



Taronga Zoo to Spit Bridge

3 h 45 min to 5 h

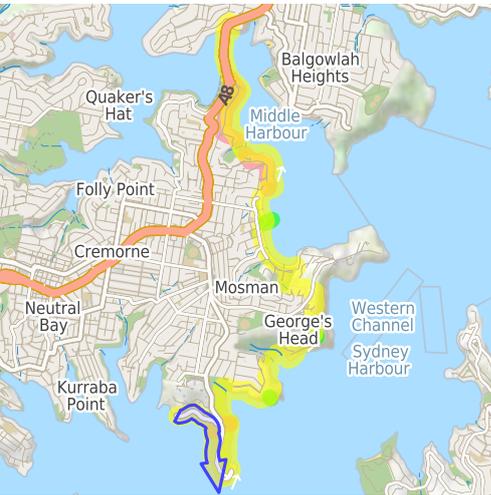
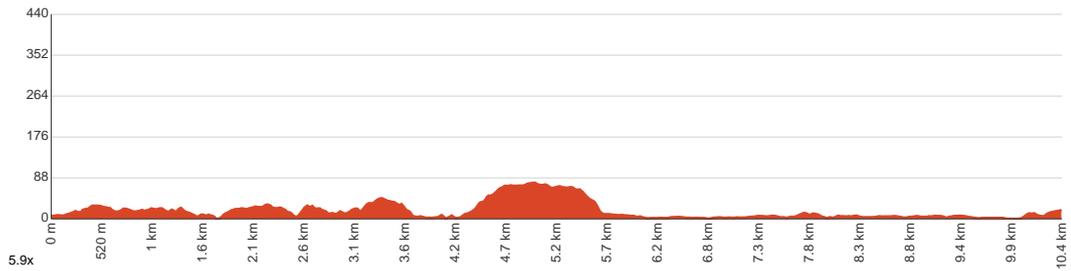
10.4 km
One way

↑ 355 m
↓ 343 m

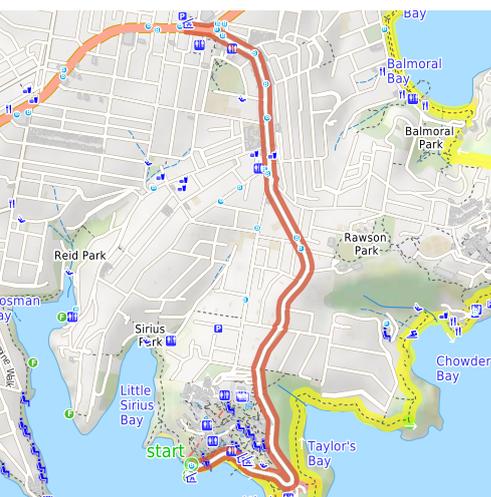
4
Hard track



This is a scenic and culturally rich walk with views over Sydney Harbour and many interesting heritage buildings along the way. The start at the zoo allows for a possible visit. The walk then passes the Bacino Bar on the way through the military heritage buildings. This is an excellent walk to do on a hot summer's day, with access to beautiful beaches along the whole walk. 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 4 of 6 Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely	
Quality of track	Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely (4/6)
Gradient	Very steep (4/6)
Signage	Minimal directional signs (4/6)
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 Military Road, A8

- Turn on to Military Road then drive for 950 m
- At roundabout, take exit 2 onto Bradleys Head Road and drive for another 910 m
- At roundabout, take exit 2 onto Bradleys Head Road and drive for another 1.6 km

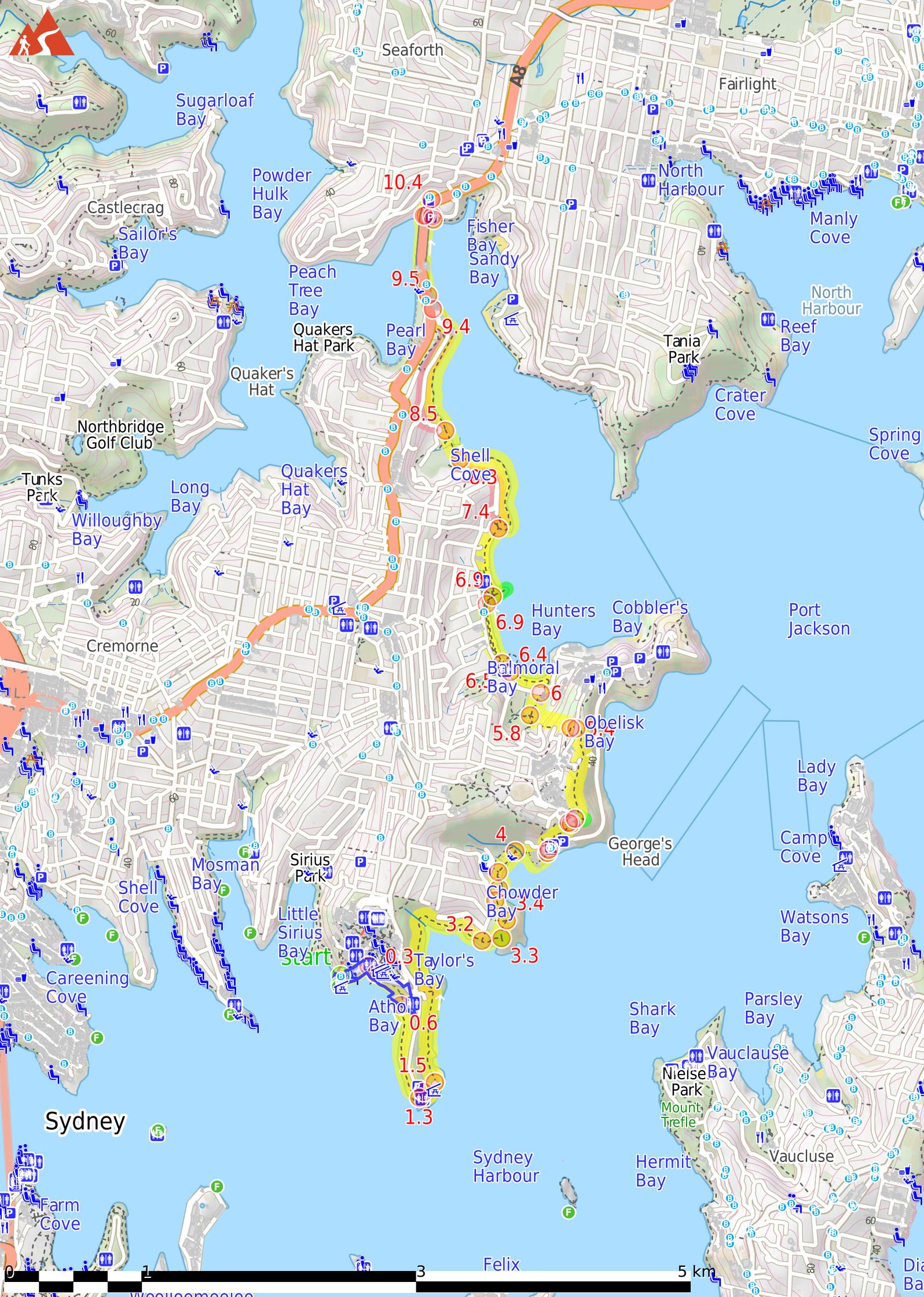
Before you start any journey ensure you;

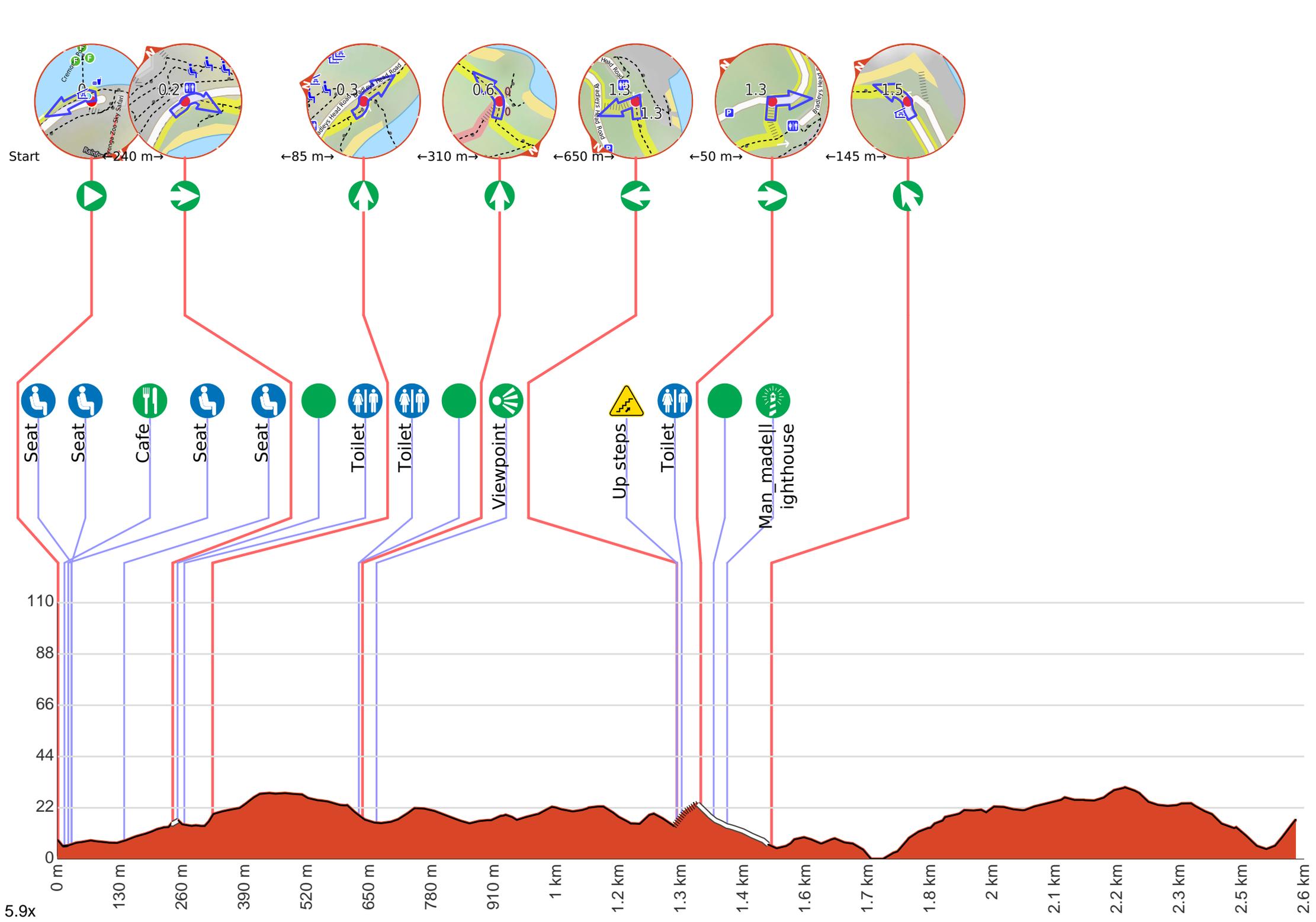
- Tell someone you trust where you are going and what to do if you are late returning
- Have adequate equipment, supplies, skills & knowledge to undertake this journey safely
- Consider weather forecasts, park/track closures & fire dangers
- Can respond to emergencies & call for help at any point
- Are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

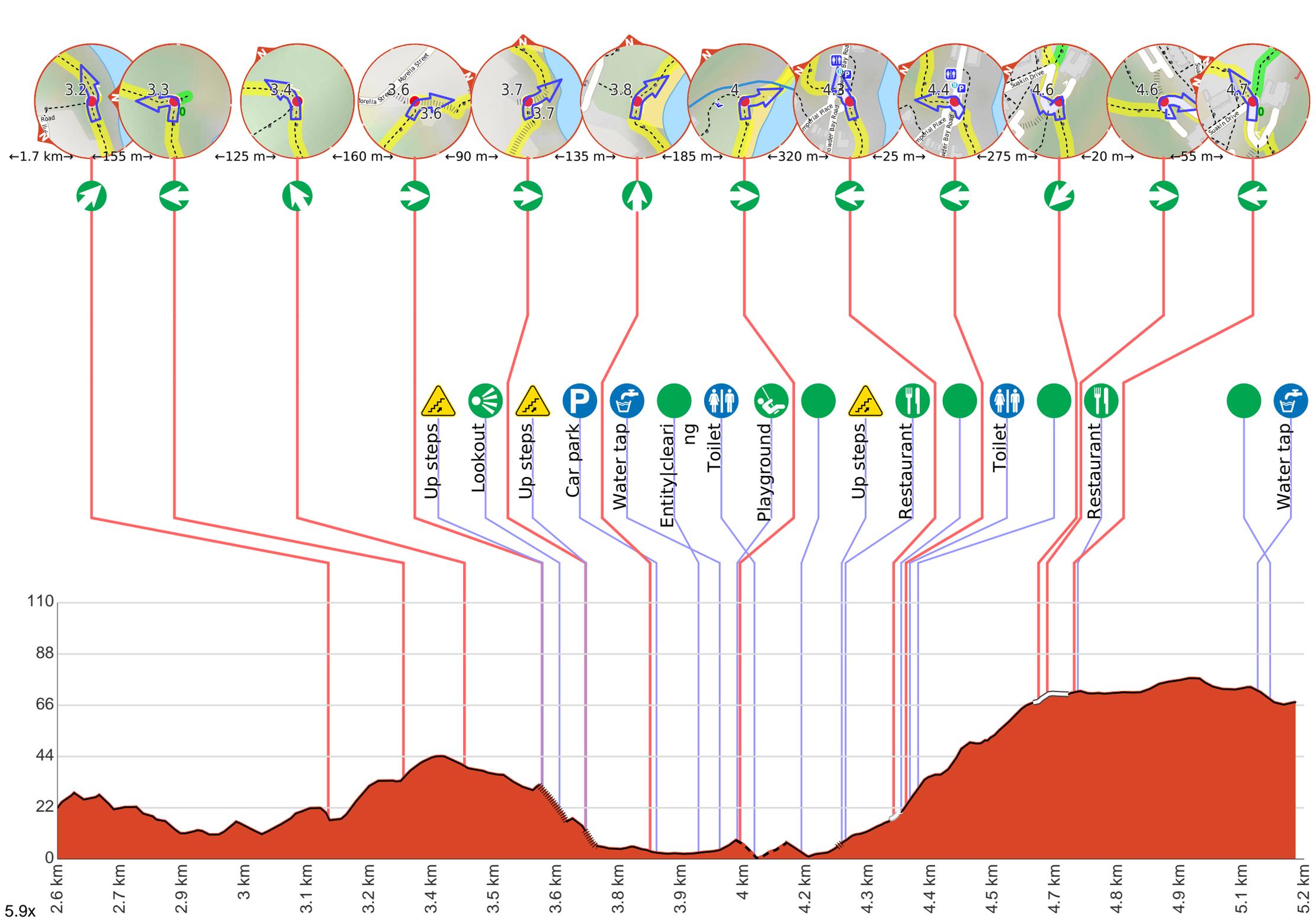
If not, change plans and stay safe. It is okay to delay and ask people for help.

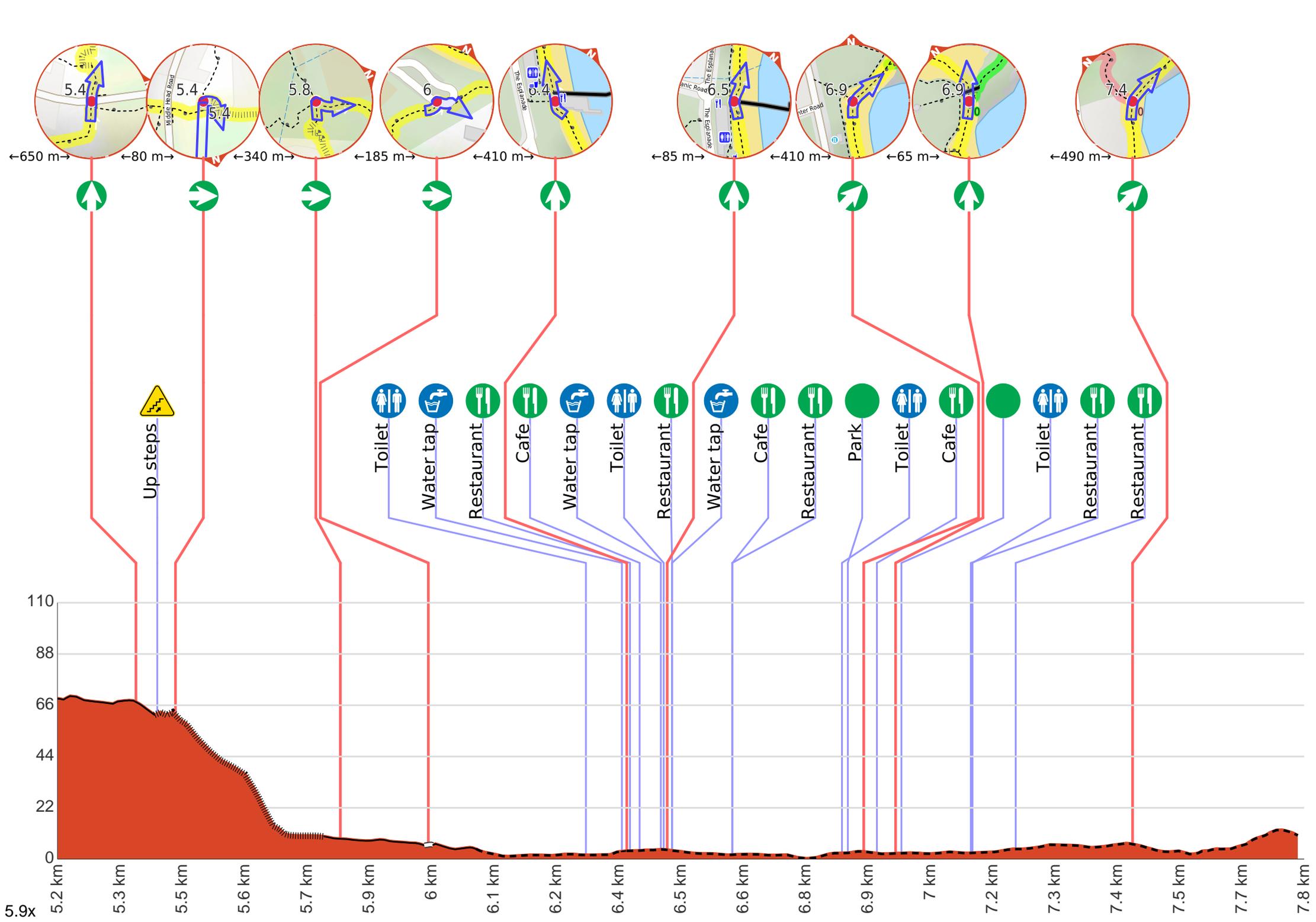
Share
Bushwalk.com
[/j/O63PAR](https://bushwalk.com/j/O63PAR)

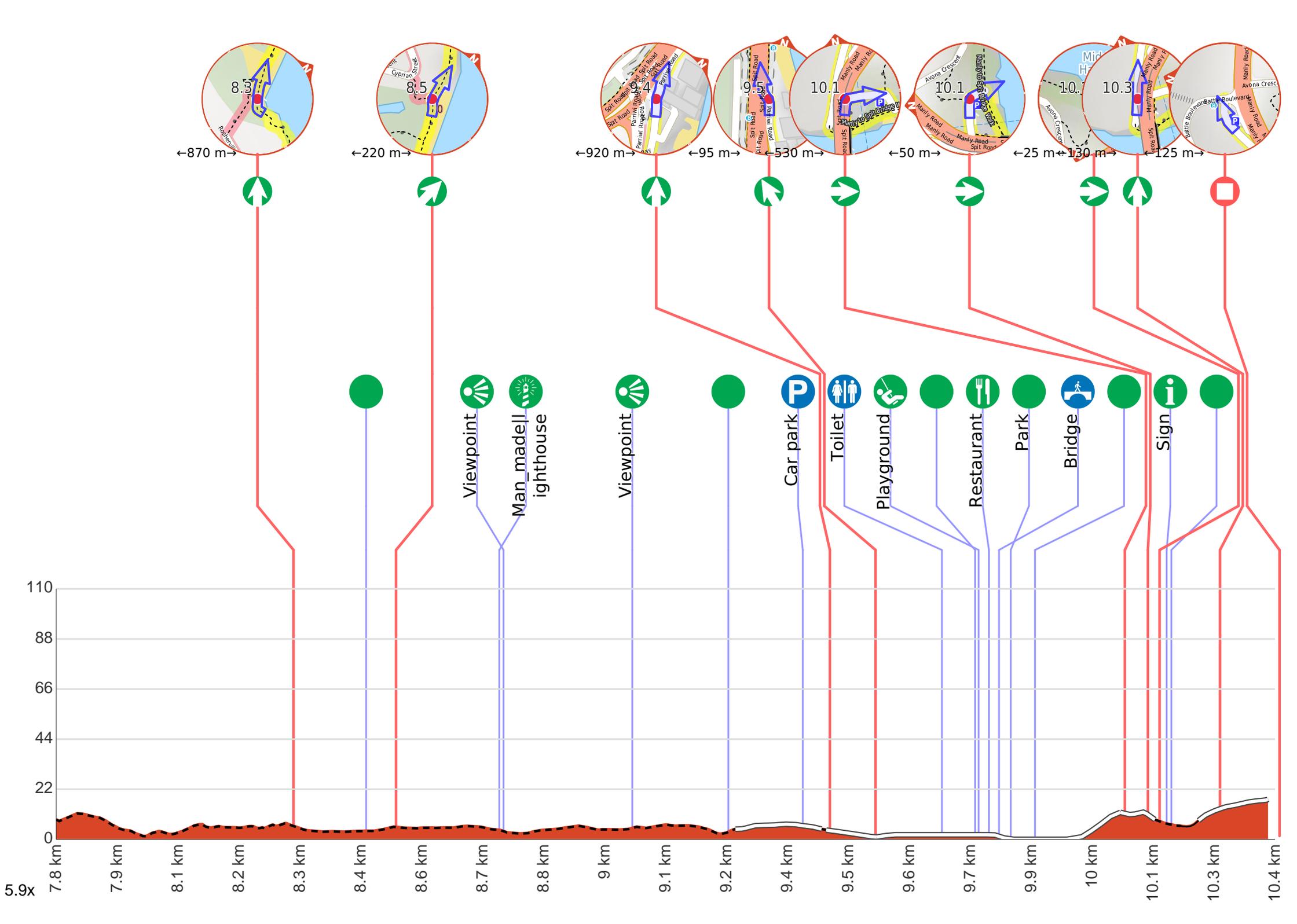








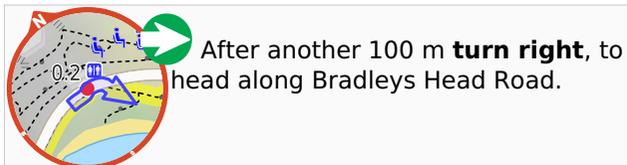




Getting started: From the wharf, the walk heads uphill along the footpath beside the road to the Taronga Zoo entrance at the pedestrian crossing.



- Find the seat at the start. , has a backrest.
- Find the seat at the start. , has a backrest.
- Then pass the "Taronga Zoo Cafe" (30 m on your right).
- After another 8 m pass a seat (50 m on your right)., has a backrest.
- After another 115 m pass a seat (on your right).



After another 100 m **turn right**, to head along Bradleys Head Road.



Taronga Zoo was founded in 1916, with the vision of imitating the Hamburg Zoo's bar-less exhibits. Since its opening, Taronga Zoo has directed more attention to research, education and conservation efforts to support the animals. Taronga Zoo is open everyday 9am- 5pm. Phone: +61 2 9969 2777 or email: groups@zoo.nsw.gov.au.

- After another 15 m pass the toilet (20 m on your left).
- Turn right.**
- After another 35 m **continue straight.**

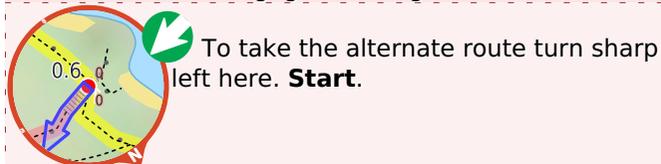


- After another 225 m **continue straight.** Keep right.
- After another 75 m pass the toilet (85 m on your left).
- Then find the "Athol Hall" (100 m on your left).



Athol Hall, built in 1908, was once a hotel. Sections of the original building date back to the 1800's. The hall has an excellent vantage point over the harbour with the Sydney Opera House, Harbour Bridge and city all well within its scope. Athol Hall today is a cafe and function centre with the cafe open Tues-Fri and Sun, 11am -3pm.

Start of an alternate route: A shorter alternate route linking Int. Borogegal Walking Trail and Athol Hall Trk to Int. Borogegal Walking Trail.



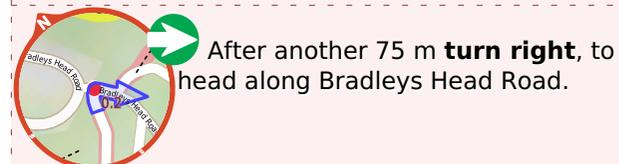
- To take the alternate route turn sharp left here. **Start.**
- Then head down the steps (about 30 m long)

- After another 45 m head down the steps (about 10 m long)
- After another 10 m find the "Athol Hall" (35 m on your right).

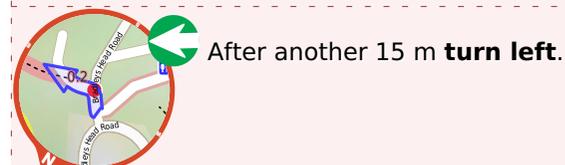


Athol Hall, built in 1908, was once a hotel. Sections of the original building date back to the 1800's. The hall has an excellent vantage point over the harbour with the Sydney Opera House, Harbour Bridge and city all well within its scope. Athol Hall today is a cafe and function centre with the cafe open Tues-Fri and Sun, 11am -3pm.

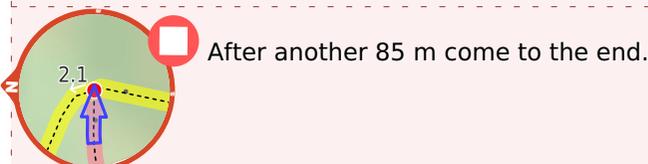
- Then pass the toilet (9 m on your right).



- After another 7 m head through/around the gate.

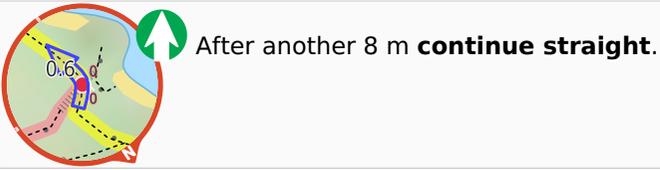


- After another 15 m **turn left.**
- After another 25 m **veer left.**

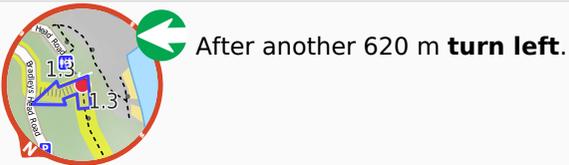


- After another 85 m come to the end.
- At the end of this alternate route, rejoin the main route.

 The alternate route finishes here. Turn left to rejoin the main route at the 2.1 km waypoint.

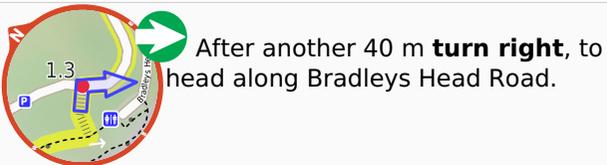


 After another 30 m come to the "Lookout" (45 m on your right).



 Then head up the steps (about 50 m long)

 Then pass the toilet (30 m on your right).



 After another 25 m find the "HMAS Sydney Memorial Mast" (45 m on your right).



The HMAS Sydney Memorial Mast was erected in 1934, following the HMAS Sydney's decommissioning in 1928. The mast stands as a sign of respect for 'Australian officers, sailors and ships lost at sea and in combat'. HMAS Sydney itself was a Chatham Class light cruiser which saw action in WW1.

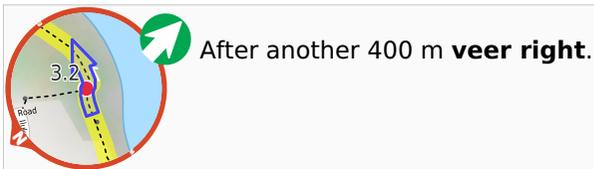
 After another 30 m pass the "Bradleys Head Lighthouse" (115 m on your right).



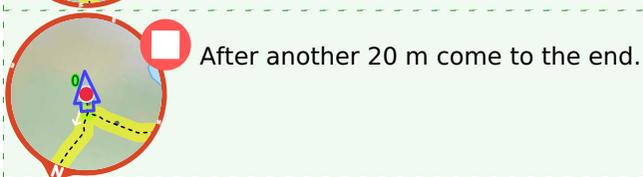
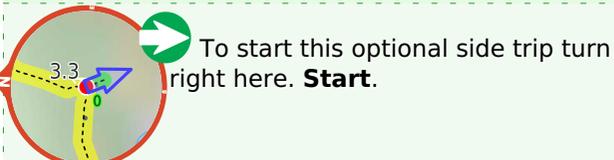
 The alternate route finishes here. Turn left to rejoin the main route at the 2.1 km waypoint.

 After another 620 m **continue straight**.

 After another 660 m **continue straight**.



Start of an optional side trip: An optional side trip to Chowder Head.



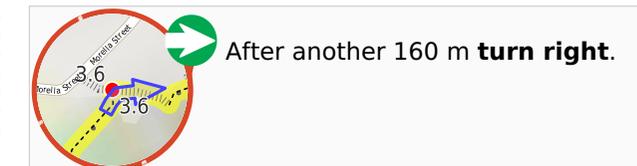
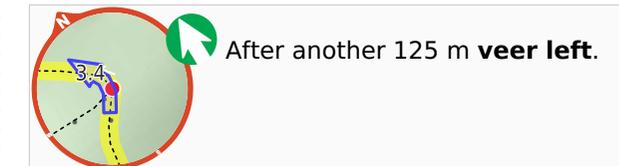
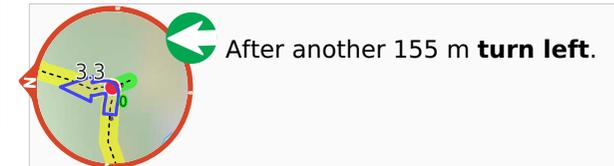
 About 70 m past the end is "Chowder Head".



Chowder Head provides a small unfenced rocky outcrop to enjoy the wide harbour views. From this vantage point, there are views across the water to South Head, Vaucluse, Rose Bay, Shark Island and Bradleys Head. A great spot to watch the sailing boats on a clear day.

 Turn around and retrace your steps back the 20 m to the main route.

 Back at the main route continue straight and follow on from the 3.3 km waypoint.



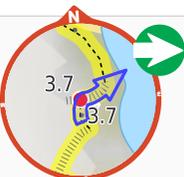
 Then head up the steps (about 60 m long)



Then find the "Morella St lookout" (on your right).



This informally named clearing behind some houses on Morella St provides a great view across the harbour. The fairly large clearing has been maintained and is a good place to stop if wanting to avoid the large groups at Clifton Gardens.



After another 55 m **turn right**.



Then head up the steps (about 30 m long)



After another 115 m pass the "Clifton Gardens Car Park" (55 m on your left). This car park is wheelchair accessible.



Continue straight.



After another 145 m pass the water tap (on your right).



Then find the "Clifton Gardens Reserve" (15 m on your left).



Clifton Gardens was developed as a picnic spot in the late 1800s, with a local hotelier building a wharf and dance pavilion. In 1909, Sydney Ferries Ltd purchased the estate, and further developed the area, including a large swimming enclosure. The structure burned down in 1956. Today, Clifton Gardens is touted as 'remnant bushland', offering birdwatching, a netted swimming enclosure, change rooms, a fenced playground, and of course, spectacular views over Chowder Bay. A short bush track leads through to Rawson Oval.

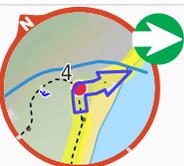


After another 115 m pass the toilet (70 m on your left). This toilet is wheelchair accessible.

sunrise-sunset



Then pass the playground (30 m on your left).



After another 6 m **turn right**.



After another 130 m find the "Bacino Kiosk" (on your left).



The Bacino Kiosk, just next to Clifton Gardens, is a smaller version of the Bacino Bar above at Chowder Bay. This kiosk supplies passers-by with a home-blend coffee and sandwiches, and all at a reasonable price (\$5-12). The Kiosk is open from 7am-4pm every day, except Christmas and bad weather.



After another 85 m head up the steps (about 9 m long)

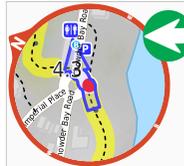


Then pass the "Ripples at Chowder Bay" (20 m on your left).

W: www.aquadining.com.au



After another 15 m **veer right**.



After another 80 m **turn left**.



After another 5 m **turn right**.

After another 10 m find the "Chowder Bay" (on your left).



Chowder Bay looks over Sydney Harbour, to Vaucluse and Rose Bay. The bay is named after the food of the American whalers stationed at Clifton Gardens, 'clam chowder'. Chowder Bay then became a Submarine Mining Depot in 1889. Today, Chowder Bay still has great views from the remaining military buildings on the hillside. One of the newer buildings houses a cafe, and other buildings stand as monuments to their former use. Chowder Bay offers great views with easy access to Clifton Gardens for a swim.

After another 4 m **turn right**.

After another 6 m **turn left**.

After another 8 m pass the toilet (40 m on your right).

After another 15 m find the "Bacino Cafe" (30 m on your right).
The Bacino Bar is in Building No.2 at Chowder Bay, with great views across Sydney Harbour. The bar sells pastas, panini, arancini, tramezzini, stuffed eggplant and biscotti, along with homemade sandwiches and treats. The Bacino Bar prices are reasonable, ranging between \$5-12 for the delicacies, and their coffee is made of their own blend. The bar is open every day from 7am- 4pm except for Christmas. A public toilet is available at the Eastern end of the building.

After another 250 m **turn sharp left**.

After another 20 m **turn right**.

After another 65 m pass the "The Gunners Barracks" (10 m on your right).

Start of an optional side trip: An optional side trip taking you to the Georges Heights Gun Emplacement.

To start this optional side trip continue straight here. **Start**.

After another 75 m come to "Georges Heights".



Georges Heights is a gun emplacement with a commanding 180-degree view over the entrance to the harbour. The old gun emplacements are still in position, with their arcs of fire explained in the signs nearby. The view from this lookout is magnificent.

The end.

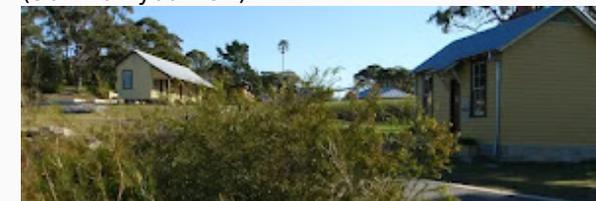
Turn around and retrace your steps back the 75 m to the main route.

Back at the main route turn right and follow on from the 4.7 km waypoint.

Turn left.

After another 6 m **veer right**.

After another 400 m find the "WW1 Hospital" (30 m on your left).



This military hospital was in use from 1916 to 1923, and could treat up to 420 troops at any one time. Sydney Harbour Trust completed restoration of the buildings mid-2005. These buildings are New South Wales' only surviving military hospital buildings from WW1.

Continue straight.

Then pass the water tap (on your left).

After another 270 m **continue straight**.

After another 45 m head up the steps (about 350 m long)

Turn right.



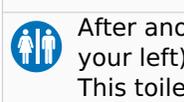
After another 340 m **turn right**.



After another 185 m **turn right**.

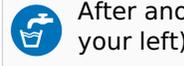


After another 20 m **turn right**.

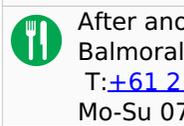


After another 310 m pass the toilet (125 m on your left).
This toilet is wheelchair accessible.

sunrise-sunset



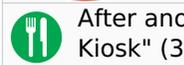
After another 75 m pass the water tap (20 m on your left).



After another 15 m pass the "The Boathouse Balmoral Beach" (8 m on your right).
T: [+61 2 9974 5440](tel:+61299745440)
Mo-Su 07:00-16:00

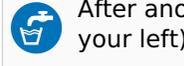


Continue straight.



After another 25 m pass the "Balmoral Beach Kiosk" (35 m on your left).

Mo-Su 06:30-16:00



After another 45 m pass the water tap (20 m on your left).



After another 6 m pass the toilet (25 m on your left).



After another 20 m pass the "Public Dining Room" (20 m on your left).
This restaurant is wheelchair accessible.



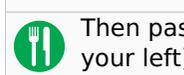
Continue straight.



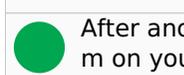
After another 10 m pass the water tap (on your left).



After another 125 m pass the "Café Balmoral" (55 m on your left).



Then pass the "Bottom of the Harbour" (60 m on your left).

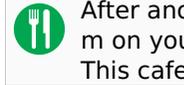


After another 240 m pass the "Hunter Park" (55 m on your left).

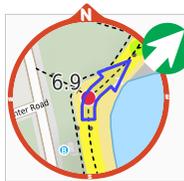


Then pass the "Tramshed" (15 m on your left).
This toilet is wheelchair accessible.

sunrise-sunset



After another 75 m pass the "La Republica" (115 m on your left).
This cafe is wheelchair accessible.

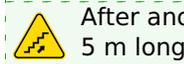


Veer right.

Start of an optional side trip: An optional side trip to Rocky Point.



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



After another 15 m head up the 12 steps (about 5 m long)



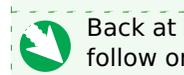
Turn right.



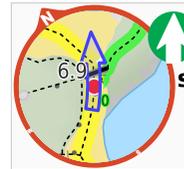
After another 100 m come to the end.



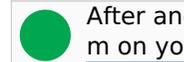
Turn around and retrace your steps back the 115 m to the main route.



Back at the main route turn sharp right and follow on from the 6.9 km waypoint.



After another 65 m **continue straight.**



After another 10 m find the "Balmoral Beach" (5 m on your left).

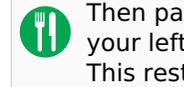


Balmoral Beach takes its name from the royal castle at Braemar in Scotland. This is a beautiful beach, with a great foreshore walk overlooking the sandy beach. The beach is a popular spot with locals and visitors, for sun baking, swimming and having a picnic. Balmoral Beach has very little surf, with a sheltered, easterly aspect. There is also a shark-net swimming area, toilets, shops, cafes and plenty of beach to share on a sunny day.

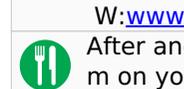


After another 150 m pass the "Bathers Pavilion" (55 m on your left).
This toilet is wheelchair accessible.

sunrise-sunset



Then pass the "The Bathers' Pavilion" (30 m on your left).
This restaurant is wheelchair accessible.



W: www.batherspavilion.com.au
After another 95 m pass the "Beach House" (90 m on your left).

Start of an alternate route: An alternative route linking Int. Wyargine Reserve Trk and Balmoral Beach to Chinamans Beach Reserve South.



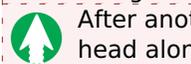
To take the alternate route turn left here. **Start.**



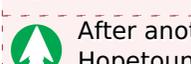
After another 130 m **veer right**, to head along Stanton Road.



After another 40 m (at the intersection of Burran Avenue & Stanton Road) **veer right**, to head along Burran Avenue.



After another 120 m **continue straight**, to head along Burran Avenue.



After another 75 m (at the intersection of Hopetoun Avenue & Burran Avenue) **continue straight**, to head along Hopetoun Avenue.



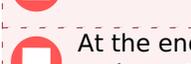
After another 200 m (at the intersection of Hopetoun Avenue & Rosherville Road) **turn right**, to head along Rosherville Road.



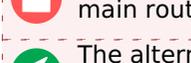
After another 145 m **turn right**.



After another 15 m come to the end.



At the end of this alternate route, rejoin the main route.



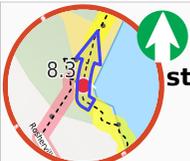
The alternate route finishes here. Turn left to rejoin the main route at the 8.3 km waypoint.



After another 245 m **veer right**.



The alternate route finishes here. Turn left to rejoin the main route at the 8.3 km waypoint.



After another 870 m **continue straight**.



After another 20 m **continue straight**.



After another 135 m come to the "Chinamans Beach and Reserve".



Chinamans Beach and Reserve are wonderful places to have a picnic or a swim, with lots of areas to sit in the sun or shade beside the clear water. The beach does not provide any surf with its north-easterly aspect, but is perfect for launching your kayak or boat into the harbour. Chinamans Reserve has some parking, play equipment, toilets and road access by McLean Cres.



After another 6 m **continue straight**.

Start of an alternate route: An alternative route linking Int. Grecia Lane Trk and Chinamans Beach Reserve North to Int. Middle Harbour Yacht Club car park and Spit Rd.



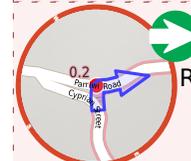
To take the alternate route turn left here. **Start.**



After another 55 m **turn right**, to head along Cyprian Street.



After another 170 m head up the steps (about 20 m long)



Turn right, to head along Parriwi Road.



After another 110 m come to the viewpoint (55 m on your right).



After another 10 m pass the "Rosherville (Parriwi Head)" (20 m on your right).



After another 9 m **continue straight**, to head along Parriwi Road.



After another 175 m **continue straight**, to head along Parriwi Road.



After another 110 m come to the "Parriwi Lookout" (10 m on your right).



After another 195 m find the "Spit Syphon" (40 m on your right).



The Spit Syphon was built between 1922 and 1925 by the Public Works Department. It was necessary in order to pump sewage from the north without interfering with water transport. The building is styled with Egyptian influences as displayed by its tall, square concrete walls.



After another 90 m (at the intersection of Parriwi Road & U Turn Bay) **continue straight**, to head along Parriwi Road (a vehicle track).



After another 25 m (at the intersection of Parriwi Road & U Turn Bay) **continue straight**, to head along Parriwi Road (a residential road). Keep right.



After another 40 m pass the "Spit East Reserve Parking Area" (10 m on your right).



After another 4 m **continue straight**, to head along Parriwi Road.



After another 15 m **veer right**.



After another 20 m come to the end.



At the end of this alternate route, rejoin the main route.



The alternate route finishes here. Turn left to rejoin the main route at the 9.4 km waypoint.



After another 60 m **veer right**.



After another 230 m come to the viewpoint (40 m on your left).



Then pass the "Rosherville (Parriwi Head)" (75 m on your left).



After another 280 m come to the "Parriwi Lookout" (35 m on your left).



After another 205 m find the "Spit Syphon" (8 m on your left).



The Spit Syphon was built between 1922 and 1925 by the Public Works Department. It was necessary in order to pump sewage from the north without interfering with water transport. The building is styled with Egyptian influences as displayed by its tall, square concrete walls.



After another 160 m to find the "Spit East Reserve Parking Area".



After another 9 m **continue straight**.



After another 50 m **continue straight**, to head along Parriwi Road.



After another 95 m **veer left**, to head along Parriwi Road.



After another 10 m (at the intersection of Spit Road & Parriwi Road) **veer right**, to head along Spit Road (a highway/trunk).



After another 130 m pass the toilet (40 m on your left). This toilet is wheelchair accessible.

sunrise-sunset



After another 80 m pass the playground (50 m on your left).



Then find the "Sydney Harbour Kayaks" (9 m on your right). Sydney Harbour Kayaks, at the southern end of the Spit Bridge, provide sales and rentals of kayaks. One hour in a single plastic kayak costs \$20, and a double \$40. The enterprise also provides tours of the harbour, catering for individuals through to large groups. For further information and bookings, contact: info@sydneyharbourkayaks.com.au or (02) 99604389



After another 30 m pass the "Plonk" (35 m on your right). W: www.plonkbeachcafe.com.au



After another 45 m pass the "Ellery Park" (15 m on your left).



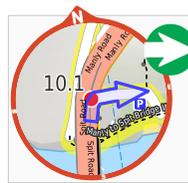
Then cross the The Spit Bridge (about 95 m long)



Then come to the "Spit Bridge".



The Spit Bridge was originally built in 1924 to replace the punt service. The current Spit Bridge was built during the 1950's. The bridge is a bascule bridge, as it's middle section can be raised to allow tall ships through. This ability of the bridge does, however, stop traffic on a major arterial road, which has caused the bridge to be the centre of some controversy. The Spit Bridge carries the Spit Rd and the Manly Scenic Walkway.



After another 190 m **turn right**.



After another 8 m **continue straight**.



After another 40 m **turn right**.



After another 40 m pass the sign (5 m on your left).

● After another 10 m find the "Ellery's Punt Reserve" (8 m on your left).



Ellery's Punt Reserve is a very nice grassed area on the north eastern side of the Spit Bridge. The reserve has road access and parking, and seems to be a popular spot for fishing from the bank. There is also seating and shaded areas.



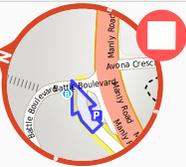
➡ **Turn right**, to head along Manly to Spit Bridge Walk.



After another 55 m **continue straight**. Head under the bridge.



After another 75 m **continue straight**.



After another 125 m come to the end.