



# Shepherds Gully

(Darug & Darkinjung Country)

 1 h 45 min to 2 h

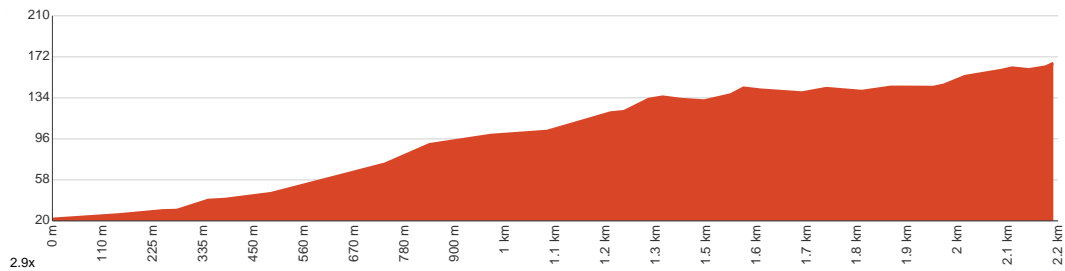
  
4.5 km  
Return

  
↑ 170 m  
↓ 170 m

 3  
Moderate track



The long, gentle climb along Shepherd's Gully has some beautiful scenery and some historic remnants of the Old Great North Road. While the remnants of the road construction are not as impressive as those on the main Devines Hill ascent, they are still interesting. The optional side trip to Hangmans Rock takes you past an old convict stockade site and some of the construction remnants on the main Devines Hill ascent. Let us begin by acknowledging the Darug & Darkinjung people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we travel today, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



Class 3 of 6 Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles	
<b>Quality of track</b>	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
<b>Gradient</b>	Short steep hills (3/6)
<b>Signage</b>	Clearly signposted (1/6)
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Limited facilities, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6)
<b>Experience Required</b>	No experience required (1/6)
<b>Weather</b>	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)

**Getting to the start:** From Pacific Motorway, M1

- Turn on to Peats Ridge Road Offramp then drive for 3.8 km
- Keep left onto Cooks Road and drive for another 2.8 km
- Keep left and drive for another 1.4 km
- Keep right and drive for another 410 m
- Turn sharp left onto Popran Road and drive for another 6.4 km
- Turn left onto Wisemans Ferry Road and drive for another 33.5 km
- Continue onto Settlers Road and drive for another 8.7 km

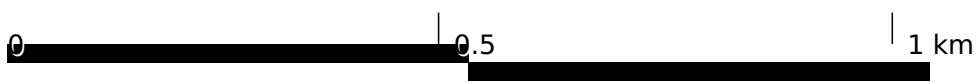
**Before you start any journey ensure you;**

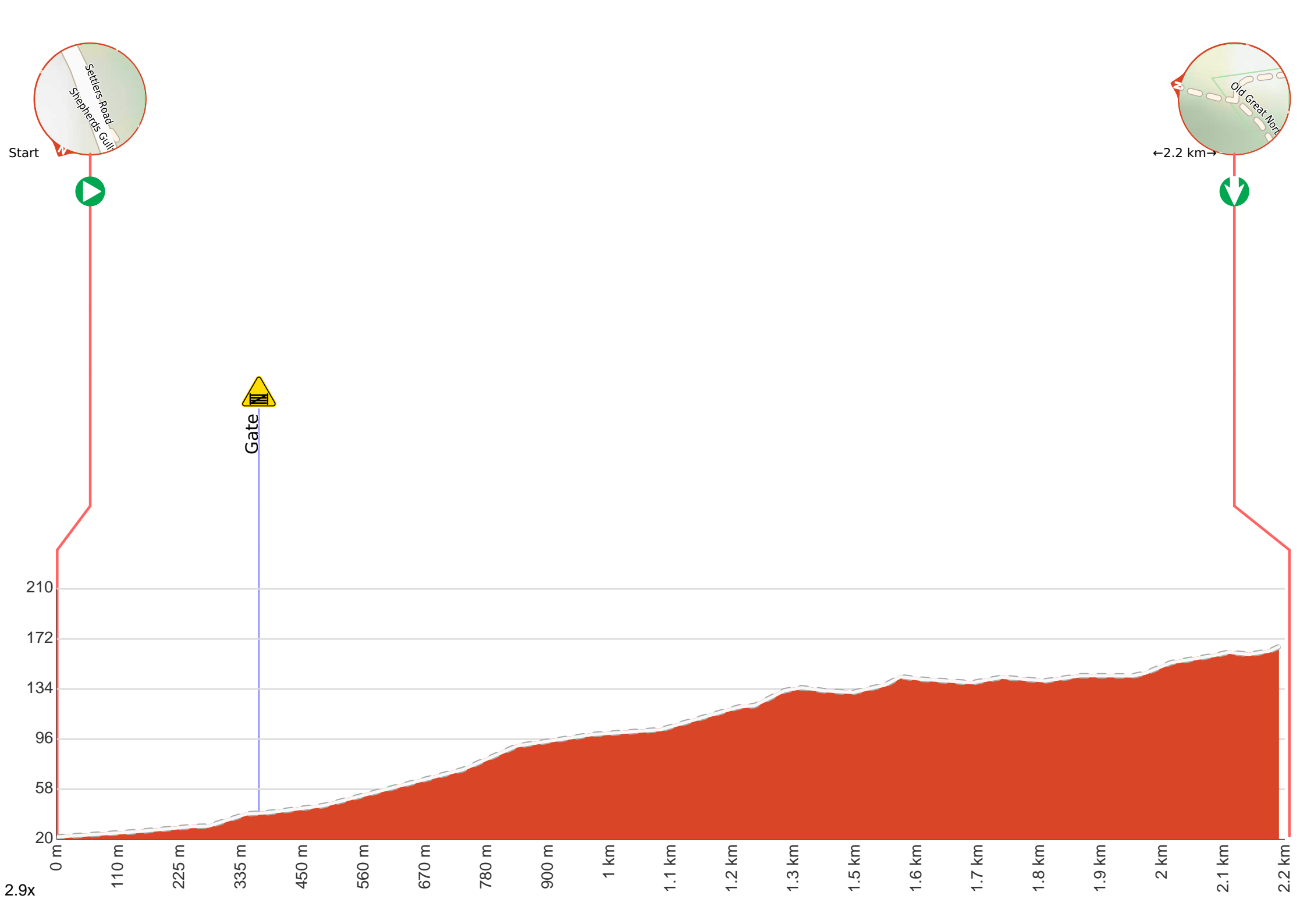
- Tell someone you trust where you are going and what to do if you are late returning
- Have adequate equipment, supplies, skills & knowledge to undertake this journey safely
- Consider weather forecasts, park/track closures & fire dangers
- Can respond to emergencies & call for help at any point
- Are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

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

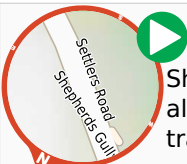
Share  
Bushwalk.com  
[/ij/GMBYOR](https://bushwalk.com/ij/GMBYOR)







**Getting started:** From the signposted track head on Settlers Rd, marked with a "Shepherd's Gully Road" Convict Trail signpost (about 9km from Wisemans Ferry crossing), the walk passes the 'Yengo National Park' signpost and follows the management trail gently up the hill. After a short distance the walk passes an information sign and goes around a gate. The walk then continues to wind up along the valley for a long while, initially through very moist forest but getting drier as it climbs. Keep an eye out on the other side of the gully for remnants of the rock retaining walls of the earlier lines of the road. There are also some areas of beautiful scenery with lots of boulders, ferns and grasstrees. The walk eventually arrives at a signposted intersection beside a gate.



At the intersection of Settlers Road & Shepherd's Gully Road **Start** heading along *Shepherd's Gully Road* (a vehicle track).



After 360 m head through/around the gate.

**Start of an optional side trip:** An optional side trip to Hangmans Rock.



To start this optional side trip veer right here. at the intersection of Shepherd's Gully Road & Old Great North Road **Start** heading along *Old Great North Road* (a vehicle track).



After 15 m head through/around the gate.



After another 335 m (from the Old Great North Road) **continue straight**, to head along Old Great North Road.



After another 360 m come to the end.



"Hangmans Rock".



Hangmans Rock is beside the historic Old Great North Road, near Wisemans Ferry, NSW. This beautiful sandstone cave/overhang has some steps and a bench seat cut into it and is part of the history of the convict built OGNR. It is uncertain what purpose the spot served, but stories that convicts were hanged through the hole in the roof of the cave appear unlikely to be true, despite giving a name to the atmospheric spot.



Turn around and retrace your steps back the 710 m to the main route.



Back at the main route veer right and follow on from the 2.2 km waypoint.



Continue another 1.9 km to find the end. Then turn around here and retrace the main route for 2.2 km to get back to the start.



About 70 m past the end is "Devines Hill".



Devines Hill is a historically significant area on the Old Great North Road, near present day Wisemans Ferry, NSW. There are substantial remnants visible here, including cuttings, retaining walls and quarry sites. There were 3 main road lines built at different times to climb the hills just north of Wisemans Ferry, starting with Finchs Line to the east, followed by the Devines Hill ascent and then Shepherds Gully, to the west. Information signs in the area provide some interesting historical background and the 'Convict Trail Project' has an excellent website for further reading.