

## Crosslands to Berowra Waters return



**6 hrs**

**Hard track**

**13.7 km Return**

**1005m**

4

This return walk starts from the Crosslands Reserve and follows the Great North Walk along Berowra creek. The walk includes some boardwalks. After climbing up the side of the valley, the walk comes back down into Berowra Waters. Here you can enjoy lunch by Berowra Creek, at the Garden House restaurant, or catch the free car-ferry across the river to find the fish cafe.

1m

178m

Berowra Valley National Park

## Crosslands

Crosslands Reserve is lovely and long mixed use picnic area, spanning along the edge of Berowra Creek. There are picnic tables, electric barbecues, toilets, car parking, a children's playground, garbage bins, camping area, toilets and town water. The southern part of Crosslands is managed by Hornsby Council and the northern half by the NPWS within the Berowra Valley National Park. The first inhabitants of this area were a subgroup of the Dharug people who enjoyed the sandstone caves, fish and abundant plant life in the area. It is now managed by Hornsby Shire Council, but in 1856 Matthew Charlton asked Burton Crossland to be caretaker on this area. Burton built a house and made a living by harvesting timber, growing fruit, fishing and boat-building.

## Crosslands North Picnic area

The northern section of Crosslands is in Berowra Valley NP and is a less formal picnic area compared with the southern area. There is a toilet block and a few sandy beaches with direct access to the water. Here you will find a few picnic tables and shelters, as well as garbage bins. The eastern side is home to a boardwalk exploring the estuarine wetland. A pleasant area to rest and enjoy the water. Fires are only permitted in formally established fire places .

## Berowra Creek (Estuarie) Lookout

The Estuarie lookout over Berowra Creek is found at the end of the wheelchair-accessible walk in Crosslands area. The timber lookout platform provides views great views over Berowra Creek, the timber fence is 95cm high. There are also information signs about the local flora and fauna and the 'Original Inhabitants'. There are two timber bench seats encouraging you to take some time to soak up this view.

## Naa Badu Lookout

Naa Badu Lookout offers magnificent views south over Berowra Creek as well as over Sams and Calna Creeks. Naa Badu means 'See water' in the Aboriginal tribal language of the Dharug people. It is believed that Berowra Creek was the boundary between the Dharug and Guringai Aboriginal peoples. The lookout is fenced, has a bench seat, picnic table and a fair amount of natural shade.

## Berowra Waters Garden House

#####CLOSED##### This picturesque little restaurant sits on the eastern side of Berowra Creek and is just a hop, skip and a jump from the ferry. With breakfast, lunch and dinner menus, the Garden House Restaurant is a great spot for those looking to tap into the Berowra Valley's full potential. For information on bookings and opening hours phone (02)9456 2955.

## 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 Metropolitan District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Greater Sydney Region](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ([Berowra Valley 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:**91304S HORNSBY, 91304N COWAN

**1:40 000 Map Series:**CMA Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park Tourist Map

**1:100 000 Map Series:**9130 SYDNEY



## 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 4/6**  
**Hard track**

<b>Length</b>	13.7 km Return
<b>Time</b>	6 hrs
<b>Quality of track</b>	Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely (4/6)
<b>Signs</b>	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
<b>Experience Required</b>	Moderate level of bushwalking experience recommended (4/6)
<b>Weather</b>	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Limited facilities, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6)

### 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.

**Getting there** Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Crosslands Carpark (gps: -33.6287, 151.109). Car: There is free parking available.

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/ctbwr>

### 0 | Crosslands

Crosslands Reserve is lovely and long mixed use picnic area, spanning along the edge of Berowra Creek. There are picnic tables, electric barbecues, toilets, car parking, a children's playground, garbage bins, camping area, toilets and town water. The southern part of Crosslands is managed by Hornsby Council and the northern half by the NPWS within the Berowra Valley National Park. The first inhabitants of this area were a subgroup of the Dharug people who enjoyed the sandstone caves, fish and abundant plant life in the area. It is now managed by Hornsby Shire Council, but in 1856 Matthew Charlton asked Burton Crossland to be caretaker on this area. Burton built a house and made a living by harvesting timber, growing fruit, fishing and boat-building.

### 0 | Crosslands Carpark

(250 m 4 mins) From the car park, this walk follows the flat dirt path between the road (on the right) and creek (on the left). The path leads through the casuarina trees for about 120m to pass the boat ramp. After another 120m this walk comes to a locked gate at the northern end of the car park. There is also a wetland through the trees to the right worth noticing.

### 0.25 | Northern end of Crosslands Carpark

(260 m 4 mins) Continue straight: From the northern end of Crosslands car park (at the far northern end of Somerville Rd, Hornsby Heights), this walk follows the 'Newcastle' arrow on the large 'Great North Walk' sign around the locked gate and along the sealed old road. The walk continues along the old road for just over 150m passing 4 picnic tables to come to a y-intersection. At the intersection this walk veers right, past the 'Place of Winds' sign and wetland (on your right). This walk continues along this old road for a little longer, coming to an intersection marked with a large 'Crosslands' information board and 'Great North walk' sign. This is just on the edge of the northern picnic area, not far from the toilet block.

### 0.51 | Crosslands North Picnic area

The northern section of Crosslands is in Berowra Valley NP and is a less formal picnic area compared with the southern area. There is a toilet block and a few sandy beaches with direct access to the water. Here you will find a few picnic tables and shelters, as well as garbage bins. The eastern side is home to a boardwalk exploring the estuarine wetland. A pleasant area to rest and enjoy the water. Fires are only permitted in formally established fire places .

### 0.51 | Crosslands North

(220 m 4 mins) Turn right: From the intersection at the northern picnic area, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk' sign along the timber boardwalk. The timber boardwalks winds through the mangroves for about 60m, coming to a firm dirt track which leads for another 70m to a second timber

boardwalk. The second boardwalk leads for another 70m, past 'Mangrove Food Cycle' information signs to come to an 3-way intersection in the boardwalk with the estuaries viewing platform boardwalk (on your left).

### 0.73 | Berowra Creek (Estuarie) Lookout

The Estuarie lookout over Berowara Creek is found at the end of the wheelchair-accessible walk in Crosslands area. The timber lookout platform provides views great views over Berowra Creek, the timber fence is 95cm high. There are also information signs about the local flora and fauna and the 'Original Inhabitants'. There are two timber bench seats encouraging you to take some time to soak up this view.

### 0.73 | Estuaries viewing platform

(780 m 20 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection at the estuaries viewing platform, this walk follows the timber ramp down to the dirt track and heads past the '..unsuitable for wheelchair access' sign. The track leads alongside the wide creek for about 200m to the 'All creatures great and small' information sign, then down a little way further to head along a short section of timber boardwalk. About 100m further along the rocky track, this walk comes to a lookout and a 'Catch the Threats' information sign, where the track continues past the bench seat and alongside the creek to the 'The Rock Club' information sign. The track then leads among some grass tress for just over 100m to the 'Bush Supermarket' information sign. Just past this sign, the track begins to climb fairly steeply up the stone and timber steps to the ridge line, marked with a GNW arrow and a 'Stop! Look! Listen! and Smell!' information sign.

Continue straight: From the ridge line, this walk follows the GNW arrow east downhill, initially keeping the 'Stop! Look! Listen! and Smell!' information sign on your right. The track bends left and follows the timber steps as the track winds steeply down the side of the hill. Near the bottom of the hill, the track passes a 'Rock n Roll' information sign then comes to a long, metal footbridge. The walk crosses the bridge over Calna Creek and comes to a signposted intersection, with a 'Fragile Marsh' information sign

### 1.51 | Calna Creek Bridge intersection

(1.1 km 27 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Berowra Waters' sign along the timber boardwalk. The boardwalk leads for about 80m across the large open flat saltmarsh into the casuarina forest on the other side. Here the track bends left and leads along the side of the saltmarsh for almost 200m, where the rocky track leads a little further before coming alongside Berowra Creek's mangroves. The track continues to gently undulate along the side of Berowra Creek for about 650m among the casuarinas and grass tress, before heading up a fairly short, steep climb. At the top of this climb, the walk comes to a small, flat, pleasant clearing surrounded by large boulders.

### 2.66 | Sams Creek ridge clearing

(500 m 11 mins) Continue straight: From the clearing, this walk leads down the north eastern side of this ridge, keeping the main valley to your left. After about 100m this walk comes to another flat saltmarsh , where the track bends right to soon come to a large flat clearing beside Sams Creek (subject to flooding). The track then leads alongside Sams Creek (on your left) for about 350m when, just after climbing over a rock, the track comes to a 'Crosslands' sign pointing back along the track, beside the creek.

### 3.16 | Sams Creek Crossing

(670 m 30 mins) Turn left: From the south side of the creek, this walk follows the 'Berowra Waters' sign across the rocky Sams Creek. This creek may become impassable after heavy or prolonged rain. On the other side, the track veers left, crossing a rocky gully and heads up the timber steps. The track now starts to climb steeply, zigzagging up the timber steps and a couple of

staircases for just over 300m to find a bench seat in a small sandstone cave. After a rest, this walk continues up more steps (and staircases) for just over 150m, coming to a T-intersection with a wide service trail, where a 'Crosslands' sign points back down the track.

### 3.83 | Int of GNW and Berowra Link tracks

(260 m 7 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Berowra Waters' sign gently down along the management trail, keeping the valley to your left. The trail gently undulates along the side of the hill, enjoying some glimpses up to the cliff faces (on the right). After about 180m, the trail crosses a concrete drain, then leads up the hill to find the signposted 'Naa Badu' lookout and its great view.

### 4.09 | Naa Badu Lookout

Naa Badu Lookout offers magnificent views south over Berowra Creek as well as over Sams and Calna Creeks. Naa Badu means 'See water' in the Aboriginal tribal language of the Dharug people. It is believed that Berowra Creek was the boundary between the Dharug and Guringai Aboriginal peoples. The lookout is fenced, has a bench seat, picnic table and a fair amount of natural shade.

### 4.09 | Int of Naa Badu Lookout

(320 m 7 mins) Continue straight: From the 'Naa Badu' lookout, this walk follows the management trail over the small rise and across the concrete ditch, keeping the valley to your left. The trail leads around the side of the hill for about 300m, gently undulating to come to an intersection with a narrow track and small clearing (on your left, as the trail bends right), just past the large scribbly gum. (This informal track leads down to an unfenced rock platform, with filtered views over Berowra Creek).

### 4.41 | Int of GNW and Banggarai Creek access track

(220 m 4 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the wide trail gently downhill as it bends right, keeping the valley to your left. After about 140m, the trail narrows a bit, leading down a few short but steeper sections to an intersection (with some steps on your left), where a 'The Great North Walk' sign points back up along the trail.

### 4.63 | Int of GNW and Berkeley Close service trail

(570 m 18 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Berowra Waters' sign down the timber steps. The walk then crosses Banggarai Creek using a timber bridge, and leads up some timber steps. The rocky track then leads up some more timbers steps, between two rocks then over a few rocks, where the track then flattens out. The now flat, sandy track winds through the forest for about 150m and passes a timber seat, then leads down across a small gully before the track begins to climb again. The track leads up some more timber steps, then the walk climbs two metal pegs in the rock and continues to climb steeply up the rock and timber steps. After 60m, the track flattens out again, leading gently up through the scribbly gum and angophora forest for just over 100m to a three-way intersection marked with a couple of GNW arrow posts.

### 5.2 | Int of GNW and Currawong Road track

(1.3 km 33 mins) Turn left : From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post north-west down the sandy track, directly towards the valley. The track soon becomes rocky and leads fairly steeply down the hill for about 150m before mostly flattening out and coming close to the top of an unfenced cliff with good views over Berowra Creek. Here the rocky track continues more gently down along the top of the ridge for about 200m and comes to a large rock platform. This walk veers right to lead down the gap in the rock, climbing down some steel pegs to where the track flattens out again. The track leads across the saddle for about 60m then veers left and follows

along the base of a long rock wall (on your right). Here the track leads down around the side of the ridge for just over 400m, passing some unfenced views for rock platforms then down some sandstone steps to find a tall sandstone overhang with a timber seat. From this cave, this walk continues along the base of the rock wall, and soon bends left and winds fairly steeply down a series of rock and timber steps to come to the edge of Berowra Creek (where there is a 'no wash' sign facing the water from the rock platform). The track leads along the shore line for a short time to head onto the rock platform in Washtub Gully.

#### **6.51 | Washtub Gully Creek**

*(320 m 9 mins)* Continue straight: From Washtub Gully, this walk crosses the creek and follows the track, keeping Berowra Creek not far to your left. After about 50m, the track passes an old partially sunken boat, then about 100m further on, the track passes a view point that is an obviously popular (but not recommended) jumping spot. The track then soon leads up some steps and over a rise behind the 'Berowra Waters Garden House' restaurant, then heads down the steps to come to the signposted 'Berowra Waters Trackhead' on 'Berowra Waters Rd'.

#### **6.83 | Berowra Waters Garden House**

#####CLOSED##### This picturesque little restaurant sits on the eastern side of Berowra Creek and is just a hop, skip and a jump from the ferry. With breakfast, lunch and dinner menus, the Garden House Restaurant is a great spot for those looking to tap into the Berowra Valley's full potential. For information on bookings and opening hours phone (02)9456 2955.

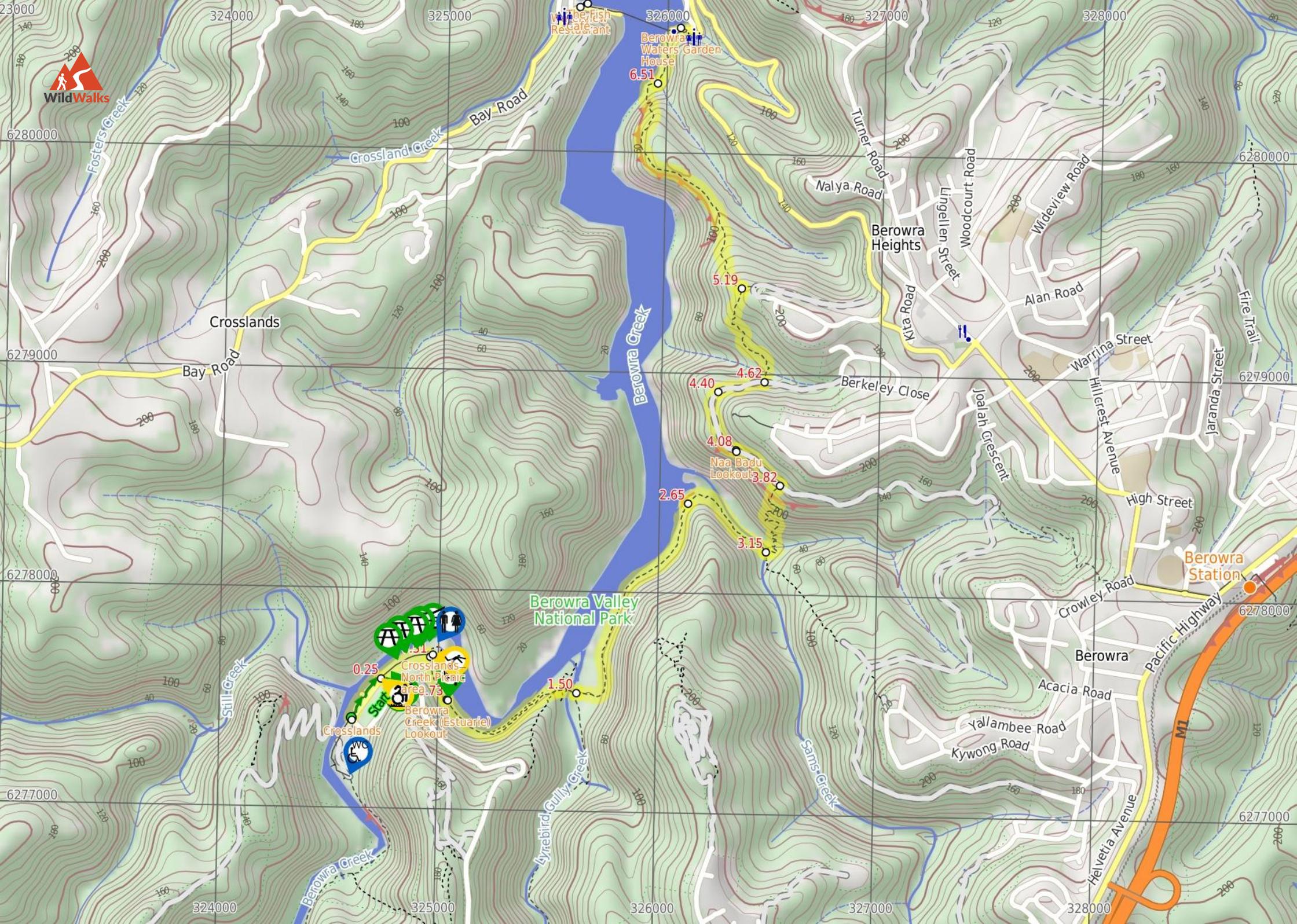
#### **6.83 | The Fish Café**

This seafood restaurant is located on the western side of the Berowra Waters Ferry, and offers casual dining with a great menu, overlooking the marina and river. The restaurant is open 7 days a week for breakfast and lunch, with dinner available on Friday through Sunday. The cafe is open 8:30 – 9pm Wed-Sun and closes at 3pm Mon & Tuesdays. Takeaway is also available, and the nearby reserve provides picnic tables, toilets, children's playground and parking. Kayak hire is available from the marina building. The Fish Café is located at 199 Bay Road, Berowra Waters, and the phone number is (02)9456 4665.

#### **6.83 | Waterview Restaurant**

On the western side of Berowra Waters Ferry (free trip), just a short walk up the road, is the Waterview Restaurant, upstairs at the marina. The restaurant specialises in seafood, but also caters for other tastes in restaurant style dining. Some sittings offers A la Carte meals from \$25, and other sittings offer a fresh and cooked seafood buffet. Please call ahead, as the restaurant is also a popular venue for weddings. Open Friday-Sunday for lunch and dinner. Phone (02) 9456 2633 199 Bay Rd Berowra Waters, NSW 2082





Crosslands

Berowra Valley National Park

Berowra Heights

Berowra

Bay Road

Bay Road

Turner Road

Nalya Road

Berowra Heights

Wideview Road

Alan Road

Warrina Street

Berkeley Close

Hillcrest Avenue

High Street

Berowra Station

Crowley Road

Acacia Road

Yallambee Road

Kywong Road

Helvetia Avenue

Fosters Creek

Crossland Creek

Berowra Creek

Still Creek

Lyrebird Gully Creek

Sams Creek

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## Summary navigation sheet for the Crosslands to Berowra Waters return



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
Start	Crosslands Carpark -33.6287,151.109 (GR Hornsby, 246774)	1 0	250 m 4 mins	From the car park, this walk follows the flat dirt path between the road (on the right) and creek (on the left).
0.25	Northern end of Crosslands Carpark -33.6271,151.1105 (GR Hornsby, 247776)	1 -2	260 m 4 mins	Continue straight: From the northern end of Crosslands car park (at the far northern end of Somerville Rd, Hornsby Heights), this walk follows the 'Newcastle' arrow on the large 'Great North Walk' sign around the lo...
0.51	Crosslands North -33.6262,151.1129 (GR Hornsby, 250777)	7 -5	220 m 4 mins	Turn right: From the intersection at the northern picnic area, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk' sign along the timber boardwalk.
0.73	Estuaries viewing platform -33.628,151.1137 (GR Hornsby, 250775)	54 -57	780 m 20 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection at the estuaries viewing platform, this walk follows the timber ramp down to the dirt track and heads past the '..unsuitable for wheelchair access' sign.
1.51	Calna Creek Bridge intersection -33.6277,151.1202 (GR Hornsby, 256775)	67 -58	1.1 km 27 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Berowra Waters' sign along the timber boardwalk.
2.66	Sams Creek ridge clearing -33.6199,151.1257 (GR Cowan, 261784)	20 -23	500 m 11 mins	Continue straight: From the clearing, this walk leads down the north eastern side of this ridge, keeping the main valley to your left.
3.16	Sams Creek Crossing -33.6219,151.1295 (GR Cowan, 265782)	181 -44	670 m 30 mins	Turn left: From the south side of the creek, this walk follows the 'Berowra Waters' sign across the rocky Sams Creek.
3.83	Int of Great North Walk and Berowra Link tracks -33.6192,151.1302 (GR Cowan, 265785)	19 -22	260 m 7 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Berowra Waters' sign gently down along the management trail, keeping the valley to your left.
4.09	Int of Naa Badu Lookout -33.6178,151.128 (GR Cowan, 263787)	12 -14	320 m 7 mins	Continue straight: From the 'Naa Badu' lookout, this walk follows the management trail over the small rise and across the concrete ditch, keeping the valley to your left.
4.41	Int of Great North Walk and Banggarai Creek access track -33.6154,151.1272 (GR Cowan, 263789)	4 -12	220 m 4 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the wide trail gently downhill as it bends right, keeping the valley to your left.
4.63	Int of Great North Walk and Berkeley Close service trail -33.615,151.1294 (GR Cowan, 265790)	78 -31	570 m 18 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Berowra Waters' sign down the timber steps.
5.20	Int of Great North Walk and Currawong Road track -33.6111,151.1283 (GR Cowan, 264794)	31 -201	1.3 km 33 mins	Turn left : From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post north-west down the sandy track, directly towards the valley.
6.51	Washtub Gully Creek -33.6027,151.1242 (GR Cowan, 260803)	31 -30	320 m 9 mins	Continue straight: From Washtub Gully, this walk crosses the creek and follows the track, keeping Berowra Creek not far to your left.