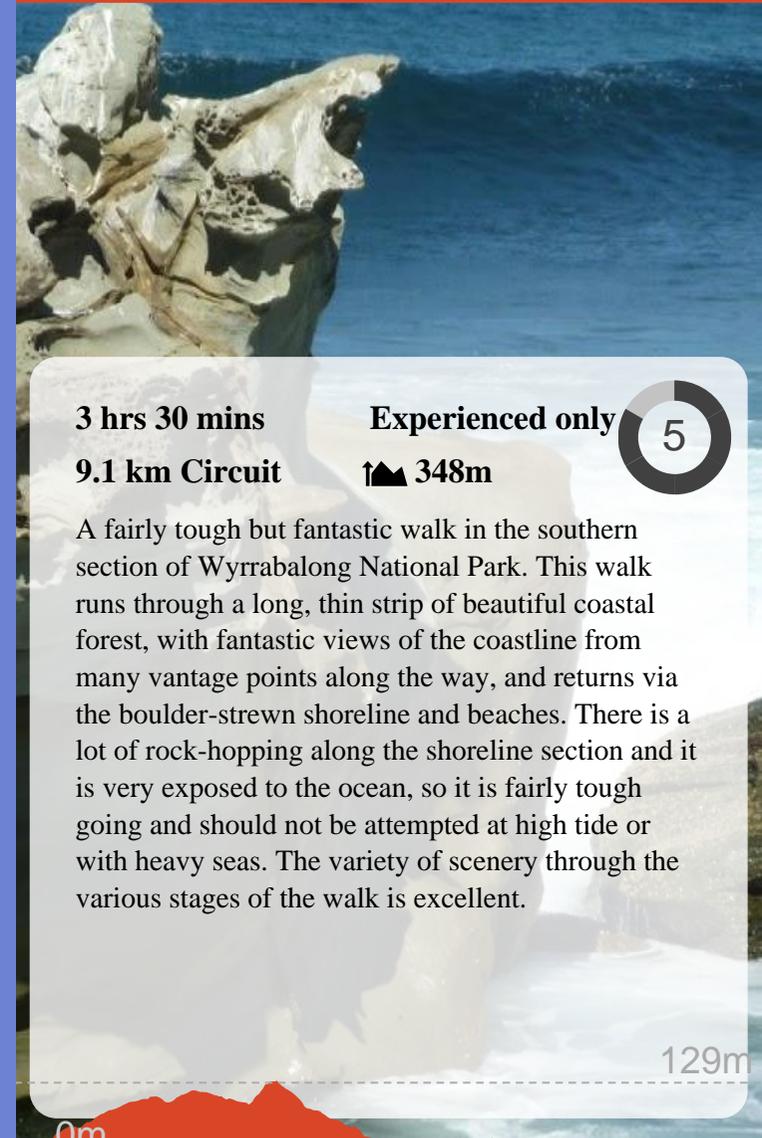
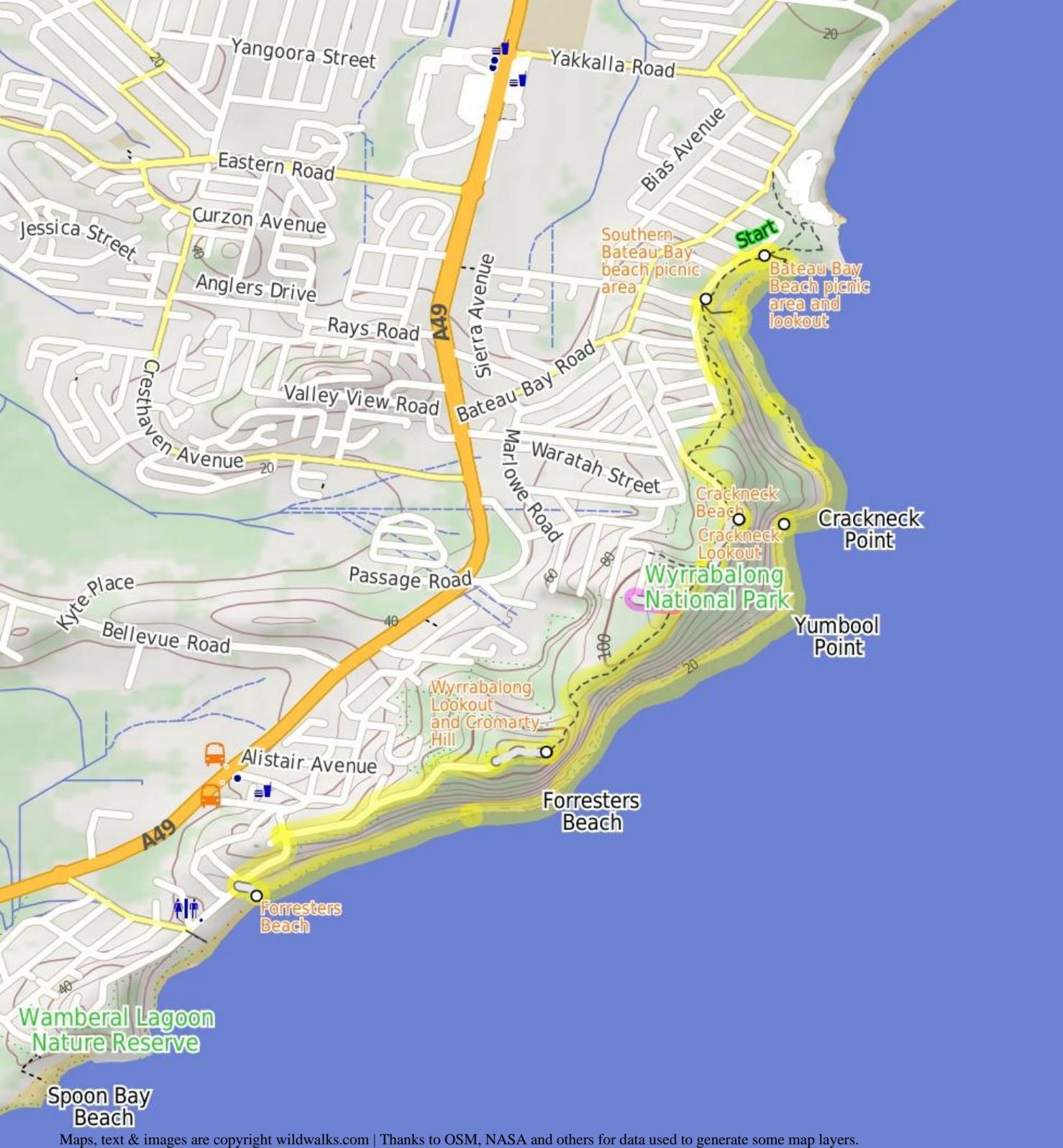


Wyrrabalong Coast Walk circuit



3 hrs 30 mins

Experienced only

5

9.1 km Circuit

348m

A fairly tough but fantastic walk in the southern section of Wyrrabalong National Park. This walk runs through a long, thin strip of beautiful coastal forest, with fantastic views of the coastline from many vantage points along the way, and returns via the boulder-strewn shoreline and beaches. There is a lot of rock-hopping along the shoreline section and it is very exposed to the ocean, so it is fairly tough going and should not be attempted at high tide or with heavy seas. The variety of scenery through the various stages of the walk is excellent.

129m

0m

Wyrrabalong National Park

Bateau Bay Beach picnic area and lookout

This unnamed picnic area and lookout is within Wyrabalong National Park, at the intersection of Reserve Dr and Harbour St, Bateau Bay. The picnic area overlooks Bateau Bay and the beach. There are large grass areas, plenty of shade and facilities including picnic tables, garbage bins, and beach access steps. There are beautiful views along the coast and out to sea from the picnic area. There are free electric BBQs at Sutton Reserve, a block further south along Reserve Dr. Takeaway food is available at a small shopping centre near the intersection of Harbour St and Bateau Bay Rd, one block from the picnic area.

Southern Bateau Bay beach picnic area

This picnic area, near the intersection of Reserve Dr and Rushby St, Bateau Bay, overlooks the southern end of Bateau Bay and the beach. The facilities include toilets, picnic tables, garbage bins and some slides for the kids. There are great views along the coast and out to sea. There is plenty of shade.

Crackneck Lookout

This lookout, at the end of Hilltop St, Bateau Bay, has stunning views up and down the coastline, and out to sea. There are picnic tables and an information board about marine mammals. There is a hang gliding launch spot beside the lookout.

Wyrabalong Lookout and Cromarty Hill

This lookout and picnic area is on Cromarty Hill, near the end of Cromarty Hill Rd, Forresters Beach. There are picnic tables and fantastic views from the lookout point, as well as the concrete roof platform beside the large communications tower. There is a hang gliding launch spot beside the lookout.

Forresters Beach

Forresters Beach is the name of a township and beach on the Central Coast of NSW. There are public toilets and a beach access path near the intersection of Crystal St and Kalakau Ave, and a beach access path near the bottom of Henrys Rd.

Crackneck Beach

This unnamed beach is below Crackneck Lookout and can be reached with some difficulty by walking along the very rocky shoreline from Forresters Beach, to the south, or from Bateau Bay beach, to the north. The beach is covered in rounded rocks about the size of a fist.

Before You walk

Bushwalking is fun and a wonderful way to enjoy our natural places. Sometimes things go bad, with a bit of planning you can increase your chance of having an enjoyable and safer walk. Before setting off on your walk check

- 1) Weather Forecast ([BOM Hunter District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Greater Sydney Region](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ([Wyrabalong National Park](#))
- 4) Research the walk to check your party has the skills, fitness and equipment required
- 5) Agree to stay as a group and not leave anyone to walk solo

Think before you TREK

The 'Think before you TREK' program developed by NSW Police & NPWS promotes the benefits of planning ahead for your bushwalking trip by using an easy to remember acronym:

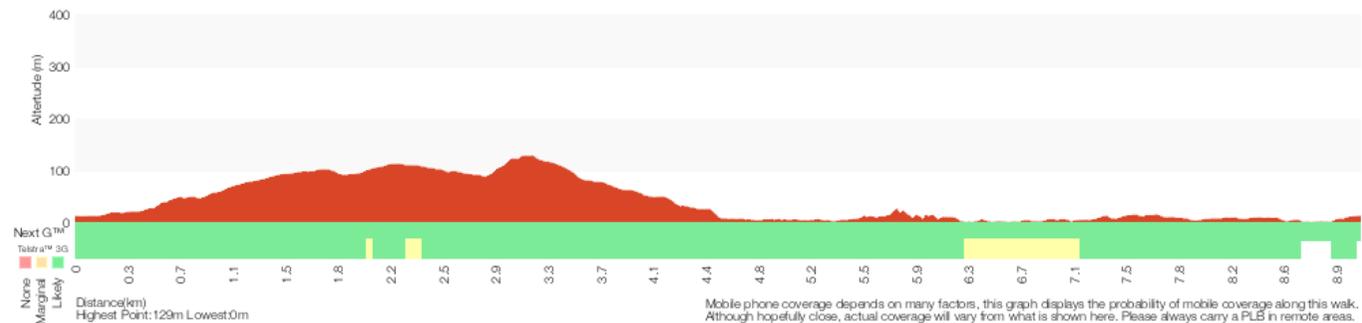
- T** Take adequate supplies of food, water, navigation and first aid equipment.
- R** Register your planned route and tell friends and family when you expect to return.
- E** Emergency beacon (PLB's) should be carried on walks with significant gaps in mobile coverage (check terrain profile).
- K** Keep to your planned route and follow the map and walking trails.

Topo Maps

The maps provided on wildwalks are helpful, but there are times where you may need maps covering a broader area. Maps that cover this walk include;

1:25 000 Map Series:91312S GOSFORD

1:100 000 Map Series:9131 GOSFORD



Grade

This walk has been graded using the AS 2156.1-2001. The overall grade of the walk is determined by the highest classification along the whole track.



Grade 5/6
Experienced only

Length	9.1 km Circuit
Time	3 hrs 30 mins
Quality of track	Rough unclear track (5/6)
Signs	Minimal directional signs (4/6)
Experience Required	Moderate level of bushwalking experience recommended (4/6)
Weather	Forecast, unforecast storms and severe weather may impact on navigation and safety (4/6)
Infrastructure	No facilities provided (5/6)

* This walk passes through very remote areas and sections have no visible track. At least one person in your group should have training and experience in off track walking and navigation. Even with these notes and a GPS these extra skills and equipment are required.

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's 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. **Experienced walkers only: This walk passes through very remote areas and sections have no visible track. At least one person in your group should have training and experience in off track walking and navigation. Even with these notes and a GPS these extra skills and equipment are required.**

Getting there You can get to Top of northern Bateau Bay Beach access steps (gps: -33.3821, 151.484) by car or bus. Car: There is free parking available. 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/wcwc>

0 | Bateau Bay Beach picnic area and lookout

This unnamed picnic area and lookout is within Wyrabalong National Park, at the intersection of Reserve Dr and Harbour St, Bateau Bay. The picnic area overlooks Bateau Bay and the beach. There are large grass areas, plenty of shade and facilities including picnic tables, garbage bins, and beach access steps. There are beautiful views along the coast and out to sea from the picnic area. There are free electric BBQs at Sutton Reserve, a block further south along Reserve Dr. Takeaway food is available at a small shopping centre near the intersection of Harbour St and Bateau Bay Rd, one block from the picnic area.

0 | Top of northern Bateau Bay Beach access steps

(100 m 2 mins) Starting from the track intersection beside the beach access steps, this walk follows the faint track a very short distance across the picnic area, keeping Reserve Dr to the right. The walk soon arrives at some seats and an open viewing area, to the left, with stunning views across the water. Continue straight: From the viewpoint, this walk goes south across the picnic area, keeping Reserve Dr to the right. The walk passes a fenced viewing area just before reaching an intersection at the end of the picnic area, with a concrete beach-access track to the left.

0.1 | South end of Bateau Bay Beach picnic area

(260 m 5 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the bush track past the 'Wyrabalong National Park Service Trail Walkers Only' sign, keeping Reserve Dr to the right. This walk passes through a nice strip of forest, passing a number of fenced viewing points, to the left, with great views out to sea. After a while, the walk emerges at another picnic area, next to a toilet block, and continues across the picnic area and car park, reaching an intersection signposted 'Coast Track', with a gated concrete driveway and beach access steps to the left.

0.36 | Southern Bateau Bay beach picnic area

This picnic area, near the intersection of Reserve Dr and Rushby St, Bateau Bay, overlooks the southern end of Bateau Bay and the beach. The facilities include toilets, picnic tables, garbage bins and some slides for the kids. There are great views along the coast and out to sea. There is plenty of shade.

0.36 | Rushby St car park

(1.3 km 29 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Coast Track' arrow along the bush track, keeping Reserve Dr to the right. The walk climbs gently and passes a number of side tracks on either side, which go a short distance to ocean viewing spots or the nearby road. After a

while, the walk reaches an intersection in the middle of a grassy clearing, with more ocean views.

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the bush track south, keeping Reserve Dr to the right. The walk soon passes a bench seat with a commemorative plaque, and continues through the bush on the sandy track. Ignoring a track to the right (which goes to the nearby street), the walk continues along sections of track with retaining boards, for some time before arriving beside Hilltop St. The walk continues along the bush track close to Hilltop St, going along sections of boardwalk before climbing some wooden steps and emerging at the northern edge of Crackneck Lookout (at the end of Hilltop St).

1.65 | Crackneck Lookout

This lookout, at the end of Hilltop St, Bateau Bay, has stunning views up and down the coastline, and out to sea. There are picnic tables and an information board about marine mammals. There is a hanggliding launch spot beside the lookout.

1.65 | Crackneck Lookout

(510 m 11 mins) Veer right: From the southern edge of Crackneck Lookout (at the end of Hilltop St), the walk goes around the gate and follows the 'Coast Track' arrow, along the old management trail toward 'Wyrabalong Lookout', keeping the ocean to the left. The walk passes a National Park information board, to the left, then takes the right-hand branch at a prominent fork. From here, the walk follows the main trail, ignoring numerous short side tracks (some of which lead to clifftop viewpoints) until reaching the end of the management trail and the start of a sandy bush track, to the right, marked with some timber posts.

Veer right: From the junction at the end of the management trail, this walk follows the sandy bush track marked with some timber posts. The track goes for a very short distance to an intersection, with another sandy bush track to the right, marked with several wooden posts and a signpost (indicating walkers are permitted but no dogs or motorbikes).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the sandy bush track south, leaving the signpost behind on the right. The track passes through lovely bush with plenty of grass trees and, after a short distance, reaches an intersection with another sandy bush track, to the right, at the start of some low sandstone retaining walls.

2.17 | Alternate Route Int of Coast Track and southern St

(130 m 2 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the sandy bush track away from the ocean, towards the large water tanks. The track widens to a management trail and passes the tanks, to the right, and continues down the hill, passing around a gate, to the end of Stephenson Rd, Bateau Bay.

2.17 | Int of Coast Track and southern Stephenson Rd acce

(920 m 20 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, the walk follows the sandy bush track south, keeping the ocean to the left. Initially the track has low sandstone retaining walls on either side. The track soon passes a 'Coastal Heathlands' information board and continues along the top of a ridge with extensive views out to sea, and inland, before going down a long set of metal stairs. The walk then passes through a section of thick heath, before emerging briefly to more ocean views at a fenced viewpoint. The track continues for some distance, with occasional ocean views, climbing several sets of wooden steps before arriving at the Wyrabalong Lookout.

3.09 | Wyrabalong Lookout and Cromarty Hill

This lookout and picnic area is on Cromarty Hill, near the end of Cromarty Hill Rd, Forresters Beach. There are picnic tables and fantastic views from the lookout point, as well as the concrete roof platform beside the large

communications tower. There is a hang gliding launch spot beside the lookout.

3.09 | Wyrabalong Lookout

(1.4 km 26 mins) Veer right: From Wyrabalong Lookout, this walk goes across the grassy area, passing a trig point (to the left) and following the old management trail between the communications tower and satellite dish. There are great views over Forresters Beach from the concrete platform on top of the building, next to the tower. The walk then goes down the hill for a short distance, passing around a gate, signposted 'Wyrabalong National Park', and arriving at the end of Cromarty Hill Rd.

Continue straight: From the end of Cromarty Hill Rd, this walk follows the road down the hill, away from the 'Wyrabalong National Park' sign. After a while, the road changes from gravel to asphalt, bends to the left and becomes North Scenic Rd. The walk continues along the road until reaching the intersection with Forresters Beach Rd.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows Forresters Beach Rd down the hill. The road soon bends to the right and becomes South Scenic Rd as it runs parallel to the beach. After a short distance, the walk reaches the top of the beach access track near the intersection with Henrys Rd.

4.45 | Int of South Scenic Rd and Henrys Rd

(80 m 2 mins) Turn left: From the top of the beach access track, this walk goes over the low gate and follows the management trail steeply down the hill. The walk passes a shower area, to the right, and continues a short distance down the boarded trail to Forresters Beach.

4.53 | Forresters Beach

Forresters Beach is the name of a township and beach on the Central Coast of NSW. There are public toilets and a beach access path near the intersection of Crystal St and Kalakau Ave, and a beach access path near the bottom of Henrys Rd.

4.53 | Bottom of Henrys Rd beach access

(2.8 km 1 Hr) Turn left: From the bottom of the Henrys Rd beach access trail, this walk goes north along the beach, keeping the ocean to the right. After a while, the walk reaches the end of the sandy beach where the rocky shoreline starts.

Continue straight: From the northern end of Forresters Beach, this walk follows the coast north, keeping the ocean to the right. The walk travels over the rocky, boulder-covered shoreline for quite a while, with a lot of rock-hopping involved. There is only a narrow strip between the water and the steep hills, to the left, and great care should be exercised. The imposing hills, interesting textures and shapes in the rocks, and the crashing waves all combine to provide fantastic scenery and atmosphere. A fair number of old engine blocks and other car parts are lying in the rocks, rusting away slowly. The walk eventually reaches the unnamed beach beneath Crackneck Lookout, covered in rounded fist-sized rocks. Note: This section of the walk may be impassible at high tide or during high seas.

7.35 | Crackneck Beach

This unnamed beach is below Crackneck Lookout and can be reached with some difficulty by walking along the very rocky shoreline from Forresters Beach, to the south, or from Bateau Bay beach, to the north. The beach is covered in rounded rocks about the size of a fist.

7.35 | Crackneck beach

(470 m 9 mins) Continue straight: From the unnamed beach beneath Crackneck Lookout, this walk follows the coastline north, keeping the ocean to the right. The walk goes around the headland and continues across the rockshelf to the end of a sandy track running behind the rockshelf. There are some interesting textures in the rock, with some regular, angular cracks in

places, making for some intriguing scenery.

7.81 | Crackneck rockshelf

(710 m 13 mins) Continue straight: From the rockshelf, this walk follows the sandy track north, keeping the ocean to the right. The track runs along a narrow strip of level ground beneath the hills as it approaches Bateau Bay. After a short distance, the walk passes some mangrove trees, to the right, reaching the start of a narrow strip of beach.

Continue straight: From the end of the narrow beach strip, this walk goes north along the sand, keeping the ocean to the right. The walk passes a concrete stormwater outlet (to the left) and a short distance later reaches the southern end of the much wider Bateau Bay Beach.

8.53 | Southern end of Bateau Bay Beach

(420 m 8 mins) Continue straight: From the southern edge of Bateau Bay Beach, this walk goes north across the sand, keeping the ocean to the right. After a very short distance, the walk arrives at the bottom of the concrete steps of the southern Bateau Bay Beach access track (beside the concrete management trail).

Turn right: From the bottom of the steps, this walk goes north along the beach, keeping the ocean to the right. Towards the northern end of the beach, the walk arrives at the base of a flight of wooden stairs.

8.94 | Bottom of northern Bateau Bay Beach access track

(110 m 2 mins) Continue straight: From the bottom of the northern Bateau Bay Beach access stairs, this walk goes up the staircase, away from the beach. The walk continues up the steps and boardwalk to an intersection at the top of the steps.



Summary navigation sheet for the Wyrabalong Coast Walk circuit



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
0.00	Top of northern Bateau Bay Beach access steps -33.3821,151.484 (GR Gosford, 590053)	1 -1	100 m 2 mins	Starting from the track intersection beside the beach access steps, this walk follows the faint track a very short distance across the picnic area, keeping Reserve Dr to the right.
0.10	South end of Bateau Bay Beach picnic area -33.3824,151.4831 (GR Gosford, 589053)	10 -1	260 m 5 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the bush track past the 'Wyrabalong National Park Service Trail Walkers Only' sign, keeping Reserve Dr to the right.
0.36	Rushby St car park -33.3844,151.4817 (GR Gosford, 588051)	88 -12	1.3 km 29 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Coast Track' arrow along the bush track, keeping Reserve Dr to the right.
1.65	Crackneck Lookout -33.3942,151.483 (GR Gosford, 589040)	25 -11	510 m 11 mins	Veer right: From the southern edge of Crackneck Lookout (at the end of Hilltop St), the walk goes around the gate and follows the 'Coast Track' arrow, along the old management trail toward 'Wyrabalong Lookout', kee...
2.17	Int of Coast Track and southern Stephenson Rd access track -33.3981,151.4807 (GR Gosford, 587036)	1 -6	130 m 2 mins	Alternate Route Int of Coast Track and southern Stephenson Rd access track. Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the sandy bush track away from the ocean, towards the large water tanks.
2.17	Int of Coast Track and southern Stephenson Rd access track -33.3981,151.4807 (GR Gosford, 587036)	43 -32	920 m 20 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, the walk follows the sandy bush track south, keeping the ocean to the left.
3.09	Wyrabalong Lookout -33.4049,151.4763 (GR Gosford, 583028)	11 -108	1.4 km 26 mins	Veer right: From Wyrabalong Lookout, this walk goes across the grassy area, passing a trig point (to the left) and following the old management trail between the communications tower and satellite dish.
4.45	Int of South Scenic Rd and Henrys Rd -33.411,151.4655 (GR Gosford, 573021)	0 -18	80 m 2 mins	Turn left: From the top of the beach access track, this walk goes over the low gate and follows the management trail steeply down the hill.
4.53	Bottom of Henrys Rd beach access -33.4113,151.4662 (GR Gosford, 574021)	120 -116	2.8 km 1 Hr	Turn left: From the bottom of the Henrys Rd beach access trail, this walk goes north along the beach, keeping the ocean to the right.
7.35	Crackneck beach -33.3944,151.4846 (GR Gosford, 591040)	15 -18	470 m 9 mins	Continue straight: From the unnamed beach beneath Crackneck Lookout, this walk follows the coastline north, keeping the ocean to the right.
7.81	Crackneck rockshelf -33.3914,151.4855 (GR Gosford, 591043)	17 -18	710 m 13 mins	Continue straight: From the rockshelf, this walk follows the sandy track north, keeping the ocean to the right.
8.53	Southern end of Bateau Bay Beach -33.3855,151.4828 (GR Gosford, 589049)	12 -13	420 m 8 mins	Continue straight: From the southern edge of Bateau Bay Beach, this walk goes north across the sand, keeping the ocean to the right.
8.94	Bottom of northern Bateau Bay Beach access track -33.3826,151.4847 (GR Gosford, 591053)	6 0	110 m 2 mins	Continue straight: From the bottom of the northern Bateau Bay Beach access stairs, this walk goes up the staircase, away from the beach.