



Galston Gorge to Berowra Station



5 hrs 30 mins

Hard track

12.9 km One way

▲ 974m



Following mostly along the side of Berowra Creek, along a section of the Great North Walk, this walk is worth spending the day on. Crosslands is a good spot to break at about the half-way mark. Highlights include the views from the top of the ridges between Galston Gorge and Crosslands, and the section of track west of Calana Creek. There are a few nice water falls and classic sandstone formations for the area. Getting to the start may be tricky, but a taxi will drop you off.

221m



Berowra Valley National Park

Galston Gorge track head

Galston Gorge track head is located at a small car park on the eastern side of Berowra Creek, near the bottom of the gorge on Galston Road. This track head is a good access point for those wanting to do sections of the Great North Walk and is well signposted. Keep an eye open for the local chickens.

Gulley Creek Falls

This is a nice little creek crossing on the Great North Walk in Galston Gorge. The small falls flow just upstream of the track, even after a small amount of rain. Enjoy the cool shade of the trees at the creek crossing from the track.

Berowra Creek campsite

This shady campsite is located on the Benowie Track a short distance back from Berowra Creek, south of the Crosslands Reserve. Providing plenty of tree cover, flat ground and an established fire scar, this campsite is a great spot for those walkers who want a quiet night's sleep away from the more popular Crosslands Reserve. The creek water is brackish at this point, so it is not drinkable (except after heavy rain and lower tide, but then the water is more polluted) - best to bring your own water.

Crosslands Campsite

On the far southern end of Crosslands Reserve is a toilet block and campsite. The campsite is well set up and managed by Hornsby Council. There are picnic tables, electric barbecues, toilets, a children's playground, garbage bins and town water. There is a large flat grassy areas to camp and a single authorised fire pit. The campsite must be booked and fees apply - \$9 per night for adults and \$6 for children (infants under 4 are free). The gate at the top of the hill is locked at 5.30pm EST and 7.30pm (daylight savings time). A pleasant and well established campsite beside the river. [More info.](#)

Before You walk

Bushwalking is fun and a wonderful way to enjoy our natural places. Sometimes things go bad, with a bit of planning you can increase your chance of having an enjoyable and safer walk. Before setting off on your walk check

- 1) Weather Forecast ([BOM Metropolitan District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Greater Sydney Region](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ([Berowra Valley National Park](#))
- 4) Research the walk to check your party has the skills, fitness and equipment required
- 5) Agree to stay as a group and not leave anyone to walk solo

Think before you TREK

The 'Think before you TREK' program developed by NSW Police & NPWS promotes the benefits of planning ahead for your bushwalking trip by using an easy to remember acronym:

- T** Take adequate supplies of food, water, navigation and first aid equipment.
- R** Register your planned route and tell friends and family when you expect to return.
- E** Emergency beacon (PLB's) should be carried on walks with significant gaps in mobile coverage (check terrain profile).
- K** Keep to your planned route and follow the map and walking trails.

Topo Maps

The maps provided on wildwalks are helpful, but there are times where you may need maps covering a broader area. Maps that cover this walk include;

1:25 000 Map Series:91304S HORNSBY, 91304N COWAN

1:40 000 Map Series:CMA Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park Tourist Map

1:100 000 Map Series:9130 SYDNEY

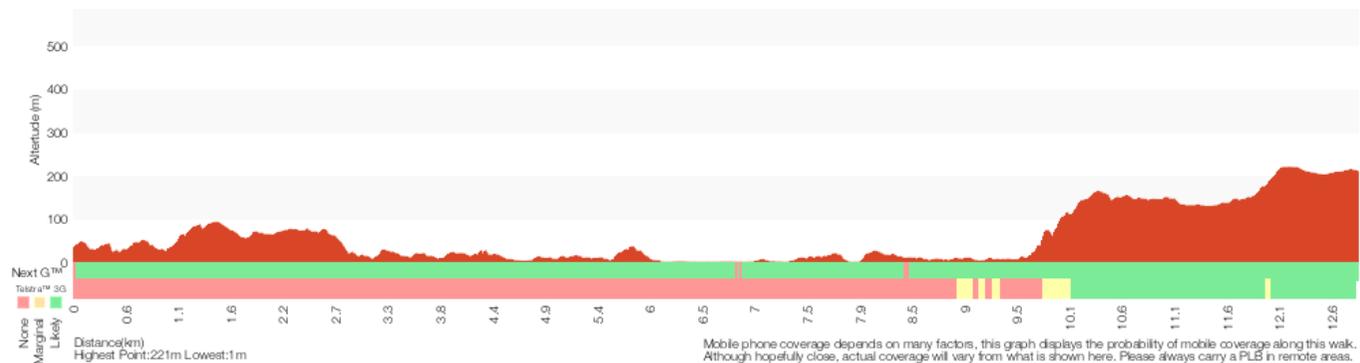
Grade

This walk has been graded using the AS 2156.1-2001. The overall grade of the walk is determined by the highest classification along the whole track.



Grade 4/6
Hard track

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Length | 12.9 km One way |
| Time | 5 hrs 30 mins |
| Quality of track | Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely (4/6) |
| Signs | Directional signs along the way (3/6) |
| Experience Required | Moderate level of bushwalking experience recommended (4/6) |
| Weather | Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6) |
| Infrastructure | Limited facilities, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6) |



Are you ready to have fun?

Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. Check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating before setting out. Optional side trips and alternate routes noted are not included in this walk's overall grade, length or time estimate. Please allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing this information but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury you may experience. Please take care, have fun - Happy Walking.

Getting there Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Galston Gorge track head (gps: -33.6646, 151.0803). Car: There is free parking available.

You can get back from Berowra Station (gps: -33.6232, 151.1533) by car, train or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

Find up to date and more information including; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at <http://wild.tl/getbs>

0 | Galston Gorge track head

Galston Gorge track head is located at a small car park on the eastern side of Berowra Creek, near the bottom of the gorge on Galston Road. This track head is a good access point for those wanting to do sections of the Great North Walk and is well signposted. Keep an eye open for the local chickens.

0 | Galston Gorge track head

(1.3 km 41 mins) From the Galston Gorge trackhead, this walk follows the 'Crosslands' sign up the timber steps, away from the road. The track soon bends left then mostly flattens out as it winds along the side of the valley for almost 200m, where it passes above an old rusted car (some distance down the hill, to your left). Here the narrowing, rocky track winds down through a lovely grass tree and boulder forest for about 600m, coming to a small flat rock platform. The walk then bends right (ignoring the steep track down to the left). The track then leads among more grass trees for another 100m and crosses a mossy and rocky gully. Once across this gully, the track begins to climb steeply, then up a steep set of steps (through a crack in the rock). At the top of the steps, the track continues to climb for another 70m before mostly flattening out. Soon the track starts to wind downhill, crossing a wider mossy gully with larger boulders and a small waterfall. The gully is marked with a few GNW markers.

1.27 | Gully Creek Falls

This is a nice little creek crossing on the Great North Walk in Galston Gorge. The small falls flow just upstream of the track, even after a small amount of rain. Enjoy the cool shade of the trees at the creek crossing from the track.

1.27 | Unnamed Falls

(3.4 km 1 hr 28 mins) Continue straight: From the waterfall, this walk follows the GNW markers out of the gully, initially keeping the waterfall up to your right. The rocky track leads up the side of the hill, moderately steeply at times, for about 600m and then passes along the base of a long rock wall (on your right). At the end of this wall, the walk climbs the carved steps. The walk continues along the track for about 600m, walking along the series of unfenced rock platforms (passing under the high-tension power-lines) to then head down to a section of fenced track. There are some good valley views from this lookout. From the end of the fence, the track soon starts to lead further downhill for about 150m, coming to a clearing on a flat rock platform which is marked with a GNW arrow post. Here, the walk turns left and winds quite steeply downhill for about 120m, to then follow a flatter section of track with plenty of grass trees. After about 300m (passing close to the creek a couple of times), the walk crosses a rocky gully (where you can see the creek again on your left). Continuing along the side of the valley for

about 250m, the track then leads across another rocky gully and finds another nice spot beside Berowra Creek just beyond. The track continues near the creek (passing under the power lines) for another 300m and climbs down a rock with a couple of metal pegs. Over the next 600m, the track crosses a couple of small, flat timber bridges and passes alongside the lovely creek to then climb up through a crack in a rock, where there is a handrail in place. On the other side of this little climb, the track passes under a small overhang and continues alongside the creek for another 300m, where it comes to an intersection with a track on your right (which leads to a clearing and campsite).

4.69 | Berowra Creek campsite

This shady campsite is located on the Benowie Track a short distance back from Berowra Creek, south of the Crosslands Reserve. Providing plenty of tree cover, flat ground and an established fire scar, this campsite is a great spot for those walkers who want a quiet night's sleep away from the more popular Crosslands Reserve. The creek water is brackish at this point, so it is not drinkable (except after heavy rain and lower tide, but then the water is more polluted) - best to bring your own water.

4.69 | Berowra Creek campsite track

(1.4 km 33 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection near the campsite, this walk follows the clear track alongside Berowra Creek, whilst keeping the creek to your left. After about 30m, the track crosses a small, flat, timber bridge, then continues to wind along near the creek for about 300m before crossing a rocky gully, with a small creek. After another 250m of walking through the fern and turpentine forest, the track leads to an overgrown but signposted campsite (on your left). The track then crosses a small creek using a timber bridge with a handrail then almost 200m later, the track passes a more open area that has been used as a campsite. The track continues mostly flat for another 100m, coming to a view across the creek (to the grassy area of Crosslands Youth and Convention Centre). Here the walk climbs the stone steps, to pass another (unfenced) view across the creek. The track continues to wind downhill for another 250m, then heads along the flat, past the 'Crosslands Reserve' sign, to come to the large corrugated iron toilet block.

6.06 | Crosslands Campsite

On the far southern end of Crosslands Reserve is a toilet block and campsite. The campsite is well set up and managed by Hornsby Council. There are picnic tables, electric barbecues, toilets, a children's playground, garbage bins and town water. There is a large flat grassy areas to camp and a single authorised fire pit. The campsite must be booked and fees apply - \$9 per night for adults and \$6 for children (infants under 4 are free). The gate at the top of the hill is locked at 5.30pm EST and 7.30pm (daylight savings time). A pleasant and well established campsite beside the river. [More info.](#)

6.06 | Crosslands southern toilet block

(340 m 5 mins) Veer left: From the toilet block, this walk follows the dirt footpath nearest the creek, towards the main area of Crosslands reserve, whilst keeping the creek to your left. The track soon leads past a 'Boats destroyed' information sign, then past the only 'Authorised fire pit' and main camping area. This walk then continues along the path, passing the 'Climate change and the river' information sign and timber viewing platform. Here the path leads past the picnic shelters and BBQ's to then continue along the concrete footpath. The path leads past another viewing platform (and information sign), then past the children's play equipment and comes to the end of the path where there is a car park (on your right) and sign pointing to 'Crosslands Conventions Centre AND Field Study' across the creek (on your left)

6.39 | Crosslands

Crosslands Reserve is lovely and long mixed use picnic area, spanning along the edge of Berowra Creek. There are picnic tables, electric barbecues, toilets, car parking, a children's playground, garbage bins, camping area, toilets and town water. The southern part of Crosslands is managed by Hornsby Council and the northern half by the NPWS within the Berowra Valley National Park. The first inhabitants of this area were a subgroup of the Dharug people who enjoyed the sandstone caves, fish and abundant plant life in the area. It is now managed by Hornsby Shire Council, but in 1856 Matthew Charlton asked Burton Crossland to be caretaker on this area. Burton built a house and made a living by harvesting timber, growing fruit, fishing and boat-building.

6.39 | Crosslands Carpark

(250 m 4 mins) Continue straight: From the car park, this walk follows the flat dirt path between the road (on the right) and creek (on the left). The path leads through the casuarina trees for about 120m to pass the boat ramp. After another 120m this walk comes to a locked gate at the northern end of the car park. There is also a wetland through the trees to the right worth noticing.

6.64 | Northern end of Crosslands Carpark

(260 m 4 mins) Continue straight: From the northern end of Crosslands car park (at the far northern end of Somerville Rd, Hornsby Heights), this walk follows the 'Newcastle' arrow on the large 'Great North Walk' sign around the locked gate and along the sealed old road. The walk continues along the old road for just over 150m passing 4 picnic tables to come to a y-intersection. At the intersection this walk veers right, past the 'Place of Winds' sign and wetland (on your right). This walk continues along this old road for a little longer, coming to an intersection marked with a large 'Crosslands' information board and 'Great North walk' sign. This is just on the edge of the northern picnic area, not far from the toilet block.

6.9 | Crosslands North Picnic area

The northern section of Crosslands is in Berowra Valley NP and is a less formal picnic area compared with the southern area. There is a toilet block and a few sandy beaches with direct access to the water. Here you will find a few picnic tables and shelters, as well as garbage bins. The eastern side is home to a boardwalk exploring the estuarine wetland. A pleasant area to rest and enjoy the water. Fires are only permitted in formally established fire places .

6.9 | Crosslands North

(220 m 4 mins) Turn right: From the intersection at the northern picnic area, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk' sign along the timber boardwalk. The timber boardwalk winds through the mangroves for about 60m, coming to a firm dirt track which leads for another 70m to a second timber boardwalk. The second boardwalk leads for another 70m, past 'Mangrove Food Cycle' information signs to come to an 3-way intersection in the boardwalk with the estuaries viewing platform boardwalk (on your left).

7.12 | Berowra Creek (Estuarie) Lookout

The Estuarie lookout over Berowra Creek is found at the end of the wheelchair-accessible walk in Crosslands area. The timber lookout platform provides views great views over Berowra Creek, the timber fence is 95cm high. There are also information signs about the local flora and fauna and the 'Original Inhabitants'. There are two timber bench seats encouraging you to take some time to soak up this view.

7.12 | Estuaries viewing platform

(1.9 km 47 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection at the estuaries viewing platform, this walk follows the timber ramp down to the dirt track and heads past the 'unsuitable for wheelchair access' sign. The track leads alongside the wide creek for about 200m to the 'All creatures great and small'

information sign, then down a little way further to head along a short section of timber boardwalk. About 100m further along the rocky track, this walk comes to a lookout and a 'Catch the Threats' information sign, where the track continues past the bench seat and alongside the creek to the 'The Rock Club' information sign. The track then leads among some grass tress for just over 100m to the 'Bush Supermarket' information sign. Just past this sign, the track begins to climb fairly steeply up the stone and timber steps to the ridge line, marked with a GNW arrow and a 'Stop! Look! Listen! and Smell!' information sign.

Continue straight: From the ridge line, this walk follows the GNW arrow east downhill, initially keeping the 'Stop! Look! Listen! and Smell!' information sign on your right. The track bends left and follows the timber steps as the track winds steeply down the side of the hill. Near the bottom of the hill, the track passes a 'Rock n Roll' information sign then comes to a long, metal footbridge. The walk crosses the bridge over Calna Creek and comes to a signposted intersection, with a 'Fragile Marsh' information sign

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Berowra Waters' sign along the timber boardwalk. The boardwalk leads for about 80m across the large open flat saltmarsh into the casuarina forest on the other side. Here the track bends left and leads along the side of the saltmarsh for almost 200m, where the rocky track leads a little further before coming alongside Berowra Creek's mangroves. The track continues to gently undulate along the side of Berowra Creek for about 650m among the casuarinas and grass tress, before heading up a fairly short, steep climb. At the top of this climb, the walk comes to a small, flat, pleasant clearing surrounded by large boulders.

9.05 | Sams Creek ridge clearing

(500 m 11 mins) Continue straight: From the clearing, this walk leads down the north eastern side of this ridge, keeping the main valley to your left. After about 100m this walk comes to another flat saltmarsh, where the track bends right to soon come to a large flat clearing beside Sams Creek (subject to flooding). The track then leads alongside Sams Creek (on your left) for about 350m when, just after climbing over a rock, the track comes to a 'Crosslands' sign pointing back along the track, beside the creek.

9.55 | Sams Creek Crossing

(670 m 30 mins) Turn left: From the south side of the creek, this walk follows the 'Berowra Waters' sign across the rocky Sams Creek. This creek may become impassable after heavy or prolonged rain. On the other side, the track veers left, crossing a rocky gully and heads up the timber steps. The track now starts to climb steeply, zigzagging up the timber steps and a couple of staircases for just over 300m to find a bench seat in a small sandstone cave. After a rest, this walk continues up more steps (and staircases) for just over 150m, coming to a T-intersection with a wide service trail, where a 'Crosslands' sign points back down the track.

10.22 | Optional sidetrip to Int of Naa Badu Lookout

(260 m 7 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Berowra Waters' sign gently down along the management trail, keeping the valley to your left. The trail gently undulates along the side of the hill, enjoying some glimpses up to the cliff faces (on the right). After about 180m, the trail crosses a concrete drain, then leads up the hill to find the signposted 'Naa Badu' lookout and its great view. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Continue straight.

10.22 | Naa Badu Lookout

Naa Badu Lookout offers magnificent views south over Berowra Creek as well as over Sams and Calna Creeks. Naa Badu means 'See water' in the Aboriginal tribal language of the Dharug people. It is believed that Berowra Creek was the boundary between the Dharug and Guringai Aboriginal peoples. The lookout is fenced, has a bench seat, picnic table and a fair

amount of natural shade.

10.22 | Int of GNW and Berowra Link tracks

(2 km 48 mins) From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Berowra Station' sign uphill along the wide management trail. The trail then undulates around the side of valley, now generally heading downhill for about 600m before crossing a small creek (where the trail is gravel). The trail continues for another 300m to a wide three-way intersection, where a sign (on your right) points back to 'Crosslands'.

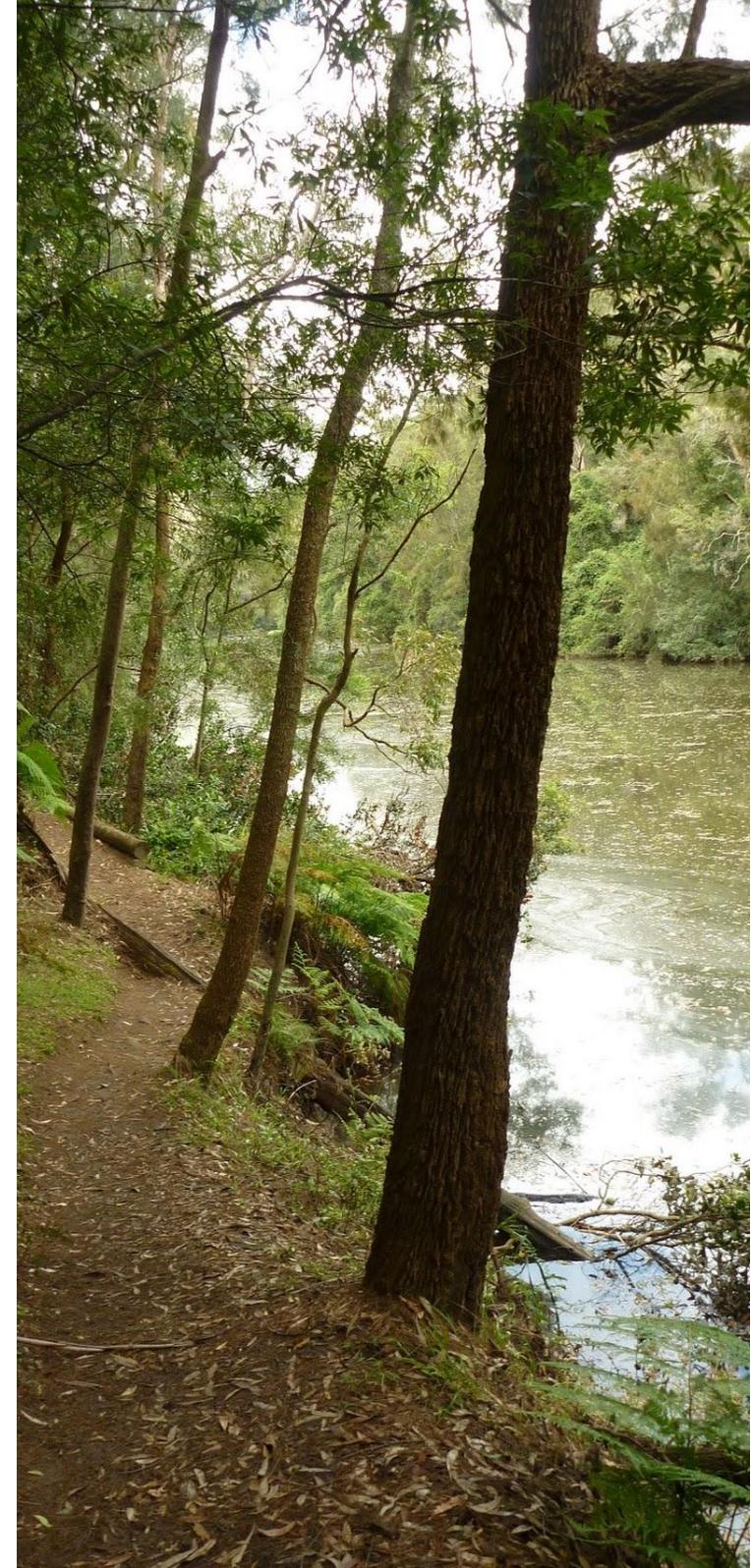
Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Berowra Station' sign downhill along the management trail, which soon bends to the right. The trail then leads moderately steeply downhill, before continuing uphill for about 40m more to a Y-intersection with a narrow track (on your left), marked with a GNW arrow.

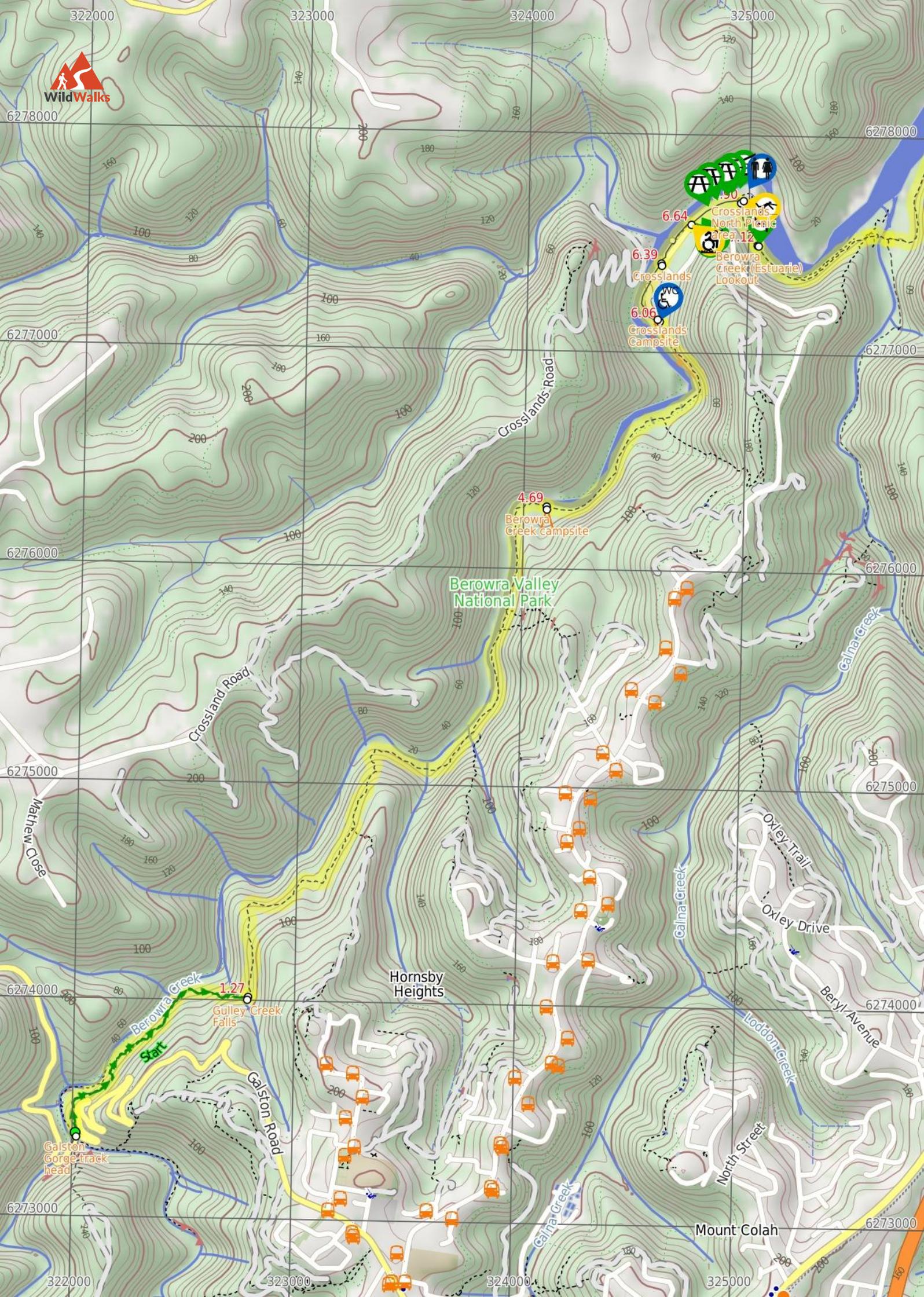
Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post along the narrow track. The track leads over a small rise then down to cross a small creek. The track then heads uphill for about 40m to find a three-way intersection marked with a couple of arrow posts.

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the arrow post gently uphill along the track, whilst keeping the gully on your left. Over the next 500m, the track crosses the gully twice then become steeper as it climbs up towards the rocks and drier forest. This walk then climbs the metal staircase, turns left and follows the unfenced rock platform. The track soon bends right and climbs up the fairly steep steps for about 120m, which come up behind some houses. From here, the track leads left up through an open grassy parkland (past the sign pointing back down to 'Crosslands') to find Crowley Rd.

12.22 | Crowley Road track head

(710 m 14 mins) Turn left: From the small park, this walk follows the 'Berowra Station' sign alongside Crowley Rd 40m to the roundabout. The walk crosses Berowra Waters Rd in front of the 'Old Berowra District Hall'. Here the walk heads right and follows the footpath past the park, across 'The Gully Rd', past the Caltex and post office and up to the Pacific Hwy. The walk turns left, following the footpath for just over 150m past a series of local shops and cafes, then turns right and crosses the highway at the traffic lights past the GNW signpost to Berowra Station.





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Summary navigation sheet for the Galston Gorge to Berowra Station



| km | From | Up/Dwn | Length | Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail) |
|-------|---|-------------|------------------------|--|
| Start | Galston Gorge track head -33.6646,151.0803 (GR Hornsby, 220734) | 161 -109 | 1.3 km 41 mins | From the Galston Gorge trackhead, this walk follows the 'Crosslands' sign up the timber steps, away from the road. |
| 1.27 | Unnamed Falls -33.659,151.0888 (GR Hornsby, 228740) | 217 -297 | 3.4 km 1 hr 28 mins | Continue straight: From the waterfall, this walk follows the GNW markers out of the gully, initially keeping the waterfall up to your right. |
| 4.69 | Berowra Creek campsite track -33.6387,151.1034 (GR Hornsby, 241763) | 85 -84 | 1.4 km 33 mins | Continue straight: From the intersection near the campsite, this walk follows the clear track alongside Berowra Creek, whilst keeping the creek to your left. |
| 6.06 | Crosslands southern toilet block -33.6311,151.109 (GR Hornsby, 246771) | 2 -5 | 340 m 5 mins | Veer left: From the toilet block, this walk follows the dirt footpath nearest the creek, towards the main area of Crosslands reserve, whilst keeping the creek to your left. |
| 6.39 | Crosslands Carpark -33.6287,151.109 (GR Hornsby, 246774) | 1 0 | 250 m 4 mins | Continue straight: From the car park, this walk follows the flat dirt path between the road (on the right) and creek (on the left). |
| 6.64 | Northern end of Crosslands Carpark -33.6271,151.1105 (GR Hornsby, 247776) | 1 -2 | 260 m 4 mins | Continue straight: From the northern end of Crosslands car park (at the far northern end of Somerville Rd, Hornsby Heights), this walk follows the 'Newcastle' arrow on the large 'Great North Walk' sign around the lo... |
| 6.90 | Crosslands North -33.6262,151.1129 (GR Hornsby, 250777) | 7 -5 | 220 m 4 mins | Turn right: From the intersection at the northern picnic area, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk' sign along the timber boardwalk. |
| 7.12 | Estuaries viewing platform -33.628,151.1137 (GR Hornsby, 250775) | 121 -115 | 1.9 km 47 mins | Continue straight: From the intersection at the estuaries viewing platform, this walk follows the timber ramp down to the dirt track and heads past the '..unsuitable for wheelchair access' sign. |
| 9.05 | Sams Creek ridge clearing -33.6199,151.1257 (GR Cowan, 261784) | 20 -23 | 500 m 11 mins | Continue straight: From the clearing, this walk leads down the north eastern side of this ridge, keeping the main valley to your left. |
| 9.55 | Sams Creek Crossing -33.6219,151.1295 (GR Cowan, 265782) | 181 -44 | 670 m 30 mins | Turn left: From the south side of the creek, this walk follows the 'Berowra Waters' sign across the rocky Sams Creek. |
| 10.22 | Int of Great North Walk and Berowra Link tracks -33.6192,151.1302 (GR Cowan, 265785) | 19 -22 | 260 m 7 mins | Optional sidetrip to Int of Naa Badu Lookout. Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Berowra Waters' sign gently down along the management trail, keeping the valley to your left. |
| 10.22 | Int of Great North Walk and Berowra Link tracks -33.6192,151.1302 (GR Cowan, 266785) | 163 -87 | 2 km 48 mins | Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Berowra Station' sign uphill along the wide management trail. |
| 12.22 | Crowley Road track head -33.6232,151.1467 (GR Cowan, 281781) | 15 -25 | 710 m 14 mins | Turn left: From the small park, this walk follows the 'Berowra Station' sign alongside Crowley Rd 40m to the roundabout. |