

# Glamping (as in glamorous camping) in the middle of Sydney Harbour | Skyscanner Australia

Sydney Harbour's famous icons like the Harbour Bridge and Opera House need no introduction. But did you know that you can stay overnight in the middle Sydney Harbour? [Skyscanner Australia](#) checks into a waterfront Glamping tent on Cockatoo Island.

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## Getting to Cockatoo Island

Catching a Harbour City ferry is the easiest way to get to UNESCO World Heritage listed [Cockatoo Island](#) from downtown Sydney. Ferries depart daily from Circular Quay and Darling Harbour as well as stops along the Parramatta River ferry route. Take advantage of the leisurely Sydney Harbour Ferry trip to take in Sydney's beautiful harbour with its myriad of bays and coves dotted with yachts, waterfront mansions and iconic architecture.



## Where to stay on Cockatoo Island

Check into a waterfront Glamping (as in glamorous camping) tent on Cockatoo Island to take full advantage of the island's position in the middle of Sydney Harbour. Sturdy canvas tents are equipped with two traditional camp beds with crisp linen, quilts and bath towels along with Apelles Apothecary toiletries, lantern and an ice box that doubles as a bedside table. Tents are fully screened (and waterproof if it rains!). Kick back in a comfy camp chair and watch the yachts sail past metres from your shaded timber deck.



There's also two-bed Glamping for groups of four or Mini Glamping if you're on a budget. Glampers have access to showers and toilets nearby along with a large undercover kitchen with free BBQ's, fridge, hot water, microwave and toasters. Take your own food or pre-order meal packs for pick up on arrival.

But don't despair if you're not the Glamping kind, there's other options like heritage buildings restored into classic Federation era holiday homes along with modern stylish apartments with extraordinary Harbour Bridge views.

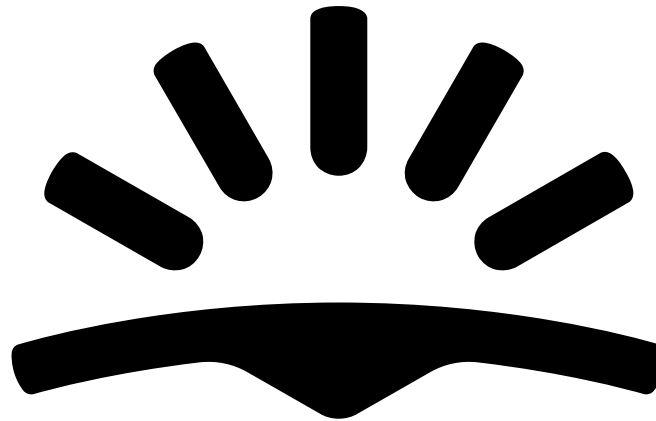


## **What to do on Cockatoo Island**

Cockatoo Island is like a mini snapshot of Sydney's intriguing history condensed

into a small pocket of sandstone rising from the harbour. From its convict-era penal colony origins through to recent use as a location for reality TV shows, stories from Cockatoo Island are many and varied.

The best way to get a handle on the island's evolution is take a self-guided audio tour starting at the ferry wharf. Prior to European settlement, when it became a prison in 1839, the island was populated by craggy bush, red gum eucalypts and squawking sulphur-crested white cockatoos. The first convicts did it tough, quarrying sandstone out of the island to build their own gaol. Then, prisoners laboured to build dockyards to service Royal Navy vessels before the island throbbed to the beat of commuting dockyard workers constructing warships. After prisoners were transferred to Darlinghurst Gaol the former prison island was renamed Biloela and housed girls as young as five who were transferred from a Newcastle reform school.



By the time WWII threatened Australia, Cockatoo Island docks had become the South Pacific marine base for the Allies.

Wander through convict-era buildings while listening to stories of those who were incarcerated, of escapees and escapades, workers and their woes. Dockyards and slipways, design lofts, factories and shipwright sheds, tunnels and quarry all remain. Cockatoo Island was opened to the public for the first time after the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust took over the island in 2001.

For Glampers who don't want to self-cater there's two cafes, Societe Overboard and Marina Café and Bar (check opening times before arrival). Both have splendid waterfront al fresco areas offering dreamy harbour views.

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**Ready to check into Cockatoo Island for one of Australia's best Glamping overnights? [Skyscanner Australia](#) finds and compares the [best airfare deals], [hotel deals](#) and [car hire](#) (<http://www.skyscanner.com.au>) and we don't charge a cent for our service!**

### **About the author**

Fiona Harper is one of Australia's most respected travel writers. Follow her at [Travel Boating Lifestyle](#) as she travels the globe road testing holidays.

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