


Mount Frankland Summit and Caldyanup Trails

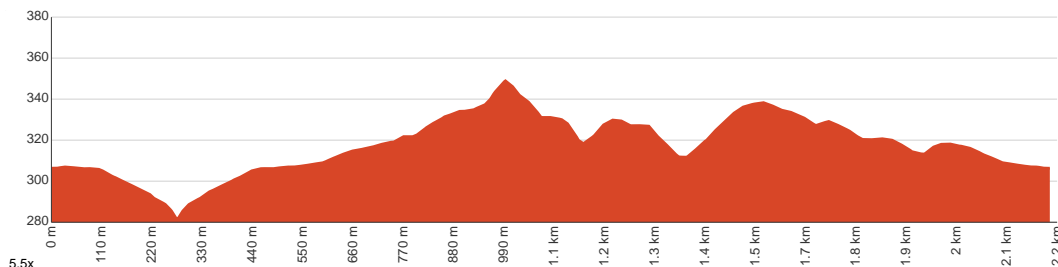
 1 h to 2 h


2.2 km
Circuit


↑ 112 m
↓ 112 m


Moderate track

Starting from the car park at the end of Mount Frankland Road, this walk takes you on a circuit past the Wilderness View Lookout, then up to the summit of Mount Frankland and down around the mountain via the Summit and Caldyanup Trails. Combining three short trails in Mount Frankland National Park, this walk follows an elevated metal walkway to the Wilderness View Lookout, then leads to the top of Mount Frankland via the bitumen Summit Trail before circling around the mountain via the Caldyanup Trail. Featuring exceptional views of the Walpole Wilderness as well as Mount Frankland itself, this short scenic walk immerses you in one of the best granite and karri areas in Australia's South West. The walk to the Wilderness View Lookout is only a few hundred meters from the car park, featuring a stainless steel walkway that follows the contour of a granite hill dominated by karri forest and a mossy rock face. It's a relatively short trip to the edge of the hill, where a viewing platform extends out above the trees, providing magnificent views of the forest below and the peaks far on the horizon. The Summit Trail starts with a gentle incline, following a bitumen path with plenty of little benches along its route. On either side of the path, the karri-dominated forest is lush and beautiful, with the track rising fairly quickly. The bitumen path eventually ends, leading to a series of concrete steps and metal ladders. The final ascent has some of the best views of the whole trail, and once you reach the summit you will encounter the Towerman's Lookout and be rewarded with spectacular 360° views of the surrounding landscape. Branching off from close to where the Summit Trail first reaches the granite dome on the way up, the Caldyanup Trail starts by skirting along the granite slope of Mount Frankland, following a stainless steel walkway that soon gives way to a natural surface with mostly rocky terrain. The trail continues to follow the dome as it descends, giving walkers a sense of this monolith's sheer size from multiple vantage points. It eventually loops back to join the Summit Trail at the picnic area, from where walkers can return via the same route to the car park. Mount Frankland has good facilities for a fairly remote park, including a large arrival shelter with maps and information about the geology and the walks in the area, as well as a picnic area that's equipped with gas barbecues and has picnic tables. The walk is largely well signed, with maps and interpretive panels mainly along the Summit Trail. Wheelchair access is available to the picnic area, toilet and Wilderness View Lookout. The ascent to the summit includes many steep concrete steps and a short ladder climb, requiring a reasonable level of fitness. The trail around the granite dome is challenging, with uneven surfaces and occasional natural obstacles. Walkers should consider the weather conditions before proceeding on this walk, as the granite surfaces can be slippery when wet. Let us begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we travel today, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



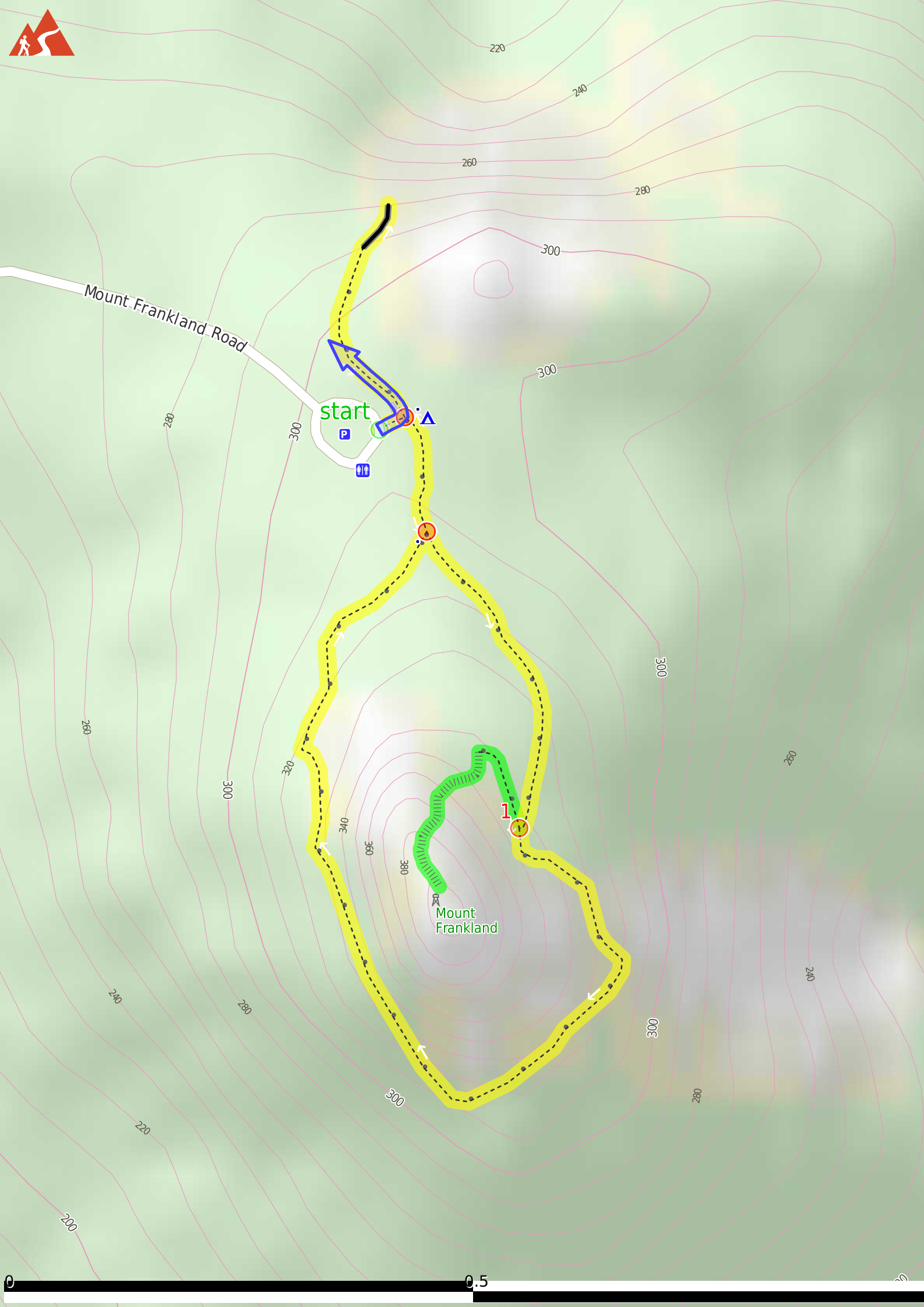
Class 3 of 6 Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles	
Quality of track	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
Gradient	Short steep hills (3/6)
Signage	Clearly signposted (1/6)
Infrastructure	Generally useful facilities (such as fenced cliffs and sea
Experience Required	Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)
Weather	Storms may impact on navigation and safety (3/6)

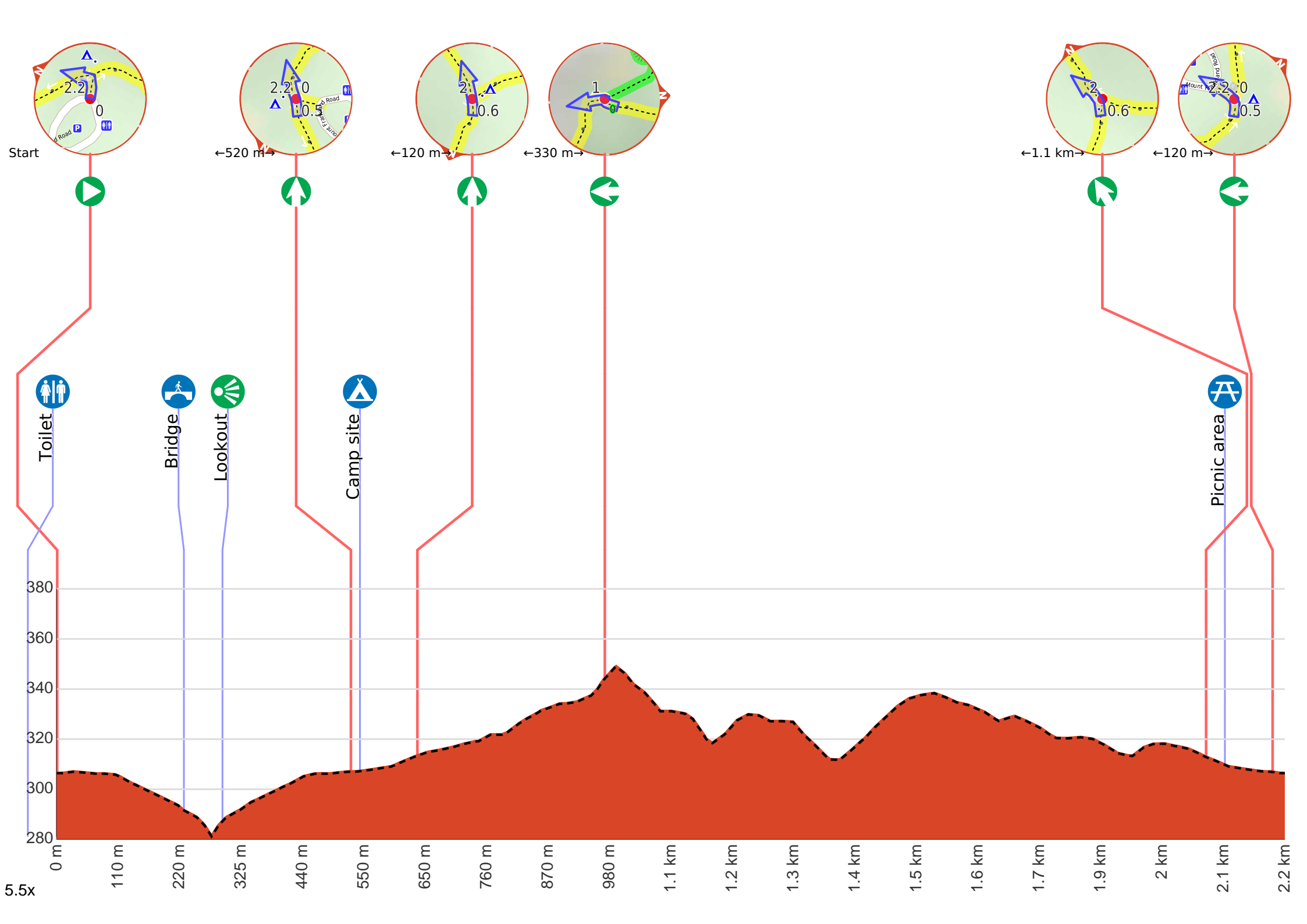
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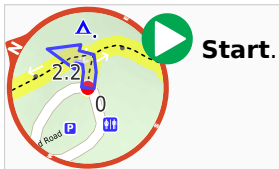
Bushwalking is fun but also can be dangerous. All information here is general and all kinds of errors and/or omissions. Neither the authors nor publishers accept responsibility or liability for any inconvenience, loss or injury sustained.
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Getting to the start: From South Western Highway, 1, North Walpole.








Getting started: From the carpark on Mount Frankland Road (220 metres west of Wilderness View Lookout), head east for about 25 metres, then take a 90-degree right turn. Follow the dirt track as you start moving away from the Wilderness View Lookout. When the track splits near Towerman's Hut and Picnic Area, keep left to continue along Mount Frankland Summit and Caldyanup Trails (clockwise).




Start.

 There is a toilet (about 50 m back from the start).


 After another 80 m **turn left**.

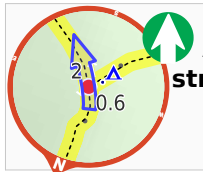
 After another 195 m cross the bridge (about 100 m long)

 Then find the "Wilderness View Lookout" (on your left).
Visitors to Mount Frankland can still enjoy spectacular views without the steep walk to the summit. A short, 600m return walk along a universally accessible stainless steel walkway leads to the Wilderness View Lookout, with a series of interpretive panels along the way describing the endemic trees and plants in the area. Nestled amongst karri, jarrah and tingle trees, the lookout offers uninterrupted views over the western side of the Walpole Wilderness from high above the forest floor.



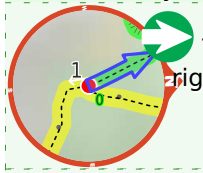
After another 225 m **continue straight**.

 After another 15 m come to the "Mt Frankland Campground - Mt Frankland National Park" (15 m on your left).



After another 100 m **continue straight**.

Start of an optional side trip: This side trip takes you to the summit of Mount Frankland and back, where you can see Frankland River and much more if it's not misty/foggy.



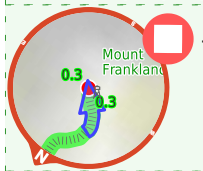
To start this optional side trip turn right here. **Start.**



After another 90 m head up the steps



After another 165 m come to "Mount Frankland".
At an elevation of 384 metres, Mount Frankland is not particularly tall; however its exposed granite dome takes the form of a huge, expansive monolith. The dome-shaped summit of Mount Frankland stands out of the thick forests around it and provides panoramic views of the picturesque landscape all around. The Frankland River can be seen towards the coast, the Porongurup and Stirling Ranges to the east, and Mount Roe to the north, considering it's a clear day. The summit of this impressive granite monadnock is very safe, with fencing to protect walkers from falling over the edge. A plaque attached to a pillar serves as the summit cairn, with the plaque naming the surrounding landmarks.



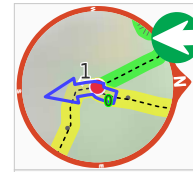
The end.



Turn around and retrace your steps back the 260 m to the main route.



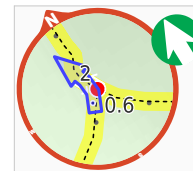
Back at the main route continue straight and follow on from the 970 m waypoint.



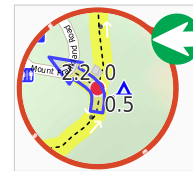
After another 330 m **turn left**.



After another 1.1 km find the "Towerman's Hut and Picnic Area" (on your left). Due to its height overlooking the Walpole Wilderness, Mount Frankland used to be a fire lookout tower. The old Towerman's Hut is located in what is now a picnic area equipped with gas barbecues and picnic tables. The hut was constructed in 1956 and the watchmen of the time used it while observing the weather and watching for fires in the area.



Veer left.



After another 120 m **turn left**.



After another 30 m come to the end.