

# Governor Phillip Walk



**3 hrs 45 mins**

**Moderate track**

3

**7 km Return**

**222m**

Named in honour of NSW's first Governor, this walk follows in the footsteps of his 1788 expedition to find farm land. The walk starts at the end of Ferguson St, Forestville. Passing the NPWS office and depot, the walk then follows Carroll Creek down to the official start of the Governor Phillip Walk. For the most part, this walk follows a bush track along Middle Harbour creek, to the stepping stones crossing, before returning the same way.

1m

Garigal 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 End of Ferguson St (gps: -33.7566, 151.2105) by car or bus. Car: Parking fees apply in the area.

This is a return, 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/gpw>

### 0 | End of Ferguson St

(530 m 12 mins) From the end of Ferguson Rd, Forestville, this walk heads through the Garigal National Park gate and along the driveway. Soon this walk passes the 'Northern Beaches Area Office and Depot' on the left (and a small car park on the right) and a short distance further, the driveway come to an intersection with a service trail on the right and a sign to "Casuarina and Carroll Creek ->".

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Carroll Creek Track' signs down the hill and along the service trail, winding down past a short loop service trail, before coming to the signposted intersection of the 'Casuarina and Carroll Creek' tracks.

### 0.53 | Int of Casuarina and Carroll Creek Tracks

(740 m 12 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk heads down the concrete stairs next to the metal railing, to the bottom, where it turns onto a bush track just before a metal bridge. (The track doesn't cross the bridge, but does have quite a pretty view of Carroll Creek.) Continuing along the bush track, this walk soon passes under a long rock overhang, and follows Carroll Creek for a while before coming to the signposted intersection of the 'Lyrebird Track' and the 'Carroll Creek Track' crossing.

### 1.27 | Int of Lyrebird and Carroll Creek tracks

(1.5 km 28 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk crosses Carroll Creek at the stepping stones and continues along the bush track, passing the "Governor Phillip Walk" sign as the track bends to the left. This walk winds through the bush alongside Carroll Creek before steadily climbing up the rocky

hill to the right for a little while. The track then drops back down to the edge of Middle Harbour Creek, which it follows as the walk undulates along the rocky bush track for a while, before crossing under a large pipe bridge to the end of an asphalt service trail.

### 2.79 | Alternate Route Int of Davidson and Governor Phill

(1 km 27 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the concrete management trail up the hill as it bends to the right. The track soon passes a sign 'Davidson Track' pointing up the hill, as the track winds its way up. Then, about halfway up this hill, the track flattens out to cross a creek and to leave the National Park. The track continues steeply up the hill, with the pipe on the right of the track. There is a lookout point partway up, and, at the top of the hill, there is a brick pump house. From here, the trail become dirt and follows the pipe to John Oxley Drive (just a little way south of Prahlan Ave).

### 2.79 | Int of Davidson and Governor Phillip tracks

(700 m 16 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Bungaroo Track (450m)' sign, keeping Middle Harbour Creek to the left. The bush track makes its way upstream following the main creek, but crossing a few small gullies along the way. The track then comes an intersection with a signpost 'Bungaroo Track' and stepping stones across the creek, clearly visible on the left.

### 3.48 | Bungaroo

Governor Arthur Phillip (first governor of NSW) described this section of the river as where "the flowing of the tide ceased". Phillip and his party of nine camped here in 1788 whilst looking for land suitable for farming. John White (Surgeon General) described the the area as "the most desert, wild and solitary seclusion that the imagination can form any idea of". Over the past 200 years the river has changed, but somewhere not far upstream of the stepping stone is Bungaroo. [More info.](#)

