

Fairfax Walk



30 mins

Very easy

762 m Circuit

▲ 45m

1

This walk provides some of the best views in Sydney. This pleasant stroll and wheelchair-accessible walk starts from the car park at the end of the North Head Scenic Drive, and follows the asphalt footpath as it loops around the tip of North Head. Enjoy views of the entrance to Sydney Harbour, the coastal cliff line and a historic gun emplacement. The stunning lookouts provide great views all year round and a popular vantage point for whale watchers. The whales pass by twice annually, heading north in June and July, and again when they return to the Antarctic in August and October.

69m

77m

Sydney Harbour 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 North Head Scenic Drive car park (gps: -33.8212, 151.2997) by car or bus. Car: Parking fees apply in the area. This is a circuit walk, 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.tl9i>

0 | North Head Scenic Drive car park

The car park is round at the far eastern end of North Head Scenic Drive, Manly. There are about 50 parking bays including an area for large buses, and 2 mobility bays. NPWS parking fees apply unless you have a NPWS pass and there are ticket machines available.

0 | North Head Scenic Drive car park

(10 m) From the North Head Scenic Drive car park, this walk follows the 'Fairfax walking track' sign across the pedestrian crossing and up the small ramp. The walk leads past the 'Welcome to North Head' information sign, then between the timber bollards to the intersection marked with the metal 'Fairfax walking track' sign.

0.01 | Start of Fairfax walk

(140 m 3 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk heads gently uphill along the wide path, initially keeping the car park (through the heath) to the left. The path almost immediately leads past a seat (on the left) and leads gently uphill for about 30m to go over a rise then starts heading gently downhill, where the path bends right. About 90m past this bend the path leads to a 3-way intersection above South Pacific (Eastern) Lookout.

0.15 | Optional sidetrip to South Pacific (Eastern) Lookout

(10 m) Turn left: CURRENTLY CLOSED. From the intersection, this walk heads directly towards the ocean views along the asphalt path. The path then comes to the top of some steps, where there are great views. Continue down the stairs to come to the formal fenced lookout and wonderful cliff views. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn left.

0.15 | South Pacific (Eastern) Lookout

From this lookout, you can enjoy great views north along the coastal cliff line and as far as the horizon across the South Pacific Ocean. With a fenced cliff edge and a nice seat, this is a great spot to sit and soak up the views. In 2017 part of this lookout was closed and fenced off due to cliff instability, you can still enjoy the view from behind the fence

0.15 | South Pacific (Eastern) Lookout int.

(120 m 2 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection near the

lookout, this walk follows the main path gently downhill keeping the ocean to the left. The path provides some nice ocean views over the heath for about 120m until coming to a small concrete building (on the left).

0.27 | Old Gun Emplacement

This small concrete building was used as a gunning placement and bunker for those who would keep watch over Sydney Harbour during World War Two. It was built in the 1920s (prior to the war), one of several new fortifications built at the time, the first since federation. Access to the building is via an 82cm wide entry, up two (5cm and 15cm) steps and into a 2.4x2.1m room.

0.27 | Old Gun Emplacement

(60 m 2 mins) Continue straight: From the concrete building, this walk follows the main footpath gently downhill, keeping the ocean to the left. The path winds through the heath for about 60m to come to a 3-way intersection near the North Head (Southern) Lookout (on the left).

0.32 | Optional sidetrip to North Head (Southern) Lookout

(20 m 1 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads gently downhill along the 10m path towards the ocean to the fenced lookout. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn left.

0.32 | North Head (Southern) Lookout

This lookout is on the southern edge of North Head and provides a great view that spans from Sydney city in the distance (to the south), around the South Pacific Ocean (to the east). You will notice a large white pole with a green light, which helps ships navigate and avoid the headland as they sail into Sydney Harbour. The lookout has a 1.18m high fence/railing around the edge. In 2017 part of this lookout was closed and fenced off due to cliff instability, you can still enjoy the view from behind the fence.

0.32 | North Head (Southern) Lookout int.

(170 m 5 mins) Turn right: From the intersection near North Head (Southern) Lookout, this walk follows the main footpath gently downhill keeping the fence and ocean to the left. The path leads beside a section of nearly bald cliff top opening up wide ocean views for nearly 150m to come to a 3-way intersection (with the steps on track on the left).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the footpath distinctly uphill, initially keeping the ocean (and step track) to the left. The path leads up the slope for 30m to come to a large 3-way intersection marked with a 'Fairfax Lookout' plaque (on the left).

0.49 | Optional sidetrip to Fairfax Lookout

(50 m 2 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the wide footpath gently downhill towards the upper Fairfax lookout area to find an intersection just before the seat.

Veer right: From the upper Fairfax Lookout, this walk heads gently down the ramped footpath (between two metal handrails) for about 30m to come to the lower Fairfax Lookout platform (with a seat on the right). At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main

walk then Veer left.

0.49 | Fairfax Lookout

Fairfax Lookout is a great vantage point to enjoy the entrance to Sydney Harbour, the majestic cliff line and the city skyline in the distance. It is a great reminder of how much bushland there is in the great city. This is a good vantage point for whale watching when the Humpback and Southern Right whales migrate along the coast. The whales usually head north in June-July to a warmer climate for breeding and return to the food-rich Antarctic waters in August-October, where they remain for the summer. There is a seat at the upper and lower viewing areas. The lookout has a 1.2m high metal fence along the edge. A small section of the lower lookout was closed in 2017 due to cliff instability.

0.49 | Int of Fairfax lookout and loop track

(270 m 6 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk heads gently uphill along the footpath keeping the timber fence to the left. The path winds gently uphill for just shy of 120m to come to an intersection with a dirt trail (on the left).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads gently uphill following the asphalt footpath as it winds through the heath. After 130m the path leads past a timber seat (on the right) and then comes to an intersection near the car park and road (on the left)

Turn left : From the intersection, this walk heads towards the car park, between the timber bollards. The walk leads past the 'Welcome to North Head' information sign and down the small ramp to the pedestrian crossing at the North Head Scenic Drive car park.



This page is designed to give you a sense of the facilities that help improve access for people with disabilities or mobility restrictions. See tracknotes and map for navigation, point of interest and other information. See the Accessibility Details page for specific information about each facility.

Parking: There are 1 designated accessible parking areas on this walk.

Toilets: There are 0 toilets on this walk.

Seats: There are 2 seats on this walk. They are 740m apart.

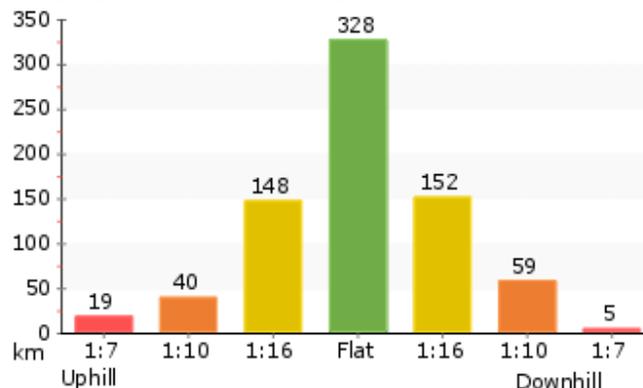
Surface

2.4m wide asphalt footpath the whole way around.

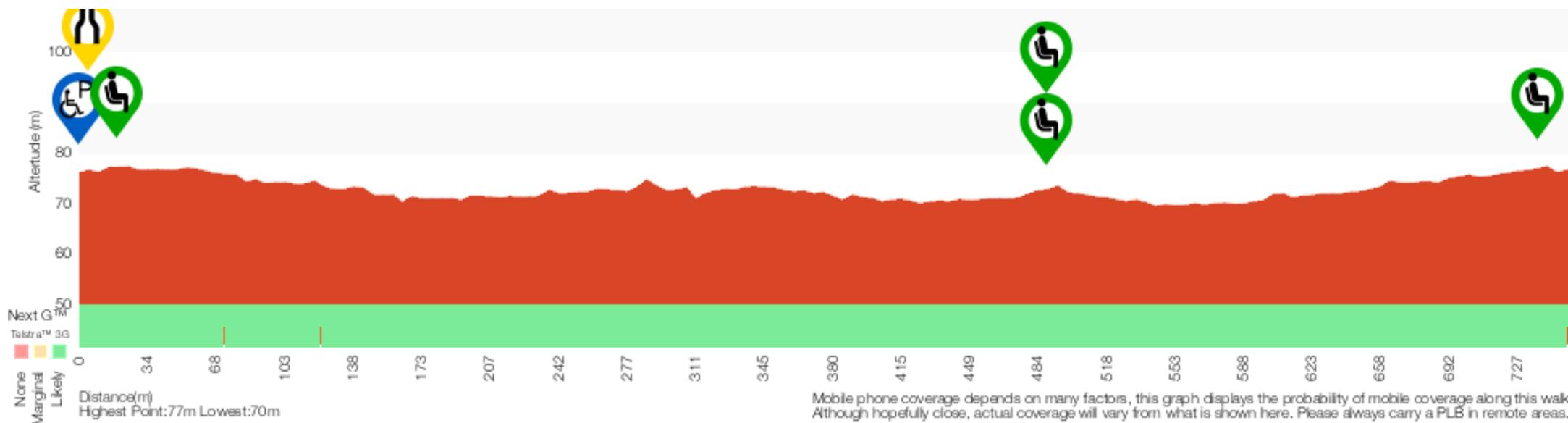
Steepness

Gentle slopes, no steps.

This graph shows how steep the track is.



1		Grade 1/6 Very easy	
Length	762 m Circuit		
Time	30 mins		
Quality of track	Smooth and hardened path (1/6)		
Signs	Clearly signposted (1/6)		
Experience Required	No experience required (1/6)		
Weather	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)		
Infrastructure	Generally useful facilities (such as fenced cliffs and seats) (1/6)		



Mobile phone coverage depends on many factors, this graph displays the probability of mobile coverage along this walk. Although hopefully close, actual coverage will vary from what is shown here. Please always carry a PLB in remote areas.



1 Parking Accessible (0m)

There are about 50 car parking bays. Two are marked mobility parking bays nearest to the start of the walk. The mobility parking area is asphalt, 4m wide and 6m deep.



2 Pinch Point (0m)

Timber bollard and gutter ramp pinch points at the start of the walk. The gap between the bollards are 1.2m, and the ramp is 1.27m wide.



3 Seat (20m)

A timber slat bench seat, 44cm high, 44cm deep and 1.8m wide with no arm or backrest.



4 Seat (490m)

A timber slat bench seat, 47cm high, 30cm deep and 2m wide with a 39cm high backrest.



5 Seat (490m)

A timber slat bench seat, 48cm high, 30cm deep and 2m wide with a 41cm high backrest.



6 Seat (740m)

A timber slat bench seat, 47cm high, 45cm deep and 1.8m wide with no arm or backrest.