

winter of 1857, this fast sailing ship from England miscalculated its entry into Sydney Harbour and was wrecked on the rocks below this point. There was only one survivor. The ship's anchor was later recovered and located as a memorial near "The Gap", at the northern end of Gap Park (see 8).

- 6 The southern end of Gap Park offers some of the best views of Sydney Heads, the Harbour and the city skyline. The cleft in the rocks at Jacob's Ladder is the remains of a long extinct volcanic dyke. The lower part of the gully shelters tall spreading figs, cabbage palms, tree ferns and lianes. This remnant pocket of lush vegetation, known as littoral rainforest, contrasts dramatically with the clifftop heaths of stunted tea tree, casuarina, banksia, hakea and wattles. Remarkably, over 70 different species of native plants survive in this park.
- 7 On your return from the gully, take the alternative track along the old cliff route of the trams. Trams ran to Watsons Bay between 1909 and 1960. You can take some time out to listen to the native lorikeets and other nectar-feeding birds.
- 8 "The Gap" at Watsons Bay is one of Sydney's most famous scenic destinations. The sea has carved out sheer sandstone cliffs along a zone of weakness in the rock to form a high amphitheatre above the sea platform 80 metres below.

Gap Bluff to Camp Cove

- 9 From Gap Bluff, take in some spectacular views of the city skyline, Harbour and coastal cliffs. The Gap marks the boundary with Sydney Harbour National Park. Gap Bluff was used by the School of Artillery between 1894 and World War 2. In 1982 this land, with a narrow strip leading out to South Head, was dedicated as part of Sydney Harbour National Park.



Special thanks to Woollahra History and Heritage Society & LandArc.



- 10 From the lookout you can see Inner South Head with Hornby Light and the high cliffs of North Head. North of this lookout point is HMAS Watson, which remains under the control of the Royal Australian Navy. You can continue on to Inner South Head along the path, marked by the "Guns and Roses" plaque near the lookout. The lower roadway will take you to Cliff St and Camp Cove. At Camp Cove continue to the timber steps at the eastern end of the beach.

Camp Cove to Inner South Head

- 11 The cobblestone roadway near the top of the steps was used to transport military hardware from 1871, from Camp Cove wharf to the South Head batteries. At the gun position follow the sealed roadway to Lady Bay. There is a secluded nude bathing beach accessible via the steps under the cliff overhang.
- 12 The walk from Lady Bay to South Head continues to unfold magnificent views of Sydney Harbour. Historic buildings and fortifications are spread throughout the Inner South Head landscape. Hornby Light and the cottages were built in 1858 following the wreck of the "Dunbar". The careful observer may even find Aboriginal rock carvings on the cliffs.

Explore the myriad of tracks in this area but take care on the rock platforms below. These can be dangerous even in calm periods. Although largely cleared and invaded by weeds, Inner South Head does retain many native species of plants. A recently completed rehabilitation project has transformed this landscape to one worthy of its natural and cultural heritage.

For further information: pick up a Woollahra History and Heritage Society pack of Heritage Walks available from the Woollahra Library, Double Bay or visit www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au



Woollahra
Municipal
Council

The Coast Walk

Christison Park to
Inner South Head

A Woollahra Municipal Council Service

Christison Park to Inner South Head

From the history and romance of shipwrecks, old lighthouses and military fortifications to the raw natural beauty of high windswept cliffs and sheltered harbour coves, this walk offers a diverse range of opportunities for the visitor. It is one of Sydney's great walks. The coast walk takes you from Christison Park to Inner South Head and includes some of the most spectacular ocean, harbour and cliff-top views in Sydney. This walk is the final link in a series of connected harbour walks. Other brochures in the series are *The Harbour Walk – Rushcutters Bay to Rose Bay* and *The Harbour Walk – Rose Bay to Watsons Bay*.

Allow three hours for this leisurely 5km walk. Or select only a small part of the walk, such as the historic Signal Station and Macquarie Lighthouse, The Gap and its surrounding parkland at Watsons Bay or the Sydney Harbour National Park with its walk to Lady Bay and Inner South Head.

Getting there

The buses along the Christison Park to Watsons Bay section of this walk are the 324 from Circular Quay and the L82 and the 387 from Bondi Junction (weekdays only). The 325 from Circular Quay and the Bondi and Bay Explorer

(222) also run to Watsons Bay. A daily ferry service runs between Circular Quay and Watsons Bay with stops at Double Bay and Rose Bay and at weekends and public holidays at Taronga Zoo. Check with Sydney Buses and Ferries for timetables (T: 13 15 00).

Christison Park to Signal Hill

- 1 The section from Christison Park to Gap Park, Watsons Bay, was upgraded during the Bicentenary and offers wheelchair access to uninterrupted views of the ocean, steep sandstone cliffs and the city skyline.
- 2 Macquarie Lighthouse marks the site of Australia's earliest and longest continually operated lightstation and is one of Sydney's most important cultural landmarks. This lighthouse, designed by James Barnet, replaced an earlier ageing structure in 1883. The original Macquarie Lighthouse tower was built under the direction of the colonial architect, Francis Greenway.
- 3 Signal Station at Outer South Head was built in 1842 to observe and assist in the control of shipping. Plaques near both of the "Signal Hill Reserve" signs commemorate the history of the Signal Station and the original Lookout Post established here in 1790.
- 4 The adjoining Signal Hill fortifications provide a further reminder of Sydney's rich maritime history. The gun installations with a maze of cliff tunnels below were first built in 1892 and later upgraded during World War 2 (1939-45).

Signal Hill to The Gap

- 5 About 100 metres to the north of Signal Hill Reserve, a plaque and a rock carving on the cliffs refer to the wreck of the "Dunbar". On a stormy night in the

