Public Transport
The Parramatta River Walk is well serviced by ferries. There are also train stations and bus stops at useful places. All are marked on the maps.

Ferry: Sydney Ferries run from Circular Quay and Darling Harbour along the Parramatta River stopping at Cockatoo Island, Drummoyne, Huntleys Point, Chiswick, Abbotsford, Wentworth Point, Meadowbank, Sydney Olympic Park and Rydalmere. It is the only express service that goes directly to Parramatta (55 min), stopping only at Circular Quay, Rydalmere and Abbotsford. If catching a ferry along the way, change at Rydalmere for Parramatta.

Ferries are a very useful way of accessing walks along the river. Carefully check the timetable before setting off, see www.sydneyferries.info or Timetables > Parramatta River. Also check out the Balmoral/Woolloomooloo timetable for Circular Quay, Balmain, Birchgrove, Greenwich, Woolloomooloo and Cockatoo Island when walking in that area.

Train: There are train stations near the route at Meadowbank, Rhodes and Concord West (Northern line), Rosehill and Rydalmere (Carlingford line), and Parramatta, Meadowbank and Olympic Park via Lidcombe (Western line). The trip from Central Station to Parramatta takes approximately 30 minutes. See www.cityrail.info or Timetables.

Bus: On the north side of the Parramatta River, Metrobus M52 operates regularly from Circular Quay along Victoria Road to the Parramatta Park Transport Interchange next to Parramatta Railway Station. Bus routes 507 and 512, and the fast Top Ryde (TRP) bus service, pass close to the river at a number of places.

On the southern side of the river bus routes operate from Mortlake (373), Abbotsford (438) and Chiswick (504) to Circular Quay. Route 466 from Cabarita stops at Strathfield Station, and route 525 connects Sydney Olympic Park with Parramatta. The free Shuttle Bus (990) is useful in the Parramatta City centre precinct. All relevant bus stops near the route are marked on the maps.


For further assistance and new stops or routes, contact: Transport Infoline Tel: 131 500 or www.131500.com.au

Food and Accommodation
Food and drink is available at cafés, hotels, shopping centres and where the path appears, as shown on the maps. Toilets are marked ⭕. Accommodation is available, including some hotels and motels near the routes. For a detailed list of places see www.walkingcoastallydney.com.au

General Information
For maps, brochures, and relevant information about the Parramatta River, and places of interest along the way see the following websites and listed books below.

Books on History and Places of Interest
The River: Sydney Cove to Parramatta by Gregory Blaxell (Halstead Press 2010), Pictorial History Balmain to Glebe by Jean Lawrence & Catherine Warne (Kingclear Books 2009), Pictorial History Hunters Hill by Linda Emery (Kingclear Books 2001), A Pictorial History Ryde by Megan Martin (Kingclear Books 2004), Pictorial History City of Canada Bay by Gregory Blaxell (Kingclear Books 2010), Pictorial History Parramatta District by John McIlwraith (Kingclear Books 2005), Parramatta – A Post Revisited by Brian Card and Joan McIlwraith (Parramatta City Council 1996), and Sydney’s Aboriginal Past by Val Attenborough (UNSW Press 2010). Books can be obtained from local libraries, selected bookshops and from the publishers.

Department of Planning
23 Bridge Street, Sydney 2000 (Tel: 9228 6333). For maps, brochures and information relevant to walking around Sydney Harbour including the Parramatta River Walk, see www.planning.nsw.gov.au/harbour

Sydney Coastal Councils Group

Visitor Centres
Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre (Tel: 8839 3311) www.discoverparramatta.com Sydney Visitor Centre (Tel: 1800 067 676) www.sydneyvisitorcentre.com

Aboriginal Land Councils and Corporations

Councils
Auburn www.auburn.nsw.gov.au (9735 1222)
Canada Bay www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au (9668 6555)
Hunters Hill www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au (9679 9400)
Leichhardt www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au (9676 8280)
Parramatta www.parramatta.nsw.gov.au (9806 5050)
Ryde www.ryde.nsw.gov.au (8952 8220)
The Hills www.thehills.nsw.gov.au (9842 6355)

Government Bodies
Catchment Authority www.sydneyharbour.com.au
Catching Group www.parramattariver.org.au
National Parks www.environment.nsw.gov.au
Sydney Olympic Park www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au

Trusts and Associations
Bidgai Reserve Trust www.bidgai.org.au
Discovered Hunters Hill www.discoveredhuntershill.com.au
Harbour Trust www.harbournat.org.au (9694 2100)
Historic Houses Trust www.hht.nsw.gov.au (8239 2288)
National Trust www.nationaltrust.org.au (9528 0123)
Parramatta Historical www.tobyartney.com/parramattahistory
Parramatta Park Trust www.parramattapark.com.au (8831 5000)
Thegreeningofwww.thegreeningof.org.au

Route Marking
A variety of local signage exists. The following internationally recognised marking system may be introduced over time along the red route.

straight ahead ⬆️

turn left ➡️

turn right ➡️

Broader Marks
X

Loops and Link Walks
The Parramatta River Walk brochure shows the main red route following for the most part both sides of the river including around the many bays. There are a number of bridges crossing the river at strategic places.

The green routes show links and loops connected to the main route. Some of the walks in the brochures involve the use of part of the red route and part of a green link or loop. In some cases, you can use public transport, especially ferries, to return to the start of a walk.

Walking Times
The Walking Times diagram sets out approximate walking times, with a walking speed between 2km and 3km per hour depending on the terrain and weather conditions. Don’t forget to add extra time for breaks, lunch or just looking around. Remember, you choose how far you walk and how long.

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The Sydney Harbour and Coastal Walks brochure and maps have been developed by the Walking Volunteers whose members include: Dominic Ashhead, Jim and Theresa Archibald, Bill Avery, Neil and Pamela Hardie, Phil Jenkyns, Geoff Lambert, Caroline Mingough, Jim Napper (Coordinator) and Neda Orme, Charles Pitsilides, Dia and Laura Riddle, Bruce Robertson, Leigh Shearer-Henot, Cameron Sparkes, Graham Spaldner and Paul Webb.

The Walking Volunteers are a group of individuals who are helping to develop a series of walking routes around Sydney Harbour, along the coastal areas of Sydney and regional links across Sydney. They believe that walking is pleasurable and healthy and a great way to explore and enjoy the magnificent natural and cultural highlights of this City. Walking and the use of public transport are to be encouraged.

The two Parramatta River Walk brochures, containing three maps, were produced by the Walking Volunteers, with the assistance of staff from Department of Planning and NSW Health; Auburn, Canada Bay, Ryde and Parramatta City Councils Hunters Hill and Leichhardt Councils and The Hills Shire Council; Parramatta Park Trust; National Trust of Australia (NSW); Historic Houses Trust NSW; Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority; Parramatta River Catchment Group; Sydney Olympic Park Authority; Parramatta & District Historical Society; Association for Thegreeningof Sydney, Sydney Street Directory Mapping Division and editorial assistance from Gregory Blaxell and Chris Schofield.

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Please email the Sydney Harbour Access Program Coordinator at harbour@planning.nsw.gov.au about any errors, omissions, or suggestions to improve future editions or similar publications.

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Anyone is free to use this brochure, in whole or part, in any free publication, with an acknowledgement to the Walking Volunteers.
Parramatta River Walk
Gladesville Bridge to Ryde Bridge

Huntleys Point to Meadowbank Walk starts at Huntleys Point Wharf and proceeds on the southern side of the river through Gladesville Reserve in Wollunatta Bay, named after the local Aboriginal clan. The route winds through the historic former Gladesville Hospital grounds, passes Banjo Paterson Restaurant at Bedlam Point before entering the bush of Glades Bay, with its Aboriginal rock carvings and interpretative signage. The walk continues around Putney Park and Sheepers Bay to Meadowbank Wharf, beyond the Ryde Road Bridge.

Abbotsford to Cabarita Walk starts at Abbotsford Wharf on the southern side of the Parramatta River and circles Hen and Chicken Bay, which includes King Bay, Canada Bay, Exile Bay and France Bay. The naming of these last three bays reflects the fascinating history of a group of French-Canadians who were exiled and incarcerated in Concord in the 1840s. There is a monument to the Exiles in Bayview Park. The route passes through the Quarantine Reserve, once the home of the Animal Quarantine Station, and finishes in Cabarita Park, which contains the William Beach Memorial, the Federation Pavilion and Cabarita Wharf.

Cabarita to Meadowbank Walk commences in Cabarita Park at the Ferry Wharf and passes through the former AGW Gasworks site now Breakfast Point and the Wangal Burial Reserve, named after the local Aboriginal clan. The walk continues on Hospital land around the foreshores of the former Dame Edith Walker Hospital and Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital to the Kokoda Track Memorial and Cafe. (You must keep to the foreshore trail and proceed only during daylight hours when on Hospital land.) The route then passes La Perouse Station and crosses the river via the original 1886 rail bridge to Meadowbank Wharf. (If catching the train at Rhodes Station, delete 30 minutes from the walking time. Add extra time for exploring the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway.)

An alternative to this walk is to start at Kissing Point Wharf, crossing south over the Ryde Road Bridge and following the route from the Kokoda Memorial to the punt crossing from Mortlake to Putney (marked on map with times), and then back to Kissing Point Wharf. This is a slightly longer walk. (Add extra time for the punt crossing.)

Tarban Creek to River Walk This loop walk proceeds from Huntleys Point Wharf west along the Parramatta River to Glades Bay, then follows the green route climbing to the ridge line at Victoria Road (bus stops and Savdali Hotel). The walk drops down through streets to the Tarban Creek valley and follows the green corridor to Riverglade Reserve, and back under Tarban Creek and Gladesville Bridges to the Wharf. This walk can be accessed at nearby bus stops on Victoria Road.

Buffalo Creek to River Walk This interesting loop walk commences at Ryde Park at Top Ryde (bus stops opposite in Baulkham Road). The green route known as the Canon Bicentennial Trail follows Buffalo Creek, entering Field of Mars Reserve along the Kurusa Track. Crossing over Pittwater Road, it enters Buffalo Creek Reserve and follows the Great North Walk along the Lane Cove River to Boronia Park Oval.

The walk then traverses historic Mary Street before entering Riverglade Reserve and proceeding under Tarban Creek and Gladesville Bridges to the Parramatta River and Huntleys Point Wharf. Food and drink should be carried on this walk. (Bus stops nearby on Victoria Road – note M52 connection at stop near Crown Street for Top Ryde.)

Huntleys Point to Abbotsford Walk climbs over the impressive Gladesville Bridge from Huntleys Point Wharf to proceed on the southern side of the river to the old bridge abutment at Five Dock Point. The route winds around Five Dock and Abbotsford Bay, with a view of Sydney Monument in the river off Henley, to finish at Abbotsford Wharf in Werris Reserve.

Note the shops near Chowicks Wharf (if commencing at Drummoyne Wharf, delete 15 minutes walking time).

4hr 15 walking 11km

Personal Care

Be aware that you are responsible for your own safety and that of any child with you. Take care and enjoy your walk.

The walks require average fitness except for full-day walks (5hrs walking time) that require above-average fitness and stamina. There is a wide variety of pathway conditions and terrain, including footpaths, steps, uneven ground, bush tracks and some hills. Be very aware of cyclists and their activities on pathways shared with bicycles. Observe official traffic signs and road signs.

Wear a hat and good walking shoes use sunscreen and take a daypack, water and some food. Carry a mobile phone. In case of emergency dial 000 or 112.