



Kayak Central Coast self-guided tour

The Orphanage Ferry Route

Follow the route of the first commercial ferry on Brisbane Water.

Distance: Approximately 8 km in one direction from Woy Woy to South Kincumber.

The first motorised ferry service on Brisbane Water – known as the ‘Orphanage’ Ferry – was started in 1905 by the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. Passengers and produce from South Kincumber, where the Sisters ran a home for boys, was carried to Davistown and then to Woy Woy. Prior to 1905, a rowing boat manned by senior boys, was used to transport produce from the orphanage farm. Over time the nun’s fleet grew providing much-needed transportation for those living near Brisbane Water where land transport was poor. Ferry services connected residents and tourists to the railway at Woy Woy and markets at Gosford. The orphanage ran from (1887 – 1979) and eventually accommodated girls from 1966. Today the site houses the St Joseph’s Spirituality and Education Centre.

Things to do

It is best to do this trip in reverse direction beginning at (13) Woy Woy and paddling to (1) Kincumber South where the boys’ home was located. See map over. Push off near the boat ramp at Lions Park.

Explore the channels between St Hubert Island and Rileys Island on the way back. Look out for the fantastic bird life. Pelicans rule!

If you feel like a longer paddle, go all the way across the Kincumber Broadwater to (K) Kincumber Creek which was also visited by the ferry.

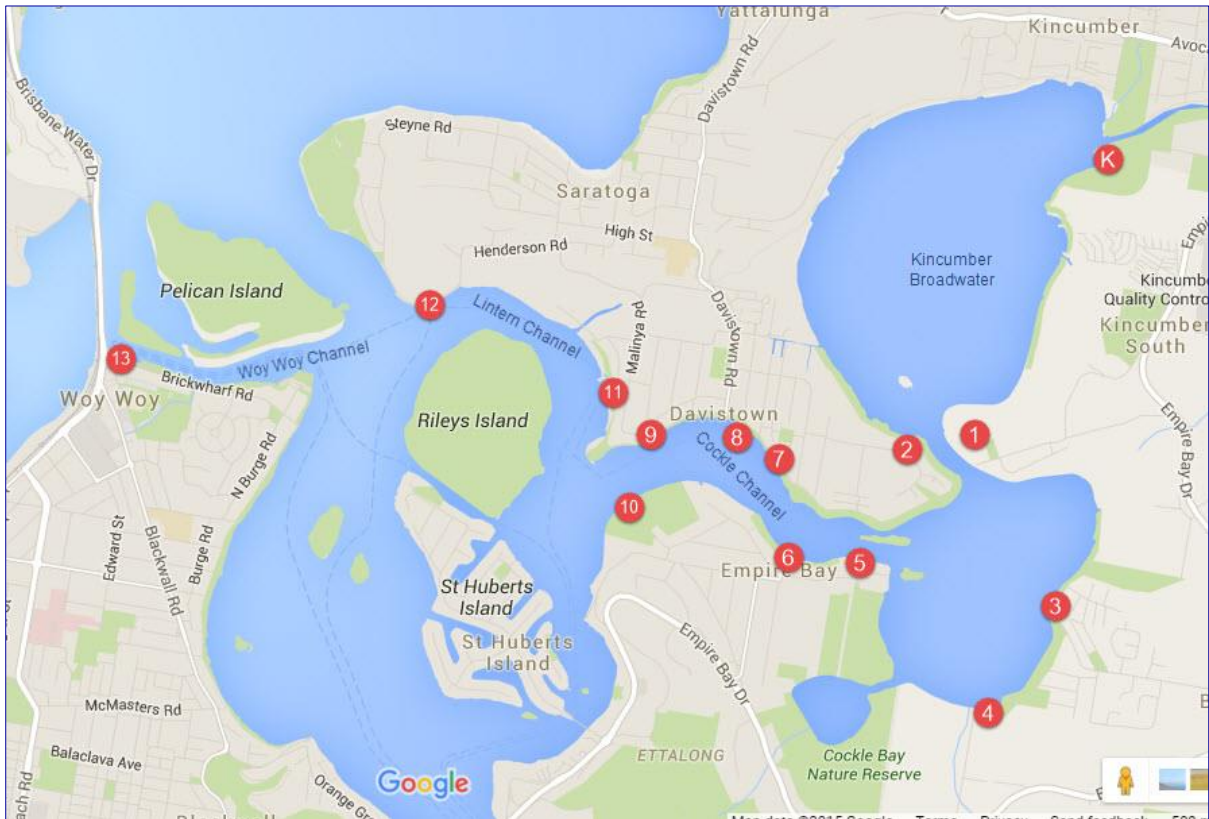
Circumnavigate Pelican Island

See map over



'Orphanage' Ferry route

- (1) Kincumber South, (2) Eulalia, (3) Sunnyside (Hastings Wharf), (4) Palmers, (5) Shelly Beach,
- (6) Empire Bay, (7) Pine Tree, (8) Davistown, (9) Davidson's, (10) Myler's, (11) Lintern Street,
- (12) Veteran Hall, (13) Woy Woy. (K) Kincumber Creek.



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