



Gunners Barracks



Biloela Lawn



Macquarie Lightstation Lawn

Wedding Ceremony FAQs

Location Hire

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions about wedding ceremony location hire on Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (Harbour Trust) land. We hope this helps with your decision-making and we look forward to seeing you soon.

What does the ceremony location hire fee include?

Your hire fee is for exclusive use of your chosen location, for the ceremony and for wedding photography permission for up to two-hours. *Exclusive means that we will only book one wedding in this two-hour block on the lawn you have selected. Set-up and pack-down time must be included within the two-hour timeframe.

The fees include the use of the lawn but doesn't prevent the general public from entering the space or nearby spaces. Lawn areas must remain accessible to the general public and because of this there maybe passers-by that may stop to watch your ceremony.

How many guests can I have? What are the associated fees?

The maximum guest capacity for each site is:

SITE	LOCATION	MAXIMUM CAPACITY	FEE (INCLUDING GST)
Cockatoo island	Biloela Lawn	100 guests	\$1,000
Headland Park	Georges Head Lookout	100 guests	\$1,000
Headland Park	Harbour View Lawn	130 guests	\$1,000
Headland Park	Sun Dial	160 guests	\$300
Macquarie Lightstation	Lightstation Lawn	150 guests	\$800
Woolwich Dock	Goat Paddock	80 guests	\$500
Woolwich Dock	Horse Paddock	200 guests	\$500
Woolwich Dock	Lockout	80 guests	\$400
North Head Sanctuary	Sanctuary Lawn	100 guests	\$800

We recommend a site visit prior to submitting your application to ensure you are comfortable that your preferred location will accommodate the size of your group.

What furnishings are permitted at the wedding ceremony location?

- One table and seating for up to 40 people permitted on all sites except Woolwich Dock Lookout and North Head Sanctuary Lawn which can accommodate seating for up to 20 people.
- Free-standing decorative items such as flower arrangements, or a carpet or runner
- One 3m x 3m pegged (up to 20cm depth) or weighted structure such as a bridal arch, chuppah, mandap, gazebo, marquee, or similar wedding cover, permitted on all sites except Woolwich Dock Lookout and North Head Sanctuary Lawn where a bridal arch is permitted.

- The Harbour Trust does not permit the attachment of decorations such as bunting, flags, balloons, or any other items to buildings, or any other fixed structures.
- The use of a stage or podium is prohibited.
- The set up and removal of all furniture, decorations and equipment must be carried out within the booked times.

Can we serve food?

No, the service of food is not permitted during wedding ceremonies. No external third-party provider may be engaged for the purpose of providing food to be served at the wedding ceremony venue.

Can we serve alcohol?

Harbour Trust does not disapprove of the consumption of alcohol as long as it is undertaken in a responsible manner and one (1) celebratory drink (e.g. glass of champagne provided and served by the applicant) is consumed per guest.

No external third-party provider may be engaged for the purpose of providing alcohol to be served at the wedding ceremony venue.

Is the use of confetti, rice or petals permitted?

Only the use of petals is permitted. Please ensure that you collect and remove all petals from the ceremony site, you must leave the site in the condition you found it. We do not permit "biodegradable" confetti.

Is power available at my preferred site?

Power is not available and generators are not permitted.

Can I have speakers, amplified sound or live music?

Yes, the marriage celebrant may use a portable PA system or pre-recorded music. Please note that the volume must be low and the speakers directed at guests to minimise noise impact.

You are welcome to accompany your ceremony with a small live ensemble of no more than four musicians without the use of amplification.

Are candles or open flame devices permitted?

The presence of any open flame is not permitted.

Is parking available for guests and the bridal party?

Free and/or paid parking is limited at each wedding ceremony site and the Harbour Trust is not able to reserve any parking for guests or the bridal party. There are various public transport options to each site and it is recommended you visit the site prior to booking to ensure it meets your requirements. Arranging alternative modes of transport to/from each site is also highly recommended.

Can I get married on the sandstone walkway or circular platform at the Georges Head lookout?

You can use the sandstone area as a walkway, but the ceremony must take place on the grass at the base of the steps in one of our designated licence areas. The circular platform is maintained as a public viewing point.

Can I cover the grills at Georges Head lookout?

No, the grills give visitors a glimpse of the historic tunnels and chambers below the headland.

What happens to my wedding ceremony if it rains?

There are no undercover areas at any of the ceremony locations. If you wish to cancel your booking due to wet weather you are able to change the date or receive a refund (minus a 25% administration fee) based on the cost of the venue hire.

Cancellations due to wet weather are accepted on the day up until 3 hours prior to the ceremony start time stated in your permit. You are required to contact the Harbour Trust Rangers directly using the contact details provided upon booking or emailing licensing@harbourtrust.gov.au.

How will my Hire Fee be used by the Harbour Trust?

All revenue generated by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust from venue hire will help to preserve and enhance the Harbour Trust's key heritage sites across Sydney Harbour.

How do I make a booking?

Follow these 3 steps to book your wedding ceremony location hire:

1. Download and fill out the Harbour Trust's wedding ceremony application form.
2. Submit the completed form together with your booking fee to:
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust
PO Box 607
Mosman NSW 2088
OR
Scan and email to: licensing@harbourtrust.gov.au
3. We will respond to your booking via the email address provided. Please note that your booking is NOT confirmed until you receive the hire agreement signed by a Sydney Harbour Federation Trust signatory.

You must be issued with a permit before you can begin your wedding ceremony.

Can I cancel my booking after it has been confirmed?

Cancellations are only accepted up to 14 days prior to the ceremony date and all refunds are subject to a 25% administration fee based on the cost of venue hire.

What happens if the number of people attending exceeds the site capacity?

It is the responsibility of the applicant to limit the number of guests to the capacity of each location. Harbour Trust Rangers will monitor guest numbers on the day.

How far in advance can I make a booking for my ceremony?

We accept bookings up to 12 months in advance.

Any other questions?

We're here to help, so don't hesitate to email us at: licensing@harbourtrust.gov.au to check availability or to find out more.