

City of Newcastle acknowledges the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land, and that they are

the proud survivors of more than 200 years of dispossession. Council reiterates its commitment to addressing disadvantages and attaining justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this community.

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A STUNNING COASTAL CITY FOR YOU TO ENJOY, EXPLORE AND EXPERIENCE

Whether you're in Newcastle for a weekend or a fortnight, there's so much to do, see, experience and enjoy – it's the kind of place you'll visit and never want to leave.

Situated on Australia's east coast, Newcastle is surrounded by golden sand beaches and a breathtaking coastline, and has a beautiful working harbour, with cafes, restaurants and bars stretching from the city to the suburbs. Venture inland and you'll find more culinary delights, architectural wonders, family fun and natural attractions.

Over the following pages we'll share our top tips, must-visits and not-to-miss attractions – and will inspire you to make the most of your time in our wonderful city.

Don't just visit Newcastle, experience Newcastle.

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TAG US IN YOUR INSTAGRAM PICS TO SHARE YOUR NEWCASTLE ADVENTURES



DON'T LEAVE NEWCASTLE WITHOUT...

GETTING CLOSE TO NATURE

Blackbutt Reserve is a nature-lover's dream. With a series of boardwalks passing through an animal sanctuary, more than 180 hectares of bushland and a stunning new adventure playground at Richley Reserve, it's fun for all the family.

PAGE 34

ENJOYING SOME ART

There's always something new to see

- Newcastle Art Gallery has an everchanging mix of temporary exhibitions
and some key collections
on permanent display.

PAGE 38

TAKING A TRIP BACK IN TIME

As one of Australia's oldest cities, Newcastle oozes history. Visit Fort Scratchley, Christ Church Cathedral, The Lock-Up and the Convict Lumber Yard – and that's just for starters!

PAGE 42

SOAKING UP OUR PAST, Present and future

Newcastle Museum has some great exhibitions that give you an insight into the fabric of our fabulous city. The permanent Supernova science exhibition is a delight for children and adults alike.

PAGE 42

HITTING THE BEACHES

Newcastle's a beach town at heart, and our coastline and beaches are favourites with everyone. Don't miss the ocean baths near Newcastle and Merewether, and enjoy the 6km coastal walk, Bathers Way.

PAGF 48





GETTING HERE

Wherever you're coming from, Newcastle is within easy reach.

Car: Newcastle is just two hours' drive on the M1 from Sydney. If you're coming from the North, the Pacific Highway will get you here.

Plane: You can fly direct to Newcastle from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra and the Gold Coast, as well as regional cities including Ballina/Byron, Dubbo and Taree. Newcastle Airport is just 25 minutes' drive from the city centre.

Train: Inter-city services operate regularly from Newcastle Interchange to Sydney and Brisbane, via many regional towns. Train travel time between Sydney and Newcastle is about 2.5 hours.



GETTING AROUND

Newcastle is an easily accessible place, with many attractions within walking distance of the CBD – and numerous transport options to keep you moving and exploring.

Train: Trains run regularly from Newcastle Interchange, connecting you with the suburbs – the Beaumont Street area in Hamilton, for example, is one stop from the Interchange.

Light rail: The new light rail system connects the CBD, running from Newcastle Interchange to Newcastle East. The 2.7km line includes stops at Civic Theatre/
City Hall and the University of Newcastle
City Campus, while the final stop on the line is near Newcastle Beach.

Bus: Buses run regularly around the city centre and also connect you with the suburbs and key locations such as the University of Newcastle, McDonald Jones Stadium and John Hunter Hospital.

Ferry: A ferry runs regularly from Queens Wharf on the Newcastle foreshore to Stockton – take a trip and explore a new peninsula!

On two wheels: Newcastle is a great city to explore by bike, with a number of leisurely cycle routes to enjoy. If you don't have your two wheels with you, why not go electric? Electric bikes are available to hire from docking stations throughout the city.



WELCOME TO THE CITY

Newcastle is literally a place where the city meets the sea – and the lifestyle you'll find here truly reflects this. It's common to see the surf-to-suit transition on weekday mornings as workers catch a few waves before heading to the office!

The city centre is a mix of old and new buildings, where rich architectural history sits alongside edgy new developments.

There's plenty to do in the city centre, too. There are countless restaurants, bars and quirky coffee haunts in which to enjoy some culinary delights or a caffeine top-up. The shopping and street art scene will sure keep you busy.

The Civic Precinct is a focal point of the city centre. Here you'll find a place to relax among the greenery of Civic Park and a world of art at Newcastle Art Gallery.

The nearby Civic Theatre plays host to national and international entertainment, including theatre, dance, comedy, music and family shows.

KNOW YOUR NEWCASTLE

DID YOU KNOW...

Newcastle Art Gallery was Australia's first purpose-built regional gallery. Plans to build the gallery started in 1945 when Dr Roland Pope, an ophthalmic surgeon from Sydney, promised the bequest of his art collection of some 123 artworks to Newcastle, on the condition that an art gallery was to be constructed to house them.

DID YOU KNOW...

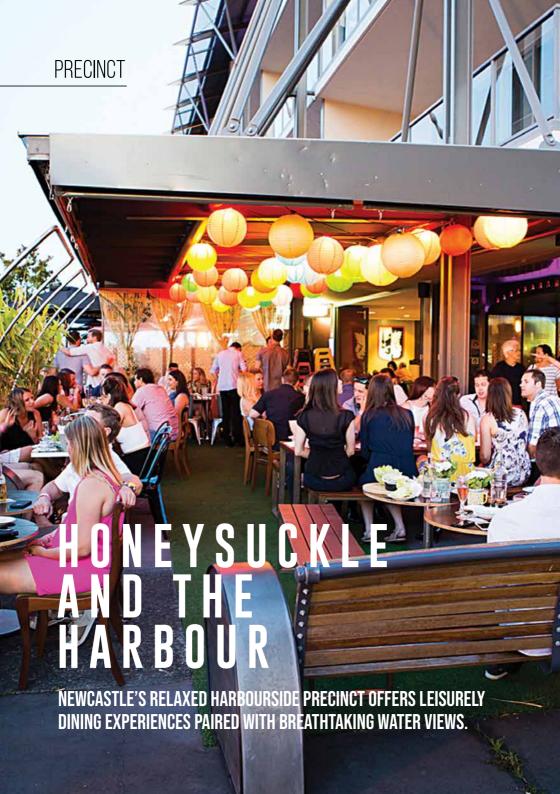
The Civic Theatre dates back to 1929 and features stunning Art Deco architecture. Although designed as a live theatre, it was leased immediately as a cinema, and used as such for almost 50 years.

DID YOU KNOW...

Newcastle is the second most heavily populated city in NSW, and one of the country's oldest, too.

INSTA-WORTHY

CAPTURE THE BLENDED ARCHITECTURAL STYLES ALONG HUNTER STREET.



HARBOUR LIFE

The harbour has been a key feature of Newcastle life for more than two centuries.

It is the oldest export port in Australia (coal was shipped to Bengal in 1799), and has about 4000 shipping movements per year.

The surrounding area has, in recent years, been the focus of a successful urban renewal project.

Today, the Honeysuckle harbour area is a thriving leisure, residential and commercial space, with restaurants, cafes and bars taking pride of place, and a lively atmosphere lasting well into the night.

The harbour itself is home to a variety of cruises and boating experiences,

so whether you'd like to while away a leisurely afternoon on the water with food and drinks, or have a higher-octane experience, you'll find something to suit.

Cruise liners arrive in Newcastle Port, with more than 28,000 passengers welcomed to shore in the 2018/19 cruise season.

From Queens Wharf, you can catch the ferry to Stockton to explore this beachside suburb, while enjoying the view of the harbour, Nobbys Lighthouse and the Breakwall.

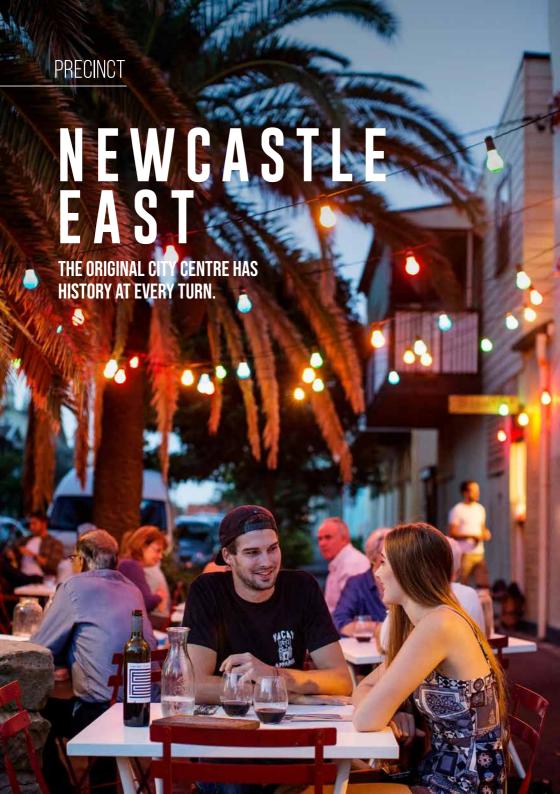
Close by, you'll find Newcastle Museum, home to permanent and visiting exhibitions, where there's something of interest for all ages.

KNOW YOUR NEWCASTLE

- DID YOU KNOW...
 - Newcastle Museum is situated in the former Honeysuckle Railway Workshops, where you'll find unique examples of classic railway architecture.
- DID YOU KNOW...

 Newcastle Harbour is Australia's oldest export port. In 1799, 50 tonnes of

 Newcastle coal was exported to Bengal via Sydney in the vessel *The Hunter*.
- For most of the 20th century, the Honeysuckle area was dominated by railway workshops, wool stores, cargo sheds and warehouses.



OUR HISTORIC SOUL

Newcastle East is the city's heritage precinct, and you can feel the true soul of the place as you explore. It was the city's original focal point due to its important geographic position straddling the harbour and the sea.

Now, the precinct is an attractive mix of today underpinned by yesterday.

Sitting proudly, high on the headland since 1858 is Nobbys Lighthouse, while Fort Scratchley stands guard over the city, as it has done for more than 200 years. Exploring the tunnels

beneath the fort on a guided tour led by passionate volunteers is a must.

The ever-appealing Newcastle Ocean Baths are perfect for a morning dip, while Nobbys Beach and Newcastle Beach are both great swimming and surfing spots.

While the natural attractions and history have great appeal, there's plenty of 'new' in Newcastle East, too. You'll find some of the city's most popular cafes, bars and restaurants here. And every November the streets transform for the Newcastle 500 Supercars.

KNOW YOUR NEWCASTLE

DID YOU KNOW...

Fort Scratchley was responsible for what are still the only shots fired at an enemy vessel from the Australian mainland. It took aim at a Japanese submarine in June 1942.

DID YOU KNOW...

Nobbys Lighthouse is a famous Newcastle landmark, which stands on Whibay Gamba – a sacred Indigenous site. It is said that a notorious kangaroo jumped from Tahlbihn Point (now the site of Fort Scratchley) to the safety of Whibay Gamba. The kangaroo remains hidden in the island, occasionally thumping its tail and making the land tremble.

DID YOU KNOW...

The 2.6km Newcastle 500 Supercars circuit takes place on the streets of Newcastle East and is the grand finale in the Supercars competition calendar.

OINSTA-WORTHY

SO MUCH TO CHOOSE FROM! THE OCEAN BATHS
ARE CHARMING, AND THE VIEW FROM NOBBYS IS
SPECTACULAR. CAPTURE A CANDID SHOT FROM INSIDE
THE TUNNELS AT FORT SCRATCHLEY, OR OF A SHIP
COMING IN THE HARBOUR... TAKE YOUR PICK!!



COOL ON THE COAST

At the centre of The Hill and Bar Beach precinct you'll find the ANZAC Memorial Walk – a stunning tribute to our region's ANZACs and the city's steel-making heritage. It's simply a must, not only for its significance but also for the spectacular 360-degree views it affords.

The ANZAC Memorial Walk links to Bathers Way, a 6km walking track that hugs the coastline, and is popular with active locals looking for fresh air and a place to exercise.

Meanwhile, Bar Beach is a popular surfing spot with a sheltered rock pool for kids.

King Edward Park is one of the city's most beautiful green spaces. Dating back to the 1800s, this Victorian park is a perfect spot for a picnic. Don't miss the stunning sunken garden, and the Rotunda – both of which are located in the middle of the park.

Down towards the sea you'll find the Bogey Hole, the oldest ocean pool on the east coast of Australia.

A short, invigorating walk uphill, meanwhile, you'll find Shepherds Hill, which is a coastal defence site and the location of the Obelisk – one of Newcastle's oldest directional markers.

The city's cathedral, Christ Church, also forms part of this precinct, and is an impressive architectural feat, standing tall over the city.

KNOW YOUR NEWCASTLE



The Obelisk was erected in 1850, replacing its predecessor, a windmill, which was a navigational marker and also ground wheat.

DID YOU KNOW...

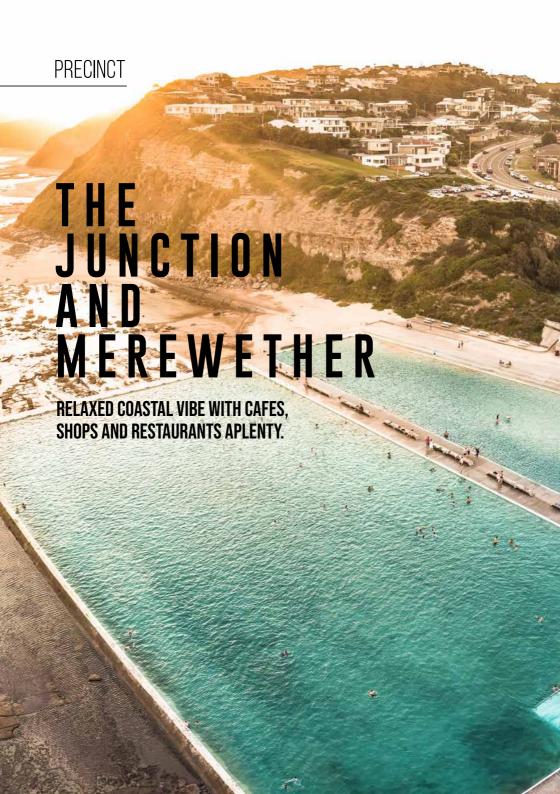
The steel silhouettes of soldiers on the ANZAC Memorial Walk are inscribed with close to 4000 family names of almost 11,000 known Hunter Valley men and women who enlisted during World War I.

DID YOU KNOW...

The site of Christ Church Cathedral has been used as a place of worship since 1804, when Church of England prayers began to be read every Sunday.

® INSTA-WORTHY

THE ANZAC SILHOUETTES WITH A COASTAL BACKDROP, PERFECT AT SUNRISE AND SUNSET.



SUBURBAN STYLE

Originally a junction for colliery railway traffic, The Junction today is a popular place to both visit and live.

The Junction is a hive of activity, with coffee shops, boutique and big-name retail outlets and cosy restaurants, creating just the right level of buzz.

On any given Saturday morning, locals can be seen grabbing a coffee on their way to nearby sporting fields with the kids, grocery shopping after a gym session, or stepping out early to walk their dogs.

It's also the kind of place where bare feet, sandy hair and nothing more than a towel over swimmers is perfectly acceptable attire. The adjoining suburb of Merewether enjoys enviable views all the way up the spectacular Newcastle coastline.

Merewether Beach is home to international surf competition Surfest, and just a few hundred metres away from the beach are Merewether Ocean Baths, which date back to 1935. The Baths are free to use and perfect for an easy dip before or after a day of sightseeing.

Nearby Dixon Park Beach is another great spot for a day out with green space and an off-leash dog area directly opposite the beach.

The beach lifestyle of Merewether extends into the suburb, which boasts an array of pubs, restaurants and coffee shops.

KNOW YOUR NEWCASTLE

- DID YOU KNOW...
 - Merewether Ocean Baths are the largest ocean baths complex in the Southern Hemisphere, measuring over 100m in length.
- DID YOU KNOW...

 Celebrity vet Chris Brown and former Silverchair members Daniel

 Johns, Ben Gillies and Chris Joannou all grew up in Merewether.
- In the 1900s, The Junction was often called Howley's Junction, after mine owner Thomas Howley.
- **INSTA-WORTHY**

THE ICONIC LANE NUMBERS AT MEREWETHER OCEAN BATHS, CAUGHT AS THE SUN COMES UP, SIMPLY CAN'T BE BEATEN.



MAKE A DATE WITH DARBY STREET

There's always something happening on Darby Street, and whether you're looking for a new outfit or some local art, a great coffee, a craft beer or a delicious meal, you'll find it here.

Close to the city, Darby Street connects Cooks Hill to the CBD, and runs alongside Civic Park and Newcastle Art Gallery. It is home to many independently owned businesses... and that's its charm.

If you're looking for something to eat or drink, you'll not be short of options. Kerbside eats sit alongside fine dining experiences, with some well-established local favourites complemented by some newer additions to the scene.

Local artists, and clothing and jewellery designers, are among the treasures you'll find here, as well as second-hand book stores, homewares, photography studios and much more.

There are pubs, cafes and giftware stores hidden throughout Cooks Hill, so make sure you take your time and explore everything that the suburb has to offer.

KNOW YOUR NEWCASTLE

- DID YOU KNOW...
 - Darby Street was named after company surveyor George Darby, who first laid out town allotments on the company estate.
- DID YOU KNOW...

 More than 100 boutique owner-operated businesses call Cooks Hill home.
- DID YOU KNOW...

Cooks Hill has a strong art scene, and was home to the von Bertouch Gallery, founded by the late Anne von Bertouch. It is believed the von Bertouch Gallery was the first commercial gallery outside a capital city in Australia.

INSTA-WORTHY

DON'T MISS THE GRAFFITI ARTWORK IN THE Side Streets... The Perfect Backdrop for any selfie. Check out the Side Street Around 139 Darby Street.



HEAD WEST FROM THE INNER CITY AND YOU'LL UNCOVER THE APTLY NAMED PRECINCT OF NEWCASTLE WEST - A BUSY COMMERCIAL TRADING DISTRICT AND NEIGHBOUR TO NEARBY CARRINGTON AND THROSBY CREEK.



FROM THE CITY TO THE SUBURBS

Part of the western end of Newcastle's central business district is Newcastle West – home to a number of thriving businesses, as well as the city's transport hub, Newcastle Interchange.

It also happens to boast a number of heritage-listed sites, offering a glimpse into years gone by, including the Castlemaine Brewery that has since been turned into serviced apartments, and Miss Porter's House Museum – a living snapshot of pre-1950s life in Newcastle.

The western end of Hunter Street, between Civic Theatre and Newcastle Interchange, is dotted with hole-in-the-wall cafes, bars, high-end restaurants and specialist stores.

Further up the road – just a short drive, bike ride or leisurely stroll away – you'll

find the suburb of Carrington, which literally rose from the mud. The island was originally underwater during high tide, but now sits boldly on the water's edge, offering locals and visitors a variety of cafes and bespoke boutiques.

Admire the new developments along Honeysuckle, before hitting the marina precinct where the Hunter River becomes Throsby Creek.

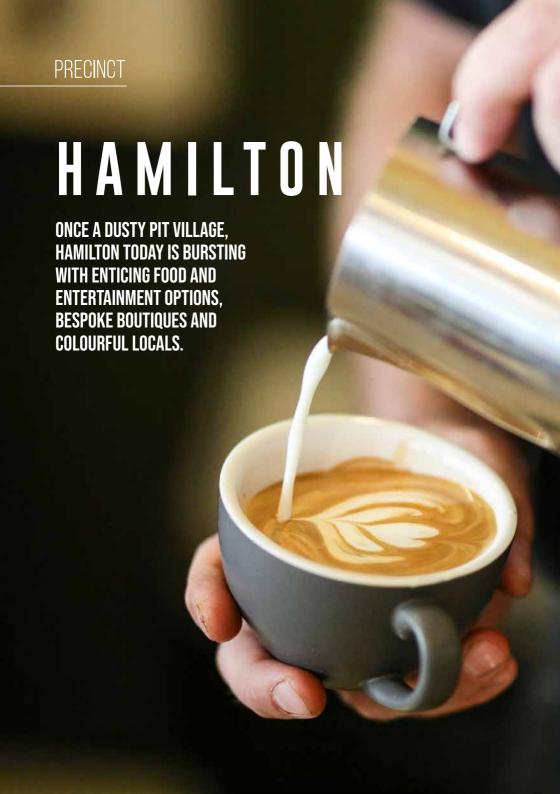
The path, running parallel to Hannell Street, is a popular exercise track among locals, while Throsby Creek itself is known for stand up paddleboarding, dragon boating, rowing and kayaking.

KNOW YOUR NEWCASTLE

- DID YOU KNOW...
 - During its settlement in 1804, Carrington was referred to as Chapman's Island and was considered as a potential site for a gaol.
- Carrington was known by Indigenous peoples as the place of the mud crab, 'wuna-r tee'. The land was ideal for fishing and gathering oysters and mud crabs.
- DID YOU KNOW...

 Throsby Creek gave Newcastle something to build on way back in 1804 its waters fed into the harbour that cradled ships from the colony's earliest days.

CREEK'S BOARDWALKS. WEAVING VISITNEWCASTLE.COM.AU



VISIT THE HEART OF HAMILTON

You'll be hard-pressed choosing where to start when strolling down Hamilton's bustling Beaumont Street.

Bursting with bric-a-brac and antique shopping, Hamilton was home to Newcastle's first Italian and Greek arrivals and, as a result, boasts a lively coffee culture ready to offer up the perfect brew for a morning energy boost.

Enjoy the day exploring the wide range of stores, including some firm Newcastle favourites, before settling in for an evening at any one of Beaumont Street's thriving bars and restaurants.

Chances are you'll also be treated to some live music throughout the night.

If browsing through antique and second-hand stores and enjoying cosy cafes are your thing, then the Islington end of Beaumont Street is a must-visit.

Hamilton Train Station is just one stop from the Newcastle Interchange, and will land you in the centre of the suburb. Broadmeadow Train Station, one stop further, is the main station for McDonald Jones Stadium – the home of the Newcastle Knights and the Newcastle Jets.

KNOW YOUR NEWCASTLE

DID YOU KNOW...

Back in 1871, Hamilton was named in honour of Edward Terrick Hamilton, the then Governor of the board of directors of the Australian Agricultural Company.

DID YOU KNOW...

The discovery of coal near St Peter's Church was the beginnings of the township of Hamilton.

DID YOU KNOW...

Hamilton was originally known as Pittown, Borehole or Happy Flat.

INSTA-WORTHY

THE ORIGINAL SIGN OUT FRONT OF THE ICONIC 1957 JIM'S MILK BAR ON TUDOR STREET, HAMILTON.



NEWCASTLE'S SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOURS

THE ARTISTS' CITY

See Newcastle through the eves of the many artists that the city of Newcastle has nurtured. supported and inspired. This walk starts at the Obelisk which sits high above the city near King Edward Park. It takes in The Lock Up. John Turier's Foundation Seed. Margel Hinder's Captain James Cook Memorial Fountain and Brett Whiteley's Black Totem II before finishing at the Art Gallery.

DISTANCE: 5.1KM RECOMMENDED TIME: 2.5 HOURS

CONVICT AND INDUSTRY

The Newcastle vou see today has been shaped by the convicts and industry of yesterday. Explore the city's rich history on this walking tour. which starts at the Convict Lumber Yard in the city's east before visiting a number of areas of historical significance, including The Lock-Up. Newcastle's first gaol, Fort Scratchley, the Bogey Hole, Christ Church Cathedral and Newcastle Museum.

DISTANCE: 5KM RECOMMENDED TIME: 2 HOURS 45 MINUTES

NEWCASTLE Architecture

Take in the architectural history of Newcastle, starting at the City Hall, before making your way to Newcastle Art Gallery, the Baptist Tabernacle, NESCA House, the Workers Club and Miss Porter's House, before finishing at our stunning Civic Theatre, which dates back to the late 1920s

DISTANCE: 2.2KM RECOMMENDED TIME: 1.5 HOURS

NEWCASTLE AT WAR

This walk starts at the historic Fort Scratchlev, and takes in Parnell Place (the site of one of three exploding shells in 1942), the Pacific Park air raid shelters. the Warriors Chapel at Christ Church Cathedral and Newcastle Museum before heading to the Vietnam Memorial at Civic Park and ending at the Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre

DISTANCE: 4.4KM RECOMMENDED TIME: 2.5 HOURS



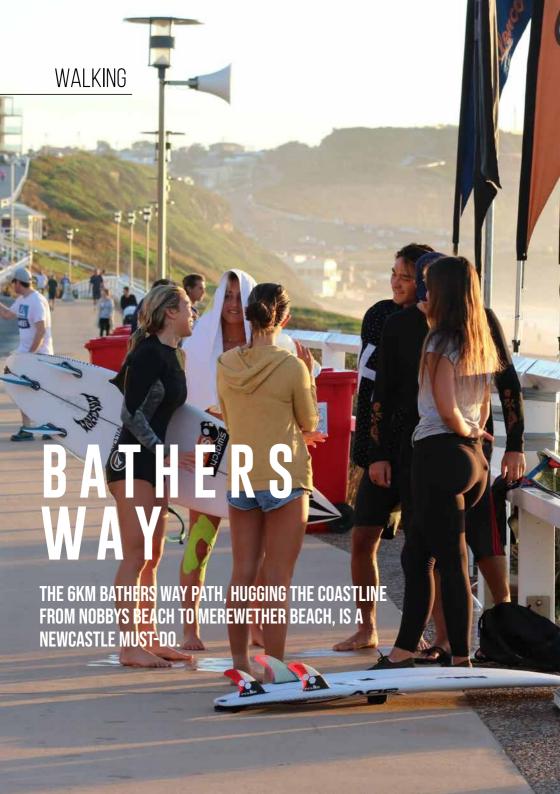
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

THE LOCK-UP

ART GALLERY



FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THESE WALKING ROUTES CAN BE FOUND AT VISITNEWCASTLE.COM.AU TURN OVER AND DISCOVER BATHERS WAY - NEWCASTLE'S COASTAL WALK.



EXPLORE, DISCOVER, ENJOY

Opened in 2015, this walkway offers panoramic views of the coastline and the city – on a clear day you can see all the way to the Hunter Valley wine region and Stockton.

South of Newcastle Beach on Bathers Way you'll discover the ANZAC Memorial Walk, a tribute to our ANZACs.

Built to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing and the beginning of steel making in Newcastle, the 64-tonne stainless steel memorial winds its way around the cliff edge. Steel silhouettes of soldiers line the 160m cliff-top bridge, creating a spectacular, and very special, experience.

Bathers Way also has an abundance of barbecues and picnic tables dotted along the way, as well as a number of cafes to keep your energy levels up.



ANZAC MEMORIAL WALK

Enjoy the views and the history of this steel tribute to the Hunter region's ANZACs.



PICNIC TIME

Come armed with food and make use of the picnic benches and barbecues along the way for a leisurely afternoon.

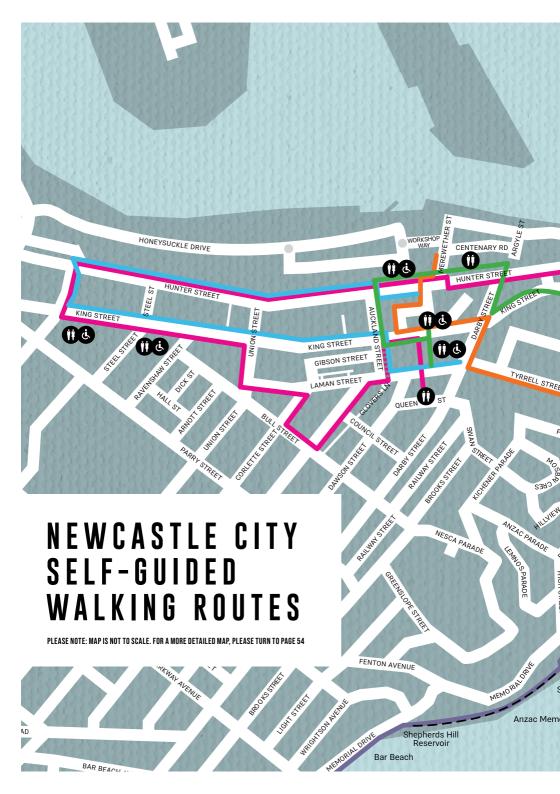


GET ACTIVE

Whether you like to run or cycle, or prefer a rigorous stroll with the pooch, Bathers Way is a popular exercise pathway for locals and visitors.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT NEWCASTLE'S BEACHES, PATROL TIMES AND FACILITIES, VISIT NEWCASTLE.NSW.GOV.AU









ENJOY AN ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

The mega adventure playground at Richley Reserve features rope courses, bridges, swings and slides, an adventure tower, and plenty of space for everyone. Those with mobility challenges can also get among it, with wheelchair access via a new pathway. * parking and group shows at additional cost



MAKE FRIENDS WITH THE LOCAL WILDLIFF

The animal boardwalk is a star attraction at Blackbutt Reserve, and you can handle reptiles and other animals at a demonstration show. The activity sheet, available from the kiosk, will keep kids busy – and you can tire them out on one of the bushwalking trails. Pack a picnic, and make a day of it by visiting the adventure playground (above), too.

*excludes parking and group shows

W: NEWCASTLE.NSW.GOV.AU/BLACKBUTT-RESERVE Ph: 02 4904 3344



LIFT A CAR

That's right, you can get your kids to lift a car. Don't believe us? Then head to the Supernova science exhibition – a permanent fixture at Newcastle Museum. Full of interactive and safe science displays, Supernova is guaranteed to keep the kids entertained for an hour or two, whatever the weather.

*excludes parking



FNIOY SOME SOFT PLAY

At Newcastle Museum there's also an indoor soft play area, Mininova, which is a great place to take younger kids. Let them run off their holiday excitement and energy here, before you enjoy some of the exhibits in the museum itself. *excludes parking

W: NEWCASTLEMUSEUM.COM.AU PH: 02 4974 1400



ENJOY A STORY OR TWO

If you're visiting Newcastle with pre-schoolaged children outside the school holidays, then Tuesday Tales – free storytelling – is for you. It is held at the Museum every Tuesday morning from 10:30am to 11am.

W: NEWCASTLEMUSEUM.COM.AU
PH: 02 4974 1400



CYCLE ALONG BATHERS WAY

If you're a family that travels with their bikes, a cycle along Bathers Way is where it's at. Enjoy the 6km path that follows the coastline from Nobbys Beach to Merewether and beyond. Don't have your bikes with you? Not to worry. Electric bikes are available to hire throughout the city. For those who'd like to venture further afield, check out the cycle routes at visitnewcastle.com.au or pick up a cycle route guide from the Visitor Information Centre.



PLAY IN THE PARK

Stretch your legs, burn off some energy and enjoy one of the great parks in Newcastle. Our favourites include Dixon Park Beach and King Edward Park for their ocean views, as well as the city centre Civic Park and Foreshore Park, which connects easily to the flat, cycling friendly harbour/foreshore area.



CREATE YOUR OWN ART

Looking for an easy weekend activity with the kids? Get along to Art Cart at Newcastle Art Gallery for free art activities every Saturday and Sunday. Drop-in between 10.30am – 12.30pm, be inspired by works on display and make some art. If visiting during the school holidays, they also run low-cost art classes Monday to Friday, three times daily.

*excludes parking

W: NAG.ORG.AU PH: 02 4974 5100



GO FOR A SWIM

While the beach is a great spot to enjoy a swim and catch a wave, Newcastle also has two ocean pools – Merewether and Newcastle Ocean Baths, and a shallow pool, adjacent to the latter. So grab your swimmers and enjoy a wave-free dip – perfect for those gaining ocean confidence.



SKATE PARK

If your kids prefer a board on land, then head to the Empire Park Skate Park, opposite Bar Beach. They can perfect their boardslides, kick flips and grinds at the park, which also features a 7-11ft bowl and a plaza-style street section.

107-109 MEMORIAL DRIVE, BAR BEACH



TAKE IN A SHOW

The Civic Theatre is Newcastle's key entertainment venue, and often has shows on for young theatre-goers, especially during the school holidays. Check the website for upcoming shows and enjoy a performance for the whole family.

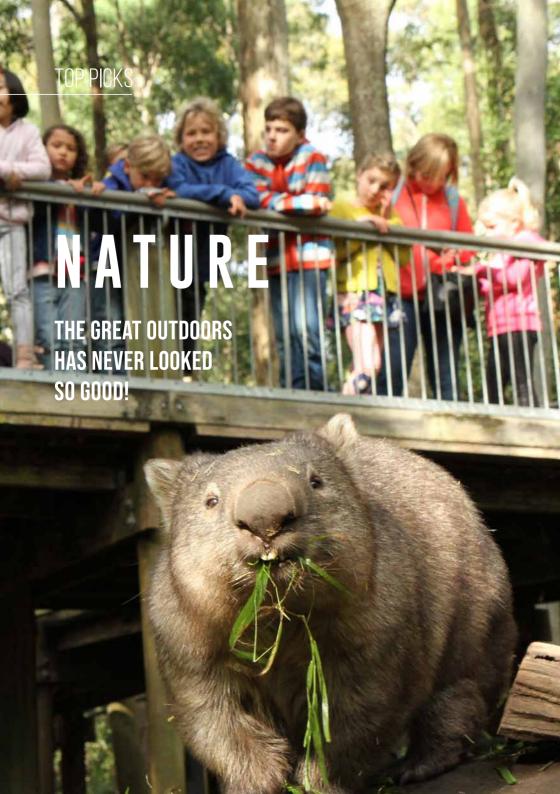
W: CIVICTHEATRENEWCASTLE.COM.AU
PH: 02 4929 1977



EXPLORE THE WETLANDS

The Hunter Wetlands, about a 15-minute drive out of town, is another awesome place to enjoy a few hours of nature. Take a canoe out on the water, explore by buggy, ride a Segway or simply enjoy the natural habitat on foot. Rare flora and fauna are all around, plus there's also a playground for kids to enjoy.

W: WETLANDS.ORG.AU Ph: 02 4951 6466



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

You're never too far from nature in Newcastle – something the locals love about this city.

Our beautiful coastline is a natural playground, enhanced by the Bathers Way coastal walk – the 6km path runs from Nobbys Headland to Merewether Beach and is a must to get a true feel for the city.

The city's parks are also a popular place to relax and while away some time. Civic Park, near the Art Gallery, is the city's main park, while the grand Victorian-era King Edward Park, perched on the hillside overlooking the ocean, boasts stunning views, play equipment and rolling green hills.

Foreshore Park is a more recent addition to the Newcastle park line-up, and is also worth a visit – the shaded children's play area is a particular hit.

Foreshore Park is also home to frequent food and community events, markets and festivals.

Drive 15 minutes out of town, and you'll find Blackbutt Reserve, near Kotara and the Hunter Wetlands Centre in Shortland – both offering up-close-and-personal animal experiences in tranquil, natural environments.

Glenrock State Conservation Area, meanwhile, is a National Park with beaches, rainforest walks and waterfalls.

BLACKBUTT Reserve



182-HECTARE BUSHLAND AREA WITH WALKING TRAILS, PICNIC AREAS, PI AYGROLINDS AND ANIMALS

BEACHES AND Bathers way



SEA, SAND AND SURF — THE PERFECT COMBINATION

KING EDWARD Park



VICTORIAN-ERA PARK COMPLETE WITH OCEAN VIEWS.



BI ACKBUTT RESERVE

Carnley Avenue, Kotara

Something of a hidden gem, Blackbutt Reserve is a place you should make a point of visiting. Located 8km out of the city, the Reserve is a 182-hectare oasis of rainforest, bushland and parks – perfect for a day out. There are 16km of trails that you can explore to your heart's content, while the boardwalk animal reserve puts you face-to-face with native Australian animals.

Newly upgraded playgrounds can be found near the Carnley Avenue entrance and the Richley Reserve entrance. There are also numerous barbecues, while shelters are available to hire for parties and celebrations – or just because!

W: NEWCASTLE.NSW.GOV.AU/BLACKBUTT-RESERVE PH: 02 4904 3344

HUNTER WETLANDS CENTRE

1 Wetlands Place, Shortland

Highly recommended for a day out, the Wetlands Centre is home to all manner of native flora and fauna. Enjoy a Segway tour around the centre, explore in a canoe or stroll along the boardwalks, taking in nature in all of its glorious forms.

Kids love the Discovery Playground and dipnetting, while the guided walking and Segway tours and frequent reptile talks add an extra dimension to any visit.

W: WETLANDS.ORG.AU Ph: 02 4951 6466



KING EDWARD PARK

York Drive, The Hill, Newcastle

King Edward Park dates back to Victorian times, and was once the main parkland of the city. Standing proudly on the cliff side overlooking the ocean, it's a perfect place to spot dolphins and whales while having a picnic.

A very popular spot for locals and visitors. The Victorian-era sunken gardens are stunning, while the bandstand and surrounding area are a favourite location for weddings.

The nearby Bogey Hole is the oldest ocean pool on the east coast, while Shepherds Hill and the Obelisk have their own stories to tell.



BATHERS WAY AND ANZAC MEMORIAL WALK

Bathers Way, Newcastle

This 6km path follows the coastline from Nobbys
Lighthouse to Merewether with views towards Glenrock
Reserve, and is a must-do.
The walk takes two hours
– however, there's so much to see and do along the way it's best to allocate at least double that time!

Stop at a coffee kiosk and enjoy the spectacular views, take a trip back in time at Fort Scratchley, or go for swim at the beaches or ocean pools.

Whether you're enjoying a leisurely stroll, a jog or a bike ride, Bathers Way is not to be missed.



FORESHORE PARK

32 Wharf Road, Newcastle East

This 11-hectare regional park is right in the middle of Newcastle's cultural centre, Newcastle East, and borders the harbour, beaches and the Convict Lumber Yard.

Built on reclaimed land that was previously used for mining and shipping, the park today has manicured lawns, wide paths, plenty of seating to relax and enjoy the surroundings, and a shaded kids' play area. Bring some food and head to the converted railway shed, which houses barbecues and picnic benches.





WHETHER YOU'RE A CULTURAL ENTHUSIAST OR SOMEONE WHO JUST LOVES A GOOD SHOW, NEWCASTLE HAS YOU COVERED.

ARTAND CULTURE

OLSEN ORMANDY: A CREATIVE FORCE (2018) AT NEWCASTLE ART GALLERY

CULTURE COMES TO THE FORE

Newcastle is jam-packed with artistic and cultural experiences in which to immerse yourself – the majority of which are within walking distance in the CBD.

Newcastle Art Gallery is certainly a feather in the city's cap. Come and explore two gallery spaces featuring in-house developed exhibitions and a key mix of collection works on permanent display, including works by John Olsen and Brett Whiteley.

If the performing arts are more to your taste, look no further than the

1450-seat Civic Theatre – our stunning, heritage-listed theatre has entertained locals and visitors for the best part of a century.

Civic Theatre hosts regular live performances from nationally and internationally renowned performers, so make sure you check out what's on while you're here.

The Lock-Up, the city's original Police Station, and now an art space, is another popular destination with an exciting exhibition and event calendar.

CIVIC THEATRE

THE CITY'S LIVE ENTERTAINMENT VENUE ATTRACTS INTERNATIONAL STARS FROM ALL ART AND PERFORMANCE GENRES. IMAGE: DYLAN EVANS

NEWCASTLE ART GALLERY



THE EXHIBITION PROGRAM FOCUSES
ON THE GALLERY'S 6,500 STRONG
COLLECTION – THERE IS ALWAYS
SOMETHING NEW TO SEE.

THE LOCK-UP



THE CITY'S FIRST GAOL IS NOW HOME TO A DIVERSE RANGE OF EXHIBITIONS.



NEWCASTI F ART GALLERY

1 Laman Street, Newcastle

The Art Gallery's story began in 1945 when a Sydney surgeon by the name of Dr Roland Pope left his 123-piece art collection to the city - on the condition that a gallery was built to display it! From 1957, the Newcastle City Art Gallery was housed on the second floor of the War Memorial Cultural Centre. before the country's first purpose-built regional art gallery was opened in 1977. Today, the Gallery is nationally recognised for its culturally significant collection of more than 6.500 works - providing an endless resource to draw from in generating the Gallery's in-house developed exhibitions. Entry is free - although occasionally a special exhibition may incur a charge.

W: NAG.ORG.AU Ph: 02 4974 5100

STRFFT ART

Various locations across the city

Newcastle's street art scene is definitely worth exploring, with a number of iconic artworks and some relatively secret ones to discover, too.

Trevor Dickinson is a bit of a local celeb, and his creations can be found at the Newcastle Museum (most attractive couple in Newcastle, anyone?) as well as the 'Merewether Aquarium' and the iconic 'Welcome to Newcastle' sign in the walkway at Newcastle Beach.

But that's just the start. There are over 50 street art locations identified on the City of Newcastle's Pin the City site so make sure you explore and discover the local street art scene yourself.

W: NEWCASTLE NSW GOV AU/PIN-THE-CITY-ART







THE LOCK-UP

90 Hunter Street, Newcastle

A visit to The Lock-Up is a unique Newcastle experience. Now an art gallery and creative hub, The Lock-Up is one of the city's most significant historical buildings, having been Newcastle's Police Station – and gaol – from 1861 to 1982.

Today, The Lock-Up has an ever-changing program of exhibitions and events

As well as the fascinating exhibitions, a big part of the Lock-Up's appeal is its setting. Explore the heritage-listed cells, the walls of which are adorned by more than 100 years of prisoners' words and markings, while the former exercise yard is now an event and installation space.

W: THELOCKUP.ORG.AU

CIVIC THEATRE

375 Hunter Street, Newcastle

Dating back to 1929, the Civic is one of Australia's great, traditional theatres, right in the centre of Newcastle. It's a building with a rich history, and attracts live performances from the national and international greats, for adults and kids alike.

The building's exterior features a Georgian Revival style with a flourish of Italian Renaissance, while inside you'll find a Spanish Baroque theme. A grand ornamental dome, recessed arches and statue-containing Alamo-style parapets create a stunning visual effect.

Make sure you check out what's on during your visit – a night at the Civic is one to remember!

W: CIVICTHEATRENEWCASTLE.COM.AU
PH: 02 4929 1977

THE CONSERVATORIUM

Corner of Laman Street and Auckland Street, Newcastle

The Newcastle Conservatorium of Music has a long history in the city, dating back to 1952, when it was housed in an army hut in Civic Park.

It had a number of homes before the Harold Lobb Concert Hall it now calls home was opened in 1988.

In 1989, it became part of the University of Newcastle, and offers a great line-up of local, national and international live music performances.

W: NEWCASTLE.EDU.AU/ Conservatorium Ph: 02 4921 8900



FOR MORE INFORMATION,
INCLUDING OPENING HOURS
AND ANY ENTRY FEES,
VISIT THE ATTRACTION'S
WEBSITE, OR HEAD TO
VISITNEWGASTLE.COM.AU



STEP BACK IN TIME

The European settlement of the city that's now known as Newcastle began in the late 1700s, while our traditional landowners are the Awabakal and Worimi peoples.

Briefly known as Coal River and Kingstown (after Governor King), the settlement was renamed Newcastle in 1804

Coal and steel have long been focal points of the city's industrial history, and these are celebrated at Newcastle Museum in its permanent Fire and Earth exhibition, while a social history of the city can be found here in the Newcastle Story.

Originally a penal colony, Newcastle's convict history is evident at the Convict Lumber Yard, once an enclosed place to store convictproduced coal, timber and lime, and now a heritage park. During an archeological dig in the late '80s to early '90s, many convict artefacts were discovered. Digging further down uncovered Indigenous artefacts, providing further insight into the region's history.

A trip to the city offers many fascinating insights into the past – Fort Scratchley has offered protection, while Nobbys Lighthouse and the Obelisk have provided guidance for centuries. The convict-created Bogey Hole near King Edward Park is the oldest ocean pool on the east coast, while Christ Church Cathedral dates back to 1804.

Explore, discover and find the stories of yesteryear that have made the city what it is today.

NEWCASTLE Museum



EXPERIENCE NEWCASTLE'S INDUSTRIAL HISTORY FOR YOURSELF.

FORT Scratchley

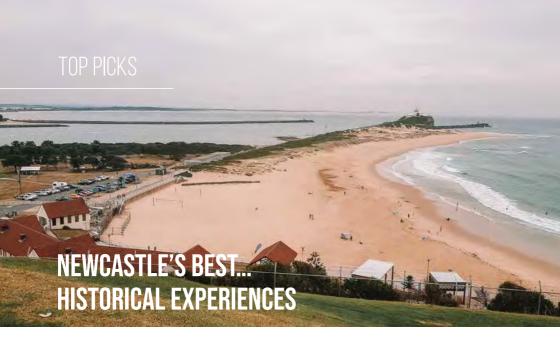


EXPLORE THE TUNNELS
UNDERNEATH THIS LONGSTANDING HARBOUR DEFENDER.

MISS PORTER'S House Museum



TAKE A UNIQUE STEP BACK INTO DAYS GONE BY.



NEWCASTI E MUSEUM

6 Workshop Way, Newcastle

Housed in converted railway buildings,
Newcastle Museum offers a great insight
into the industry and people of the city.
The spectacular audiovisual Fire and Earth
exhibition transports you to the centre of
the coal and steel industries, with exhibits
showcasing the realities of work. Meanwhile,
a Newcastle Story exhibition charts the
evolution of the city from early Aboriginal
life to present day, showcasing the changing
environment, people and places that have
contributed to making the city what it is today

W: NEWCASTLEMUSEUM.COM.AU
PH: 02 4974 1400

FORT SCRATCHLEY

1-3 Nobbys Road, Newcastle East

Fort Scratchley is a Newcastle icon – holding a stunning vantage point over the harbour and sea. The site of the city's first commercial coal mine, the Fort you see today was built in the 1880s. The only time its guns were fired was during World War II, at a Japanese submarine that attacked the city. Today, the Fort is a historical museum, and its narrow, underground tunnels are fascinating to explore. This is a must-do for visitors of all ages.

W: FORTSCRATCHLEY.ORG.AU
PH: 02 4929 3066



MISS PORTER'S HOUSE MUSEUM

434 King Street, Newcastle

Miss Porter's House Museum is a treasure Built in 1909 by the Porters, the house remained in the family - and relatively unchanged - until it was left to the National Trust in 1997. Today. it is a living snapshot of pre-1950s life in Newcastle, and the artefacts and exhibitions on display each month vary - from false teeth to clothes and household bills. Miss Porter's House is open on the second Sunday of every month (February to December), and Australia Day from 1pm to 4pm.

W: NATIONALTRUST.ORG.AU/PLACES/ MISS-PORTERS-HOUSE PH: 02 4927 0202



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAI

52 Church Street. Newcastle

Christ Church Cathedral stands proudly over the city, and parts of the current building date back to 1868. As well as being a beautiful building, it often hosts live music performances alongside regular church services. Climb the narrow, 165-step tower for a 360-degree view across the city, harbour and coast. The Cathedral also houses Newcastle's principal war memorial and memorabilia.

W: NEWCASTLECATHEDRAL.ORG.AU
PH: 02 4929 2052



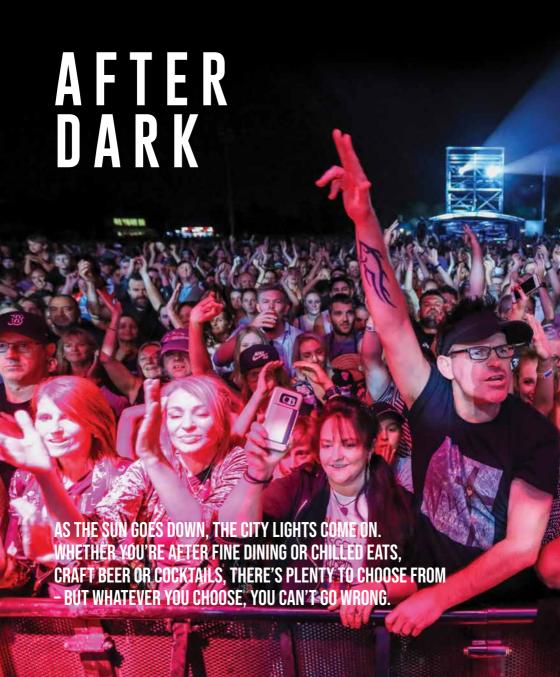
BOGFY HOLF

Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle

A popular swimming spot, accessible from King Edward Park, the Bogey Hole was handcut from a wave cut rock platform by convicts, at the behest of Major James Morisset in 1819. Originally called the Commandant's Baths, the name Bogey Hole was adopted some time later, and it's said to come from the Dharawal word meaning 'to bathe'.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING OPENING HOURS, VISIT THE ATTRACTIONS WEBSITE OR HEAD TO VISITNEWCASTI F COM AU



CALLING ALL NIGHT OWLS

Newcastle is a city that loves the good things in life. By day it's the beach, surf, breakfast and coffee. By night it's food, drink and live music. What can we say – we are good at customer service!

There are many areas to choose from to find your perfect night. Merewether has a number of special venues, while nearby The Junction also has a range of bars and night-time destinations.

Beaumont Street, in the Hamilton precinct, is another lively area and a popular strip for locals.

Closer to the city, you'll be spoilt for choice on Darby Street, which is lined with restaurants and cosy bars. You name a cuisine and you'll likely find it on Darby Street.

The Honeysuckle and Harbour precinct has a great selection of bars and restaurants – grab a table and enjoy the evening views of the Harbour.

The city centre has many enticing venues
– try Hunter Street, Market Street, King
Street and Pacific Street – while Newcastle
East also has some gems to discover.

HONFYSIICKI F



REVAMPED WATERFRONT PRECINCT WITH A GREAT ARRAY OF OPTIONS.

DARBY STREET



DINING AND PEOPLE WATCHING. A STELL AR COMBINATION!

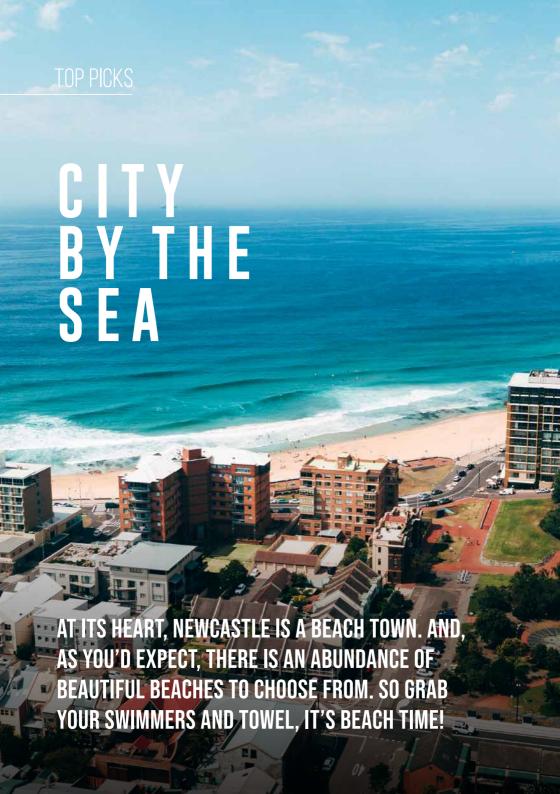
NEWCASTLE EAST & CITY CENTRE



WHETHER YOU'RE SEEKING FINE RESTAURANTS OR LIVELY BARS, MICROBREWERIES OR QUALITY PUB GRUB, YOU'RE NEVER TOO FAR AWAY.



FOR MORE IDEAS ON WHERE TO GO AFTER DARK, HEAD TO VISITNEW CASTLE, COM, AU



THE BEACH... IT'S A WAY OF LIFE

Newcastle city is perched at the water's edge, and every beach in town is perfect for surfers and sandcastles, sunrise photography and sunset picnics.

For many Novocastrians, being by the ocean is simply a way of life.

From dawn onwards, you'll see surfers enjoying the waves, and early risers doing their morning laps at Merewether and Newcastle Ocean Baths. Throughout the year, the beaches are abuzz with activity – Merewether Beach is the focal point in February and March each year for the international Surfest event.

Bathers Way, the 6km coastal walking path stretches along our beaches, from Nobbys Beach all the way to Merewether Beach, offering unrivalled coastal views the whole way.

From coffee shops to park spaces and picnic benches, rock pools to beach volleyball courts, you'll find plenty to explore along the Bathers Way, including the spectacular ANZAC Memorial Walk – along which you'll see the stunning steel work of art paying tribute to the region's ANZACs.

NEWCASTLE Beach



IN THE HEART OF THE CITY AND FASILY ACCESSIBLE BY LIGHT RAIL.

MEREWETHER Beach



REMEMBER TO WALK TO THE END OF THE BEACH AND CHECK OUT THE OCEAN BATHS.

NOBBYS Beach



TAKE IN THE VIEWS OF STOCKTON, THE LIGHTHOUSE AND BREAKWALL AT THIS POPUL AR SURFING BEACH.

CITY BEACH GUIDE SO MUCH CHOICE... SO MANY BEACHES!



NOBBYS BEACH

Popular with surfers and casual beachgoers, park the car and enjoy the views of the coastline and the historic lighthouse. Nobbys Beach is connected to the breakwall, which you can walk while enjoying views of the city and Stockton – and plenty of fresh sea air.



NEWCASTI F BEACH

Right at the heart of the action, this is one of our most popular beaches. With cafes and hotels close by, it's easy to understand why! Newcastle Beach is the final stop on the Light Rail route, just 12 minutes' ride from Newcastle Interchange.



HORSESHOF BEACH

Newcastle's dog-friendly beach, right next to Nobbys. If you have a pup, this is the place to go to enjoy unleashed beach fun.



NEWCASTLE OCEAN BATHS

The historic Ocean Baths is a popular place for doing some laps or wave-free frolicking, with its kiosk a sought-after stop, too. And check out the Canoe Pool next door – a great place for younger children to play in shallow water.



BAR BEACH

Another favourite, Bar Beach offers ample parking, stunning views into the depths of Merewether, beachside coffee, as well as rock pools aplenty to explore! Access the ANZAC Memorial Walk easily from Bar Beach for an added activity.



MEREWETHER BEACH

With superb views up the coast, Merewether Beach – the home of Surfest – is a popular beach year-round for locals and visitors, where parents juggle coffee and kids with sandy hair.



DIXON PARK BEACH

A great one for families. A beautiful beach with lots of car parking, with the added bonus of a playground, plenty of green space and public barbecues nearby.



MEREWETHER OCEAN BATHS

Opened in 1935, it's the second of our historic Ocean Baths in which to enjoy a swim in at any time of day. Merewether Ocean Baths are a photographer's dream – especially at sunrise or sunset!



WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR VISIT TO NEWCASTLE,
AND YOU WANT TO STAY IN TOUCH. FROM SUPERCARS
TO SURFEST, WE HAVE SO MUCH GOING ON THROUGH
THE YEAR - WE'D LOVE YOU TO COME BACK AND
EXPERIENCE NEWCASTLE AGAIN.

FACEBOOK

From upcoming events and inspiring images to things to do and stories delving into the city's past, our Facebook page keeps you up-to-date with everything Newcastle.

@VISITNEWCASTLE

INSTAGRAM

We hope you think this city of ours is as beautiful as we do! Tag us in your Newcastle adventures for the chance to be featured on our page, and stay inspired for your next trip to town.

@CITYNEWCASTLE.AU

VISITNEWCASTLE.COM.AU

If you're looking for details of what's happening in town, or more inspiration of how to spend your time here, head on over to our Visit Newcastle website. From things to see and do to places to stay, you'll find everything you could need here – and more!



