Governor Phillip Walk follows the route taken by Governor Arthur Phillip on 24 April 1788, the day he discovered desperately needed fertile land for the colony adjacent to fresh water in the river. In June 1791, he called the developing settlement he had established Parramatta, using the local Aboriginal name for a place inhabited for many thousands of years by the Burramatta clan of the Darug people. This magnificent walk is filled with history and places of natural beauty. From Parramatta Ferry Wharf, cross the weir and proceed along the Aboriginal interpretative pathway to the Visitor Information Centre. Walk over historic Lennox Bridge and enter World Heritage-listed Parramatta Park through the George Street (Tudor) Gatehouse. The route passes Old Government House and the Diary Cottage before entering Hospital land and reaching the head of the river. Here, at the junction of Toongabbie and Darling Mills Creeks, Governor Phillip camped. (When on Hospital land you must keep to the riverbank track and proceed only during daylight hours.)

One way 3hr 45 walking 6.5km

There are a number of options for returning to the Visitor Information Centre and Wharf. You may retrace your steps from the Camp site to the footbridge crossing near the café in Parramatta Park, and proceed on the opposite side of the river past the site of Government Farm (1789) and the old King's School building.

Both ways 3hr 15 walking 6.5km

Alternatively, you may return by Redbank Road bridge, and ‘The Crossing’ over Darling Mills Creek via stepping stones, to a lookout opposite the Camp site. From there walk back along the red route via the Old Gaol, Streets and Parramatta Park.

Both ways 4hr walking 8.5km

You can also walk one way in either direction using the well-serviced bus stop on Church Street near North Rods Road (2hr 45 walking), or divide the walk into shorter sections or loops by use of the two footbridges in Parramatta Park.

Note: Old Government House is open for tours, Tuesday to Sunday 10.30am - 4pm (Tel: 9635 8149).

Historic Houses Walk proceeds from Parramatta Ferry Wharf over the weir and along the Aboriginal interpretative walkway to the Visitor Information Centre. From there stay on the northern side of the river as far as the first footbridge (Noller Bridge) in Parramatta Park and cross through The Crescent to Old Government House (Tel: 9635 8149). Return via the George Street Gatehouse and join the green loop passing a number of other historic places, including St John's Cathedral, Lancer Barracks, Experiment Farm Cottage (Tel: 9635 5655), Hambledon Cottage (Tel: 9635 6924) and Elizabeth Farm (Tel: 9635 9488). Opening days and times for tours are on the map. Continue back along the river to the Wharf, past the HMAS Parramatta Memorial.

3hr 15 walking 6.5km

Alternatively, the above can be divided into two return walks, one to Old Government House (1hr 45 walking), and the other following the green route to the other historic places (2hr walking). You can also proceed directly east along the river for a return walk to Elizabeth Farm, Experiment Farm Cottage and Hambledon Cottage (1hr 15 walking).

Another option is to proceed one way along the route from Rosella Station or bus stop (P79), and exit at Westmead Station (2hr 30 walking).

Check opening times for historic places as they can change. Allow extra time for tours.

Lake Parramatta Walk lies within the Lake Parramatta Reserve in North Parramatta and circles the lake created by the damming of Hunt's Creek in 1855. This significant reserve of remnant bushland has a high level of biodiversity and evidence of Aboriginal occupation and includes the Arru nga Bardu Bush Food Garden.

The walk can be accessed by bus stops nearby, particularly the red service bus stop on Church Street near North Rods Road, or by car via Lackey Street. See map for bus stops.

1hr 30 walking 6km

Parramatta Themed Trails are a magnificent series of self-guided walking brochures that have been produced by Parramatta City Council and can be found online at www.discoverparramatta.com. Tours at or near the Visitor Centre. Two of the brochures cover the City’s walking and cycling routes, while the others are walks with particular themes, including Aboriginal and colonial history, art and architecture, the local food culture and hidden stories.

Brochures include Discover Parramatta and Walk Parramatta, and a series of themed walking trails. There are leaflets on historic places, attractions, accommodation, cafes, restaurants and transport.

There are a number of books that are relevant and useful to walking this section of the Parramatta River. These include: The River - Sydney Cove to Parramatta by Gregory Blaxell (Hale & Iredale Press 2010), Pictorial History Parramatta District by John McLennan (Kingsclear Books 2005), and Parramatta: A Past Revealed by Terry Cass, Carol Liston & John McLennan (Parramatta City Council 1996). Books can be obtained from local libraries, selected bookshops and from the publishers.


Walking Times

The Walking Times diagram sets approximate walking times, with a walking speed between 3km and 3.5km per hour, depending on the terrain and weather conditions. Don’t forget to add extra time for breaks, lunch or just looking. And remember, you choose how far you walk and for how long.

Acknowledgments and Suggestions

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Please email the Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program Coordinator at harbour@planning.nsw.gov.au any errors, omissions or suggestions.

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Parramatta River Walk
Ryde Bridge to Parramatta

Meadowbank to Parramatta Walk commences at Meadowbank Ferry Wharf west of the Ryde Road Bridge and follows the northern side of the Parramatta River passing through a number of parks and reserves under Silverwater Bridge and on to Rydalmere (John Street) Wharf. The route continues below the former Female Orphan School, now part of the University of Western Sydney, before crossing over the bridge at James Puse Drive and then heading west to Parramatta.

4hr walking 10km

Olympic Park Walk begins at Olympic Park Wharf and follows the river west passing Newington Armory (open weekends) and the Café to Silverwater Bridge, then crosses the river to take the red route to Parramatta.

3hr 15 walking 9km

Note that the side green loop through Newington Armory (open weekends) leads directly to the Armory Café, which is open daily.

4hr 45 walking 12km

Meadowbank Olympic Park River Walk connects Meadowbank and Olympic Park Wharves via Silverwater Bridge and follows closely both sides of the Parramatta River.

3hr walking 8km

The Parramatta River Walk is marked red on the maps, and loop and link walks marked green. It is your choice as to what walk or part of a walk to take, for how long, over what distance and in what direction. For example, you could walk for an hour or over a weekend staying in accommodation along the way.

Public Transport

The Parramatta River Walk is well serviced by Sydney Ferries. There are train stations near the route at Parramatta, Westmead, Rydalmere, Meadowbank, Rhodes and Concord West, and there are bus stops at convenient places along the way. Metrobus MS2 follows Victoria Road north of the river and M41 crosses north/south over Ryde Bridge. Both provide useful connections to the river for walkers. Metrobus services (MS2, 54, 60, 91 & 92) and Tramway services (Tel 66 & 80) access the Parramatta Transport Interchange. The Free Shuttle Bus (900) services the Parramatta City centre precinct. Relevant ferry and bus stops and train stations are marked on the maps. Check for new ferry stops or routes.

For transport information and timetables, contact the Transport Infoline Tel 131 500 or see www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au

Food and Accommodation

Food and drinks are available at cafes, hotels, shopping centres and where the symbol appears as shown on the map. Toilets are marked See www.discoverparramatta.com for accommodation, and www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au

Companion Brochure

For further information about the Parramatta River Walk including public transport, food and drink, accommodation, route marking, a full list of acknowledgments and relevant Government Departments and Authorities, see the companion brochure Parramatta River Walk – Gladstone Bridge to Ryde Bridge or view online at the Department of Planning website www.planning.nsw.gov.au/harbour or at www.walkingscenes.com.au

Photograph: Parramatta Park Trust
Logo: Photograph Brian Tom