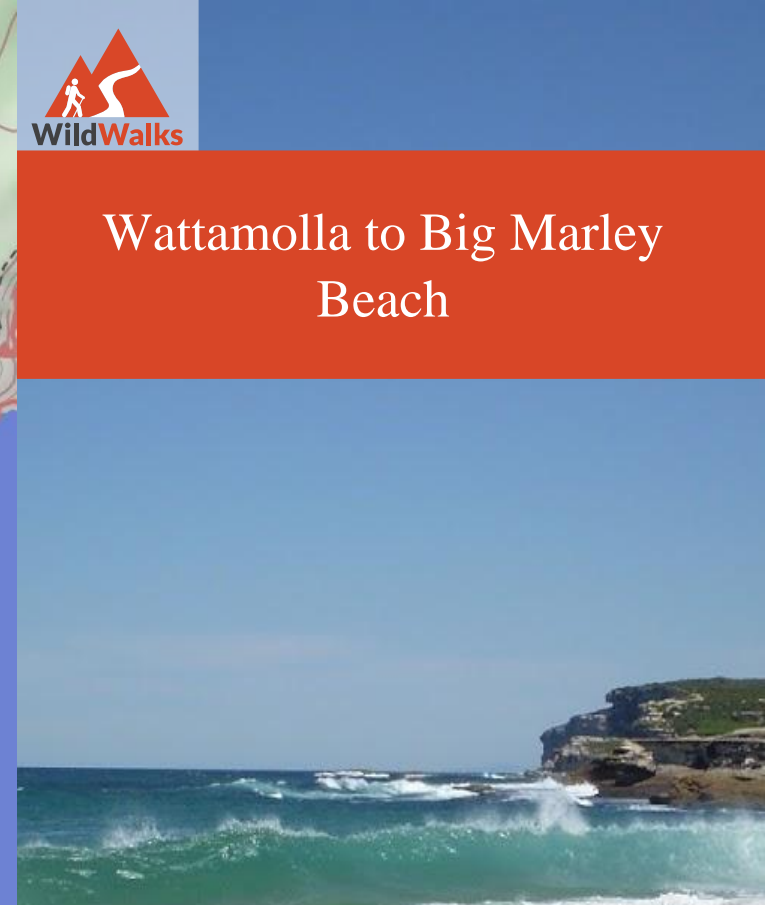
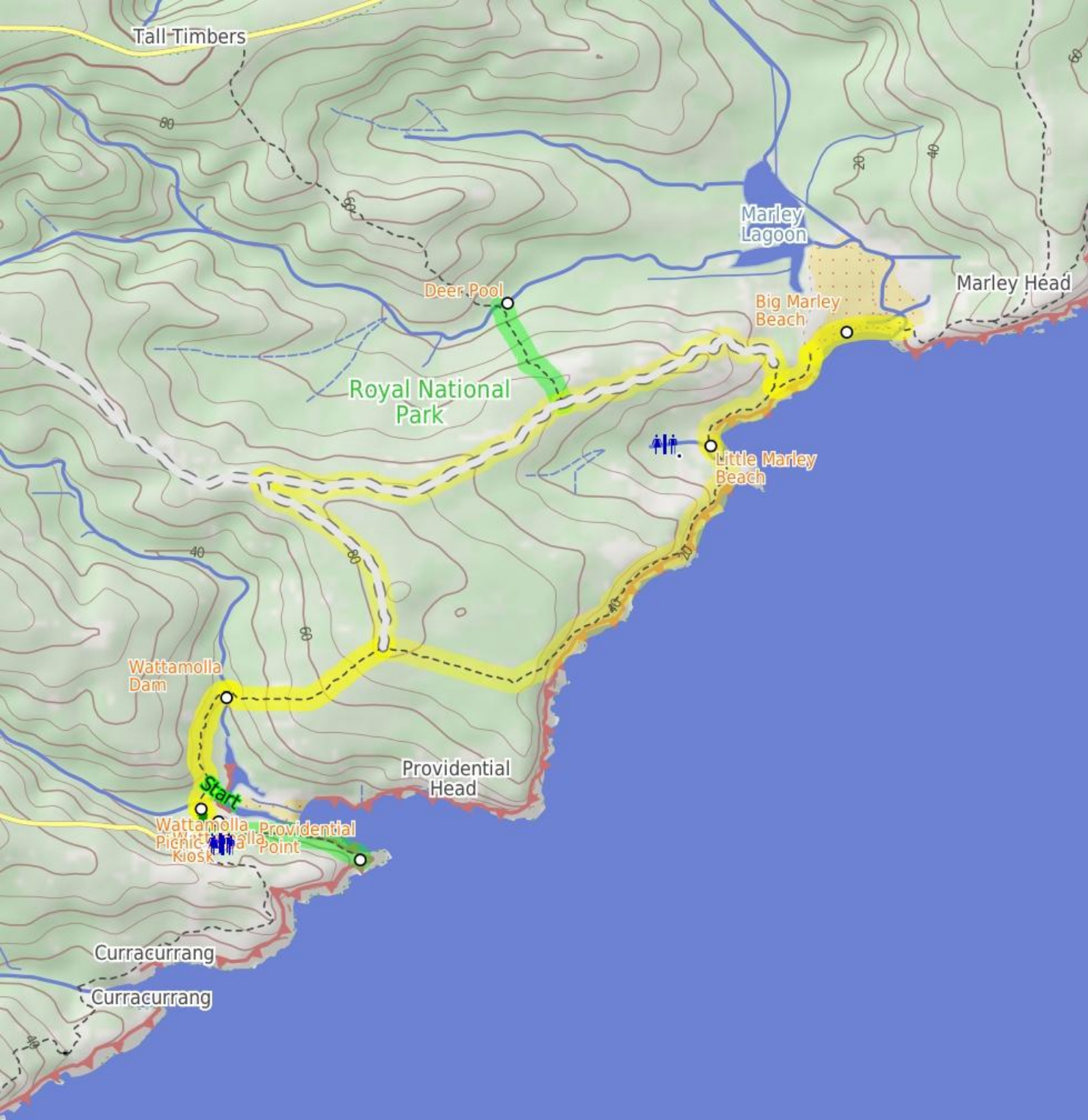


Wattamolla to Big Marley Beach



4 hrs

Moderate track



10.4 km Circuit

343m

This walk is an excellent loop which takes in both the coast and the heathy inland of Royal National Park. Nearly the whole walk has views of the sea. Big Marley and Little Marley are great places to wet the feet. The dunes behind Big Marley are also worth exploring, as is Deer Pools if time allows.

0m

88m

Royal National Park

Wattamolla Picnic Area

Wattamolla Picnic Area is found at the end of Wattamolla Road, about halfway along the coastline of Royal National Park. The area is blessed with a great beach, a lagoon and some wonderful creeks and rocks to explore. The small beach faces west and is tucked away in a deep bay. The lagoon sits behind the beach and is lined with sand on one side, and cliffs and rocks on the other shore. The picnic area has large open grassy areas, with some shade provided by trees and some picnic shelters. There is a small kiosk (often open weekends), toilets, electric BBQs and two car parks. There is water here, but needs to be treated before drinking. There is a gate on the road that is locked at night, the gate is open from 7am to 8:30pm.

Wattamolla Kiosk

The Wattamolla Kiosk in the Wattamolla Picnic Area provides basic supplies for day visitors. The kiosk does not keep strict hours and opens depending on weather and demand. It usually opens on weekends at around 10:30am and closes between 4 and 6pm. You can buy ice-creams, drinks and some hot food. For more information, call Audley Kiosk on (02) 9521 2240.

Wattamolla Dam

Wattamolla pool (or dam), Royal National Park, is a small water hole on Wattamolla Creek, above the lagoon. The pool is on the Coast Track near Wattamolla picnic area and offers a quiet spot for a dip and a rest. The pool is formed by a small, constructed sandstone dam and fed by a small waterfall above.

Deer Pool

Deer Pool, Royal National Park, is a small and picturesque set of falls that run into a pool with a sandy bank. The waterfall is fed by Marley Creek which continues its journey into Marley Lagoon, behind Big Marley Beach. Royal National Park was once home to many deer, who used to frequent these pools. This is a relaxing spot on a warm day, with the opportunity for a dip or a gentle massage in the cascade. Although a sign suggests camping is permitted by permit, permits are not issued for camping here.

Big Marley Beach

Big Marley Beach, Royal National Park, is a yellow sand, crescent-shaped beach, approximately 400m in length. The beach has a large dune area, behind which Marley Lagoon is found. The lagoon is fed by Marley Creek and the surrounding catchment. The beach is not patrolled and there are no other facilities. The south-facing beach has a rockshelf at either end. For information on this beach's pollution levels, follow the 'more info' link. [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 ([Royal 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;

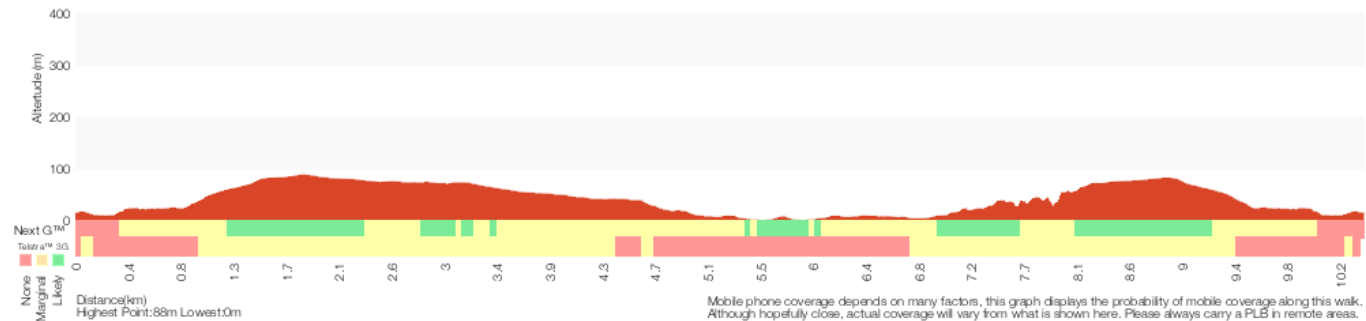
1:25 000 Map Series:91294S OTFORD, 91294N PORT HACKING

1:100 000 Map Series:9129 PORT HACKING

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 3/6 Moderate track	
Length	10.4 km Circuit
Time	4 hrs
Quality of track	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
Signs	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
Experience Required	Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)
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 Wattamolla Picnic Ground Toilet Block (gps: -34.1384, 151.1148). Car: There is free parking available.

This is a circuit, so you will finish back at the start.

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

0 | Wattamolla Picnic Ground Toilet Block

(180 m 4 mins) From the toilet block, this walk follows the path down the hill and through the car park to the northern end of the picnic area, near the creek crossing.

0.18 | Wattamolla Picnic Area

Wattamolla Picnic Area is found at the end of Wattamolla Road, about halfway along the coastline of Royal National Park. The area is blessed with a great beach, a lagoon and some wonderful creeks and rocks to explore. The small beach faces west and is tucked away in a deep bay. The lagoon sits behind the beach and is lined with sand on one side, and cliffs and rocks on the other shore. The picnic area has large open grassy areas, with some shade provided by trees and some picnic shelters. There is a small kiosk (often open weekends), toilets, electric BBQs and two car parks. There is water here, but needs to be treated before drinking. There is a gate on the road that is locked at night, the gate is open from 7am to 8:30pm.

0.18 | Wattamolla Kiosk

The Wattamolla Kiosk in the Wattamolla Picnic Area provides basic supplies for day visitors. The kiosk does not keep strict hours and opens depending on weather and demand. It usually opens on weekends at around 10:30am and closes between 4 and 6pm. You can buy ice-creams, drinks and some hot food. For more information, call Audley Kiosk on (02) 9521 2240.

0.18 | Northern End Wattamolla Picnic Ground

(650 m 13 mins) Continue straight: From the northern end of Wattamolla Picnic Ground, this track crosses the wide, shallow creek (keeping the ocean to the right). The walk then follows the track marker along the bush track, winding up the other and gradually climbing up a long hill through high scrub to Wattamolla Creek, where there is a small dam creating a swimming hole in the creek. This creek may become impassable after heavy or prolonged rain.

0.84 | Wattamolla Dam

Wattamolla pool (or dam), Royal National Park, is a small water hole on Wattamolla Creek, above the lagoon. The pool is on the Coast Track near Wattamolla picnic area and offers a quiet spot for a dip and a rest. The pool is formed by a small, constructed sandstone dam and fed by a small waterfall above.

0.84 | Wattamolla Dam

(3.1 km 54 mins) Continue straight: From the swimming hole, this walk follows the bush track (with the swimming hole to the right) up the hill (east) and through the high scrub, as it winds up through some rocks, and up a long hill, to the intersection of the Marley service trail and the Coast Track.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk heads north-west down the spur, with the spur on the right of the track. The track then descends onto the saddle and continues north-west through the thick wall of scrub on either side, to the 'T' intersection approximately 400m down the hill.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the management trail heading east, meandering through the thick green scrub over a number of small bumps (used for water diversion) as the track winds towards the coast. After a while, the management trail comes to the signposted intersection of the 'Deer Pool' bush track.

3.94 | Optional sidetrip to Deer Pools Clearing

(560 m 11 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk heads north-west along the flat trail which runs through the scrub. The track continues for approximately 100m, then begins to descend after passing a rockshelf on the right. The track continues for approximately 300m, following the sprayed white dashes through the dense scrub and coming to a clearing. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn left.

3.94 | Deer Pool

Deer Pool, Royal National Park, is a small and picturesque set of falls that run into a pool with a sandy bank. The waterfall is fed by Marley Creek which continues its journey into Marley Lagoon, behind Big Marley Beach. Royal National Park was once home to many deer, who used to frequent these pools. This is a relaxing spot on a warm day, with the opportunity for a dip or a gentle massage in the cascade. Although a sign suggests camping is permitted by permit, permits are not issued for camping here.

3.94 | Int. Mowlee Ridge Trail and Marley Trk

(1.1 km 20 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the service trail, heading down the long gentle hill as it steadily winds down to the coast. There are views across Marley Lagoon on the left as the walk heads down to the end of the service trail, where it comes to a grassy clearing with a bush track on the other side.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Marley' arrow up the short hill and over the rock platform, continuing along the defined bush track, winding down to the coast where it comes to the 'T' intersection with the Coast Walk bush track.

5.09 | Int. Coastal Trk and Chimney Trk

(640 m 11 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the bush track along the coast, keeping the ocean to the right for a short while before the track descends steeply off the rock-shelf and down a rough bush track to the end of Marley Beach.

Veer right: From the end of Marley Beach, this walk follows the coast across the beach until coming to a large green information sign on Aboriginal culture in the area. This is the start of a bush track that heads up the hill to continue along the coast.

5.73 | Big Marley Beach

Big Marley Beach, Royal National Park, is a yellow sand, crescent-shaped beach, approximately 400m in length. The beach has a large dune area, behind which Marley Lagoon is found. The lagoon is fed by Marley Creek and the surrounding catchment. The beach is not patrolled and there are no other facilities. The south-facing beach has a rockshelf at either end. For information on this beach's pollution levels, follow the 'more info' link. [More info.](#)

5.73 | East Marely Beach

(400 m 7 mins) Turn around: From the end of Marley Beach, this walk follows the coast along the beach until coming to the rock-shelf at the end. Marley Beach is very beautiful and, on a warm day, it would be a great spot

to swim. On the rockshelf at the end of the beach, there are some shady spots to break from the walk. (At this, point there is also an intersection with a small bush track that heads up the hill and away from the beach.)

6.12 | West Marley Beach

(680 m 12 mins) Veer left: From the end of the beach, this walk heads up and along the rock-shelf to following the coast as the bush track weaves in and out of the short heath for a short while. The track then comes to an intersection with an unmarked bush track going off to the right and away from the cliffs.

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the bush track winding along the coast, keeping the ocean and the cliffs to the left. The track winds down the hill for a while before coming to the end of Little Marley Beach.

6.8 | Little Marley Beach

Little Marley Beach, Royal National Park, is a yellow sand beach, approximately 140m long. The narrow beach faces north-east and has a rock platform at either end. The beach is not patrolled and has no other services. For information on this beach's pollution levels, follow the 'more info' link below. [More info.](#)

6.8 | Little Marley Beach

(2.8 km 1 hr 8 mins) Continue straight: From Little Marley Beach, this walk follows the coast across the beach, keeping the ocean to the left as it climbs up the signposted bush track at the end to the clifftop. From here, the track follows the coast line for a short period before passing over numerous sections of metal footbridge. This continues through the scrub vegetation, with short periods where the track comes back onto the rockshelf above the cliff, until the track changes to purely being a well-managed bush track through the high scrub, as it winds along to the signposted intersection of the Coast Track.

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads south-west along the bush track, heading down the long hill through the high scrub and down through some rocks, as it approaches the small swimming hole made by the dam in Wattamolla Creek.

9.61 | Wattamolla Dam

(840 m 17 mins) Continue straight: From the creek, (which may become impassable after heavy or prolonged rain) this walk heads west (keeping the swimming hole on the left) along the bush track. The walk winds through the tall scrub and down the long hill until crossing the wide, shallow creek to the Wattamolla Picnic Ground on the other side.

Continue straight: From the northern end of the picnic ground, this walk heads through the car park and across the grass to the toilet block.

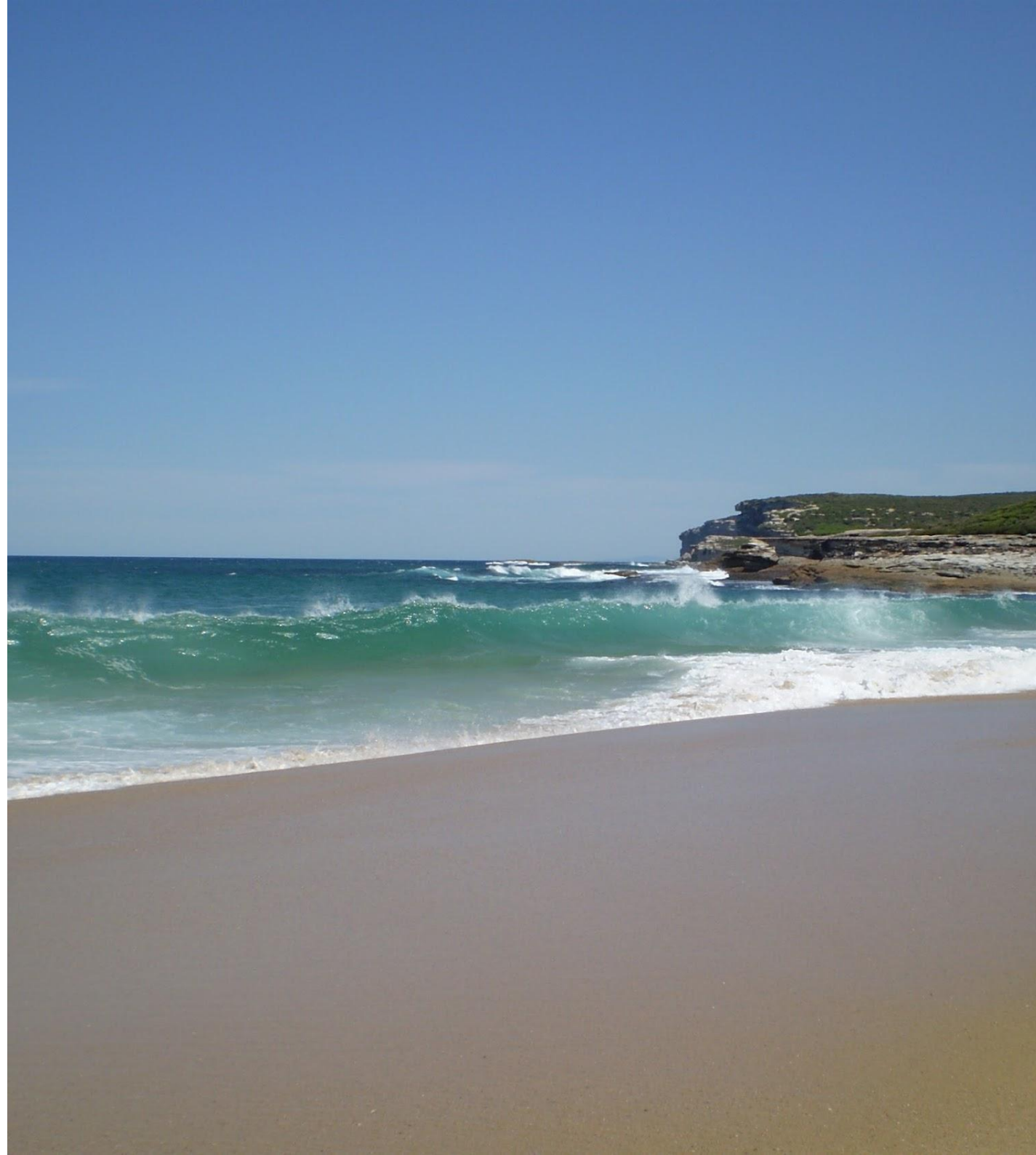
10.45 | Optional sidetrip to Providential Point

(600 m 12 mins) Continue straight: From the men's toilet block, this walk heads to an sports-oval sized clearing. The walk heads to the eastern end of the oval. The track continues along the service trail from the oval, following the Providential Point signs. The track leads through the tree to another grass area, Providential Point Campsite. The walk continues past the campsite sign, heading east to the far side of the grass clearing to a ferny area. The track continues along the most worn and unobstructed single track for approximately 200m to the railed lookout on the headland. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn right.

10.45 | Providential Point

Providential Point Lookout in Royal National Park, has views out to sea and back towards Wattamolla Beach, as well as views of the the cliffs on the north side of Wattamolla Bay to Boy Martin Point. The small lookout is fenced and perched on the rocks. Providential Point is the southern headland

forming the bay that is home to Wattamolla Beach and Lagoon, at the end of Wattamolla Rd.





Marley Creek

Marley Lagoon

Marley Head

Deer Pool

Big Marley Beach

Royal National Park

Little Marley Beach

Wattamolla Dam

Providential Head

Wattamolla Road

Wattamolla Picnic Area
Kiosk

Providential Point

622400

6223000

6222000

6221000

6224000

6223000

6222000

6221000

325000

326000

327000

328000

329000

330000

325000

326000

327000

328000

329000

330000

Summary navigation sheet for the Wattamolla to Big Marley Beach



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
Start	Wattamolla Picnic Ground Toilet Block -34.1384,151.1148 (GR Otford, 262209)	3 -8	180 m 4 mins	From the toilet block, this walk follows the path down the hill and through the car park to the northern end of the picnic area, near the creek crossing.
0.18	Northern End Wattamolla Picnic Ground -34.1374,151.1141 (GR Otford, 261210)	31 -17	650 m 13 mins	Continue straight: From the northern end of Wattamolla Picnic Ground, this track crosses the wide, shallow creek (keeping the ocean to the right).
0.84	Wattamolla Dam -34.1322,151.1153 (GR Otford, 262216)	73 -47	3.1 km 54 mins	Continue straight: From the swimming hole, this walk follows the bush track (with the swimming hole to the right) up the hill (east) and through the high scrub, as it winds up through some rocks, and up a long hill,...
3.94	Int. Mowlee Ridge Trail and Marley Trk -34.1193,151.129 (GR Port Hacking, 275230)	3 -41	560 m 11 mins	Optional sidetrip to Deer Pools Clearing. Turn left: From the intersection, this walk heads north-west along the flat trail which runs through the scrub.
3.94	Int. Mowlee Ridge Trail and Marley Trk -34.1193,151.129 (GR Port Hacking, 274230)	7 -47	1.1 km 20 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the service trail, heading down the long gentle hill as it steadily winds down to the coast.
5.09	Int. Coastal Trk and Chimney Trk -34.1186,151.1378 (GR Port Hacking, 283231)	12 -13	640 m 11 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the bush track along the coast, keeping the ocean to the right for a short while before the track descends steeply off the rock-shelf and down a rough bush track t...
5.73	East Marely Beach -34.116,151.143 (GR Port Hacking, 287234)	9 -8	400 m 7 mins	Turn around: From the end of Marley Beach, this walk follows the coast along the beach until coming to the rock-shelf at the end.
6.12	West Marley Beach -34.1172,151.1393 (GR Port Hacking, 284233)	9 -15	680 m 12 mins	Veer left: From the end of the beach, this walk heads up and along the rock-shelf to following the coast as the bush track weaves in and out of the short heath for a short while.
6.80	Little Marley Beach -34.1212,151.1352 (GR Port Hacking, 280228)	174 -155	2.8 km 1 hr 8 mins	Continue straight: From Little Marley Beach, this walk follows the coast across the beach, keeping the ocean to the left as it climbs up the signposted bush track at the end to the clifftop.
9.61	Wattamolla Dam -34.1322,151.1153 (GR Otford, 262216)	25 -34	840 m 17 mins	Continue straight: From the creek, (which may become impassable after heavy or prolonged rain) this walk heads west (keeping the swimming hole on the left) along the bush track.
10.45	Wattamolla Picnic Ground Toilet Block -34.1384,151.1148 (GR Otford, 262209)	18 -20	600 m 12 mins	Optional sidetrip to Providential Point. Continue straight: From the men's toilet block, this walk heads to an sports-oval sized clearing.