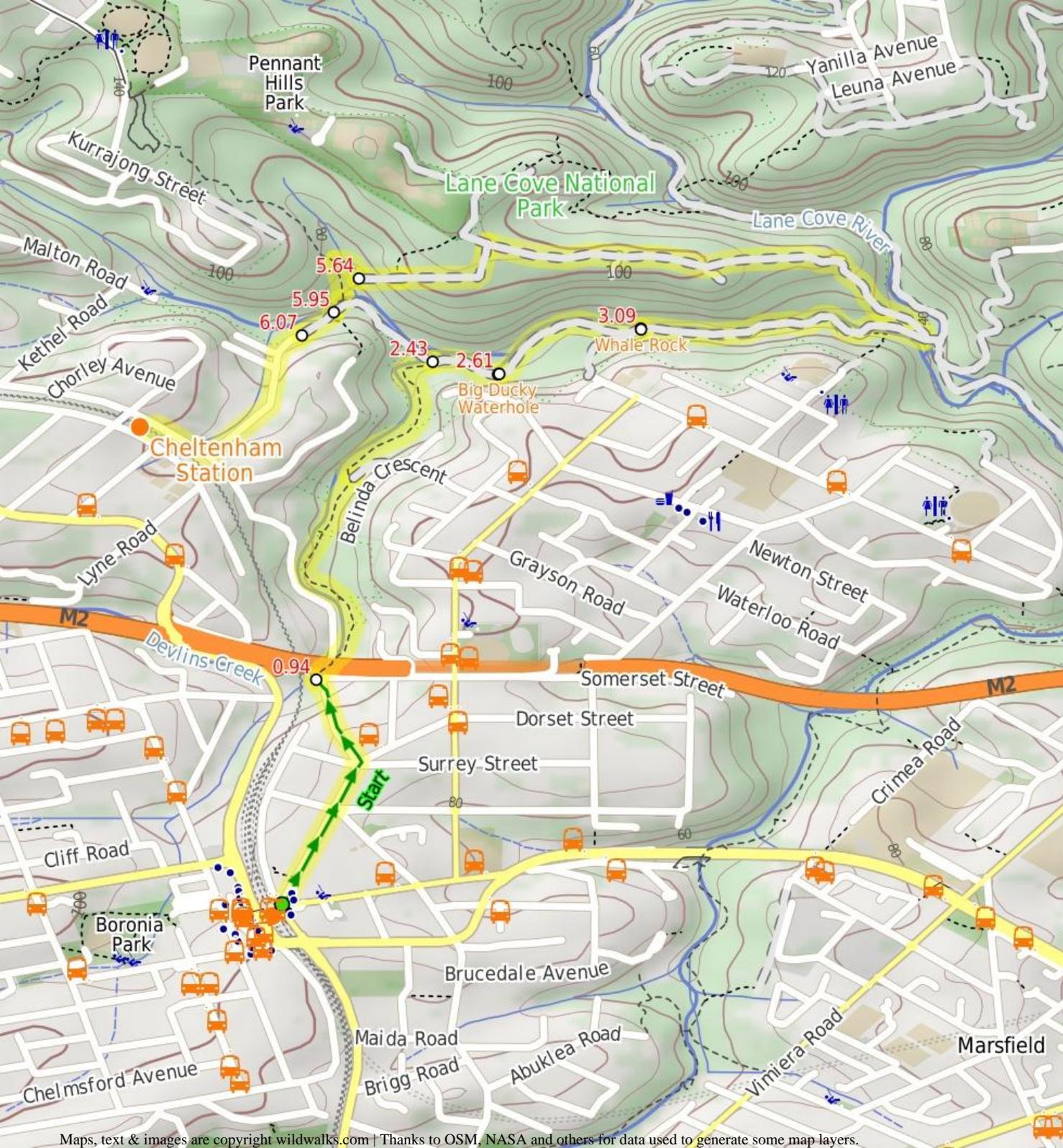




## Epping to Cheltenham Station via Whale Rock



**2 hrs 30 mins**

**Hard track**

**6.8 km One way**

**184m**



This walk, to Cheltenham Station from Epping Station, visits Whale Rock and Lane Cove River. This is not the most direct route between the two stations, but it is a great way to explore Devlins Creek. With a train station at each end, this walk mostly follows well define management trails with a narrow section of track at the upper end of Devlins Creek.

39m

112m

Lane Cove National Park

### **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 walks 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** You can get to Epping Station (gps: -33.7725, 151.0824) by car, train or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

You can get back from Cheltenham Train Station (gps: -33.7558, 151.0788) by car 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/etcsvwr>

### **0 | Epping Station**

*(940 m 18 mins)* The walk exits Epping Station on the Oxford St side. The walk then crosses Cambridge St and continues down Oxford St. The walk follows the footpath past the shops down Oxford St passing Chester St, Surrey St. Just after Surry St the walk turns left onto Derby St to the end. Nearing the end of Derby St the walk tends left around the yellow gate and onto the concrete driveway which veers left off the road. The walk continues towards the tunnel to come to an intersection just before the tunnel entrance.

### **0.94 | Int of Derby street service trail**

*(1.5 km 25 mins)* Veer right: From the intersection this walk follows the Great North Walk arrow up the couple of steps then down along the footpath through the tunnel under the M2 (keeping the creek and wider management trail to your left). Out of the tunnel this walk follows the track as it winds up and around the fenced sewage vent and then continues through the dense bushland in the gully passing a sign marking the entrance to Lane Cove National Park. A little while later the track leads to a signposted intersection with the 'Belinda Crs' management trail.

Turn left: From the intersection the track follows the Whale Rock sign down the service trail which narrows into a bushtrack and follows Devlin creek through the gully all the way along until it widens out into a rocky service trail again and comes to the intersection of the Cheltenham service trail.

### **2.43 | Int of Epping Trk and Malton Rd Trail**

*(190 m 3 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection the track follows the Lane Cove River arrow along the servicetrail for a while before it loops around the top of Big Ducky Waterhole.

### **2.61 | Big Ducky Waterhole**

The servicetrail loops around the top of the Big Ducky waterhole and there is a nice rock overhang in which to break. Is also a popular bird watching area. Unfortunately, recently there has been large quantities of rubbish in the area. (If going down to the waterhole please consider carrying out some of the rubbish if every walker carries out a bit it will make a difference)

### **2.61 | Big Ducky Waterhole**

*(480 m 8 mins)* Continue straight: From the top of Big Ducky Waterhole the continues through the valley keeping Devlins Creek below on the left of the track all the way to Whale Rock.

### **3.09 | Whale Rock**

This is a large boulder that looks eerily like a whale, complete with eye socket. It is a good place to break and climb around the Rock.

### **3.09 | Whale Rock**

*(2.5 km 54 mins)* Continue straight: From Whale Rock the track follows the Penant Hills Park arrow along the service trail as it winds through the valley, crossing several small concrete creek crossings until it comes to the signposted intersection of the Pennant Hills ovals service trail.

Turn left : From the intersection the track follows the Pennant Hills ovals sign up the steep rocky service trail winding all the way up the side of the valley, flattening out to a gentle climb as it approaches the top and passing the intersection of a powerline service trail, continuing along the top of the ridge all the way to the intersection of the second second powerline service trail. From here the track continues along the ridge, following the service trail through the thick bushland all the way to the intersection of the third powerline service trail.

Turn left : From the intersection the track heads south along the service trail all the way to the power lines where it turns right and continues to the end of the service trail following the powerlines.

Continue straight: From the intersection the track follows the rocky bushtrack from the end of the service trail to the base of the large power tower, continuing all the way down the side of the ridge to the intersection of the develin creek bushtrack.

### **5.64 | Int of Powerline and Develin creek bushtracks**

*(310 m 7 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection the track

heads north through the bush, winding down and across Develin creek, coming up the other side to the intersection of the Pennant Hills park entry bushtrack, at a telegraph pole.

Turn left: From the intersection the bushtrack follows the powerlines, down the gentle hill and down the long set of steps to the bottom where it crosses the creek to the signposted intersection of the Cheltenham bushtrack.

Turn right: From the intersection the track follows the Cheltenham sign up the bushtrack and up some steps to the intersection of the North Epping service trail

### **5.95 | Int of North Epping service trail**

*(120 m 2 mins)* Veer right: From the intersection the track follows the service trail up the hill, winding through the bush until it flattens out and follows the powerlines through the metal gate to the end of Malton road.

### **6.07 | End of Malton Rd**

*(770 m 15 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection the track follows Malton Road away from the bush which soon turns into Day Rd the track then turn right onto Sutherland Road. Once on Sutherland Road, Cheltenham Train Station is only about 200m further.