



# Larapinta Trail, S5: Birthday Waterhole to Hugh Gorge

(Arrernte Country)

9 h to 2 days

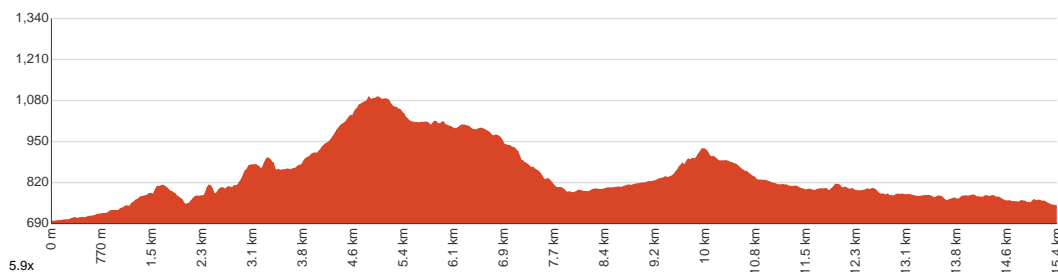
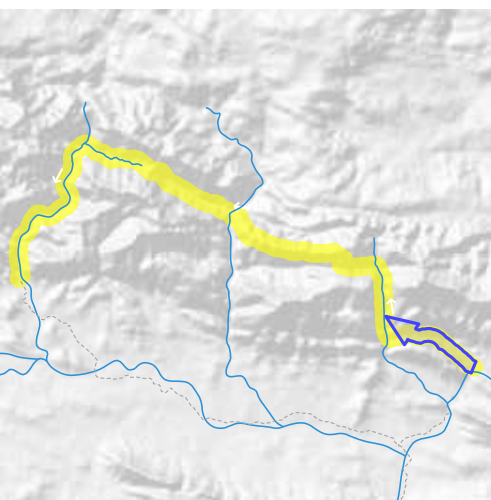
15.3 km  
One way

↑ 968 m  
↓ 920 m

5  
Very challenging

Starting from the Birthday Waterhole - Section 4/5 Junction (900m north of the actual waterhole), Burt Plain, this walk takes you to Hugh Gorge via the Larapinta Trail (Section 5), exploring Razorback Ridge along the way. This is the fifth section of the 223km long Larapinta Trail. Prepare for an arid journey that can surprise you with shady and even refreshing parts. Your effort will be rewarded with picturesque views and vast valleys with amazing scenery. Remember to pause and experience the feeling of remoteness and serenity as you make your way through the national park. You may find some shelter from the sun whilst hiking through Spencer Gorge. The designated campsite along Fringe Lilly Creek has tent pads, yet you'll need to handle everything else yourself. You may need to cross bodies of water depending on the season and forecast. Keep in mind that you'll need a 4WD vehicle with high clearance to access both trailheads. Let us begin by acknowledging the Arrernte people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we travel today, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Full journey: [Larapinta Trail](#)

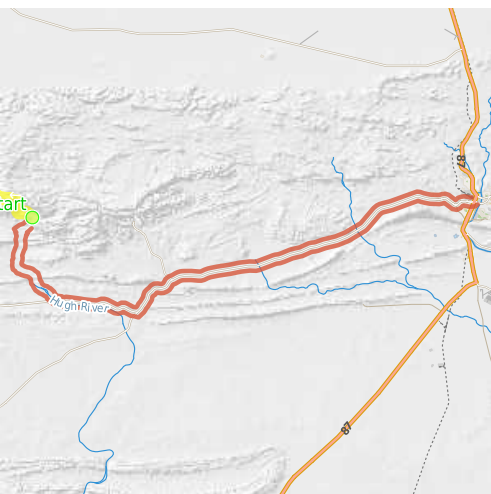


Class 5 of 6  
Rough unclear track

<b>Quality of track</b>	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
<b>Gradient</b>	Very steep (4/6)
<b>Signage</b>	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Limited facilities, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6)
<b>Experience Required</b>	High level of bushwalking experience recommended (5/6)
<b>Weather</b>	Storms may impact on navigation and safety (3/6)

**Getting to the start:** From Telegraph Terrace, 87

- Turn on to 6 then drive for 25 m
- Continue onto Larapinta Drive, 6 and drive for another 850 m
- At roundabout, take exit 2 onto Larapinta Drive, 6 and drive for another 880 m
- At roundabout, take exit 1 onto Larapinta Drive, 6 and drive for another 44.3 km
- Turn right onto Namatjira Drive, 2 and drive for another 9.4 km
- Keep right onto Larapinta Trail Access and drive for another 12.9 km
- Turn right and drive for another 1.3 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](https://bushwalk.com/j/199VZZ)  
[/j/199VZZ](https://bushwalk.com/j/199VZZ)





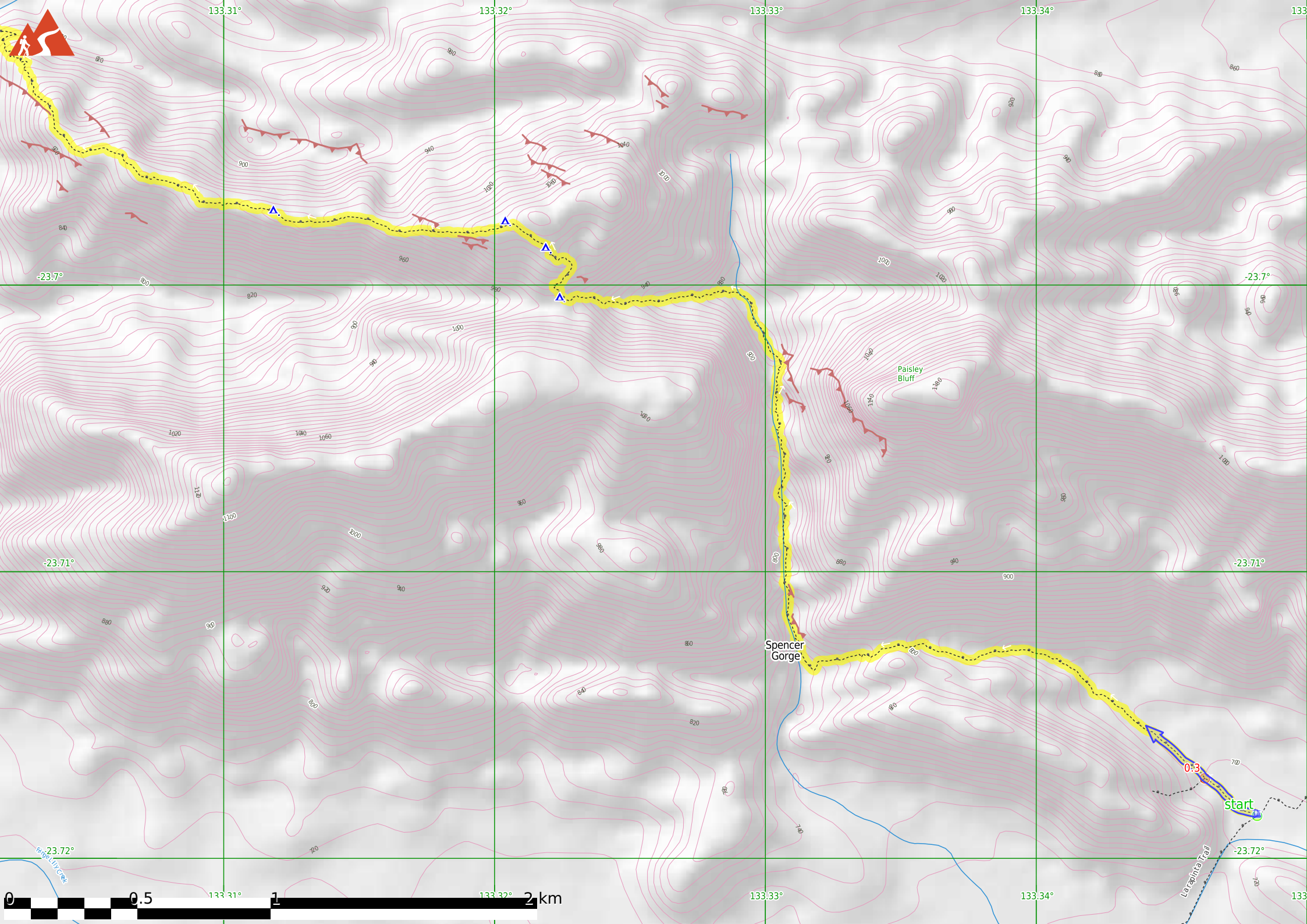
Hugh Gorge  
Waterhole

15.3

Spencer  
Gorge

start





133.31°

133.32°

133.33°

133.34°

133.35°

-23.7°

-23.7°

-23.71°

-23.71°

-23.72°

-23.72°

133.31°

133.32°

133.33°

133.34°

133.35°

0

0.5

1

2 km

133.35°

-23.72°

Warrilpie Creek

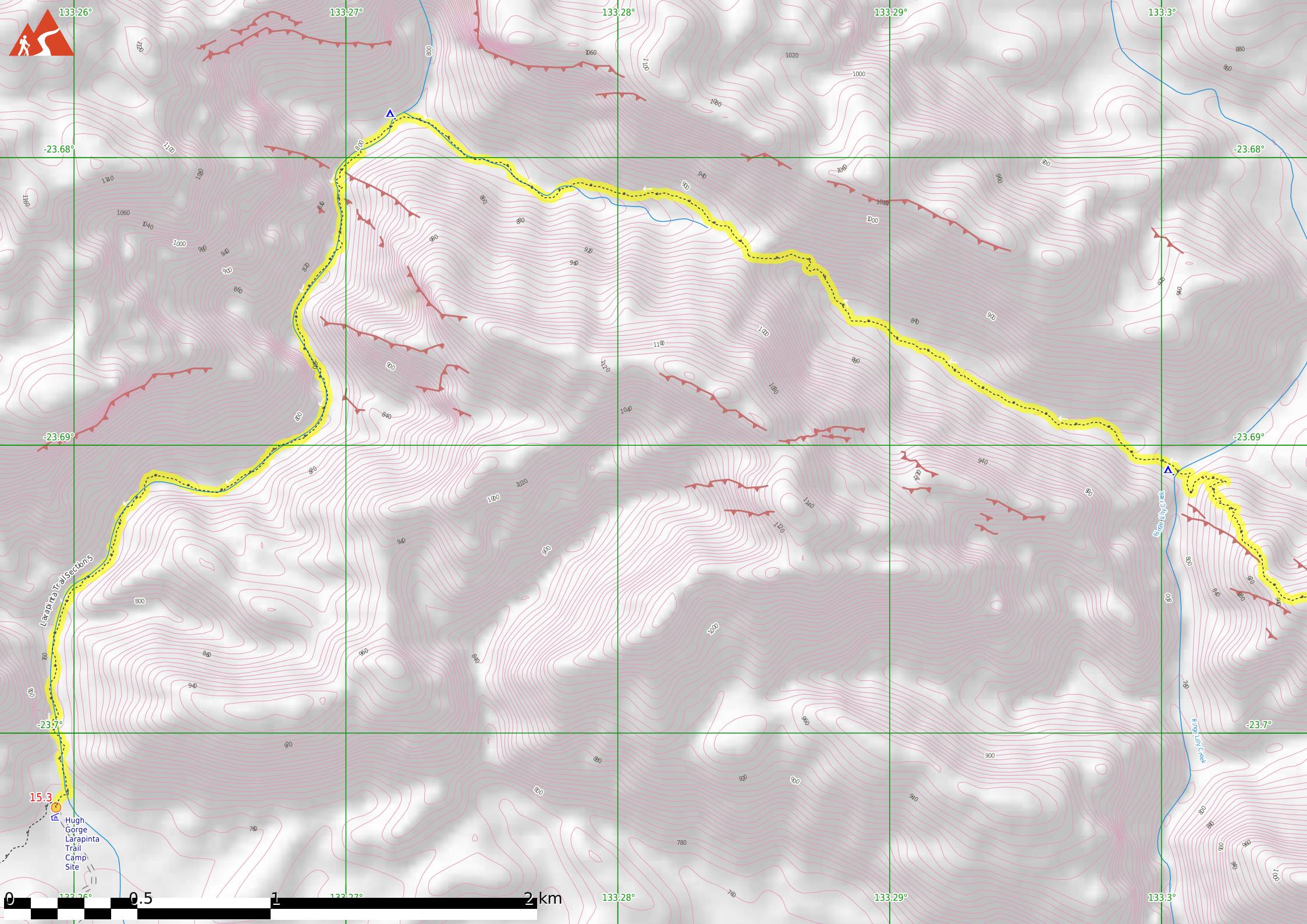
La rapita Trail

Paisley Bluff

Spencer Gorge

start

0:3

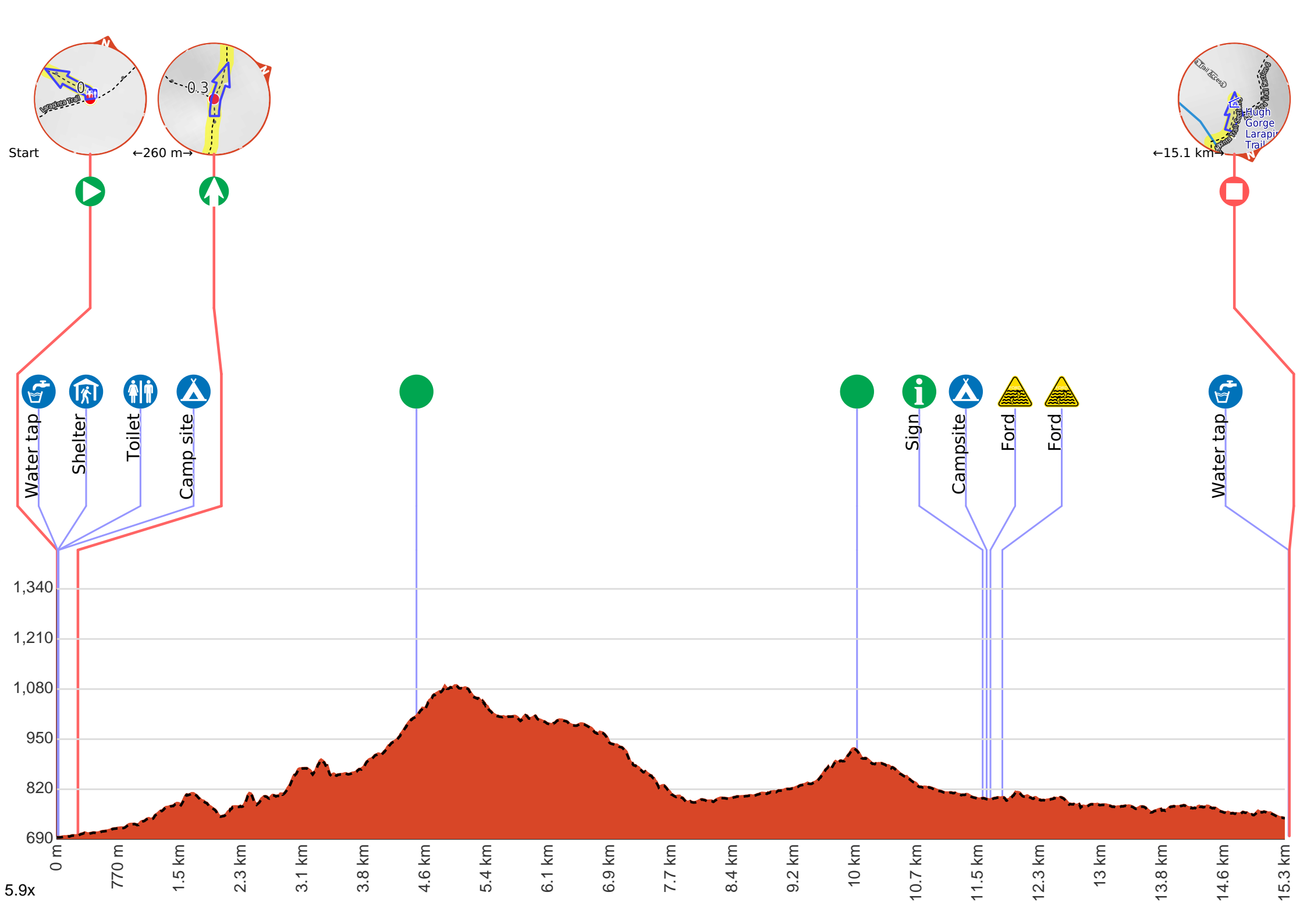


15.3  
Hugh Gorge Larapinta Trail Camp Site

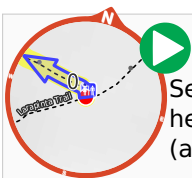
Larapinta Trail Section 5

Face-Lily Creek

Face-Lily Creek



**Getting started:** From the Birthday Waterhole - Section 4/5 Junction (900m north of the actual waterhole), head along the dirt track following the signage for "Section 5", moving away from the "Birthday Waterhole" sign. Keep right as you head northwest, then veer right following the marked track as it hugs the creek (bed) to continue along Larapinta Trail, S5: Birthday Waterhole to Hugh Gorge.



At the intersection of Larapinta Trail Section 4 & Larapinta Trail **Start** heading along *Larapinta Trail Section 5* (a walking track).



Find the water tap at the start.



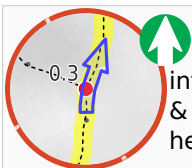
Find the shelter at the start.



Find the toilet at the start.



Find the Section 4/5 Junction at the start.



After another 240 m (at the intersection of Larapinta Trail Section 5 & Larapinta Trail) **continue straight**, to head along Larapinta Trail Section 5.



After another 4.2 km find the "Windy Saddle" (5 m on your left).  
A great spot to take a break and take in the views.



After another 5.5 km find the "Rocky Saddle" (on your right).



After another 1.6 km pass the "Hugh Junction".



After another 50 m find the "Fringe Lilly Creek Campsite" (on your left).  
A basic campsite that has tent pads, yet it lacks water and toilet facilities. You may get lucky and find some water along the creek but make sure you treat the water well before drinking.



After another 45 m cross the ford.



After another 150 m cross the ford.



After another 3.6 km pass the water tap (7 m on your right).



After another 10 m come to "Hugh Gorge Larapinta Trail Camp Site".



The end.