



# Dales Gorge Loop

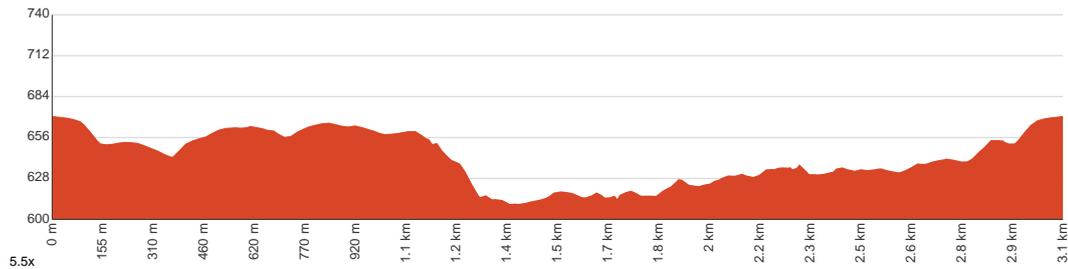
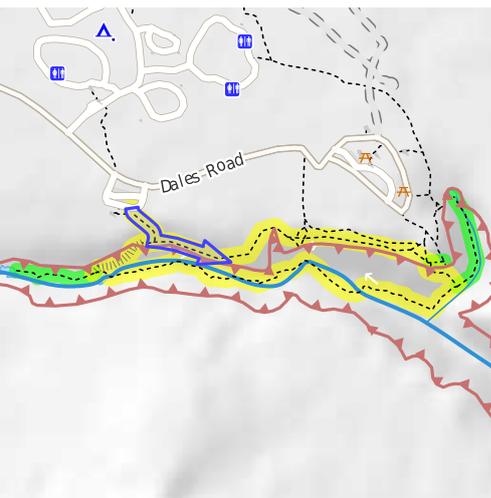
1 h 30 min to 2 h 30 min

3.1 km  
Circuit

↑ 131 m  
↓ 131 m

5  
Very challenging

Starting from the Fortescue Falls Carpark on Dales Road, Karijini, this walk takes you on a circuit around Dales Gorge via the Gorge Rim Walk and Fortescue Falls Track. One of the most satisfying walks in Karijini National Park, this walk combines all the trails in Dales Gorge into a scenic loop. The first of many viewpoints is a short walk from the car park and shows off the views down towards Fortescue Falls. From there, the trail snakes its way along the edge of the gorge walls, providing spectacular views across the landscape to the distant hills. After passing the Dales Gorge Lookout, the trail descends steeply to a wide expanse at the bottom of the gorge, where you can take a short detour and visit the Circular Pool. The pool is not very large, but the massive amphitheatre-like space, lush green ferns and trickling water make it a truly magical spot. After visiting Circular Pool the trail widens, contracts, skirts and snakes its way through the gorge with plenty to see and photograph on the way to Fortescue Falls. Fed by a spring, Fortescue Falls is one of the few permanent waterfalls in the park, flowing even in drier years. As this place is in a spacious natural amphitheatre, you won't have problems finding a scenic place to sit. The trail continues past Fortescue Falls, crossing a series of stepping stones to reach the other side of the gorge's watercourse, where the trail forks off to either Fern Pool or up the stairs to the car park. One of the most beautiful pools in the park, Fern Pool features a small waterfall and a wooden deck platform that allows visitors easy access for swimming. From Fern Pool, the trail heads back towards Fortescue Falls and up the metal staircase towards the car park. As the longest gorge hike in Karijini, Dales Gorge is a true delight to explore thanks to the many different side trails and swimming spots, and the full loop experience provides excellent coverage of both the gorge rim and valley floor. The trail is well-marked and requires minor rock hopping and water crossings. Dales Gorge features a few seams of blue asbestos along its walls, and while it is safe in its unprocessed natural state, visitors are advised not to break off or touch any of these formations. Keep in mind that the gorges are at high risk for flash floods. Let us begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we travel today, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



Class 5 of 6 Rough unclear track	
<b>Quality of track</b>	Rough unclear track (5/6)
<b>Gradient</b>	Short steep hills (3/6)
<b>Signage</b>	Clearly signposted (2/6)
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Limited facilities (such as cliffs not fenced, significant creeks not bridged) (4/6)
<b>Experience Required</b>	Moderate level of bushwalking experience recommended (4/6)
<b>Weather</b>	Foretasted & unexpected storms and severe weather may impact on navigation and safety (4/6)

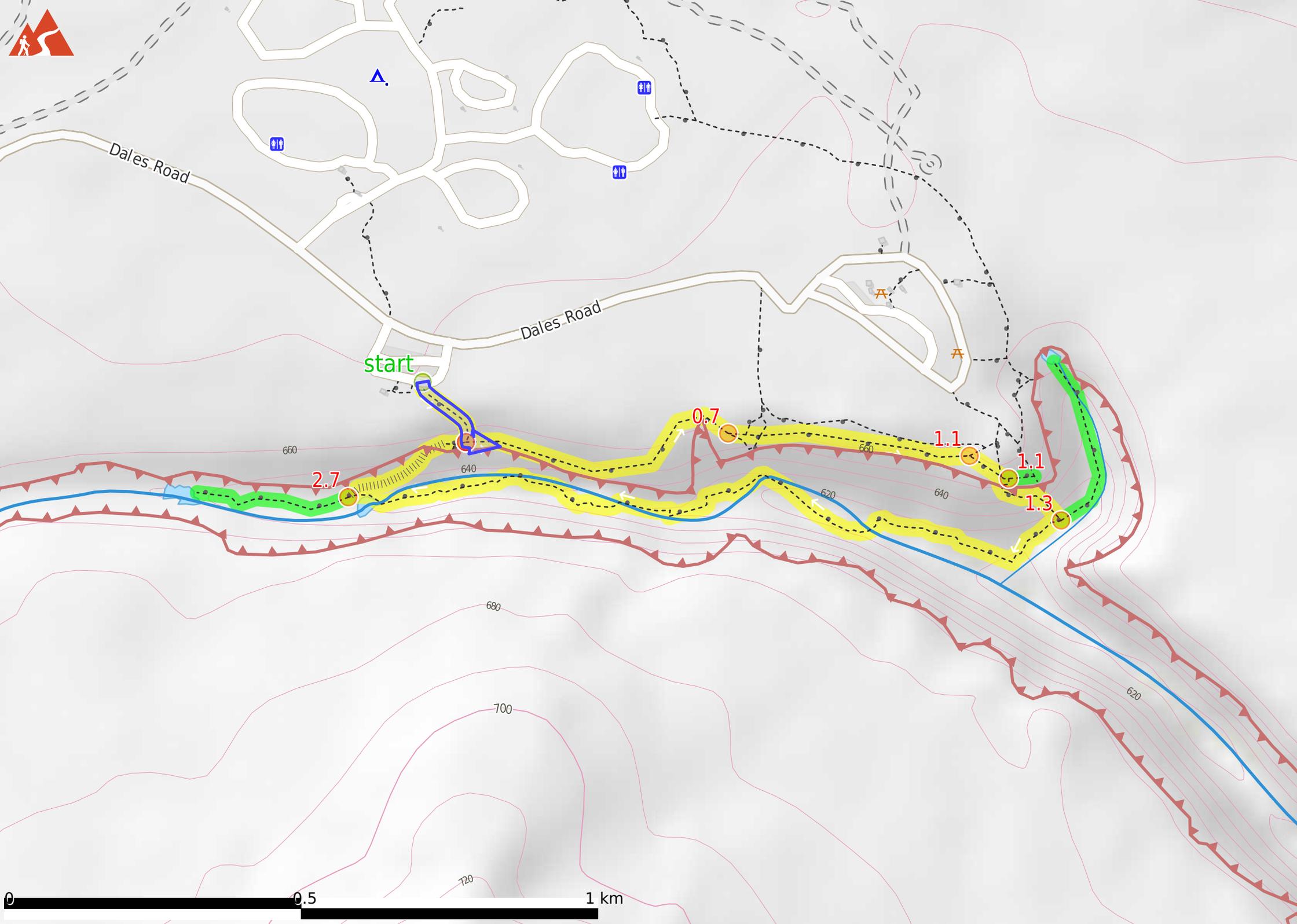
**Getting to the start:** From Great Northern Highway, 95

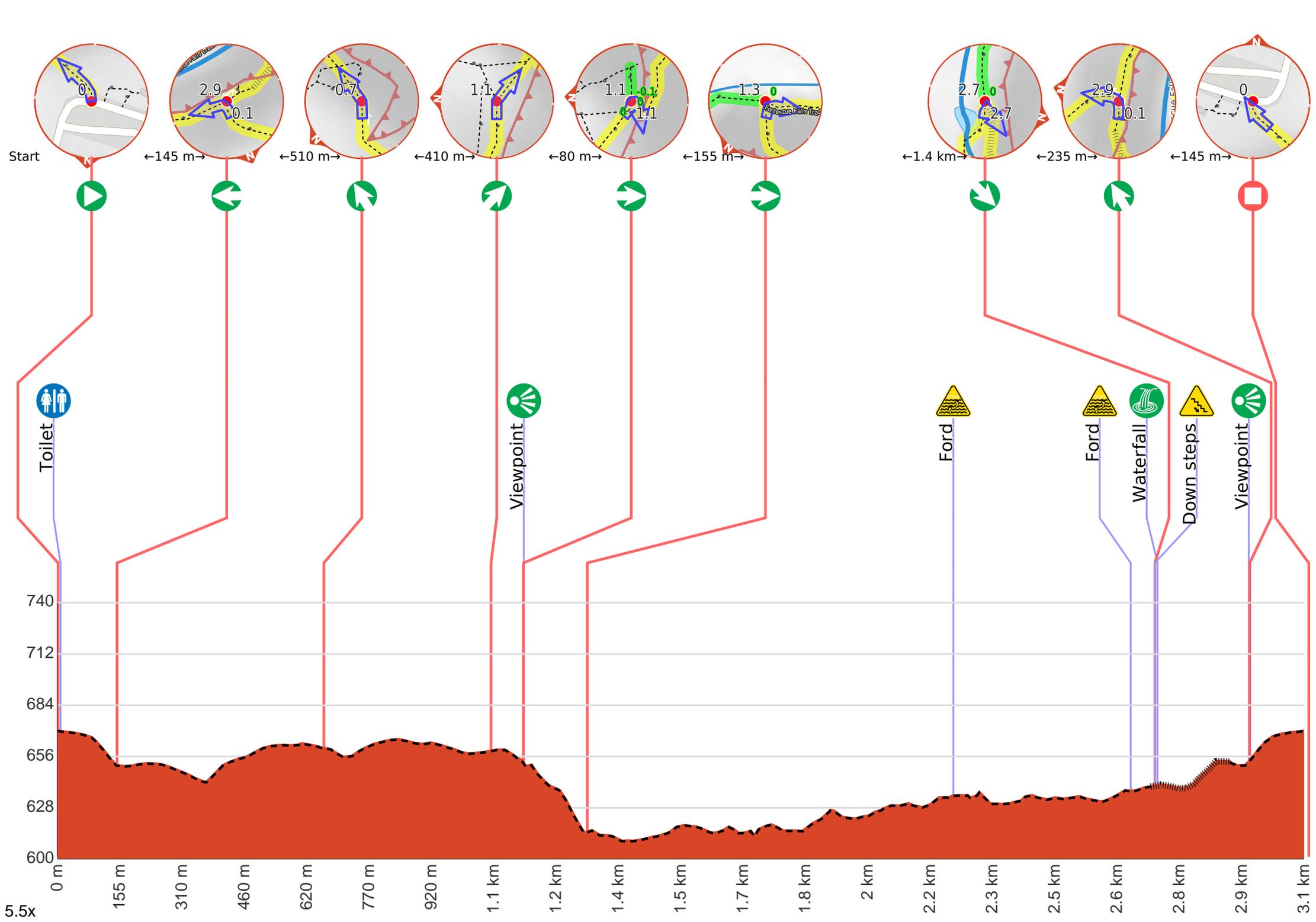
- Turn on to Karijini Drive then drive for 29.4 km
- Turn right onto Banjima Drive and drive for another 8.4 km
- Turn right onto Dales Road and drive for another 9.4 km
- Turn right and drive for another 100 m

Share

[Bushwalk.com/j/DIBD89](https://bushwalk.com/j/DIBD89)







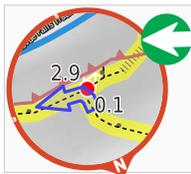
**Getting started:** From the Fortescue Falls Carpark on Dales Road, Karijini, head along the main trail located to the left of the toilet block, passing a 'Fortescue Falls - Jubula' sign and a 'Blue Asbestos Risk' sign shortly ahead. The trail eventually reaches the Fortescue Falls Lookout, where you'll find a pair of benches and a staircase leading down to Fortescue Falls. Take a left turn at the lookout, passing a 'Walking at Dales Gorge' sign, and head along the Gorge Rim Walk to continue the Dales Gorge Loop(clockwise). This is the described direction of travel.



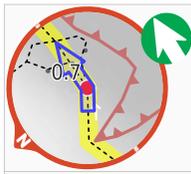
**Start.**



Find the toilet at the start.



After another 140 m **turn left**.



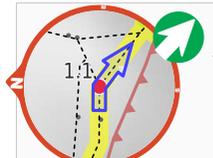
After another 510 m **veer left**.



After another 30 m **continue straight**.



After another 25 m **continue straight**.



After another 360 m **veer right**.



After another 65 m **continue straight**.



After another 15 m come to the "Dales Gorge".

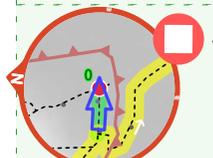
**Start of an optional side trip:** This optional little side trip takes you to the Three Ways Lookout, where you can get some impressive southeasterly views over the land.



To start this optional side trip continue straight here. Dales Gorge **Start** (a walking track).



After another 45 m come to "Three Ways Lookout".



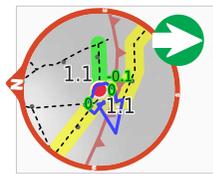
The end.



Turn around and retrace your steps back the 45 m to the main route.

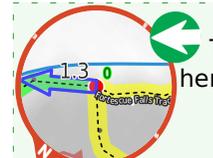


Back at the main route turn left and follow on from the 1.1 km waypoint.



Dales Gorge **turn right**.

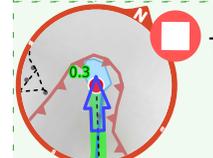
**Start of an optional side trip:** A highly recommended side trip to the Circular Pool. You'll be met by an amphitheatre-like space and lush green ferns with the water soothingly trickling into the pool, as mentioned in the description.



To start this optional side trip turn left here. **Start**.



After another 340 m come to "Circular Pool". An amphitheatre-like space and lush green ferns with the water soothingly trickling into the rock pool.



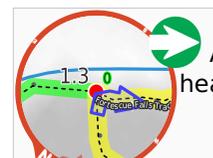
The end.



Turn around and retrace your steps back the 340 m to the main route.



Back at the main route continue straight and follow on from the 1.3 km waypoint.



After another 155 m **turn right**, to head along Fortescue Falls Track.



After another 900 m cross the ford.



After another 440 m cross the ford.



After another 65 m pass the "Fortescue Falls" (40 m on your left).

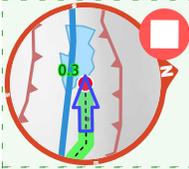
**Start of an optional side trip:** This recommended side trip takes you the Fern Pool which features a small waterfall and a wooden deck platform for easy access, as mentioned in the description.



To start this optional side trip continue straight here. **Start**.



After another 270 m come to a waterfall.



The end.



Turn around and retrace your steps back the 270 m to the main route.



Back at the main route turn right and follow on from the 2.7 km waypoint.



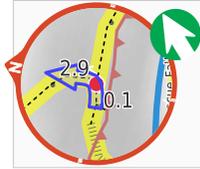
**Turn sharp right.**



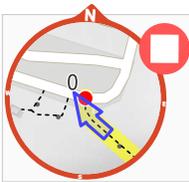
Then head down the surface|gravel steps (about 195 m long)



After another 35 m come to the "Fortescue Falls Lookout" (10 m on your right).



After another 2 m **veer left.**



After another 145 m come to the end.