

Patonga to Pearl Beach



1 hr 45 mins

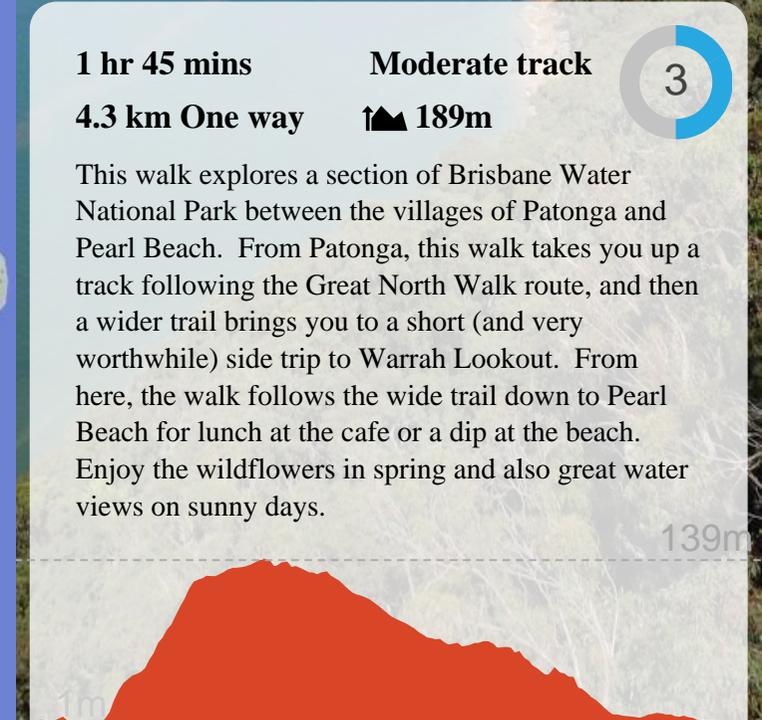
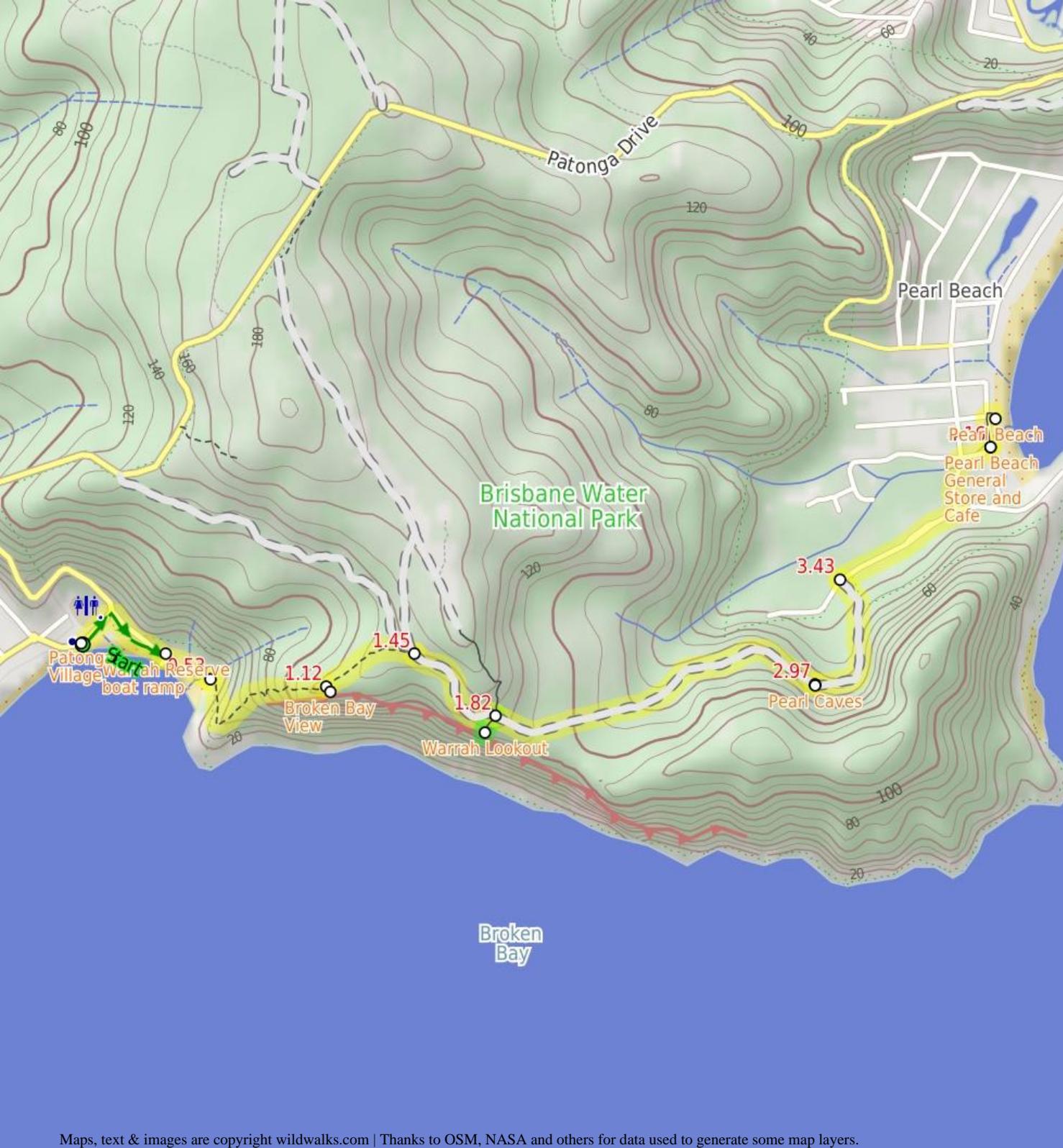
Moderate track

4.3 km One way

▲ 189m

3

This walk explores a section of Brisbane Water National Park between the villages of Patonga and Pearl Beach. From Patonga, this walk takes you up a track following the Great North Walk route, and then a wider trail brings you to a short (and very worthwhile) side trip to Warrah Lookout. From here, the walk follows the wide trail down to Pearl Beach for lunch at the cafe or a dip at the beach. Enjoy the wildflowers in spring and also great water views on sunny days.



Brisbane Water 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 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 You can get to Patonga Wharf car park (gps: -33.5504, 151.2746) by car, ferry or bus. Ferry: There is no regular ferry service between Patonga and Brooklyn any more. You can easily grab a water taxi (about \$80+). If you are part of a large group they can also organise a larger boat carrying 35 passengers (about \$16 pp). Phone 0410 554 777 to book. Enjoy the boat ride. Car: There is free parking available.

You can get back from Pearl Beach (Amethyst Ave access) (gps: -33.5444, 151.3071) 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/ptpb>

0 | Patonga Village

Patonga Village is a lovely small township on the Hawkesbury River. Just near the ferry wharf are a few helpful facilities: The Eve Williams Memorial Oval, where you will find a large pavilion, drinking water and public toilets. A fish and chips shop (and general store) is open reasonable hours, where you can buy lunch, a coffee and basic supplies (fishing needs, milk, canned food). Patonga Beach Hotel is available for a cold drink at the bar or a meal on the deck, or even overnight accommodation (from \$242 a couple) ph: 02 4379 1111.

0 | Patonga Wharf car park

(360 m 7 mins) From the car park at Patonga wharf, this walk follows the footpath beside Patonga Drive, keeping the water on the right. The road leads out of town passing beside 'Eve Williams Memorial Oval' for 70m to find a large 'The Great North Walk' sign opposite the toilet block. Soon after this sign, this walk turns right following the 'Boat Ramp' sign and GNW arrow post down along a side road for 220m to find a parking area beside Patonga's boat ramp. (Alternatively it is possible to walk along the sandy beach from the wharf to the boat ramp.)

0.36 | Warrah Reserve boat ramp

Warrah Reserve boat ramp provides a large car park and access to both the boat ramp and Patonga Beach. There are garbage bins, a picnic table and information board. The boat ramp offers good views along the beach to 'Dark Corner', found at the eastern end of Patonga Beach.

0.36 | Warrah Reserve boat ramp

(170 m 3 mins) Continue straight: From the boat ramp, this walk follows the power lines across the car park, keeping the water to the right. The walk heads around the gate and continues to follow the power lines across the sand, coming to the eastern end of Patonga Beach and the 'Brisbane Water National Park' sign. This area of the beach is also known as 'Dark Corner'.

0.53 | Eastern end of Patonga Beach

(590 m 21 mins) Continue straight: From the eastern end of Patonga beach, this walk follows the 'Warrah Trig 1.7km' sign up the steps. The track winds up the side on the hill, turning left and following the ridge line uphill. Soon after passing up some stairs between the rock, the track comes to a lovely view across the water. Here, the track turns left and climbs up more steps before flattening out and passing a few more GNW arrows. Just after passing

two GNW arrows next to each other (at the end of a large crack in the rock), the track passes a few large Sydney Red Gums and comes to an unfenced rock platform on the right - Broken Bay view.

1.12 | Broken Bay View

Broken Bay View is an informal, unnamed and unfenced vantage point at the top of the cliffs, east of Patonga. The large rock platform has a number of large Sydney Red Gums, providing some shade. There are great views across the Hawkesbury River, along Cowan Creek and to West Head. The views to the left extend past Lion Island to Barrenjoey Head and out to the Pacific Ocean.

1.12 | Broken Bay View

(330 m 6 mins) Veer left: From the Broken Bay view, this walk follows Great North Walk arrows uphill along the track. The track winds gently through the bush, with the occasional water glimpse to the right. After a short time, the track comes to a clear intersection with the Pearl Beach / Patonga fire trail with a sign pointing back to 'Patonga'.

1.45 | Int of Pearl Beach / Patonga fire trail and Patong

(370 m 9 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the Great North Walk arrow downhill along the wide management trail. After about 250m, the trail passes a track on the right (marked with 5 large boulders - this informal track leads to an unfenced view). The walk continues along the management trail for another 100m and comes to an intersection near the Warrah Lookout, and a sign pointing back to 'Patonga'.

1.82 | Optional sidetrip to Warrah Lookout

(70 m 2 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads between the timber posts and follows the 'Warrah Lookout' sign along the sandstone footpath. The path leads through the bush for a short distance, coming to the fenced Warrah Lookout. (Beware of informal side tracks that lead to unfenced sections of cliff.) At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn right.

1.82 | Warrah Lookout

Warrah Lookout is a mostly fenced lookout on a large sandstone platform. The lookout provides fantastic views across the Hawkesbury River. From left to right, you can see along the escarpment which forms the southern boundary of Brisbane Water National Park, out to the Pacific Ocean, Barrenjoey Headland, West Head, along Cowan Creek, Juno Point and along the escarpment to Patonga. This is a great place to spend some time soaking up the views.

1.82 | Warrah Lookout intersection

(1.2 km 23 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Pearl Beach' sign downhill along the management trail. The trail leads down the hill and bends right soon after some filtered water views over Pearl Beach. The trail then starts to bend around the side of a steep gully and, about 70m after passing between two large rocks, the trail rounds a left-hand bend, just below a long cliff face with several sandstone caves.

2.97 | Pearl Caves

Pearl Caves is an informal name for a couple of caves found on the Pearl Beach / Patonga fire trail. The two large overhangs are found near the base of a cliff. The caves look north and have outward-sloping floors. One cave has a few small columns and stalagmite/stalactite decorations growing at the back. To protect the caves (and yourself), the caves are best viewed from a distance.

2.97 | Pearl Caves

(460 m 10 mins) Continue straight: From the caves, this walk heads downhill along the management trail, keeping the steep valley to the left. There is a distinct change in vegetation as the trail winds down the hill. About 100m after seeing the house, the trail leads around a locked gate and a 'Pearl Beach / Patonga fire trail' sign onto Crystal St (about 60m up from the end of the sealed section of road).

3.43 | Lower end of Pearl Beach / Patonga fire trail

(730 m 12 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads east along the dirt Crystal Ave, keeping the downhill slope (valley) on the left. After about 40m, the road becomes sealed and the walk continues past the houses, turning left onto Diamond Rd. The walk then crosses Green Point Creek on a bridge (with a detailed risk warning sign) and after a further 120m, the walk turns right to follow Tourmaline Ave. Soon, the walk comes to some shops, turning left onto Pearl Parade, coming to the front of the cafe.

4.16 | Pearl Beach General Store and Cafe

The Pearl Beach General Store and Cafe (ph 02 4343 1222) is found at 1 Pearl Pde, Pearl Beach, and is open 7 days. The cafe provides breakfast, lunch and dinners for about \$20 a meal. The general store provides cheaper take-away meals and general supplies (including ice-creams). Across the road is Pearl Beach and some children's play equipment. Alternatively for a more refined dining experience, 'Pearls on the Beach' is found on the other side of the road, open Thursday to Sundays for lunch and dinner (ph 02 4342 4400). [More info.](#)

4.16 | Pearl Beach Cafe

(120 m 2 mins) Continue straight: From the cafe, this walk follows Pearl Pde, keeping the water to the right. The footpath leads past a bus stop, crossing the road and heading past the play equipment. The walk comes to a toilet block and wide entrance to Pearl Beach, almost opposite Amethyst Ave.

4.28 | Pearl Beach

Pearl Beach is a 1.2km long crescent-shaped, yellow sand beach. The beach has rocky points at either end - the southern end is home to an ocean pool and the northern end has the old Pearl Beach Road carved through the rock (no longer in use for cars). The beach has many access points and is popular for sunbathers, picnickers, and swimmers, although there is no surf life saver presence. The south-east facing beach is lined with houses in the northern section, and shade-providing trees in the south.