

ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY ROUTE PLAN



Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Gold Adventurous Journey

Great North Walk, Sydney

Ku-ring-gai to Wondabyne – 50km: 4 days / 3 nights

Start GR	End GR	Grid Bearing	Magnetic Bearing	Distance	Estimated Time	Actual Time
Day 1: Mt. Ku-ring-gai Station to Ridge Top Campground						
272747	269749					
<i>Route Description</i>				<i>Personal notes and observations</i>		
<p>From the middle of the tunnel at the bottom of the stairs at Mt. Ku-ring-gai Station, follow signs for Great North Walk. Turn left and follow the footpath between the highway and train line for about 200m to pass the traffic lights at Glenview Road. Continue up a ramp and turn right onto the pedestrian bridge to cross the Pacific Highway. You will arrive near a shopping complex. From the bottom of the footbridge walk away from the shops, keeping the highway on your right. Cross Glenview Road to find the top of Lyrebird Gully Track, marked with a locked green metal gate.</p> <p>Enter Lyrebird Gully Track. The trail leads past a Great North Walk sign, where the trail then bends left behind the houses and heads steeply downhill for about 500m, coming to the end of the trail and a large flat clearing.</p>						
	259756					
<i>Route Description</i>				<i>Personal notes and observations</i>		
<p>Continue straight and follow GNW signs. The track will bend right and cross over a short, flat bridge across a concrete channel. From here, the rocky track leads down along the side of the hill for about 150m before heading down stone steps and arriving at the GNW register box. Cross Lyrebird Gully Creek and continue onto a timber boardwalk, following GNW signs. You will cross several small creeks and pass Lyrebird Waterfall.</p>						

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	256771					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Continue straight. The track soon bends left to follow the side of the hill and through a sandstone overhang, then through a second smaller cave before coming to another larger sandstone overhang.</p> <p>Continue straight, keeping the valley to your left. The track leads steeply down a short rocky slope before bending sharp left and zigzagging steeply down the stone steps to come to the edge of Calna Creek. You will cross over Calna Creek, so the creek will alternate to be on your left and right hand sides. You will ultimately reach a small sandy beach with open views down the valley. Continue to walk alongside the creek until arriving at a signposted campsite.</p>						
	261784					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Continue straight, keeping the creek to your left. Climb a short timber staircase and arrive at a second campsite, this time unsigned. Follow the clear track south, keeping Calna Creek on your left until reaching a signposted intersection beside Calna Creek bridge.</p> <p>Turn right and follow signs for Berowra Waters. The track will gently undulate along the side of Berowra Creek before heading up a fairly short, steep climb, at the top of which is a small, flat clearing surrounded by large boulders.</p>						
	263787					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Continue straight to head down the north-eastern side of the ridge and come beside Sam's Creek. Keep the creek on your left and pass an intersection sign for Crosslands.</p> <p>Follow signs for Berowra Waters, keeping the valley to your left. Head up the hill to signs for 'Naa Badu Lookout'.</p>						

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	265790					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>From the lookout, follow the management trail, keeping the valley on your lefts. You will come to an intersection with a narrow track and small clearing on your left. Do not turn onto this track. Instead, continue straight and follow the wide trail gently downhill. The trail will narrow and there will be some short, steep sections. You will come to a GNW sign at another intersection.</p>						
	264794					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Turn left and follow signs for Berowra Waters. You will cross Banggarai Creek using a timber bridge and then walk up some stairs before flattening out onto a sandy track. You will continue to head uphill, often with stairs, where you will arrive to a three-way intersection marked with a couple of GNW arrows.</p>						
	261806					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Turn left to walk in a north-west direction, down towards the valley. The track becomes rocky and steep before flattening out near the top of an unfenced cliff with good views of Berowra Creek. The path veers right and continues downhill. You will pass several unfenced viewing points before reaching a sandstone overhang. The track soon bends left and winds steeping downhill to the end of Berowra Creek, and leading along the shoreline onto the rock platform in Washtub Gully.</p> <p>Continue straight to cross the creek, keeping Berowra Creek on your left. The track leads up some steps and behind the Berowra Waters Garden House restaurant to come to the signpost for Berowra Waters Trackhead, on Berowra Waters Road.</p>						

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	263814					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Follow the sign for Newcastle, along Kirkpatrick Way. You will pass through a picnic area with public toilet and tap water. Fill your water bottles here. Keep the water to your left and pass under the yellow boom gate; stay left to head alongside the fenced carpark. At the far end of here the walk comes to a turning area at the end of Kirkpatrick Way. Follow the GNW arrow, keeping the water on your left. The track passes a large boulder, then turns right and climbs up a staircase to a small seat and viewing platform.</p> <p>Veer right and follow signs for Cowan, heading steeply uphill. At the top of the hill is a small clearing on the left that appears to have been used as an informal campsite. Continue straight, following GNW arrows east. You will go downhill before crossing a creek following over the sandstone platform. Please take care as this can be slippery.</p>						
	270813					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Continue east, heading uphill. Cross a small saddle and continue uphill to arrive at a T-intersection with a wide sandy management trail. Veer right to follow the GNW arrow, heading south. The trail immediately bends left and comes out to an intersection beside the Ridge Top Campground, about 800, from Turners Road. Please note there are no toilet facilities, so all waste must be buried.</p> <p>END OF DAY 1</p>						
Day 2: Ridge Top Campground to Brooklyn Dam						
	283810					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Follow signs for Cowan Station. The track leading away from the campsite comes to a four-way intersection; continue east until you reach a GNW log-book box. Continue along the top of the ridge and then head downhill. As the track moves further into the valley, it becomes consistently steeper, arriving besides Joe Crafts Creek.</p>						

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	287810					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Cross Joe Crafts Creek and head east up the clear track. Climb up a series of stone steps and following GNW signs. The walk alternates between gentle uphill slopes, and more steep sections when on rocky paths.</p>						
	302810					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>From the signposted GNW viewing point, head gently uphill, keeping the valley on your right. Pass under the power lines and the path turns left and follows the wide trail, then turns right before the locked gate. Pass under the power lines a second time, cross the dirt Glendale Road, and find the Berowra Waters sign pointing back across the intersection.</p> <p>Follow the Cowan sign, again passing under power lines. The Pacific Highway will come up on your right side before you cross a short timber boardwalk and a few steps to a T-intersection with a wide management trail.</p>						
	303814					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Veer left from the intersection, keeping the valley to your left. The trail goes behind some houses before bending right and passing around a locked gate, arriving at an intersection with a footpath across from Cowan Station. There is a large GNW sign here, pointing back to Sydney Cove.</p> <p>Follow the GNW arrow across the Pacific Highway to the ramp at the front of Cowan Station.</p>						

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	305816					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>From the station cross the track at the controlled 'Pedestrian Railway Crossing'. The walk follows the ramp onto platform I then around the shelter to follow the GNW arrow right, down the steps and through the gate. The walk crosses the train lines and turns left, following the Brooklyn sign along the wide management trail. Pass an electric switching area then turn right at the Great North Walk signpost. The narrower trail leads between fences to cross the freeway on a large, fenced concrete bridge.</p>						
	323818					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>From the overpass, this walk heads away from the freeway and down the wide track. The track will begin to narrow and lead more steeply down a ricky section and cross a short section of boardwalk. Walk past a few rock walls and enter into denser vegetation, where the track crosses the creek. You will pass a small track on your right marked with a "No camping or fires allowed" sign. The walk continues along the generally broad and flat track, marked with GNW arrows to a great view through the middle of Jerusalem Bay.</p>						
	325825					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Continue following GNW signs, keeping the water to your right. The track soon becomes rough and follows the shoreline before crossing a rocky and mossy gully, a sandstone overhang and a small timber bridge. Just past this bridge the track bends left and starts to climb steeply to come to a small clearing before climbing uphill another two times. The walk then follows gently uphill to arrive at the top of the ridge.</p>						
	326832					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>From the top of the ridge the walk follows the Brooklyn Dam sign, heading north. Heading downhill you will come to some timber steps leading to Campbells Creek, which is often coloured orange with pollution.</p>						

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	324839					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>The track becomes rocky and climbs steeply for about 200m then flattens out before again going uphill before gently undulating along the side of the hill before reaching a faint intersection with a track on your right. Pass the intersection to remain on a sandy track, continuing to follow GNW arrows to a T-intersection with a wide management trail, where a Jerusalem Bay sign points back down the hill.</p>						
	332858					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Follow the Brooklyn sign along the wide management trail, initially keeping the power lines to your right. The walk comes to a point where the trail bends sharply right, and heads quite steeply downhill for about 400m, passing under power lines, then bend sharply left. The trail soon flattens out, coming to a faint three-way intersection, marked with a GNW sign.</p>						
	337857					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Follow the GNW sign along the wide management trail, keeping the valley to your right. The trail turns sharp right at the T-intersection with another wide trail. Follow the power lines to then veer left at the Y-intersection. Ignore the fenced trail on your left and head around the side of the hill to come to an intersection with a track on your left, leading a few metres along to the signposted campsite.</p> <p>At this intersection, follow the GNW arrows south along the wide trail, soon passing alongside the dam on your left. Arrive at the large sign for Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park – Brooklyn Dam. Keep the dam on your left and cross a small creek, then continue bending leftwards to come to an intersection with a large clearing and dam wall.</p> <p>END OF DAY 2</p>						

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Day 3: Brooklyn Dam to Mt. Wondabyne						
	347863					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Follow GNW arrows uphill along the management trail, directly away from the dam. The trail bends right and passes a Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park sign and the trail becomes less steep. The GNW arrows guide along a short track that runs parallel before re-joining the main trail and continuing uphill to veer right at a three-way intersection, under power lines. The walk veers right again at a second three-way intersection. The walk then veers left at a third three-way intersection, this time the trail generally follows the power lines along the side of the ridge. You will come to a fourth three-way intersection with a Cowan sign pointing back along the trail.</p>						
	354865					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>From the intersection this walk follows the Brooklyn Station sign gently downhill along the management trail, keeping Hawkesbury River to your left. Once at a clearing the trail starts to lead downhill towards the water before becoming steeper and entering a concreted section of trail to head around a locked gate past a large GNW sign to find the southern end of William Street, the across George Street to find more GNW signs.</p>						
	354867					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Follow the Great North Walk – Direct Route sign gently uphill along the footpath beside George Street. At the top of the hill turn right onto Bridge Street and head down past the post office. At the bottom of the hill (and street), cross the road and head towards the Hawkesbury River Station (train). Continue just past the station (on your left) to enter Hawkesbury River Wharf/ Brooklyn Ferry Terminal.</p> <p>Take the ferry to Little Wobby.</p>						

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	378859					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Depart the wharf and follow the foot-trail towards a poorly defined track that follows under powerlines. Keep the gully to your left (north) and handrail this uphill onto the ridgeline to join the Highway Ridge Track.</p> <p>This section is accessed by locals but is overgrown. Stay close together during this section.</p>						
	379890					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Now on the Highway Ridge Track, head north, keeping the Hawkesbury River on your left (west). Remain on the ridge line, continuing north until you cross over Tanks Creek.</p>						
	399919					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Head north-east and continue on the ridge path. Skirt around a broad knoll to come to an intersection on the eastern side. Continue to take the northern route along the clear management trail, heading continuously uphill. The trail flattens out for the final section before coming to a T-intersection with Tunnel Trail.</p>						
	397924					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Turn north onto Tunnel Trail and follow GNW arrow markers and signs for 'Girrakool'. Come to a small crest and a clear three-way intersection signposted for the Mt Wondabyne Trail. Take this trail to a large clearing with an established fire circle. This is Mt. Wondabyne campsite. There are no facilities or water here. While this is officially the end point for today, you may as a whole group make the decision to continue on towards Kariong Brook Falls, where there is a small campsite and access to drinking water (after purification).</p> <p>END DAY 3</p>						

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Day 4: Mt. Wondabyne to Wondabyne Station						
	397925					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>From the campsite, this walk follows the Mooney Mooney rest area sign north. After about 90m the track comes to a three-way intersection with the option to summit Mt. Wondabyne, which is one of the most prominent peaks in Brisbane Water National Park. You can enjoy 360-degree views, making this a great spot to observe a sunset and sunrise.</p>						
	399937					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Continue north, keeping Mt. Wondabyne to your right. The track becomes rocky then sandy and leads downhill to widen significantly and come to a T-intersection. Turn right and follow GNW arrows and signs for Wondabyne Station. You will come to another intersection with a track heading north-east, turn left onto this track and follow the Girrakool sign heading under the power lines and crossing a small creek. Walk over a section of boardwalk then climb and cross over a number of rock platforms. Continue to reach an intersection with a wide trail marked with a Patonga sign.</p>						
	388947					
<i>Route Description</i>			<i>Personal notes and observations</i>			
<p>Veer left and follow Girrakool signs, keeping the valley to your left. You will arrive at an intersection where there is a sign pointing back to Patonga.</p> <p>Veer left again, continuing to follow Girrakool signs. The track will become narrower and then come into a clearing that has been used as a campsite (this is where you can camp on Night 3 as an alternative location).</p> <p>From the clearing, continue downhill then bend right. The rocky track becomes quite steep in places, and has a few sharp bends. Arrive at an intersection with a faint track in from of Kariong Brook Falls. This is a great spot to have a rest and cool down as needed.</p>						

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	376944					
<i>Route Description</i>				<i>Personal notes and observations</i>		
<p>From Kariong Brook follow the track north-west away from the cliffs. The track initially leads fairly steeply out of the valley, then leads more gently uphill before going downhill again to cross Myron Brook and then head steep uphill. Arrive at a T-intersection with a wide management trail. There is a large sign pointing back to Patonga.</p>						
	376944					
<i>Route Description</i>				<i>Personal notes and observations</i>		
<p>Turn left at the intersection to follow signs for Wondabyne Station along the wide management trail. The trail will bend right and lead quite steeply down before flattening out, then becoming steep again.</p> <p>Follow GNW arrows south. The track winds steeply down a series of rock steps. Climb down a staircase and from the bottom the walk continues down towards the train line to end on the north-bound (towards Newcastle) platform of Wondabyne Train Station.</p> <p>END OF JOURNEY</p>						