

WALKING TRAIL



A DAY IN NEWCASTLE

Explore the best of Newcastle in a day with this self-guided walking tour.



NEWCASTLE
SEEK OFF BEAT



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The City of Newcastle Acknowledges its Local Government Area (LGA) sits within the Country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We Acknowledge that Country for Aboriginal peoples is an interconnected set of ancient relationships.

The City of Newcastle Acknowledges the custodianship of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples and the care and stewardship they have performed in this place since time immemorial.



Newcastle Visitor Information Centre

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Drop by the Newcastle Visitor Information Centre to experience the best the city has to offer. The welcoming staff share all their insider tips for exploring the city and uncovering its hidden gems.

It also has an extensive range of Newcastle souvenirs and gifts, alongside maps, brochures, and guides for local attractions, cruises, and tours.

Across the road from the Visitor Information Centre the Newcastle Light Rail passes through Civic Station every 7.5 minutes on weekdays and every 15 minutes on weekends. 'Tap on' using a credit card (e.g., Visa, Mastercard, or American Express) or Opal card, or buy a single trip ticket from the ticket machine on the Civic Station platform.

To begin your journey, head east on the light rail towards Newcastle Beach, the last stop, which takes 7 minutes from Civic Station. Once onboard the light rail you'll travel along Hunter Street. On the left, you will see glimpses of Newcastle Harbour and the foreshore precinct, which you will explore later. On the right, you will pass Newcastle CBD.



MURALS, STREET ART, AND PUBLIC SCULPTURES

Newcastle is known for its dynamic street and public art, and murals, many of which are thanks to Big Picture Festival. The icons on the map over the page will show you where you can find some city highlights, but you are sure to come across many more colourful surprises while on your Newcastle adventure.

'Constance' the camel, designed and sculptured by Susan Bleach and Andrew Townsend, represents Newcastle's migrant history. It is built up of trade tools and mementoes, as well as cultural, historical, and everyday items. In the small lane near Newcastle Museum is the quirky, iconic works of artist Trevor Dickinson. Trevor is renowned for bold, colourful, and humorous works, perfect for posing in front of for that ultimate happy snap.

Just past the Visitor Information Centre – look up! The towering Fintan Magee portrait titled 'Shadow' is a beautiful, yet provocative piece exploring the role of de-industrialisation, isolation and renewal.

On Hunter Street, near Newcastle University's City Campus, you'll discover the mural 'Mirror Ocean' by Newcastle artist, Bronte Naylor, sprawling along the Civic Theatre façade. The alley between the University buildings (NUspace and University House) takes you to Inari Meyer's striking portrait of a flower-holding, tattooed beauty.

Newcastle Visitor Information Centre

430 Hunter Street, Newcastle NSW 2300

Open 7 days

Phone (02) 4974 2109

Email visitorinformation@ncc.nsw.gov.au

 visitnewcastle.com.au

 facebook.com/visitnewcastle

 [@visitnewcastleaus](https://instagram.com/visitnewcastleaus)



City of
Newcastle

1 NEWCASTLE BEACH AND SURROUNDS

At Newcastle Beach, there are a few options available, such as taking a dip in the ocean or enjoying a barista-made coffee. Newcastle Beach is a short stroll from Newcastle Beach light rail stop.

To get there, walk across Pacific Park and through the Newcastle Beach pedestrian tunnel. The tunnel currently features an abstract surrealist mural by Newcastle artist, Nickolas Stuart AKA Olas One. Newcastle Beach is a favourite amongst swimmers and surfers and has lifeguards on patrol during the summer season.

Skaters are also in for a treat. Just along the beach you'll find South Newcastle Beach Skate Park, which features the Hunter's first wheelchair-accessible (WCMX) skate bowl and epic street skate section.

If you love the ocean but would prefer a pool experience, along the coast to your left is the recently renovated Newcastle Ocean Baths, which is free to enter and use. Public shower and toilet facilities are available at both the beach and the nearby baths.

Newcastle is renowned for its strong café culture and there are many excellent cafes near Newcastle Beach and surrounds. Kick-start your day with a delicious morning tea featuring fresh, local ingredients:

Estabar

Seriously good coffee, house-made seasonal gelato, and a menu featuring local produce.

The Kiosk

Cold pressed juice, house-made kombucha, ethical coffee, shakes, and more.

East End Ice Creamery

Flavour-packed unique ice creams, plus sorbet and dairy-free options.

Southy Canteen

Signature Acai cups, fruit smoothies, and homemade sausage rolls are just the beginning.

Newcastle Ocean Baths and Beach



2 FORT SCRATCHLEY

Australia's only fort to return enemy fire overlooks both Nobby's and Newcastle Beaches. Entry is free and is open daily from 10am to 4pm, except Tuesdays. Tunnel tours run at various times throughout the day and cost a small fee. The cannon is fired daily at 1pm.

To access Fort Scratchley from the Newcastle Ocean Baths, walk across Shortland Esplanade, up through Tramway Reserve, and then turn right to walk along Parnell Place Park. Follow the road and Fort Scratchley's entrance is ahead.

Fort Scratchley Historic Site



3 NOBBY'S LIGHTHOUSE

To reach Nobby's Lighthouse from Newcastle Ocean Baths simply follow the path extending away from Newcastle Beach, which wraps around the coastline. You will pass the Cowrie Hole, a favourite of surfers and bodyboarders, and Nobby's Beach and the Lighthouse will soon reveal themselves around a gentle bend.

Established in 1854, the old Signal Master's cottages are now home to artist exhibitions and residencies with a small gift shop featuring artist wares and works. The Lighthouse and cottages are open to the public on weekends, 8am to 4pm.



5 THE STATION

The Station is the site of Newcastle's former main train station and has been transformed into a community piazza and boutique marketplace. The Station is a short walk from either Nobby's Headland or Fort Scratchley and takes you towards your lunch destination.

Enjoy a quick shop before lunch at one of the bespoke stores on-site:

Betty Loves Books

Betty Loves Books is a community-minded independent bookshop, stocked with many eclectic holiday reads.

Make Space Gallery & Workshop

Make Space is a collective of local artisan's creations, including jewellery and homewares.

Flash E-Bikes

E-Bikes can be rented by the hour/day/week – and The Station's piazza is the perfect place to test-ride and get comfortable before hitting the road!



7 NEWCASTLE MUSEUM



Newcastle Museum is open Tuesdays to Sundays (open 7 days in NSW school holidays) from 10am to 5pm. General entry is free, and fees apply for special events and exhibitions.

One of the permanent free exhibitions is 'A Newcastle Story' which will have you discovering the true character of this city in all its beauty, grit, colour and life. 'Fire and Earth' explores the danger and hard work of coal mining and BHP steel production in Newcastle's earlier years, when the city earned its nickname of 'Steel City'.



8 DARBY STREET

Whether coming from the Newcastle Museum or you just finished soaking up Newcastle's art scene, you're bound to need a sit-down and a refreshing drink. Nearby Darby Street has something for everyone, including plenty of comfy seating to take a break after your busy day. Plus, it features a collection of boutique gift and clothing shops to satisfy any retail needs.

Darby Street is a village-style café and restaurant strip – freshly roasted brews are poured all day long and the teas, treats, and juices are worthy of writing home about. Some of our favourite coffee spots include **Autumn Rooms**, **House of Roast**, **Three Monkeys Café** (all open early until 3pm), **Goldbergs Coffee House** (open 7 days – until late Thur-Mon), and **LOLAS Darby St** (open 7 days – until late Wed-Sat).

Boutique shops are dotted all along Darby Street in between the many cafés and restaurants, including **Ramjet**, **Palinopsis Ceramics**, **Abicus**, **Blackbird Corner** and **Steel & Anchor**.



4 MACQUARIE PIER THE BREAKWALL

Known to locals as simply 'The Breakwall', along this wide and easily accessible path there are illustrated information panels outlining some of the pier's history. There are also seated viewing areas to allow visitors to relax and watch the working harbour in action.

Macquarie Pier is a 3km round trip, and the end of the pier offers expansive water views and a chance to spot whales during migration season.

Macquarie Pier "The Breakwall"



6 HONEYSUCKLE

Dining in Honeysuckle



It's time to treat those tastebuds to some lunchtime refreshments – and to do that you're heading along the Newcastle Foreshore to the Honeysuckle dining precinct, by foot or on the light rail.

For the light rail, head west for 2 minutes along Scott Street to the Queens Wharf light rail stop. It takes 5 minutes to reach the Civic Station stop, where you cross Hunter Street and continue towards the harbour. If you are choosing to walk from The Station, walk towards the water. Walk west along the harbour, away from Nobbys. There are places to stop and relax along the way, and you will reach Honeysuckle in approximately 20 mins.

Honeysuckle Dining Precinct offers a range of dining options, casual to refined, all in close proximity. Simply choose your culinary adventure, relax and refuel, ready for more exploring in the afternoon.

For refined seafood, we suggest **The Kingfish**. Authentic Italian lovers are sure to savour the rich tastes on the **Casa Nova Italian** menu. If the thought of Japanese cuisine makes your mouth water, then **Nagisa** and **Apé Yakitori Bar** are two excellent options known for impeccable flavours and impressive wine matches.

Inspired Mediterranean share plates and incredible cocktails can be found at **Blanca**, or for stacked burgers and fresh pizzas head to **MoneyPenny** or **Harbour Bar**.

For visitors wanting classic Australian pub food, we recommend trying either **The Dockyard** or **Honeysuckle Hotel**.



9 NEWCASTLE ART GALLERY

Following Newcastle Art Gallery's major expansion, the building is now more than double in size, becoming the largest public gallery in NSW outside of Sydney. The expansion is more than architectural – over 7000 works are in the ever-growing collection, which is regarded as one of the nation's finest public art collections, currently valued at \$145 million.

Ahead of the full gallery opening in February 2026, visitors can explore four new gallery spaces and their stunning central atrium each Friday to Sunday, 10am – 4pm, with programs such as free guided tours and drop-in weekend art sessions in the Learning Studio.

Significant works by First Nations artists from the Gallery's collection are on display, alongside five new site-specific installations by locally based and nationally renowned artists Megan Cope, Maggie Hensel-Brown, Renae Lamb, Adam Manning, and Shellie Smith with Julie Squires.

Installation view *Iconic Loved Unexpected 2025*, Newcastle Art Gallery, Australia.
Photo: Lachlan Matheson.



10 CIVIC PARK



Upon leaving the Newcastle Art Gallery, simply walk down the central steps into Civic Park. As you pass the dynamic and historic sculptural fountain created by artist Margel Hinger in 1966 you will head towards the War Memorial, where you can take in the colour and fragrance of the seasonally planted formal gardens, before reaching the picturesque City Newcastle Hall.