



## Manly

Great dog beaches, walking tracks and off-leash exercise areas can seem hard to find in Sydney. Perhaps it's because locals keep them a well guarded secret, or not much is published on their whereabouts. Two issues ago we featured Mosman as a dog friendly location, highlighting off-leash areas and a beach that command spectacular views across Sydney Harbour. The response from readers was very positive with many interested in sourcing more walking tracks and swimming areas.

# Pause 4 Paws and Claws

**L**ike Bondi Beach, Manly is a destination, but both share the fact that you can't have your dog on the beach in most cases, certainly not running free. But the great thing about Manly is that there is a fantastic walking track from The Spit and a wealth of places nearby with scenic panoramas, water access and lots of other dog people tailing their pets.

### Pooch paddle and leisurely stroll

At the northern end of the Steyne is Manly Lagoon Park where you can drive and park your car in Cameron Avenue. There is a walking and bike track that runs along the lagoon. It's designated off-leash where you'll find a diverse range of people and pooches strolling along the length of the lagoon. It's an easy entry into the water for dogs wanting to take a plunge to retrieve sticks or just to paddle out. The eastern end of the lagoon, at times, can be quite murky, whereas closer to Hinkler Park is a cleaner swimming option. A fenced play area is located close to the car park in Cameron Avenue. Dog poo bags are located at the entry to Lagoon Park as are public toilets.

Continuing west from the Lagoon, the walking and cycling track takes a sharp left turn crossing Pittwater Road. From here you can continue on the path to L.M. Graham Reserve-another off-leash park, located between Kenneth and Balgowlah Roads. Parts of this walking track are on-leash only (especially crossing busy Pittwater Road).

### Leashed from Lagoon Reserve to Shelly Beach

From Lagoon Park you can take an on-leash walk from the northern end of the Steyne (Queenscliff Surf Club), towards Manly Beach all the way down

to Shelly Beach Park. The walk passes cafés and restaurants along the foreshore and is a great stroll taking in the sights and sounds. Enter Marine Parade, pass Fairy Bower and the Rock Pool towards Shelly Beach Park. Shelly Beach Park has picnic tables and public toilets and the park is designated as on-leash only. Round trip from the Lagoon to Shelly Beach and return is approximately 4 kms.

### A rigorous romp with views

For those wanting great views and some rigorous exercise there is a dog friendly version of the Manly Scenic Walkway. Tania Park is situated in Balgowlah Heights and overlooks the Sydney Harbour National Park with sweeping views of North Harbour out to Manly Point. The park is off-leash and is a huge area for dogs to run around and socialise with friendly locals. It's a great spot for kite flying as there's plenty of wind and no overhead electrical wires. Public toilets and a barbeque area are situated at the entrance to the park.

The dog walking version of the Manly Scenic Walkway is found off Tania Park. Enter into Fisher Street follow the signs and take the steep walk down to the end of Beatty Street. At the end of Beatty Street is a steep track that leads down to the water and Wellings Reserve. The stone steps are uneven and the handrailing is quite rickety, so we would recommend this only for the very fit and sure-footed. Once you get to the bottom of the track, head north past the sailing club to North Harbour Reserve. The reserve has a sandy beach, park and public toilets. Even though the reserve is designated as on-leash you will find locals walking their dogs off-leash.



Manly Cemetery





Walking the dogs at Manly Lagoon

### A historic point of view

A gentle walk that has a historic element is the off-leash Manly Cemetery. It's thought to be the fourth oldest cemetery in Sydney and is the resting place of Manly's past prominent locals, pioneers and early settlers. The graves of sporting heroes, parliamentarians, inventors and local identities can be found here. You can locate the cemetery by travelling east on Balgowlah Road, take a right turn into Hill Street (just as you reach the Manly golf course), take your first left turn into Harland Street where you'll see the cemetery. It's a quiet residential street with ample parking and has a children's playground at the eastern end.

Manly Council's website has a downloadable PDF walking tour, detailing some of the more interesting grave sites. There are two versions of the walking tour—one for adults, the other for children. We'll point out that there are no doggie-doo bag dispensers, so please bring your own. The cemetery is not fully fenced yet is safe for off-leash exploration.

### Park and plunge

If it's just a dog beach you're looking for, we can recommend a little beach in Clontarf called Sandy Bay. It's a favourite for locals to bring their dogs for a salty swim and on-leash walk along the waterfront walkway of Sandy Bay Road. You can perch on the sea wall and watch boats bobbing, moored at Clontarf Marina while your dog romps in and out of the water.

At the southern end of Sandy Bay Road is Clontarf Reserve—designated as an on-leash area between the hours of 10.00am and 6.00pm on weekends, school holidays and public holidays (10:00am to 8:00pm during daylight savings). Here you'll find public toilets, picnic tables and a barbecue area.

To find Sandy Bay, drive along Manly Road towards the city and take a left turn into Heaton Avenue. Heaton connects to Parone Avenue and this leads all the way down to the Sandy Bay Road turnoff. Drive to the end of the road, park the car and let your pooch run free.

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### Manly Council site:

www.manly.nsw.gov.au - Manly Council's site also has a map detailing off-leash areas and lists the on-leash ones.

### Manly Scenic Walkway routes:

www.manlyweb.com.au/information/what\_to\_do/walks/walkway.asp - check here for complete details alternate routes for dog walkers.



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