

WALKING TRAIL



Heavy
3hrs / 3.2km

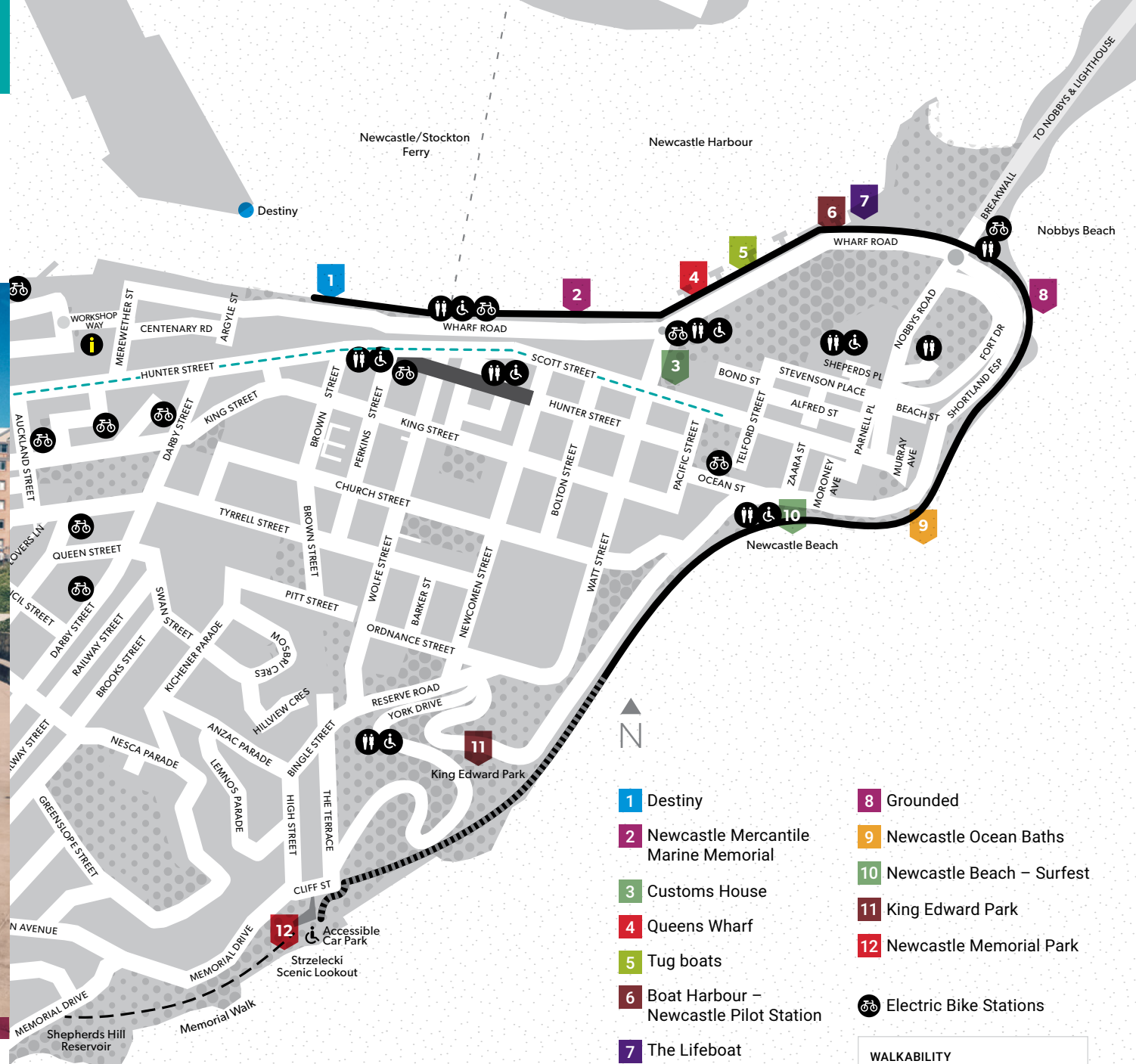
THE SHORELINE

EXPLORE NEWCASTLE'S MARITIME AND SURF CULTURE THROUGH A SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF THE CITY.



Newcastle Beach and City Centre

NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA



< Continue to Bathers Way
< Great North Walk

THE SHORELINE

With its spectacular harbour and coastline, the Pacific Ocean has always played an important role in Novocastrian life.

This tour will allow you to explore the city through its relationship with the shoreline, visiting places that once formed a crucial part of Newcastle's working harbour and maritime culture.

You'll also discover iconic locations that Novocastrians have been visiting for generations to swim, relax and play.

This walking tour begins on the Newcastle Foreshore, at the viewing spot for the sculpture that commemorates Newcastle's role as a commercial port. It concludes at the Newcastle Memorial Walk, a spectacular walkway and bridge that offers 360-degree views of the city and its coastline.

For more self guided walking tours, visit www.visitnewcastle.com.au or visit the Newcastle Visitor Information Centre located at Museum Park, Honeysuckle.

Newcastle Ocean Baths
Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East
During Daylight Savings 6am – 9pm
Rest of the year 6am – 6pm
newcastle.nsw.gov.au/recreation



1 DESTINY

Separated from the Newcastle Foreshore promenade by a semi-circle of bollards, this sunken lookout provides the perfect spot to gaze out across harbour and appreciate the artistry and history behind Julie Squires' iconic sculpture, Destiny.

Commissioned in 1999 to commemorate 200 years of commercial shipping operations in the port of Newcastle, the 9m-high bronze sculpture is located on the former State Dockyard site at Dyke Point, Carrington.

Destiny was inspired by the figures found on historic ship bows, believed to provide protection and guidance. This sculpture depicts a woman standing on top of a globe, with the strands of her flowing hair representing the seven seas.



2 NEWCASTLE MERCANTILE MARINE MEMORIAL

There's plenty to see as you continue along the edge of one Australia's busiest working harbours, from tugboats towing coal ships and cruise liners, to ferries chugging back and forth across the Hunter River.

Around 600m east from your starting point, on the city-side grassed area, a striking anchor and ship's mast monument stands in memory of merchant mariners lost during times of war, including the predominantly local crews of the BHP-owned ships, the S.S. Iron Chieftain and the S.S. Iron Knight.

Japanese submarines sank 18 vessels and attacked another 15 along Australia's east coast during 1942-1943, killing 277 merchant mariners and 223 medical personnel.

DID YOU KNOW? The Iron Knight was torpedoed by Japanese Submarine I-21, the same sub that shelled Newcastle in June 1942.



3 CUSTOMS HOUSE

Continue heading east until you get to the roundabout at Wharf Road and Watt Street, where you'll discover the stunning Italianate Renaissance Revival style architecture of Newcastle Customs House.

Designed by New South Wales colonial architect James Barnet in 1877 to facilitate the collection of customs duties from the commercial traders using Newcastle Harbour, Customs House features a distinctive clock tower topped by a 'Time Ball'.

DID YOU KNOW? Up until the Second World War Fort Scratchley would fire a gun as the Time Ball fell at precisely 1pm, allowing ships' masters anchored offshore to adjust their navigation instruments. Refurbishments to a replica field gun at the Fort in 2013 reinstated this historically significant maritime tradition, which continues today.

4 QUEENS WHARF

When you ask a local for directions to Queens Wharf today, they'll guide you to the bustling dining precinct and ferry berth on the waterfront west of Customs House.

But in the mid-1800s Queens Wharf was a 2000ft-long structure with numerous landing areas built to provide space for berthing ships and loading coal.

After coal shipping moved over to Carrington and Stockton, Queens Wharf became a loading point for wool and general cargo before being demolished in the 1960s.

DID YOU KNOW? Today's Queens Wharf precinct is the result of a design competition run by City of Newcastle in the early 1980s. It includes the pedestrian promenade running the length of the Foreshore to Nobbys Beach, as well as the expansive Foreshore Park on the opposite side of Wharf Road.



A tugboat assisting a freight ship in Newcastle Harbour

5 TUGBOATS

As you continue along the foreshore promenade towards Nobbys Beach keep an eye out over the water for the fleet of tugboats that operate within the harbour.

The first tugboat to arrive in Newcastle was the Huntress in 1854. More powerful tugs soon arrived and fierce competition emerged between the rival boats for towing jobs and salvage opportunities.

Tugboats continue to be vital for the effective operation of maritime activities within the busy working harbour, which sees 4600 shipping movements per year and up to 23 vessel movements within a 24-hour period.

DID YOU KNOW? One of the most famous tugs in Newcastle's history, known as the Champion, was built in 1895 for local mining magnate John Brown. She was not only one of Australia's most powerful tugs, but also its most luxurious, lavishly decorated and fitted with a piano. She sank at anchor in the harbour in 1954.

6 BOAT HARBOUR — NEWCASTLE PILOT STATION

Renowned as an incredibly dangerous port and the scene of more than 200 shipwrecks, it's little wonder that all ships entering and exiting the harbour must do so under the advice of a ship's pilot employed and certified by Port of Newcastle.

Pilots provide advice to the ships' masters (captains), taking charge of the conduct of the navigation while the master retains command of the vessel.

DID YOU KNOW? About 80% of marine pilot transfers to and from ships are completed by helicopter, with 20% by pilot cutter vessels. These are often berthed in Boat Harbour, which you can see at the rear of the Newcastle Pilot Station located south west of Horseshoe Beach.



The wreck of the *Adolphe*. Courtesy State Library of Queensland

THE WRECK OF THE ADOLPHE

One of the Newcastle Lifeboat Service's finest rescues took place on Friday 30 September 1904.

The *Adolphe*, an elegant four-masted French sailing ship had arrived from Antwerp at about 9am. She was met by two Newcastle tugboats, the *Hero* and the *Victoria*. The tugs secured lines to the ship and began towing her towards the harbour entrance.

Conditions at the harbour mouth were dangerous. A strong wind blew from the south and the seas broke heavily across the entrance. When it came around the southern breakwater, the *Adolphe* was struck by huge seas that caused the *Victoria*'s tow line to snap. The *Hero* struggled on alone but could not hold the ship up and another onslaught of

big waves lifted her onto the remains of a ship, which had been previously wrecked.

The lifeboat put to sea. Battling the huge swells, and carefully navigating the remains of other shipwrecks, the lifeboat came alongside the *Adolphe*, secured two lines to the stricken ship and dropped anchor. One by one, 32 men from the French crew were retrieved before the lifeboat set off for safety with 47 people now on board. The rescue took only half an hour.

The crew of the lifeboat were hailed as heroes and the Consul-General for France made a special visit to Newcastle to thank the volunteers and reward them with a purse of sovereigns. The *Adolphe*'s remains can still be seen on the Stockton breakwater today.

7 THE LIFEBOAT

Continue past the rear of the Newcastle Pilot Station and you'll find a small circular plaque commemorating the Newcastle Lifeboat Service.

The first lifeboat arrived in Newcastle in 1838 and for the next 136 years the volunteer service went to the aid of the crews and passengers of vessels in danger, carrying out more rescues than any other in Australia.

The crew of the Newcastle lifeboat was made up of volunteers from the harbour department, dredge service and customs service who risked their lives to save others while receiving little or no payment.

DID YOU KNOW? Take a detour along the breakwall and climb more than halfway up to Nobbys Lighthouse to see the lifeboat and rocket launcher sculptures placed there in December 2013 as part of a memorial for the Newcastle Lifeboat Service and Rocket Brigades.



Pasha Bulker, Nobbys Beach. Image: City of Newcastle

8 GROUNDED

Follow the path around the shoreline past Nobbys Beach and you'll find a permanent reminder of the dangers presented when wild weather lashes the port.

Grounded is a vibrant red sculpture created by renowned Sydney-based artist John Petrie to represent the bow of the coal ship *Pasha Bulker*, which ran aground in heavy seas 30m from the Nobbys Beach shore on Friday 8 June 2007.

Twenty-two crew members were dramatically rescued from the vessel during the ensuing storms, which pushed the *Pasha Bulker* further ashore and almost parallel to the beach.

It took 25 days before the ship was successfully re-floated, leaving nothing behind except for a section of 22mm plate steel from the rudder, which is included at the base of the sculpture.

9 NEWCASTLE OCEAN BATHS

Newcastle is renowned for its spectacular natural beauty, but the urge to capitalise on the tourist potential of this coastline isn't just a modern venture.

A decline in the local mining industry during the early 20th century forced Novocastrians to consider ways to diversify the local economy with projects such as the Newcastle Ocean Baths.

Located 500m around the coast from Nobbys Beach and less than 250m north of Newcastle Beach, construction of the pool began in 1910.

Take the high path alongside Shortland Esplanade to enjoy the best view of the Art Deco pavilion's distinctive façade, which was built in 1922.

DID YOU KNOW? Lifeguard patrols operate at the Newcastle Ocean Baths year round apart from Wednesdays when the baths are closed for cleaning.



Surfest in the 1980s. Photograph courtesy of Lindy Poynter

10 NEWCASTLE BEACH — SURFEST

Newcastle is known for the variety of its surf breaks, from the exposed reef of the Cowrie Hole, a favourite among locals, to the popular stretch off Newcastle Beach that was home to the internationally-renowned Surfest contest for two decades.

Surfest began in 1985 when Newcastle was striving to cast off its industrial image and showcase the unheralded beauty and fantastic surf of its inner city beaches. Surfest was originally called the BHP Steel International and was the richest professional surfing event in the world at that time.

DID YOU KNOW? Massive southerly swells in 2006 forced organisers to move the final day of competition to Merewether Beach, before Surfest was relocated there permanently the following year.



The World Pool. Photograph courtesy Newcastle Region Library

THE WORLD POOL

Just next to Newcastle Ocean Baths is the Canoe Pool, the site of one of Newcastle's most enduring urban legends.

In 1936 a 1m-high wall was built on the southern end of the Ocean Baths to protect it from rough seas and sand. Within this space a circular pool measuring 20m across and boasting a pigmented cement map of the world was constructed. The continents of the world were raised 60 centimetres from the bottom, 20 centimetres being above the water line. Countries of the British Commonwealth were coloured red, with other nations in green.

Much about the pool's construction and final fate is a mystery, including the designer of this unique creation, who remains

unknown. The construction of a map in a public pool was certainly unique, and no similar pools are known to have existed in Australia.

The unexpected popularity of the pool, which was originally intended for use by younger children, saw a massive extension built in 1939 on the ocean-side of the existing World Pool, creating what is the present-day Canoe Pool.

It is generally believed that the concrete structure of the World Pool, also known as the Young Mariners Pool and Geographical Map Pool, was removed after being damaged beyond repair by a cyclone in the 1970s, however, rumours persist that remnants of the map are still uncovered after big swells.

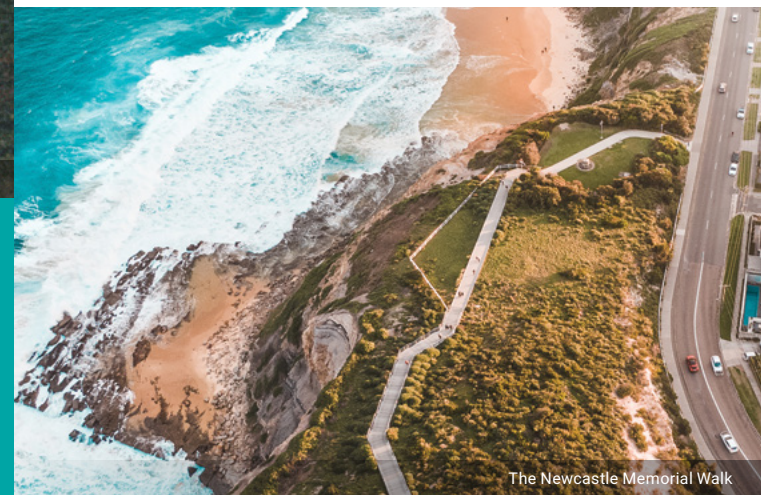
11 KING EDWARD PARK

Trace the coastline east towards the famed convict-built Bogey Hole ocean pool and you'll find yourself at the bottom of a tiered set of steps leading towards the clifftops.

Take on the uphill climb and you'll pass the rear access point for King Edward Park, a sprawling recreation reserve first proclaimed for public use in 1865.

Take a detour off the walking tour to enjoy a picnic in the park and admire the Victorian rotunda, built in 1898, the towering Norfolk pines and the floral beauty of the sunken garden.

DID YOU KNOW? During the Second World War a gun battery and bomb shelters were erected in the park. They were demolished in 1978.



The Newcastle Memorial Walk

12 NEWCASTLE MEMORIAL WALK

Keep following the pathway up through the historic military installations on Shepherds Hill's and alongside Cliff Street until you get to a driveway leading up to the Strzelecki Lookout.

This marks the eastern end of the spectacular Newcastle Memorial Walk and the final stop on this walking tour.

Completed in April 2015, the 450m-long clifftop walkway was constructed to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli and the commencement of steelmaking in Newcastle.

You can extend your coastal journey beyond the western end of the Newcastle Memorial Walk by continuing along Bathers Way, which runs south to Merewether Beach.

DID YOU KNOW? The walk features a 160m cliff-top bridge adorned with steel silhouettes of soldiers, which are inscribed with almost 4,000 family names of Hunter Valley men and women who enlisted during World War One.