

LaneCoveRiverFerrygaine (LCRG VII), based at Cockatoo Island Sunday 20 September 2026

Everyone thought that the legendary LaneCoveRivergaine series had reached its final stage when we farewelled the river at its mouth (sort of), the Heads of Sydney Harbour, on 24 November 2024 (LCRG VI)¹.

But wait, a seventh LCRG is coming in 2026, and promises to be the best of all.

1 LaneCoveRiverFerrygaine LCRG VII

The LaneCoveRiverFerrygaine is to be held on Sunday 20 September 2026, based at Cockatoo Island, opposite the river's entry into Sydney Harbour.

The course will extend north, with controls located from Hunters Hill to Woolwich, and south from Chiswick, to Drummoyne, Five Dock, Lilyfield, Balmain and Birchgrove.



Fig 1 - LCRG VII Base Map (thanks to Hamish Mackie)

There are two rogaines to choose from:

- 3½ hour Minigaine - starting at 1108 and finishing at 1428 (teams of 2-5 or solo)
- 6½ hour Socialgaine - starting at 1008 and finishing at 1628 (teams of 2-5)

(The unusual durations and start/finish times are set to fit in with ferry timetables)

¹ The tracing of the Lane Cove River from its source to its Pacific Ocean mouth began in 2015, starting in Pennant Hills and extending to De Burghs Bridge in West Pymble. In 2016, LCR II continued the river's journey down to Stringybark Creek in Lane Cove. In 2017 LCR III reached Fig Tree Bridge, in 2022 LCR IV made it to Sydney Harbour Bridge, in 2023 LCR V reached the Spit Bridge in Mosman, and in 2024 LCR VI reached Sydney Heads.

What better way is there of spending a Spring day than ferrying around Sydney Harbour as part of a rogaine. Also, the many ferry routes and schedules present numerous course options and much head-scratching.

And what better way of spending a Spring weekend than camping on Cockatoo Island, orienteering on Saturday afternoon, having an BBQ evening meal with rogaing friends, and then competing in the ferrygaine on Sunday.



Fig 2 – Cockatoo Island Wharf and Entrance

2 Cockatoo Island²

The Hash House will be in the Turbine Shop/ Convict Workshop on Cockatoo Island, thanks to the Sydney Harbour Trust.



Fig 3 – Hash House (Turbine Shop)

² During the 60,000 years prior to European settlement, Cockatoo Island was a meeting place for Sydney's First Nations peoples, who know it as Wareamah. The Island connects the waterways and homelands of the Wallumedegal, Wangal, Cammeraygal and Gadigal peoples.

The Island was a convict gaol (1839-69), shipyard (1857-1911), and educational institution for boys and girls (1871-1911). In 1913, the Island became the official dockyard of the Royal Australian Navy, and during the Second World War served as the main ship repair facility in the Southwest Pacific. It includes a UNESCO World Heritage listed Convict Site, historic dockyard, guided and self-guided tours, two licensed cafes, camping and heritage accommodation.

The Island itself is part of the rogaine, providing intriguing navigational challenges with its multiple levels and complex building and tunnel systems, even though only 600x500 metres in size.

3 Camping, Glamping and Apartments

Cockatoo Island has excellent facilities for camping and glamping - showers, toilets, kitchen (including fridges), electric BBQs, tables and seating. There are also four historic houses/ apartments for rent.



Fig 4 – Glamping Tents and Eating Facilities

Rogainers are encouraged to camp on the Island for the whole weekend (Friday to Sunday) - there is plenty to see and do, or just relax in preparation for the rogaine.

Reasons to camp include:

- Having a fun time with family and friends on an island in the middle of Sydney Harbour, with a rogaine (and orienteering event) included
- Cheap accommodation, especially for those who live outside Sydney
- Enjoying the company of fellow rogainers, replicating the camaraderie of camping at bush rogaines
- Entering a Big Foot Orienteers' event on the Saturday afternoon as a warmup for the rogaine and sneak preview of the Island's layout
- For the very keen, also running the permanent Orienteering Course - [Cockatoo Island MapRun Orienteering Course](#)
- Exploring the Island's unique Aboriginal, convict, and ship building history. Taking a guided tour (60 minutes, \$20) on 'Island Highlights', 'Convict Prison', or 'Shipyard Tales', or a self-guided audio tour (\$10)
- Not having to wake early on Sunday to get to the Island for registration and maps
- Getting the map on Saturday (from 1700) and being able to plan your route at your leisure – no need to plan on Sunday morning before the event
- You can also get in first for a 'ticket' on your preferred ferry departing straight after the start

Rogainers should book glamping accommodation as early as possible before it is

booked out by the public – [Cockatoo Island camping \(Sydney Harbour Trust\)](#). Mention in the ‘Special Requests Box’ that you are a rogainer so you will be located with fellow participants.

Accommodation options and indicative nightly prices are listed below:

3.1 Camping

- Bring your own tent and gear \$65 4 campers (\$15 additional guest)

3.2 Glamping

- Basic tent (sleeping mats) \$115 2-3 adults (24 tents)
- Deluxe (stretchers) \$169 2-3 adults (20 tents)
- Deluxe waterfront \$189 2-3 adults (18 tents)
- Two bedroom waterfront \$389 4-6 guests

3.3 Historic Houses/Apartments

- Fire Station Studio \$335 2-3 guests
- Harbour View Apartments \$350 2-5 guests
- Garden Riverview Apartment \$350 2-5 guests
- Heritage Holiday Houses \$644 8-12 guests

The Island has two licensed cafés, or rogainers can bring their own food (not alcohol) – there are electric BBQs available. It is expected that the cafes will open early on the day of the event to serve coffees and breakfast.

4 Ferries

4.1 Public Ferries

There are two ferry services to the Island <https://transportnsw.info/routes/ferry>:

- F3 Ferry, Circular Quay to Parramatta (return), capacity 200:
 - Circular Quay, Barangaroo, to Cockatoo Island, taking 21 minutes
 - thence, Cockatoo Island to Drummoyne, Huntleys Point, Chiswick (12 minutes), followed by multiple stops to Olympic Park or Parramatta, taking 35/65 minutes
 - departs every 20 minutes (both directions) between 0930 and 1800, and every 30 minutes outside these hours
- F8 Ferry, Circular Quay to Cockatoo Island (return), capacity 400:
 - Circular Quay, Balmain, Greenwich Point, Woolwich, to Cockatoo Island, taking 29 minutes
 - departs every 60 minutes (both directions)

4.2 ‘Mandalay’ Hire Ferry

To avoid frustrating rogainers with not being able to get on a full public ferry and also upsetting members of the public (and Transport NSW), the ‘Mandalay’ ferry has been hired for the day from 0730 to 1800.

The Mandalay, with a capacity of 193 passengers, will shuttle participants to Cockatoo Island before the start, and from the Island after the finish, and operate during the event from Chiswick to Balmain.



Fig 5 – The Mandalay Rogaine Ferry

5 Food

The 1st North Sydney Scouts will cater after the finish of both events with a sumptuous selection of food and drinks (included in your entry).

6 Entries

The entry fee is \$75 (\$65 concession).

Participants will also need to pay for public ferries (bring your Opal Card), typically \$6 for a short trip (\$2.50 max for seniors). Travelling on the Mandalay is included in your entry fee.

Both rogaines are limited to 500 participants each to avoid overcrowding the ferries.

As this is expected to be a hugely popular weekend for rogaining and orienteering we encourage you to enter and book your camping/glamping as soon as possible to avoid missing out.