

Legend

- → → Suggested pathway trail — Lower Island
- → → Suggested pathway trail — Upper Island
- Structures that form part of the Australian Convict Sites, UNESCO World Heritage Listing
- ♿ Accessible toilets
- 🏠 Accommodation
- BBQ BBQ
- ☕ Café
- ⚓ Camber Wharf
- 🍳 Campground kitchen (for use by campground guests only)
- 🚤 Cockatoo Boat Storage
- 🚢 Cockatoo Island Wharf
- 👥 Conference and meeting venues
- 🚑 Defibrillator (AED)
- ⚠️ Emergency assembly point
- 🚢 Ferry tickets
- 🔥 Firepit
- 🏠 First aid
- 📺 Gallery and exhibition space
- 🔒 Lockers
- 🔌 Mobile device chargers
- 👶 Parent room
- 🌳 Public ferry
- 👮 Ranger/Security office
- 🪜 Stairs
- 🚻 Toilets
- 🚪 Tunnel entry/exit
- 📺 Vending machine
- 👤 Visitor centre
- 🔧 Volunteer workshops
- 🚰 Water fountain



First Nations
Cockatoo Island intersects the homelands of the Wallumedegal, Wangal, Cammeraygal and Gadigal peoples who know it as Wareamah. Sydney's First Nations peoples inhabited the area for thousands of years prior to European settlement; however, visible signs of their historical connection to Wareamah have been eroded by the island's transformation. Artworks on the upper island, including murals on the timber shed and searchlight tower, are reminders of a land claim pursued by a branch of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in 2000.

Convict Precinct
In 2010, Cockatoo Island's Convict Site was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List with 10 other convict sites nationwide. Remnant structures from the island's penal establishment (1839 to 1869) offer a window into a period when people were exiled to Australia and put to work on the colony's building projects. The Convict Precinct is part of Cockatoo Island's broader Convict Site.



Industrial Precinct
Cockatoo Island has a remarkable history as a shipbuilding and ship repair facility, contributing significantly to Australia's maritime affairs between 1857 and 1992. The buildings in the Industrial Precinct, notably the Turbine Shop, feature exposed steel beams, soaring ceilings, sandstone details and fascinating relics from this golden era.

Docks Precinct
Built between 1847 and 1857, Fitzroy Dock is the earliest graving dock commenced in Australia and the only surviving example, nationally, of a dry dock constructed by convicts. It is neighbored by Sutherland Dock, constructed during the 1880s to enable the island to accommodate larger vessels.

Ship Design Precinct
Located on the upper island, the Ship Design Precinct is a remnant of Cockatoo Island's maritime era. During a self-guided tour of the upper island, stop by some of the trade-specific buildings, including the Pattern Shop, Joiners' Shop and Estimating and Drawing Offices.

Historic Residence Precinct
Cockatoo Island's buildings reflect architectural styles from across three centuries, and Biloela House – built circa 1841 for the superintendent of the penal establishment – is the most prominent residential building. Explore the Biloela House gallery and exhibition space, book a stay in our charming heritage dwellings located nearby, and enjoy tranquil picnic spots with harbour views.

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. To ensure you enjoy your visit, please mind your step, wear appropriate footwear, stay alert for the presence of vehicles and construction activity, and keep a close watch on any children with you.

The lower island is generally suitable for wheelchairs and mobility scooters. Owing to the island's industrial heritage, however, there are uneven surfaces as well as some buildings not accessible by wheelchair. Further, accessing the plateau requires visitors to climb stairs and ascend rises.

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. To discuss accommodation accessibility, contact stay@cockatooisland.gov.au

Priority works, including repairs, 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.