

Woollahra
Municipal
Council

5. Strickland House

The grounds of Strickland House (c.1856), formerly a public convalescent hospital, are now a public park with superb views across the Harbour to the City, Opera House and the Bridge and give access to Vaucluse Rd and the 325 bus.

As you approach Nielsen Park, the native heathland begins to form tall thickets of native kunzeas, banksias, wattles, casuarinas, native fuchsias and paperbarks. The Hermitage Walk emerges at the service road to Greycliffe House in Nielsen Park. Follow the signs to the beach.

6. Nielsen Park

Take a dip in the enclosed swimming area or relax and spend the day here. Nielsen Park is one of the best Harbour beaches in Sydney with brilliant white sand, clear water, a shaded promenade and picnic areas. A loop walk out along Bottle and Glass Rocks has spectacular views over the Harbour to Manly and takes only 10 minutes.

Nielsen Park to Watsons Bay (2½ hours)

7. Vaucluse House & Vaucluse Bay

From Nielsen Park follow Coolong Rd to the Wentworth Rd intersection and make a stop at the historic house museum, Vaucluse House. Take a stroll through the grounds. This was the family home of William Charles and Sarah Wentworth from 1827 until Sarah died in 1880. The nearby Wentworth Mausoleum is an interesting short diversion along Chapel Rd.

8. Parsley Bay Reserve

Follow Wentworth Rd, turning right into Fitzwilliam Rd and left at the public walkway next to No 43 A. Cross over the suspension bridge, and take the steps down to the reserve. Parsley Bay is a popular family destination all year round with an enclosed swimming area and picnic facilities.

Take your time to explore this area. A notice board next to the carpark gives a reference map and detailed information on the reserve. The short bushland circuit (15-20 minutes return walk) takes you to a waterfall at the head of the gully. Continue to either of the exits on Hopetoun Ave or return to the suspension bridge and The Crescent for Watsons Bay.

9. Watsons Bay

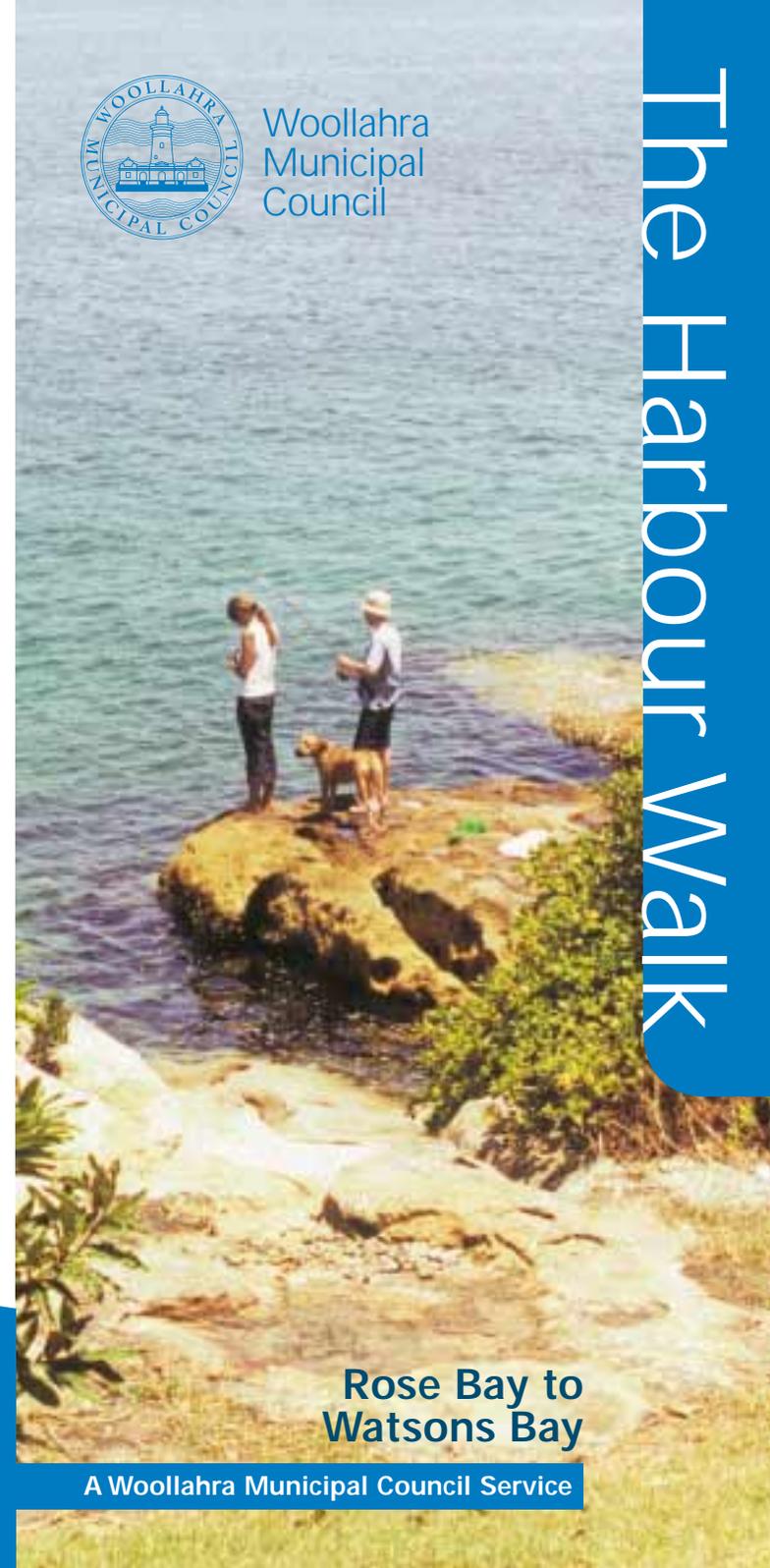
Proceed along The Crescent, then Hopetoun Ave and at the "Watsons Bay" traffic sign, turn left down the Palmerston St footway to Gibsons Beach. Take a stroll along the promenade past the Pilot Station and baths. An historic obelisk stands in Robertson Park, near the Vaucluse Yacht Club, commemorating the completion of the first road to South Head in 1811.

Walk up the hill through the park to The Gap. From here you can link up with the Coast Walk or wander through this historic village to Green Point and Camp Cove where Governor Phillip first landed in 1788.

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



Special thanks to
Woollahra History and
Heritage Society & LandArc.



Rose Bay to
Watsons Bay

A Woollahra Municipal Council Service

Rose Bay to Watsons Bay

This walk offers a great opportunity to explore the rugged cliffs, secluded coves, parkland and remnant bushland of Sydney Harbour's southeastern foreshores. Along the way there are historic houses and gardens, magnificent sandy beaches and breathtaking harbour views. This walk forms the middle link in a series of connected harbour and coastal walks. Other brochures in the series are **The Harbour Walk – Rushcutters Bay to Rose Bay** and **The Coast Walk – Christison Park to Inner South Head**.

Allow four and a half-hours to complete the 8 km walk from Rose Bay to Watsons Bay. Alternatively, select only a small section of the walk, such as Rose Bay, the Hermitage Foreshore & Nielsen Park, Vaucluse Bay or Watsons Bay.

Getting there

Buses along this walk are the 325 from Circular Quay and the Bondi and Bay Explorer (222). The 324 from Circular Quay to Watsons Bay also stops at Lyne Park, Rose Bay and Bay View Hill Rd. A daily ferry service runs between Circular Quay, Double Bay, Rose Bay and Watsons Bay. At weekends and public holidays it also goes to Taronga Zoo. Check with Sydney Buses and Ferries for Timetables (T: 13 15 00).

Rose Bay Parks & Reserves (½ hour)

1. Lyne Park and Tingira Reserve, Rose Bay

Begin the walk at the Rose Bay Wharf, Lyne Park, taking the foreshore promenade past the children's playground and Woollahra Sailing Club. Walk along Vickery Avenue until you reach Tingira Reserve with its shaded casuarina fringed beach, popular for sailboarding.

2. Percival Park to Dumaresq Reserve

Continue along New South Head Rd to the Rose Bay shopping centre and take a left turn at Worth Arcade to Percival Park. Relax in this quiet, shaded location and watch out for the many wading birds on the sand flats. Depending on the tide, it may be possible to walk along the beach to Dumaresq Reserve. Otherwise, return to New South Head Rd and turn down Dumaresq Rd to the reserve.

Rose Bay to Nielsen Park (1½ hours)

3. Dumaresq Reserve to the Hermitage Foreshore Scenic Walk

On leaving Dumaresq Reserve, look out for the public steps on your left, which is a short cut up to New South Head Rd. Turn left into Tivoli Ave, then left again along Bay View Hill Rd and follow the signs to the Hermitage Foreshore Scenic Walk.

4. Hermitage Foreshore Scenic Walk (Sydney Harbour National Park)

The Hermitage Walk is 1.4 km long and features spectacular harbour views, remnant heaths, woodland and small patches of rainforest, as well as craggy cliffs and secluded coves for fishing, swimming and picnics. Remember not to bring pets and there are no fireplaces or barbecues in the National Park.

