




Blue Gum Walk (Joe's Mountain Circuit)

(Darug and Guringai Country)

 1 h 45 min to 2 h

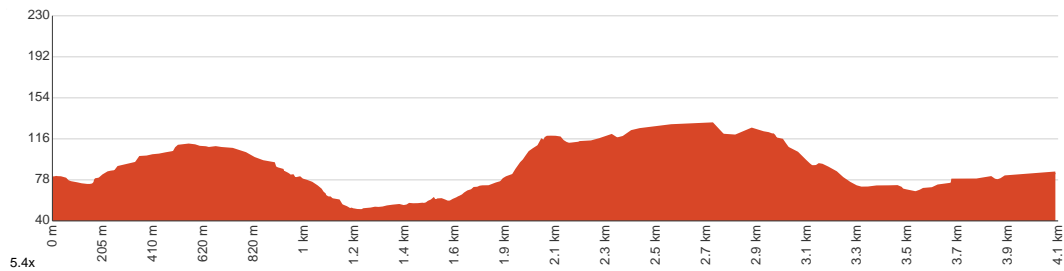

4.1 km
Circuit


↑ 168 m
↓ 168 m


Hard track



This is an enjoyable circuit walk that allows you to explore this rare pocket of Sydney Blue Gum forest. You will follow a signposted track across a few creeks and alongside Waitara Creek, with a few cascades. There are many small sandstone caves and a great diversity in plant life along the way. Sit quietly on the bank of Waitara Creek and you may see a water dragon, or get going early and listen for the Lyrebirds. Let us begin by acknowledging the Darug and Guringai people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we travel today, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



Class 4 of 6
Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely

Quality of track	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
Gradient	Very steep (4/6)
Signage	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
Infrastructure	Limited facilities, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6)
Experience Required	Moderate level of bushwalking experience recommended (4/6)
Weather	Storms may impact on navigation and safety (3/6)

Getting to the start: From Pacific Highway, B83, Hookhams Corner.

- Turn on to Peats Ferry Road then drive for 160 m
- Turn left onto William Street and drive for another 245 m
- At roundabout, take exit 2 onto William Street and drive for another 520 m
- Turn left onto Rosemead Road and drive for another 1.1 km

Before you start any journey ensure you;

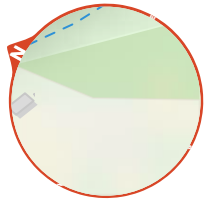
- Tell someone you trust where you are going and what to do if you are late returning
- Have adequate equipment, supplies, skills & knowledge to undertake this journey safely
- Consider weather forecasts, park/track closures & fire dangers
- Can respond to emergencies & call for help at any point
- Are healthy and fit enough for this journey

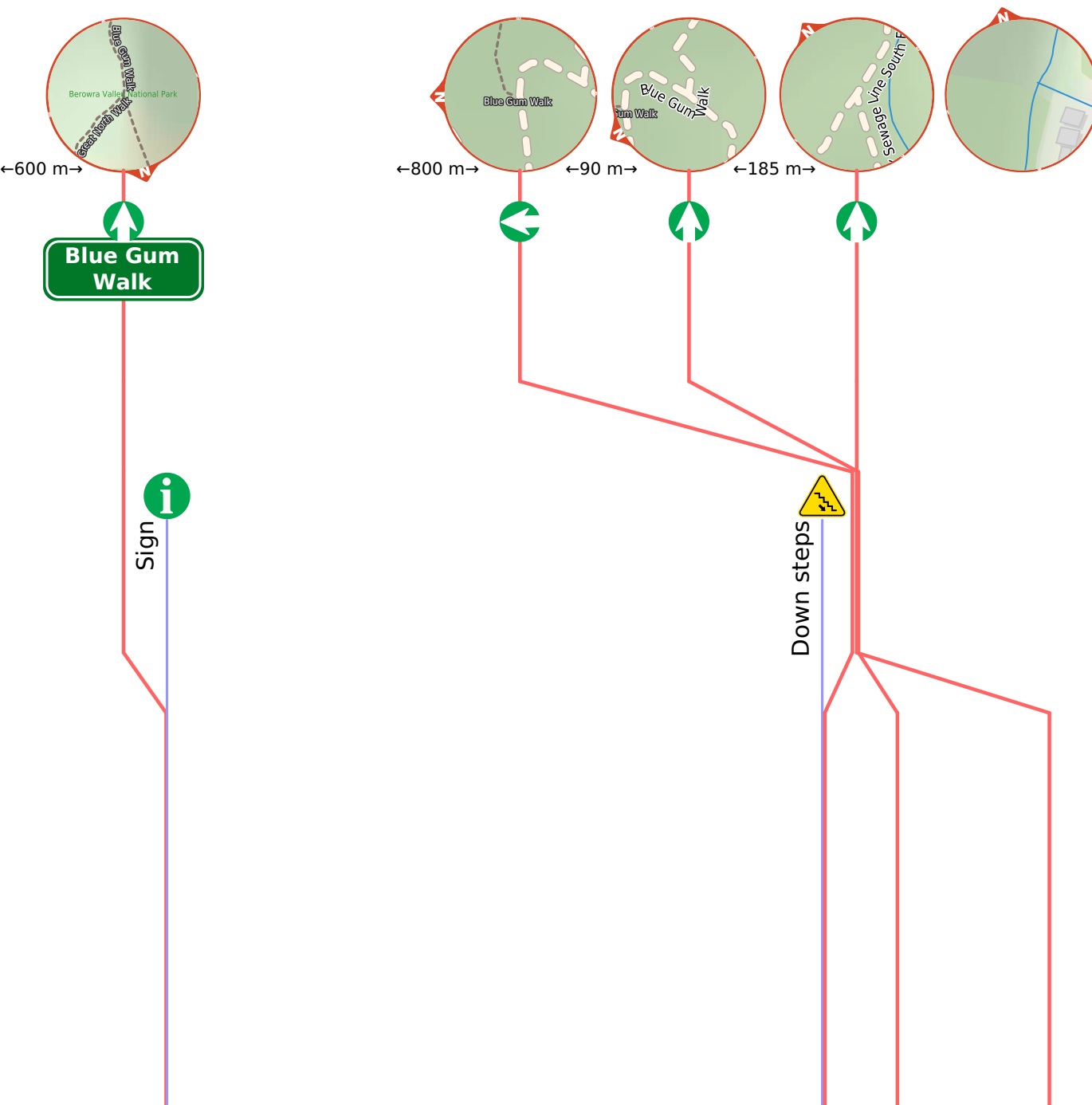
If not, change plans and stay safe. It is okay to delay and ask people for help.

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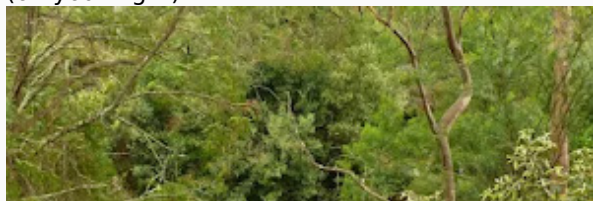
Getting started: From the lower side of Berowra Valley Bushland Park (at the end of Rosemead Rd, Hornsby), this walk follows the 'Fishponds 1.2km' arrow on the large sign, down the track for approximately 30m, to the intersection with the Rosemead management trail, marked with a Great North Walk arrow.

From the intersection, this walk heads downhill along the wide rocky management trail as it bends left (and passing some houses off to the left). The trail then bends right and leads across Old Mans Creek using some concrete stepping stones. The walk then continues by heading up the moderately steep hill and then through a thick blue gum and bracken fern forest. The wide trail leads to the top of the hill then bends left, (ignoring the track on the right) to pass over a saddle. Here the trail leads down the gentle hill, through the turpentine forest for just over 300m to find an intersection with narrower track on the right, marked with arrow posts.





After another 90 m find the "Fishponds Lookout" (on your right).



Fishponds Lookout is a fenced rock platform at the intersection of the Benowie walking track and the Rosemead trackhead. It is marked with a number of Great North Walk signs. This informally named lookout has good views down over Fishponds, a large waterhole on Berowra Creek. Looking north across the creek, there are views to the upper waterhole and the cliffs on the other side.



After another 8 m pass the sign (on your right).



Then come to the "Fishponds Lookout".



Then find the "Fishponds" (about 80 m ahead).



Fishponds is a long waterhole on Berowra Creek in Berowra Valley Regional Park. The waterhole is lined with tall cliffs and a few sandstone caves. At the southern end, there are stepping stones to help cross the creek, and a small timber bridge at the northern end. This is a beautiful spot and a worthy place to rest and enjoy the water passing by. The waterhole is fairly popular with local teens in summer, cooling off. Swimming and jumping at the Fishponds waterhole has resulted in fatalities - please heed the signs and Cora's parents' plea and enjoy the water from the edge.

Start of an optional side trip: An optional side trip to Fishponds crossing.



Dural

To start this optional side trip turn right here. at the intersection of Great North Walk & Blue Gum Walk by following the "Dural" sign **Start** heading along *Great North Walk* (a walking track).



Find the Fishponds Lookout at the start.



Fishponds Lookout is a fenced rock platform at the intersection of the Benowie walking track and the Rosemead trackhead. It is marked with a number of Great North Walk signs. This informally named lookout has good views down over Fishponds, a large waterhole on Berowra Creek. Looking north across the creek, there are views to the upper waterhole and the cliffs on the other side.



After another 65 m cross the stepping stones (about 10 m long)

This is flood prone; never cross flooded waterways.



At the intersection of Great North Walk & Berowra Creek **continue straight**, to head along Great North Walk.



After another 25 m come to "Fishponds".



Fishponds is a long waterhole on Berowra Creek in Berowra Valley Regional Park. The waterhole is lined with tall cliffs and a few sandstone caves. At the southern end, there are stepping stones to help cross the creek, and a small timber bridge at the northern end. This is a beautiful spot and a worthy place to rest and enjoy the water passing by. The waterhole is fairly popular with local teens in summer, cooling off. Swimming and jumping at the Fishponds waterhole has resulted in fatalities - please heed the signs and Cora's parents' plea and enjoy the water from the edge.



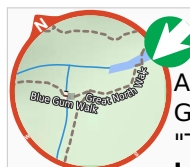
Continue another 0 m to find from the Great North Walk at the end.



Turn around and retrace your steps back the 90 m to the main route.



Back at the main route continue straight and follow on from the 1.2 km waypoint.



Thornleigh Station

At the intersection of Blue Gum Walk & Great North Walk by following the "Thornleigh Station" sign **turn sharp left**, to head along Blue Gum Walk.



After another 15 m head down the 13 earthen steps (about 7 m long)



Then cross the bridge (about 3 m long)



After another 285 m head up the rock steps (about 7 m long)



After another 45 m cross the ford.
This is flood prone; never cross flooded waterways.



At the intersection of Blue Gum Walk & Waitara Creek **continue straight**, to head along Blue Gum Walk.



After another 40 m pass the cave (on your left).



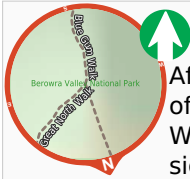
After another 20 m head up the rock steps (about 10 m long)



After another 50 m head up the stone steps (about 9 m long)



After another 230 m head up the 22 stone steps (about 10 m long)



Blue Gum Walk

After another 230 m (at the intersection of Blue Gum Walk & The Great North Walk) by following the "Blue Gum Walk" sign **continue straight**, to head along Blue Gum Walk.



Then pass the sign (on your right).



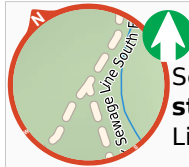
After another 800 m head down the 16 earthen steps (about 3 m long)



At the intersection of Ginger Meggs Trail & Blue Gum Walk **turn left**, to head along Ginger Meggs Trail (a vehicle track).



After another 90 m (from the Ginger Meggs Trail) **continue straight**.



After another 185 m (from the Valley Sewage Line South Firetrail) **continue straight**, to head along Valley Sewage Line South Firetrail.

