The Forest Way Track

Opened in 1886, the Forest Path was once part of a controversial logging site, the first time that logging was stopped in Australia by protest. Now it is a short trail looping around the hill, following the Hacking River. Through a shaded environment of ferns and eucalypts, this walk passes through a very pretty environment that was definitely worth preserving.

Royal National Park

Length:	4.4 km
Time:	1 hr 45 mins
Climb:	179 m
Style:	Circuit
Rating:	Track: Moderate
Where:	3.3 km ESE of Waterfall
Transport:	car

Visit www.wildwalks.com for more info

Side trips and Alternate routes mentioned in these notes are not included in the tracks overall rating, distance or time estimate. The notes only describe the side trips and Alternate routes in one direction. Allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing these notes but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury sustained by using these notes or maps. Please take care and share your experience through the website. GPS for start and end of this walk:-34.1488,151.0303

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Int of Lady Carrington Drive and Sir Bertam Stevens Drive to Int of Lady Carrington Drive and Walumarra Bushtrack 0.7km 10 mins

(From S) From the car park on Sir Bertram Stevens Drive (500m north of the intersection with McKell Ave), this walk follows the Lady Carrington Drive trail through the National Park gate and down the long gentle hill. The track heads through the forest until coming to the signposted intersection with the 'Walumarra Track'.

Int of Lady Carrington Drive and Walumarra Bushtrack to Bola Picnic Area 0.1km 1 mins

(From 0.65 km) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the dirt road to the north, through the forest for a short distance before bending to the right and coming down to the signposted intersection with 'The Forest Path' at the Bola Creek picnic area.

Bola Picnic Area to Palona Cave and Waterfall 1.8km 35 mins **Optional Side Trip**:

(From 0.73 km) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Audley 9km' arrow down the short gentle slope and across Bola Creek, following the dirt road as it bends around to the left and continues up and along beside the creek. The road heads through the forest for a long while before coming to the hidden, signposted intersection with the faint 'Limestone Cave' bush track (the timber sign is not obvious, it is behind a large tree on the left, just before the signposted 'Palona Brook').

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Limestone Cave 1.6km' arrow along the track, heading up the hill and away from the road. The walk continues up a long hill, winding through dense forest for a short while before flattening out and continuing along the side of the hill. The walk winds through the bush and passes several rock overhangs and outcrops either side of the track, as the walk make its way along to the Palona Caves at the end of the track.

(Retrace your steps back to the main track, then turn right to continue along this walk.)

Palona Cave

Palona Cave is off Lady Carrington Drive, north of Bola Picnic Area, in the Royal National Park. Palona Cave is a large limestone overhang with a few cave decorations such as columns and stalactites. Being open to the environment, the cave has some green moss and is not reminiscent of other pristine white limestone caves. The cave is a unique feature for the area and is well worth allowing time to explore.

Bola Picnic Area to Int of Forest Way and Couranga Tracks 2.8km 1 Hrs

(From 0.73 km) Turn left: From the Bola Picnic Area, this walk heads past the 'no pushbikes' signposts and 'The Forest Path' information sign, following the bush track along the forest floor. The track is well-defined and reasonably flat, and crosses several small creeks. The track continues in this manner around the forest island until reaching a signposted intersection with the Uloola Track.

Int of Forest Way and Couranga Tracks to Int of Forest Way and Sir Bertram Stevens Drive 0.9km 15 mins
(From 3.52 km) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads south along the narrow bush track, following the 'carpark' signs. After a short while, the track turns east until coming to gate at Sir Bertram Stevens Dr. Just left of this, there is a small track that goes for approximately 25m until coming to the car park and the start of the Lady Carrington Track.

A list of paper topographical maps that cover this walk

Otford 1:25 000 Map Series
Port Hacking 1:100 000 Map Series

Nearby outdoor and camping stores

Engadine Disposal & Outdoor Centre Pty Ltd 1042 Old Princes Hwy Engadine (02) 9520 3367
Paddy Pallin Adventure Equipment 587 Kingsway Miranda (02) 9525 6829
Boots Great Outdoors 23 Koonya Cct Caringbah (02) 9542 8988
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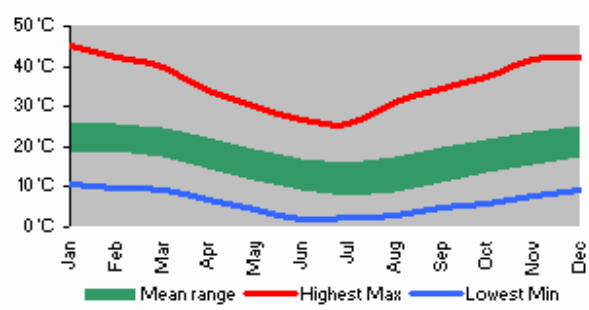

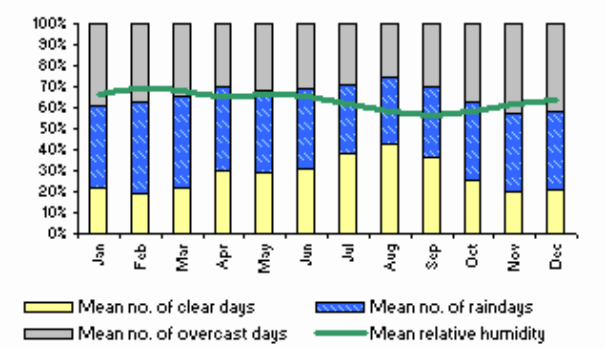

The Forest Way Track

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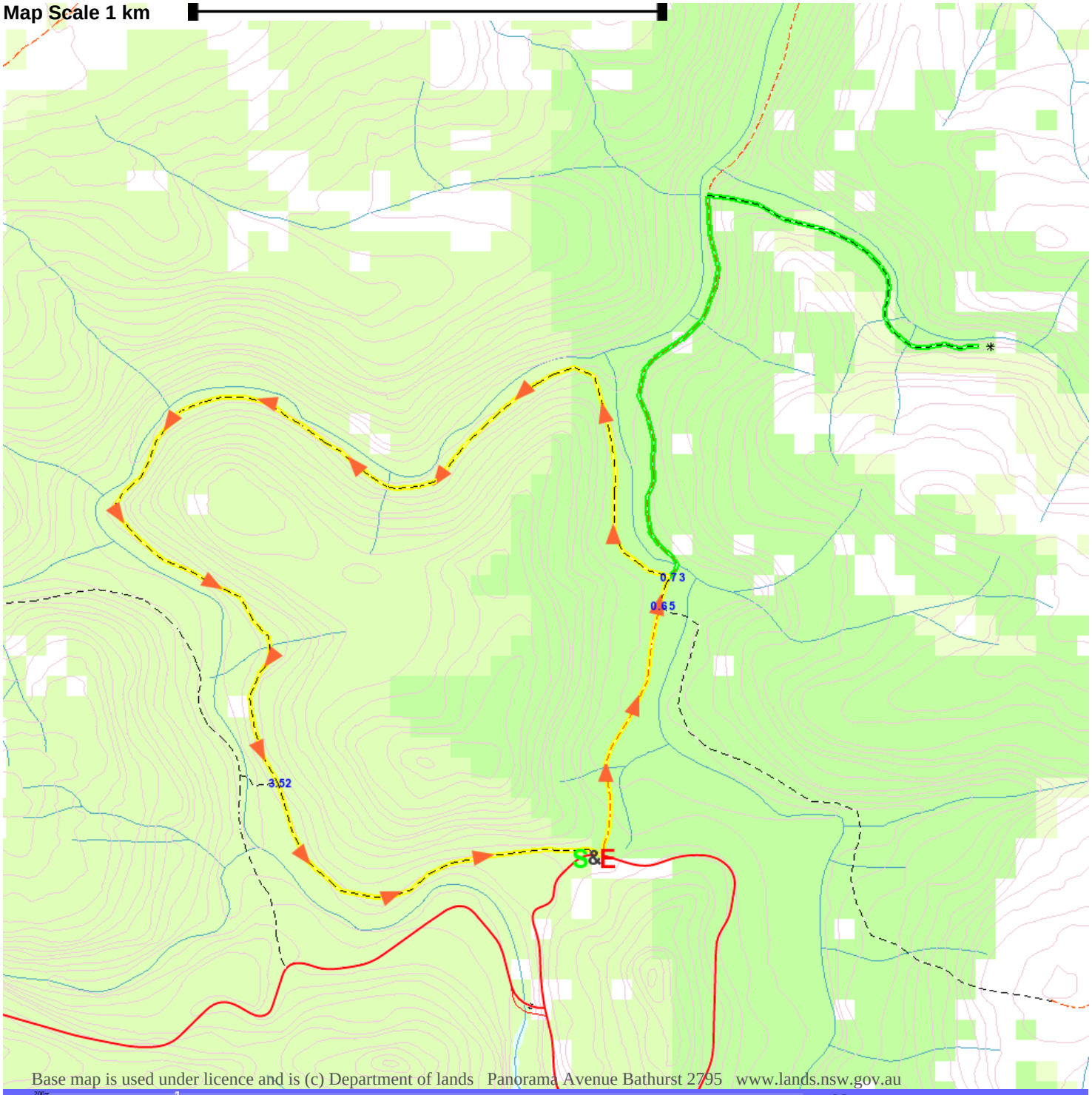
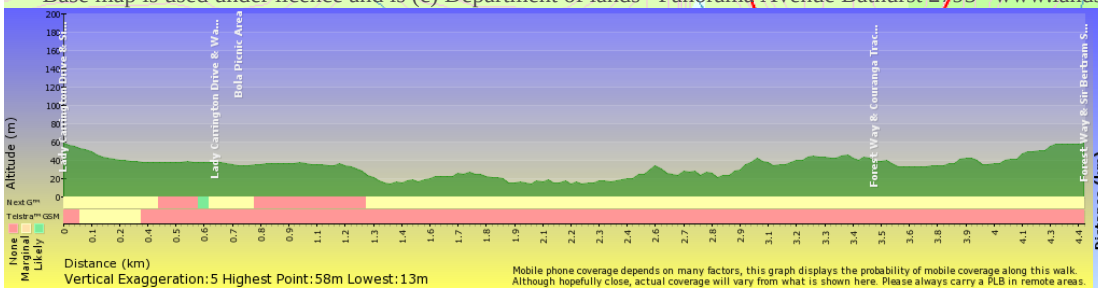
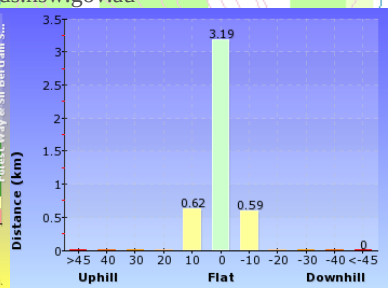
Map Scale 1 km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