

Girrakool Loop track



45 mins

Moderate track

3

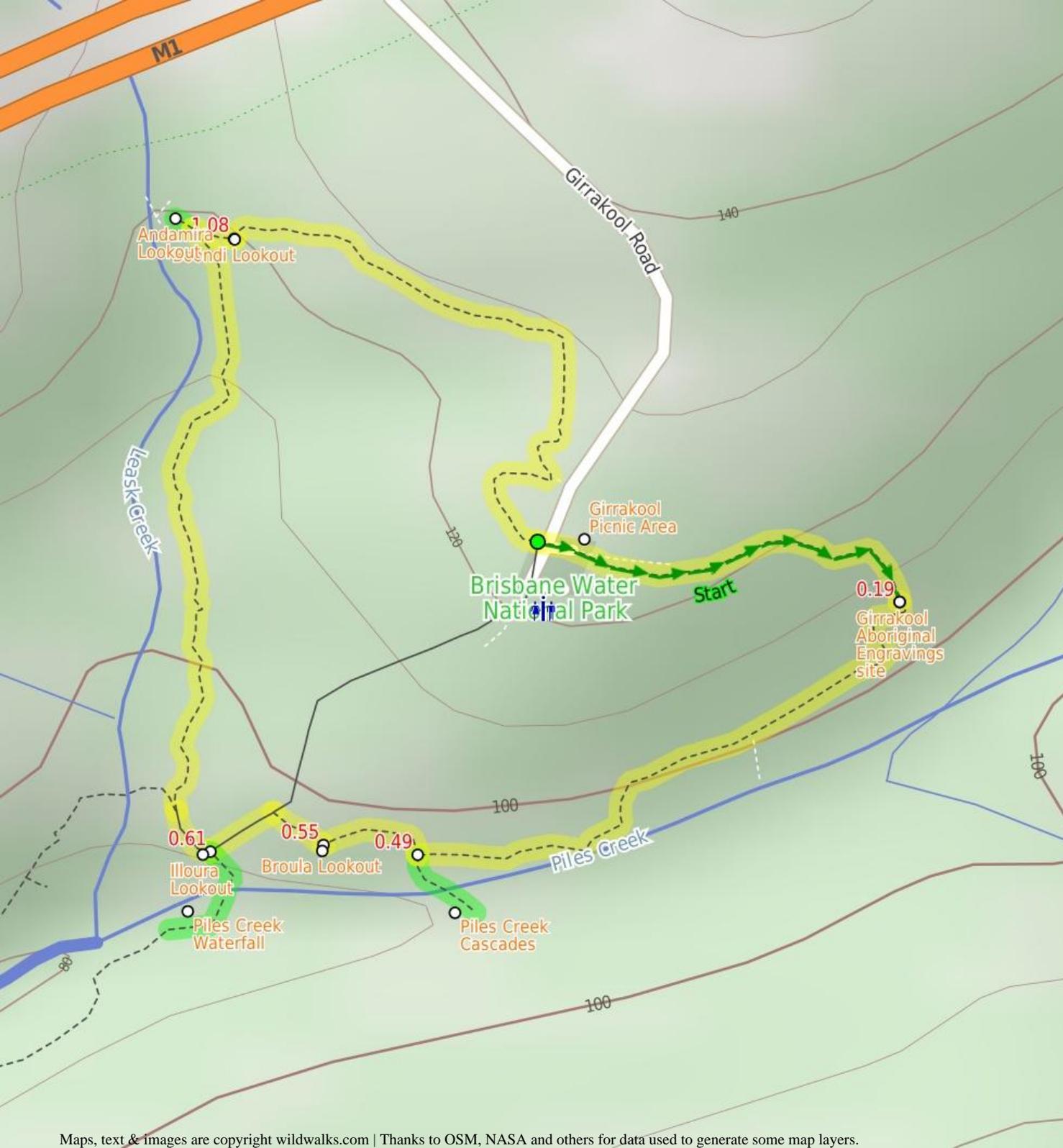
1.4 km Circuit

↑ 55m

Starting at the well-established Girrakool picnic area, this walk visits four lookouts and an Aboriginal engravings site. The walk offers a couple of side trips, visiting some nice spots on Piles Creek. The views from each of the lookout are filtered through trees, but still worth the visit. The walk is especially nice in late winter and early spring, when the wildflowers are blooming. A good walk when picnicking at Girrakool.

129m

91m



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 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 Girrakool Picnic Area (gps: -33.4317, 151.2766). Car: A park entry fee is required for driving into the park.

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/glt>

0 | Girrakool Picnic Area

Girrakool picnic area is a wonderful family destination, just 5 minutes' drive from Kariong. The picnic area provides all the necessary facilities for a full day's activities, including barbecues, tables, shelters, water and toilets. National Park fees apply. The main picnic area is on the eastern side of the car park, and smaller, older picnic area is at the north-eastern corner of the car park. The southern Girrakool picnic area is located near the toilets. The picnic area is dedicated to John 'Jack' Higgs, the first superintendent of Brisbane Water National Park, and Mrs Vera Murdoch, who provided the funds. 'Girrakool' is an Aboriginal word meaning 'place of still waters'. [More info.](#)

0 | Girrakool Picnic Area

(190 m 4 mins) From the Girrakool picnic area car park and information sign, this walk heads across the car park to the 'Girrakool Loop 2km' signpost on the other side. The walk then follows this sign and track into the bush, leaving the freeway noise behind. The track crosses a rock platform then heads down a series of steps, to come to a large rock platform with a pine log and 'Aboriginal Site' sign. The cliff edge around the rock is un-fenced.

0.19 | Girrakool Aboriginal Engravings site

This rock platform has a log and 'Aboriginal Site' sign. Make an effort to not walk on the the engravings as this will only fade the engraving further. The engraving on this rock have faded but with a bit of effort you can make out a man and kangaroo. [More info.](#)

0.19 | Aboriginal Engravings site

(310 m 6 mins) Continue straight: From the Aboriginal Engraving Site, this walk heads down the stairs that lead through the crack a the lower end of the rock platform. The track then winds through the bush for a little while. Soon after passing a glimpse of Piles Creek, the track comes to a 'T' intersection, marked with a small arrow sign post.

0.49 | Optional sidetrip to Piles Creek Cascades

(50 m 1 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the track in the opposite direction to the arrow, down the hill. The track passes over the rocks, through a small crack and around the red gum tree, to come to the rocky creek bed of Piles Creek. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Continue straight.

0.49 | Piles Creek Cascades

Piles Creek Cascades are an informally named set of cascades on a wide rock platform and Piles Creek, in Brisbane Water National Park. The creek, at this point, flows across a rock platform with many interesting sink holes, small water holes and cascades. this is a nice spot to explore. Care is needed as the

rocks are slippery, with unfenced drops, and the area may not be passable after rain.

0.49 | Int of Girrakool Loop and Piles Creek Access track

(50 m 1 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the arrow along the wide track (keeping the valley to the left). The track tends left to soon lead to Broula Lookout.

0.55 | Broula Lookout

Broula Lookout is fenced and a fairly short walk down from the Girrakool picnic area. Over time, the trees in the area have grown, filtering what would otherwise be a great vantage point for the Piles Creek waterfall. Broula is an Aboriginal word referring to a place of trickling water.

0.55 | Broula Lookout

(70 m 2 mins) Turn right: From Broula Lookout, this walk follows the clearer track heading directly away from the cliff to soon come to the a 'T' intersection with the 'Girrakool Loop' footpath.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Girrakool Loop' sign down along the stone path. The path soon heads down some steps and comes to a fenced and signposted 'Illoura Lookout'.

0.61 | Illoura Lookout

Illoura Lookout, Brisbane Water National Park, can be found a short walk south-west of the Girrakool picnic area, following the Great North Walk sign. This lookout provides a filtered view up and down the Leask and Piles Creek junction. There is a view of a waterfall from Piles Creek. Illoura is an Aboriginal word referring to a pleasant or peaceful place.

0.61 | Optional sidetrip to Piles Creek Waterfall

(70 m 2 mins) Turn left: From Illoura Lookout, the walk follows the left-hand 'Piles Creek' and GNW arrow down the wooden steps (keeping the valley to the right). The track soon passes a 'Caution Low Water Level Crossing Only' sign and crosses Piles Creek using the concrete stepping stones (the creek may be impassable after rain). The track then opens up on an unfenced rock platform, at the top of the waterfall. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Veer left.

0.61 | Piles Creek Waterfall

The large waterfall on Piles Creek is south of Girrakool Picnic Area in Brisbane Water National Park. At the Piles Creek Loop track crossing at the top of the falls, there is a large rock platform. The cliff edge is unfenced and would be dangerous to approach for the view. The water falls down the large drop, into a big pool below. The 'Bundilla Lookout' on the other side of the valley provides the only square view onto the falls, but even this only witnesses the top half.

0.61 | Illoura Lookout

(450 m 10 mins) Turn right: From Illoura Lookout, this walk follows the 'Girrakool Loop' sign keeping the green fence to the left. The track leads up some steps to soon come to a 'Y' intersection and a sign pointing back to 'Girrakool Car Park'.

Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Girrakool Loop' sign (in the opposite direction to the 'Girrakool Car Park' sign), up the rocky track to soon pass the old 'lookout' sign. The track soon cross a small timber footbridge and continues to wind through the bush for a little while before crossing another footbridge with a handrail. A short time later, the walk crosses a longer timber bridge, then leads up the hill to an intersection with Andamira Lookout (unsignposted), a short distance to the left.

1.06 | Optional sidetrip to Andamira Lookout

(10 m) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk crosses the small bridge and climbs the stairs to the fenced Andamira Lookout platform. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Veer left.

1.06 | Andamira Lookout

The fenced Andamira Lookout is on a platform, overlooking Leakes Creek waterfall on the Girrakool Loop walk. The waterfall is in a sandstone and ferny amphitheatre with a sandy base. Prior to reaching the waterfall, this creek has just passed under the F3 freeway, which can be heard a short distance away. Trees have grown up over the years and the view of the water if filtered through the leaves.

1.06 | Andamira intersection

(20 m) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads up the track and timber steps (away from Andamira Lookout and the freeway noise). At the top of the steps, the track comes to the fenced and signposted 'Boondi Lookout'.

1.08 | Boondi Lookout

Boondi Lookout is a fenced and signposted lookout on the Girrakool Loop track, in Brisbane Water National Park. The view is mostly of the trees in the valley, with some glimpses of Leakes Creek to the right. 'Boondi' is a word used by the Darkinjung people meaning 'Club-headed weapon'.

1.08 | Boondi Lookout

(350 m 7 mins) Turn left: From 'Boondi Lookout', this walk heads up the stairs, following the main track. The track soon flattens and gently winds through the bush, across a rock platform and across a small wooden bridge. Soon after leaving the power lines, the track comes to a fence and the top of Girrakool Picnic area. The walk heads through the picnic area, tending left to the par park and large information sign.