

Sydney Harbour

NATIONAL PARK

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PARK

Sydney Harbour National Park protects a collection of islands and foreshore areas around one of the world's most famous harbours. You'll find sheltered beaches; tranquil picnic spots; rich Aboriginal, colonial and military heritage; aquatic reserves and harbour islands, all just a short trip from the Sydney CBD.



Tour Fort Denison and enjoy lunch with stunning views at the café and restaurant.



Follow the Manly Scenic Walkway through bushland to Dobroyd Head.



Explore military and maritime history on the South Head Heritage Trail.



Have a picnic and a swim at peaceful Nielsen Park.



Stay in affordable comfort at Green Point Cottage on the South Head foreshore.

COVER: North Head, Sydney Harbour National Park. Photo: H. Lund, courtesy of Tourism NSW.

Highlights
ACTIVITIES & THINGS TO DO
Information
FACILITIES & CONSERVATION
Maps
& HOW TO GET THERE

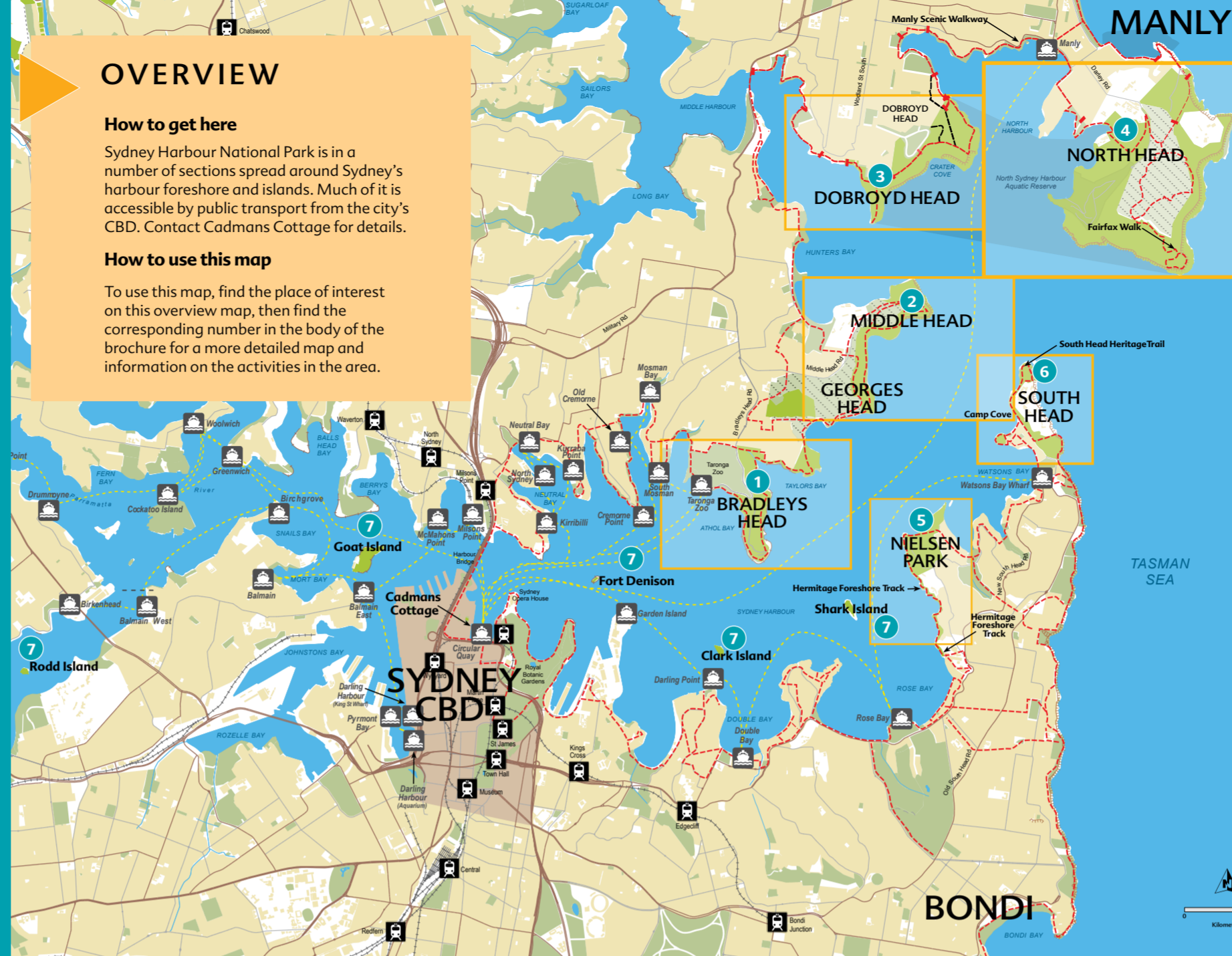
OVERVIEW

How to get here

Sydney Harbour National Park is in a number of sections spread around Sydney's harbour foreshore and islands. Much of it is accessible by public transport from the city's CBD. Contact Cadmans Cottage for details.

How to use this map

To use this map, find the place of interest on this overview map, then find the corresponding number in the body of the brochure for a more detailed map and information on the activities in the area.



- National Park
- Aquatic Reserve
- Other Reserves
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- Restaurant
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- Venue
- Wheelchair access

FIND OUT MORE
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW

Contact Details

Sydney Harbour National Park Information Centre
Cadmans Cottage
110 George Street,
The Rocks, Sydney
P: 02 9247 5033
E: cadmanscottage@environment.nsw.gov.au
Open 9:30 – 4:30 Mon-Fri,
10:00 – 4:30 Sat, Sun & public holidays

Environment Line
P: 1300 361 967 or 02 9995 5550
E: info@environment.nsw.gov.au
W: www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Further information:
www.visitnsw.com
www.sydney.com
www.therocks.com.au
www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au
www.tribalwarrior.org
Transport Info
131 500 or www.131500.info

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About us
National parks and reserves protect around 8% of NSW, covering a wide diversity of landscapes and habitats. Get the free Guide to NSW National Parks from NPWS visitor centres to find out what to see and do in over 200 parks around the state, or visit the website for details on accommodation, camping, walks, guided tours and more.

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www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

GREAT THINGS TO DO IN THE PARK

- Go for a walk**
The park is made up of small pockets of bushland, many linked by tracks weaving their way around rock platforms, exposed headlands and harbour-side mansions. Try the Hermitage Foreshore Track from Nielsen Park, the Fairfax Walk on North Head or the track from Bradleys Head to Chowder Bay.
- Visit a fort**
Explore historic cliff-top forts at North Head, South Head or Bradleys Head. Enjoy a tour of Fort Denison. Call 02 9247 5033.
- Have a picnic**
There are great places to lay out a spread with a view of bushland and blue water dotted all around the harbour.
- Dine out in style**
Have a light lunch or a gourmet dinner in a historic setting at Q Station's Boilerhouse Restaurant (02 9466 1500), Nielsen Park Café (02 9337 7333), Fort Denison Restaurant (02 9358 1999) or Athol Hall Café (02 9968 4441).
- Experience Aboriginal culture**
Take a cultural tour of Clark Island with the crew of the Tribal Warrior. Call 02 9699 3491.
- Join in a harbour celebration**
Join thousands of Sydneysiders to celebrate New Year's Eve, the Boxing Day Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, or to welcome cruise ships into the harbour.

DISCOVERY WALKS, TALKS AND TOURS
Join a guided NSW National Parks Discovery tour for a fascinating insight into the nature, culture and history of the park — tours run regularly throughout the park. You can also make a group booking or arrange special curriculum-based school activities. Contact Cadmans Cottage on 02 9247 5033.

BELOW: Arabanoo Lookout. Photo: D. Smith/DECCW.



GREAT PLACES TO STAY IN THE PARK

- Steele Point Cottage 5**
Built in 1880 on the edge of a sandstone cliff in Nielsen Park, historic Steele Point Cottage has been beautifully restored, and with just one bedroom, it is the ideal couple's hideaway (1 bedroom, up to 2 people). Contact Gap Bluff Centre on 02 9337 2333.
- Constables Cottage 6**
This self-contained historic cottage at the eastern end of Camp Cove beach is only metres from the water (3 bedrooms, up to 8 people). Contact Gap Bluff Centre on 02 9337 2333.
- Green Point Cottage 6**
Only 30 metres from Camp Cove beach, Green Point Cottage also offers spectacular views across Sydney Harbour to the city skyline (2 bedrooms, up to 6 people). Contact Gap Bluff Centre on 02 9337 2333.
- Q Station 4**
Choose from rooms or cottages with views of the harbour, the park or the historic Quarantine Station. Contact Q Station on 02 9466 1500.

VENUE HIRE

Harbour views, historic sites, even entire islands — Sydney Harbour National Park has a range of venues for hire. Many locations are popular for weddings, call us on 02 9247 5033.

For a full listing, visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/venuehire

BELOW: Nielsen Park. Photo: D. Smith/DECCW.



1 Bradleys Head



Things to see and do

- Bradleys Head offers easy access to grassy picnic spots and some of Sydney's best views.
- Have lunch at the Athol Hall Café, or hire it for your special event. Call 02 9968 4441.
- Walk from Athol Bay around Bradleys Head to Chowder Head, with views of the Harbour Bridge, Opera House and city skyline (5 km one-way, easy).
- Consider Bradleys Head Amphitheatre as a venue for your wedding.

- Explore Sydney's military history around the headland's historic forts and cannons.
- Lay out a picnic for classic Sydney Harbour events like the New Year's Eve fireworks, Boxing Day yacht races and Australia Day celebrations.

Access
Take the 238 bus from Circular Quay to the park entrance, or a ferry to Taronga Zoo Wharf and walk around the foreshore to the park. There's also pay parking on Bradleys Head Rd.



Athol Hall Café and Function Centre
Call 02 9968 4441 or visit www.atholhall.com.au.

2 Middle and Georges Heads

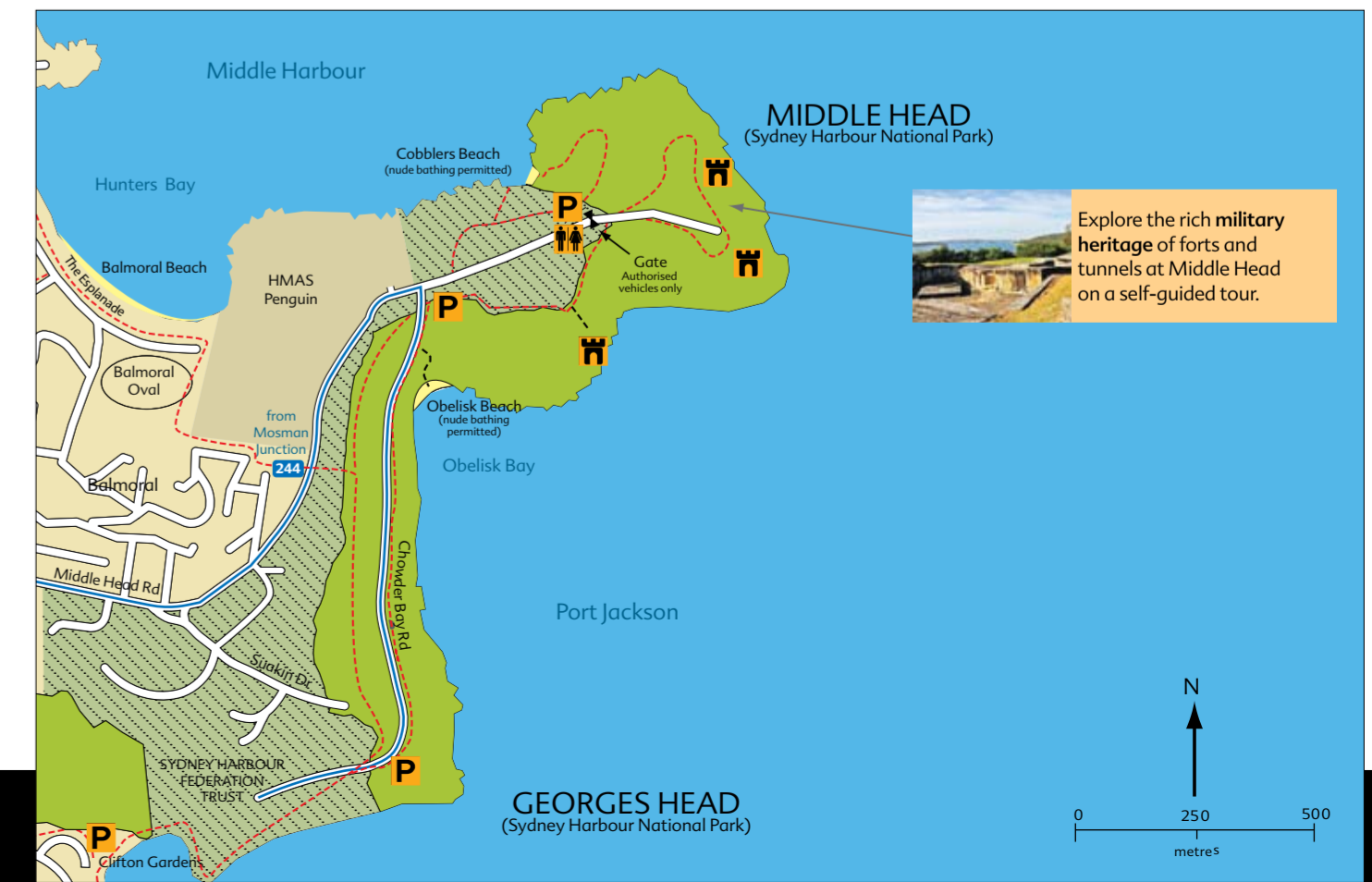


Things to see and do

- Both Middle Head and Georges Head feature the historic gun emplacements, powder magazines and tunnels built in the 19th century to protect Sydney Harbour from invasion by sea. There are also great views out over the eastern suburbs and the Sydney Heads.
- Take a self-guided heritage tour of the military sites. You can pick up a map from Middle Head.
- Go for a quiet swim at the clothing-optional Obelisk or Cobblers Beaches.

- Explore tunnels, sandstone gun pits and thrilling 'tiger cages' while enjoying amazing views of Sydney on a guided Discovery tour. Call 02 9247 5033.

Access
Take the 244 bus from Wynyard to Chowder Bay or park at the intersection of Chowder Bay Rd and Middle Head Rd.



Explore the rich military heritage of forts and tunnels at Middle Head on a self-guided tour.

3 Dobroyd Head



Things to see and do

Dobroyd Head provides commanding views of Manly, North Head and the Quarantine Station, as well as sheltered beaches accessible on foot.

- ▶ Walk the Manly Scenic Walkway, passing through Dobroyd Head on the route from Spit Bridge to Manly Wharf (8 km one-way, medium difficulty).
- ▶ Explore Sydney's heritage at Grotto Point's lighthouse and Aboriginal engravings.
- ▶ Swim at the sheltered Reef Beach.

- ▶ Look out over the North Harbour to Manly and North Head from Arabanoo Lookout.
- ▶ Snorkel among the sea-life of North Harbour Aquatic Reserve.

Access

Take the 132 bus from Manly Wharf to Cutler Rd in Balgowlah Heights or there's parking at Tania Park.



4 North Head



Things to see and do

The cliff-top heaths of North Head offer amazing vantage points for gazing out to sea or along the cliff-line of South Head. You can also visit Q Station, Sydney's original Quarantine Station. Call 02 9466 1500.

- ▶ Stay or dine at Q Station, where you can take a historic or ghost tour.
- ▶ Swim at the secluded Collins Flat and Store Beaches.
- ▶ Explore the heathland wildflowers in spring.
- ▶ Take in the view across South Head to the city skyline at the scenic and accessible Fairfax Lookout.

- ▶ Watch for whales, or enjoy the Boxing Day Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.
- ▶ Visit Sydney Harbour Federation Trust's Gatehouse Visitor Centre at North Head Sanctuary (also provides North Head's only public toilets).

Access

Catch a ferry to Manly and take the 135 bus to North Fort. You can park at the top of the hill for Q Station or at Fairfax Lookout (fee applies). There's limited parking at Collins Flat and Store Beach accessible only by boat.



VALUES OF THE PARK

Cultural values

Sydney Harbour National Park's rich Aboriginal heritage isn't so easy to spot, but a number of sites reflect the vibrant, diverse and enduring strength of Aboriginal culture. Sites in the park include rock engravings, shell middens, axe grinding grooves and rock art. The traditional owners include the Cadigal people in Sydney Cove and the Cameragal people north of the harbour.

The park also protects early colonial buildings, including the work of convict labourers. The fortifications at North Head, Bradleys Head, Middle Head and South Head were built to counter the threat of invasion from foreign fleets, while the original Quarantine Station protected the colony from infectious disease.

Natural values

The park includes important remnants of the vegetation that once covered much of the coast around Sydney. The largest remaining stand of the rare Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub community is at North Head. The park protects a number of other rare plants, such as Camfields eucalypt, sunshine wattle and Nielsen Park sheoak.

Increasing urbanisation has led to the disappearance of many native animals, although brushtail and ringtail possums, echidna, bats, flying foxes and a variety of reptiles survive in places. North Head is home to a population of long-nosed bandicoots and little penguins inhabit areas around North Harbour, where access restrictions are in place to protect the endangered population.

BELOW: North Head, Sydney Harbour National Park. Photo: D.Smith/DECCW.



VISITING THE PARK

Vehicle entry fees apply at Chowder Bay Rd, Bradleys Head and North Head. A landing fee applies for the harbour islands.

Opening hours vary from place to place, check www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au for details.

Staying safe

It's great to escape city life and go bushwalking, picnicking or cycling in national parks. However, these are natural environments so you need to take some precautions. Areas can be rugged, weather can change quickly and the sea may be unpredictable. Remember to plan ahead, be aware of the risks and take responsibility for your own safety and the safety of any children in your care.

When visiting Sydney Harbour National Park, please supervise children closely, keep to tracks and stay behind safety fences, be on the lookout for falling rocks, uneven or slippery surfaces and cliff edges, and avoid feeding or touching the wildlife.

For more safety tips, visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksafety

Tread softly

National parks are special areas and it's up to all of us to treat them with care. Here are some tips to help minimise your impact:

- ▶ Stay on the track — walking on track edges and cutting corners increases erosion and visual scarring.
- ▶ Use rubbish bins or take your litter with you when you leave.
- ▶ Leave your dog at home — dogs are not permitted in national parks (assistance animals excepted).
- ▶ Cycle on fire trails and roads only, not on walking tracks.

Volunteer in the park

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service has a proud tradition of working with volunteers on a wide range of projects, such as bush regeneration, flora and fauna surveys, threatened species management, culture and heritage conservation, working in information centres and conducting guided tours. To find volunteering opportunities in Sydney Harbour National Park visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/volunteers

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

5 Nielsen Park



Things to see and do

Nielsen Park's shady grounds and scenic harbour beach make it a Sydney favourite.

- ▶ Swim at the sheltered beach (netted in summer) after strolling through the tunnel from the historic changing pavilion.
- ▶ Stop for lunch, a coffee or organise your special event at the Nielsen Park Café. Call 02 9337 7333.
- ▶ Take a picnic and spread out in the shade of the fig trees.
- ▶ Stroll the gardens of the gothic-style Greycliffe House, built in the mid 1800s.

- ▶ Walk the Hermitage Foreshore Track, part of the Sydney Harbour Walk, through a strip of protected bushland on the harbour's edge (1.5 km one-way, easy).
- ▶ Stay at the beautifully restored 19th century Steele Point Cottage. See www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au for details or call Gap Bluff on 02 9337 2333.

Access

Take the 325 bus from Circular Quay or Edgecliff station to the park entrance in Vaucluse Rd. There's limited parking in Greycliffe Ave.

BELOW: View from the harbour walk at Bradleys Head. Photo: DECCW.



WALKING SYDNEY HARBOUR

The Walking Volunteers group, along with local, state and federal government agencies, have identified a walking route that circles Sydney Harbour from North Head to South Head. The walk passes through Sydney Harbour National Park and includes the Manly Scenic Walkway (Manly to Spit Bridge), the Hermitage Foreshore Track at Vaucluse and the South Head Heritage Trail. The whole set of Walking Coastal Sydney maps can be found at www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au.



Have coffee or a meal at the Nielsen Park Café. For bookings call 02 9337 7333 or visit www.nielsenpark.com.au.

6 South Head



Things to see and do

South Head is renowned for the sandstone cliffs of The Gap and its significant role in Sydney's military history.

- ▶ Stay at Constables or Green Point Cottage, at each end of the beach at Camp Cove. See www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au for details or call Gap Bluff on 02 9337 2333.
- ▶ Look for whales from the walkway following the cliffs of South Head.
- ▶ Visit the historic site of Arthur Phillip's first landing place at Green Point.

- ▶ Hold a function at one of the historic buildings at Gap Bluff.
- ▶ See the harbour from a variety of lookouts on the South Head Heritage Trail, starting from Camp Cove (2.8 km return, medium difficulty).
- ▶ Swim at Camp Cove or clothing-optional Lady Bay.

Access

Take the 324 or 325 bus from Circular Quay or the 380 bus from Bondi Junction. You can catch a ferry to Watsons Bay, where there's also limited parking.



Stay in affordable style at one of our harbourside cottages. For information and bookings call 02 9337 2333.

Book the Gap Bluff Centre for your function or conference. Call 02 9337 2333.

7 Harbour Islands



Things to see and do

The park protects five very different islands, each offering a unique perspective on Sydney Harbour.

- ▶ Take a picnic to Shark, Clark or Rodd Island.
- ▶ Experience Aboriginal culture on a Tribal Warrior cruise to Clark Island. Contact Cadmans Cottage on 02 9247 5033 or the Tribal Warrior Association on 02 9699 3491.
- ▶ Hire Rodd Island for a family event, complete with 1920s picnic shelters and hall.
- ▶ Explore Goat Island or Fort Denison on a guided Discovery tour.

- ▶ After touring Fort Denison, settle in for lunch at the Café and Restaurant. Call 02 9358 1999 for reservations.

Access

Bookings are essential and landing fees apply to all islands. For information on visiting, hiring or tours on the islands contact Cadmans Cottage on 02 9247 5033.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
1. Clark Island.
2. Fort Denison.
3. Re-enactment on Goat Island.
4. Shark Island.
Photos: K. McGrath/DECCW.



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