

# Mowlee Ridge to Garie Beach

## 5 hrs 13.3 km One way

# Hard track

174m

This is a long and scenic walk down to Garie Beach. The walk travels along the ridge and then the heath covered cliff edge, with views over the coast and far out to see, as it meanders along to the beautiful Garie Beach. The descent from the headland onto Garie Beach also gives magnificent views of the coast to the south.

Royal National Park

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## Wattamolla Dam

Wattamolla pool (or dam), Royal National Park, is a small water hole on Wattamolla Creek, above the lagoon. The pool is on the Coast Track near Wattamolla picnic area and offers a quiet spot for a dip and a rest. The pool is formed by a small, constructed sandstone dam and fed by a small waterfall above.

## Wattamolla Kiosk

The Wattamolla Kiosk in the Wattamolla Picnic Area provides basic supplies for day visitors. The kiosk does not keep strict hours and opens depending on weather and demand. It usually opens on weekends at around 10:30am and closes between 4 and 6pm. You can buy ice-creams, drinks and some hot food. For more information, call Audley Kiosk on (02) 9521 2240.

## Wattamolla Picnic Area

Wattamolla Picnic Area is found at the end of Wattamolla Road. about halfway along the coastline of Royal National Park. The area is blessed with a great beach, a lagoon and some wonderful creeks and rocks to explore. The small beach faces west and is tucked away in a deep bay. The lagoon sits behind the beach and is lined with sand on one side, and cliffs and rocks on the other shore. The picnic area has large open grassy areas, with some shade provided by trees and some picnic shelters. There is a small kiosk (often open weekends), toilets, electric BBQs and two car parks. There is water here, but needs to be treated before drinking. There is a gate on the road that is locked at night, the gate is open from 7am to 8:30pm.

## **Providential Point**

Providential Point Lookout in Royal National Park, has views out to sea and back towards Wattamolla Beach, as well as views of the the cliffs on the north side of Wattamolla Bay to Boy Martin Point. The small lookout is fenced and perched on the rocks. Providential Point is the southern headland forming the bay that is home to Wattamolla Beach and Lagoon, at the end of Wattamolla Rd.

## **Curracurrang Cove**

Curracurrang Cove is a small cove about 1km SW of Wattamolla, on the coast of the Royal National Park. The cove faces east and is where Curracurrang Creek meets the ocean. The creek, the cove and the surrounding rocks provide great scenery, making this a relaxing place to stop and enjoy. There is evidence that Aboriginal people lived in this cove. There are a few middens in the area, some rock shelters and Curracurrang creek provides a near-permanent water supply. The cove was first occupied 7500 years ago and was used as a regular campsite by the Dharawal people. More info.

## **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 ejoyable and safer walk. Before setting off on your walk check

- 1) Weather Forecast (BOM Metropolitan District)
- 2) Fire Dangers (Greater Sydney Region)
- 3) Park Alerts (Royal National Park)

600

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 aid equipment.

**R** Register your planned route and tell friends and family when vou expect to return.

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: 91294S OTFORD, 91294N PORT HACKING 1:100 000 Map Series: 9129 PORT HACKING





Length

Time

track

Signs

**Ouality of** 

Experience

Required

Weather

### Grade

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

Grade 4/6

Hard track

Formed track, with some branches and

Directional signs along the way (3/6)

Weather generally has little impact on

Some bushwalking experience

13.3 km One way

other obstacles (3/6)

recommended (3/6)

safety (1/6)

5 hrs

#### 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** Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Int. Mowlee Ridge Trail and Bundeena Drive (gps: -34.1119, 151.0861). Car: There is free parking available.

Traveling by car is the only practical way to get back from Garie Beach Car Park (gps: -34.1702, 151.0664). Car: There is free parking available.

Find up to date and more information inlcuding; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at <a href="http://wild.tl/mrtgb">http://wild.tl/mrtgb</a>

#### 0 | Int. Mowlee Ridge Trail and Bundeena Drive

(5.1 km 1 hr 28 mins) From the intersection, this walk heads through the green National Park gate and along the sandy management trail. The trail meanders through the thick green scrub, passing a Geodetic Station and continues down the long, gentle ridgeline between the Marley and Wattamolla Creeks (to the north and south respectively). After a long while, the trail starts to head up a soft hill for a short distance before coming to a large intersection with another management trail.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads south-east along the trail, around the spur (which is on the left of the trail). The track then rises onto the spur and continues south-east through the thick wall of scrub on either side. The track continues for approximately 400m to an intersection, where there is a 'Coast Track' sign.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads south-west along the bush track, heading down the long hill through the high scrub and down through some rocks, as it approaches the small swimming hole made by the dam in Wattamolla Creek.

#### 5.12 | Wattamolla Dam

Wattamolla pool (or dam), Royal National Park, is a small water hole on Wattamolla Creek, above the lagoon. The pool is on the Coast Track near Wattamolla picnic area and offers a quiet spot for a dip and a rest. The pool is formed by a small, constructed sandstone dam and fed by a small waterfall above.

#### 5.12 | Wattamolla Dam

(650 m 13 mins) Continue straight: From the creek, (which may become impassable after heavy or prolonged rain) this walk heads west (keeping the swimming hole on the left) along the bush track. The walk winds through the tall scrub and down the long hill until crossing the wide, shallow creek to the Wattamolla Picnic Ground on the other side.

#### 5.78 | Wattamolla Kiosk

The Wattamolla Kiosk in the Wattamolla Picnic Area provides basic supplies for day visitors. The kiosk does not keep strict hours and opens depending on weather and demand. It usually opens on weekends at around 10:30am and closes between 4 and 6pm. You can buy ice-creams, drinks and some hot food. For more information, call Audley Kiosk on (02) 9521 2240.

#### 5.78 | Wattamolla Picnic Area

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small beach faces west and is tucked away in a deep bay. The lagoon sits behind the beach and is lined with sand on one side, and cliffs and rocks on the other shore. The picnic area has large open grassy areas, with some shade provided by trees and some picnic shelters. There is a small kiosk (often open weekends), toilets, electric BBQs and two car parks. There is water here, but needs to be treated before drinking. There is a gate on the road that is locked at night, the gate is open from 7am to 8:30pm.

#### 5.78 | Northern End Wattamolla Picnic Ground

 $(180 \ m \ 4 \ mins)$  Continue straight: From the northern end of the picnic ground, this walk heads through the car park and across the grass to the toilet block.

#### 5.96 | Optional sidetrip to Providential Point

(600 m 12 mins) Continue straight: From the men's toilet block, this walk heads to an sports-oval sized clearing. The walk heads to the eastern end of the oval. The track continues along the service trail from the oval, following the Providential Point signs. The track leads through the tree to another grass area, Providential Point Campsite. The walk continues past the campsite sign, heading east to the far side of the grass clearing to a ferny area. The track continues along the most worn and unobstructed single track for approximately 200m to the railed lookout on the headland. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn sharp left.

#### 5.96 | Providential Point

Providential Point Lookout in Royal National Park, has views out to sea and back towards Wattamolla Beach, as well as views of the the cliffs on the north side of Wattamolla Bay to Boy Martin Point. The small lookout is fenced and perched on the rocks. Providential Point is the southern headland forming the bay that is home to Wattamolla Beach and Lagoon, at the end of Wattamolla Rd.

#### 5.96 | Wattamolla Picnic Ground Toilet Block

(1.6 km 30 mins) Turn right: From the toilet block, this walk follows the signs to the Overflow Car Park. (This is the upper car park.) At the back of the car park, this walk comes to an intersection with a large management trail, with a gate and signpost saying 'Garrie 5.8km'.

Turn left: From the car park, the walk follows the management trail climbing up the long hill. The walk passes two large water towers as it continues along for a while, before coming to a great lookout over the ocean, marked by a sign saying 'Curracurrang'. From the lookout, the walk continues along the cliff edge, keeping the ocean to the left as it follows the bush track. The track winds along the coast to Curracurrang Cove, where there is an intersection with another bush track that heads up and away from the ocean.

#### 7.53 | Curracurrang Cove

Curracurrang Cove is a small cove about 1km SW of Wattamolla, on the coast of the Royal National Park. The cove faces east and is where Curracurrang Creek meets the ocean. The creek, the cove and the surrounding rocks provide great scenery, making this a relaxing place to stop and enjoy. There is evidence that Aboriginal people lived in this cove. There are a few middens in the area, some rock shelters and Curracurrang creek provides a near-permanent water supply. The cove was first occupied 7500 years ago and was used as a regular campsite by the Dharawal people. More info.

#### 7.53 | Curracurrang Cove

(1.9 km 44 mins) Turn left : Keeping the ocean to the left, the track climbs up out of Curracurang Cove and continues all the way up to the top of the large hill, winding through the thick heath across the top and down the other side to Curracurang Creek at the bottom. After crossing the creek, the track

follows the bushtrack heading up short hill and along the bushtrack winding through the scrub for a short while before coming to the Eagle Rock lookout at the information signpost.

#### 9.47 | Eagle Rock Lookout

Eagle Rock lookout is an informal lookout marked by an information sign on the Coast track in the Royal National Park. The lookout is about halfway between Garie Beach and Wattamolla. Eagle rock is a piece of the cliff line that looks amazingly like the head of an eagle, with the eye and all. The lookout is about 150m west of the Eagle Rock on the other side of Carracurrong Creek. Eagle Rock is often used as an icon for the Royal National Park. Carracurrong Creek also forms a waterfall into the ocean nearby.

#### 9.47 | Eagles Rock Lookout

(140 m 3 mins) Continue straight: Keeping the ocean to the left the track follows the bushtrack heading through the heath along the coast for a short while until it comes to the intersection of the bushtrack at the end of the service trail, marked by the two post's where the sign has been pulled off.

#### 9.61 | Int. Coastal Walk and Curra Moors Brook Trail

(2.1 km 45 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads along the bush track and the rockshelf, keeping the ocean on the left. This continues, with the track becoming a narrow trail that goes through the scrub. In various sections, metal walkways have been built to stabilise the environment in the area. This continues until reaching an intersection with a track, heading off to the right.

#### 11.71 | Int of North Rill and Coastal Track

(1.6 km 35 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the bush track around the left-hand side of the 'Curra Moors car park' sign, following the cliffs and keeping the ocean on the left of the track. After several hundred metres of high scrub, the track emerges out into the opening which has fantastic views of Garie Beach and the hills to the south.

Continue straight: From Garie Beach Lookout, this walk follows the bush track heading down towards Garie Beach, winding down the long hill, descending the steep rock and wooden steps to the bottom of the hill where the walk continues through the grassy clearing to the end of the beach.

Continue straight: From the end of Garie Beach, the walk follows the coast across the beach, keeping the ocean to the left until coming to the base of some timber steps, which lead up the hill on the right.

Veer left: From the intersection, the walk heads along the beach, keeping the ocean on your left, for approximately 200m to Garie Beach car park on the right.

#### 13.34 | Garie Beach

Garie Beach, Royal National Park, is a large, south-east facing, yellow sand beach. The beach is backed by steep headlands and gullies. There is a large car park at the end of Garie Rd for access to the beach. Garie Beach is popular for surfing, patrolled 9am-5pm from December to January. Facilities include toilets, kiosk, picnic tables, cold showers and Surf Life Saving Club. The water from the shower should be treated before drinking, this water comes from a tank and may be unavailable during dry periods. <u>More info.</u>





# Summary navigation sheet for the Mowlee Ridge to Garie Beach



| km    | From  | Up/Dwn     | Length                 | Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail) WildWalks   |
|-------|---|------------|------------------------|---|
| Start | Int. Mowlee Ridge Trail and Bundeena Drive<br>-34.1119,151.0861 (GR Port Hacking, 235238) | 23<br>-175 | 5.1 km<br>1 hr 28 mins | From the intersection, this walk heads through the green National Park gate and along the sandy management trail.   |
| 5.12  | Wattamolla Dam<br>-34.1322,151.1153 (GR Otford, 262216)                                   | 17<br>-31  | 650 m<br>13 mins       | Continue straight: From the creek, (which may become impassable after heavy or prolonged rain) this walk heads west (keeping the swimming hole on the left) along the bush track.                                       |
| 5.78  | Northern End Wattamolla Picnic Ground<br>-34.1374,151.1141 (GR Otford, 261210)            | 8<br>-3    | 180 m<br>4 mins        | Continue straight: From the northern end of the picnic ground, this walk heads through the car park and across the grass to the toilet block.   |
| 5.96  | Wattamolla Picnic Ground Toilet Block<br>-34.1384,151.1148 (GR Otford, 262209)            | 18<br>-20  | 600 m<br>12 mins       | Optional sidetrip to Providential Point. Continue straight: From the men's toilet block, this walk heads to an sports-oval sized clearing.  |
| 5.96  | Wattamolla Picnic Ground Toilet Block<br>-34.1384,151.1148 (GR Otford, 262209)            | 41<br>-50  | 1.6 km<br>30 mins      | Turn right: From the toilet block, this walk follows the signs to the Overflow Car Park.  |
| 7.53  | Curracurrang Cove<br>-34.1453,151.109 (GR Otford, 257201)                                 | 108<br>-82 | 1.9 km<br>44 mins      | Turn left : Keeping the ocean to the left, the track climbs up out of Curracurang Cove and continues all the way up to the top of the large hill, winding through the thick heath across the top and down the other sid |
| 9.47  | Eagles Rock Lookout<br>-34.1533,151.0979 (GR Otford, 247192)                              | 9<br>-4    | 140 m<br>3 mins        | Continue straight: Keeping the ocean to the left the track follows the bushtrack heading through the heath along the coast for a short while until it comes to the intersection of the bushtrack at the end of the serv |
| 9.61  | Int. Coastal Walk and Curra Moors Brook Trail<br>-34.1542,151.0969 (GR Otford, 246191)    | 107<br>-53 | 2.1 km<br>45 mins      | Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads along the bush track and the rockshelf, keeping the ocean on the left.  |
| 11.71 | Int of North Rill and Coastal Track<br>-34.1653,151.0813 (GR Otford, 231178)              | 44<br>-127 | 1.6 km<br>35 mins      | Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the bush track around the left-hand side of the 'Curra Moors car park' sign, following the cliffs and keeping the ocean on the left of the track.           |
|       |   |            |                        |   |