they're just the guards!

Discover Cockatoo Island on this family-friendly journey into the hilarious and fascinating underbelly of Australia's colonial and recent history.

Duration:
Approximately
90 minutes

Audio Tour

Learn about Cockatoo Island's colourful history, with a self guided tour of the Island. Just \$5 from the Visitor Centre.

Duration:

60 minutes or
90 minutes
Suitable for all ages
Minimum booking
10 people

On-Demand History Tour

Explore Cockatoo Island and discover its rich history. Guides will recount the stories of its criminals and orphans; as well as the tales of the Island's development and past industrial glories.

Duration:

60 minutes
(Lower Island)
or 90 minutes
(Upper and
Lower Island)

When:

Monday – Sunday
Available to seniors
and pension card
holders
Minimum booking
10 people

Seniors Tour

Book an experienced Harbour Trust tour guide for your club and enjoy a fascinating day out on World-Heritage-listed Cockatoo Island.

The Seniors Tour offers an extensive summary of Cockatoo Island's history incorporating anecdotes and stories from the Island's past. It is a leisurely way to engage with the unique site on-foot.

Food and Views

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

The outdoors

Pack a picnic and ascend to Biloela Lawn in the Historic Residence Precinct to enjoy unspoilt vistas with friends and family. Alternatively, take advantage of the lower island's barbeque facilities, shaded seating and sprawling green space.

Catered dining

Looking to be catered for? Head to Societe Overboard, just a short stroll from the ferry wharf, or head through Dog-Leg Tunnel to arrive at the Marina Café and Bar. These family-friendly venues are both licensed to serve alcohol.

For more information, head to cockatooisland.gov.au/EatAndDrink

Accommodation

The only island in Sydney Harbour where you can stay overnight, Cockatoo Island boasts a unique range of accommodation options to suit all budgets and tastes. It's the perfect setting for a short stay and for those looking to escape the everyday. Accommodation options include:

- Heritage houses and apartments
- Glamping and camping
- BYO camping tent

cockatooisland.gov.au/stay

Oral History Project

We are gathering stories of those who lived or worked on Cockatoo Island for our Oral History Project. See the Visitor Centre to learn how to share your story.

Harbour Trust



Volunteer

Would you like to volunteer at this iconic site?

Join our volunteer teams:

• Visitor services • Gardening • Restoration
cockatooisland.gov.au/volunteers

Connect with Us

To keep up to date with the latest news and events, sign up for our e-newsletter at cockatooisland.gov.au or get social with us on:

CockatooIslandSydneyHarbour

@cockatooisland

Cockatoo Island

#CockatooIsland
#HarbourTrust



Convict Precinct

In 2010, parts of Cockatoo Island were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, together with 10 other historic sites that collectively form the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property.



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 building on the island. These residences were constructed to house various managerial staff 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 and the presence of vehicles. To ensure you enjoy your visit, please mind your step, wear appropriate footwear, keep a close watch on any children with you and take care at all times.

Legend



Pathway trail — Lower Island



Pathway trail — Upper Island



Visitor Centre



Toilets



Accessible toilets



Cafe



Buildings form part of the UNESCO World Heritage listing



Accommodation



BBQ



Camber Wharf



Dog-Leg Tunnel Cinema



Emergency Assembly point



Ferry tickets



Firepit



First Aid



Lockers



Lookout




Parramatta Wharf



Shipyard Stories at Biloela House



Stairs




Tennis



Tunnel entry/exit



Vending machine



Water fountains

Did you know we are self-funded?

Donations to the Harbour Trust go directly toward preserving all our heritage sites including Cockatoo Island. You can show your support by purchasing merchandise or making a donation at the Visitor Centre.

EVERY DOLLAR MAKES A DIFFERENCE