

Foot loose



The Rocks Walking Tours
23 Playfair Street ☎ 9247 6678

The Rocks Pub Tour
☎ 1800 067 676

The Rocks Ghost Tours
35 Argyle Street ☎ 1300 731 971

BridgeClimb
5 Cumberland Street ☎ 9240 1100

Susannah Place Museum
58-64 Gloucester Street ☎ 9241 1893

Sydney Visitor Centre
Corner of Argyle and Playfair Streets
☎ 1800 067 676

The Rocks Discovery Museum
Kendall Lane ☎ 1800 067 676

One of the best ways of experiencing The Rocks is on your own two feet.

The Rocks precinct is small enough to walk around in a day – although there are plenty of things to see and do; places to eat and drink and shops to visit that will likely have you lingering.

You can walk in the footsteps of convicts, shop for luxury goods or take a tour of some of Australia's oldest watering holes.

One way to get an authentic taste of the precinct is on one of the daily tours operated by The Rocks Walking Tours.

The Rocks Walking Tours Director Dee Ladd-Hudson says the tours bring back to life the early convict settlement. The tours visit some of Sydney's earliest buildings, homes of the 'well-to-do' and the quaint cottages of the working class.

"Our tours are conducted by friendly and enthusiastic guides who, by relating the many tales of our colourful past, capture and hold the visitor's imagination," Ms Ladd-Hudson says.

"People love the stories and love being able to interact with the guide. We find that people come back and bring their visitors here.

"The many historic streets, narrow alleyways, cobbled lanes, sandstone steps and beautiful churches combine to weave a rich tapestry of life."

The company, which has been operating in The Rocks for 28 years, runs three 90-minute guided tours on weekdays (10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm) and two on weekends and public holidays (11.30am and 2pm).

The Rocks Walking Tours also caters for large and small groups – including a twilight VIP tour for smaller parties – and offers themed tours including Art and Craft Galleries and Shopping and Visits to Historic Houses of Early Sydney.

There's also a range of tours for educational groups from kindergarten to adult and tertiary students.

One of the best ways to wander around The Rocks on a warm autumn evening is to do it via some of Australia's oldest pubs on The Rocks Pub Tour which is operated by Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority.

You'll find out where diggers drank their last beer before boarding ships to Gallipoli, learn about the protest movements that saved some of these pubs from demolition, and get to know some of the famous, and infamous, characters who used to call these pubs their local.

"With some of the oldest pubs in Sydney and a story waiting to be told around every corner, The Rocks Pub Tour is a perfect way to share the culture of The Rocks," says

Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority Executive Director, Commercial Partnerships and Visitor Services, Sandra Chipchase.

"It's a guided tour through Sydney's historic precinct that shares in the rich folklore of its pubs. These are the places where people have gathered in victory and defeat throughout the history of this city."

The pubs participating in the tour are The Australian Heritage Hotel, Fortune of War, Glenmore Hotel, The Mercantile Hotel, Observer Hotel and The Orient Hotel.

The 1-hour, 45-minute twilight tours start from Cadman's Cottage at The Rocks at 5pm on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Participants must be 18 or older. Tickets (\$34.50) include three drinks (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) and a discount meal-offer at a participating pub.

If you're interested in learning more about the history of The Rocks, Susannah Place Museum operates an archaeology-focused guided walking tour of the precinct. The tour looks at the history of archaeological sites in The Rocks while learning about the people who once lived there and what was uncovered while excavating the sites. The tour includes a visit to the foundations of the 1820s cottage known as Parbury Ruins – discovered during construction work for a new residential development and now preserved in its original location where it can be viewed. The two-hour tour departs from Susannah Place Museum in The Rocks on Sunday 22 April at 10am.

One of the most unique ways to walk around The Rocks is on a tour by the operators of The Rocks Ghost Tours. The company has been running its popular tours for almost 15 years telling ghostly stories of murders, suicides and hangings in colonial times. The company also offers a number of other walking tours including the Chandalu Ghostly Journey – a 90-minute tour for 7-11 year olds – as well as comedy and Hens' night tours and tours for corporate groups.



The Rocks Walking Tours are suitable for all ages.

Of course, another option you have when it comes to walking around The Rocks is to simply grab a map from The Rocks Sydney Visitor Centre and be on your way.

Stroll past the many retail outlets and jewellery and clothing boutiques along George Street; visit the restaurants at Campbells Cove or stop for a coffee and a snack along the cobble-stoned Nurses Walk or Playfair Street; visit The Rocks Discovery Museum on historic Kendall Lane or make your way under the Argyle Cut to the historic Garrison Church.

You'll find it easy to track down a host of the precinct's historic jewels and modern wonders from the Sydney Harbour Bridge – where you can book a walk over the Bridge with BridgeClimb – to Cadman's Cottage where you can book yourself on a range of harbour tours including trips to Shark Island, Fort Denison, Goat Island, Clark Island, Rodd Island and the haunted Quarantine Station.



Rock bottom: discover Parbury Ruins on a unique archaeological walking tour.



Visit Sydney's oldest hotels on The Rocks Pub Tour.