You are invited to follow the steps of Newcastle’s 200-year journey that traces the great changes that have occurred since European settlement during this time. The Newcastle East Heritage Walk will take you on that journey as it takes you past many notably points of interest and spectacular coastal views that will enrich your understanding of Newcastle East’s remarkable history. The Heritage Walk follows a path 3.12 kilometres in length and will take approximately 1.75 hours to comfortably walk. A number of the points of interest have been brilliantly illuminated for evening viewing under the Illumination Newcastle site. These are indicated on the accompanying map.

The Hunter River, the ancient estuary, originally a valued resource for the local indigenous Awabakal people, is now a world-renowned port. The European settlement that remade the shoreline founded and developed a notable city of industry and commerce. Former landscapes can be glimpsed in old photographs captured in the signs along the Walk, while present landscapes highlight the interest and beauty of the city today.

Newcastle East is the birthplace of the city and the Hunter region. Originally a meeting and fishing place for Aboriginal people, the scene began to change in 1804 to one of settlement and profound modification of the land and estuary. The intensive utilisation of Newcastle East since that time for industry, transport, services and community living has left layers of history apparent in every view. Today, Newcastle East is leading the way in the revitalisation of the city.

The Walk continues along Nobbys Road south towards Parnell Place and the old gaol site. Several of Newcastle East’s streets can be visited from here before continuing down to the Newcastle Ocean Baths. A promenade leads around to Newcastle Beach then at the surf pavilion the Walk crosses the former Shortland Park and, via the subway, reaches Pacific Park and the Newcastle Hospital. Returning to the beach, the Esplanade is followed to Fletcher Park. After noting the historic precinct of Upper Watt Street, the Walk descends down Watt Street, along which are numerous plaques marking the sites of several historic convict-era buildings. The Walk then reaches its final destination opposite Newcastle Train Station, completing the circuit.

Public toilets and refreshments are available at the Nobbys Beach Surf Pavilion, Newcastle Ocean Baths and Newcastle Beach Pavilion during swimming months, and in cafes near Pacific Street area all year.
Watt Street

Newcastle's most historic street

As the Main North Road leading from the early townsite to the new port area of New Lambton, Watt Street was the main thoroughfare for Newcastle's growth. Watt Street was once the site of the first commercial block in the town and where many of Newcastle's earliest trades were established. The street contained the best hotels, the city built comfortable homes here. Later, renowned and influential pioneers of land. They provided accommodation for convicts trodden uphill path from the first working in the small coal pit near the top was the track climbed by the convicts down the steep incline to the wharf.

Newcastle's Coal & Transport focus. Nearby hotels catered travellers. Mail and passenger Seafarers congregated to find work, or near the wharves and rail terminus. Customs, shipping and rail administrators officiated from premises. Government in Newcastle. Plaques along Watt Street was the place of colonial down the steep incline to the wharf.

The street mark the sites of the convict-era government in Newcastle. Plaques along Watt Street was the place of colonial down the steep incline to the wharf.

Heritage Walk

Watt Street

Newcastle City Council is committed to the promotion and conservation of the City's cultural heritage through its Heritage Policy. Information may be obtained from Council's Heritage Officer on 4974 2000.

Tourism Information

For more information on other attractions of historic Newcastle please contact Newcastle Tourism.

Newcastle Tourism is located at 363 Hunter Street, Newcastle. The office is open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 3.30pm on weekends and public holidays. The office is closed on Christmas Day and Good Friday only.

Mobility Access Information

Newcastle is becoming a user friendly city. Newcastle City Council has made many improvements to public areas and is encouraging the private sector to make access easier. Council has a commitment to providing its community with a high quality of life that is sustainable and accessible to all its citizens. A comprehensive Mobility Map of Newcastle CBD is available from Newcastle Tourism.

Heritage Walk

The City of Newcastle

Newcastle nsw