



Willow Tree to Calala

(Dharawal Country)

3 h 30 min to 4 h

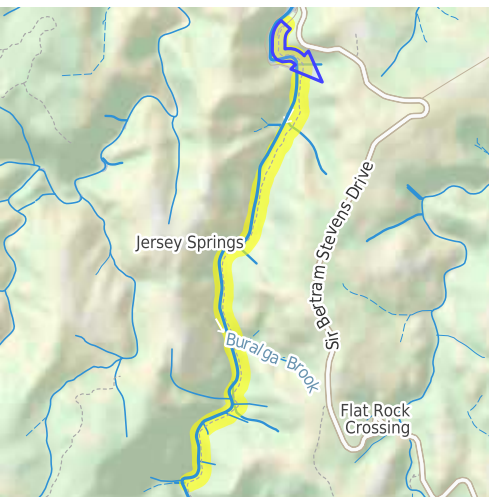
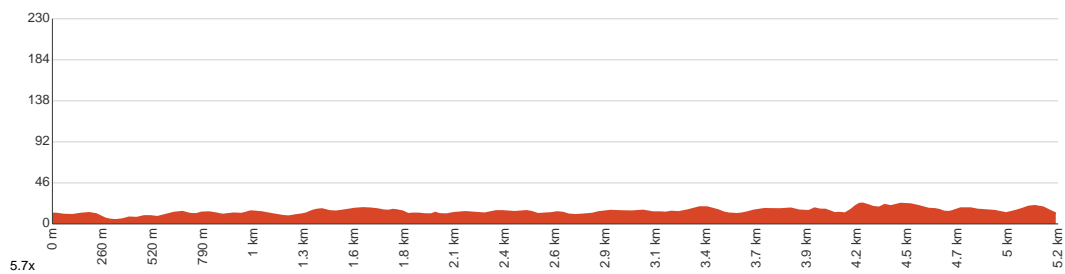
10.5 km
Return

↑ 186 m
↓ 186 m

3
Moderate track



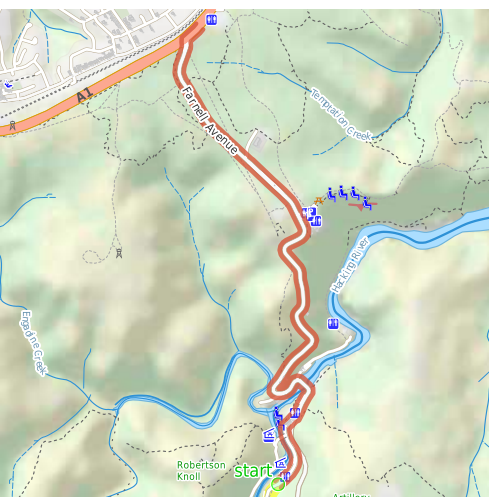
On this walk you follow the historic Lady Carrington Drive from Willow tree picnic area to Calala before returning the same way. The walk passes two icons on the old road, Gibraltar Rock and Jersey Spring whilst crossing several small brooks. At Calala you will find a large clearing and natural shade from some large trees, there is also access down to a small beach on the side of the shallow Hacking River. Let us begin by acknowledging the Dharawal people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we travel today, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



Class 3 of 6 Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles	
Quality of track	Clear and well formed track or trail (2/6)
Gradient	Short steep hills (3/6)
Signage	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
Infrastructure	Generally useful facilities (such as fenced cliffs and seats) (1/6)
Experience Required	No experience required (1/6)
Weather	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)

Getting to the start: From Princes Highway, A1

- Turn on to Farnell Avenue then drive for 3.4 km
- Keep right onto Lady Carrington Drive and drive for another 95 m
- Turn slight left onto Lady Carrington Drive and drive for another 225 m
- Keep left onto Lady Carrington Drive and drive for another 220 m



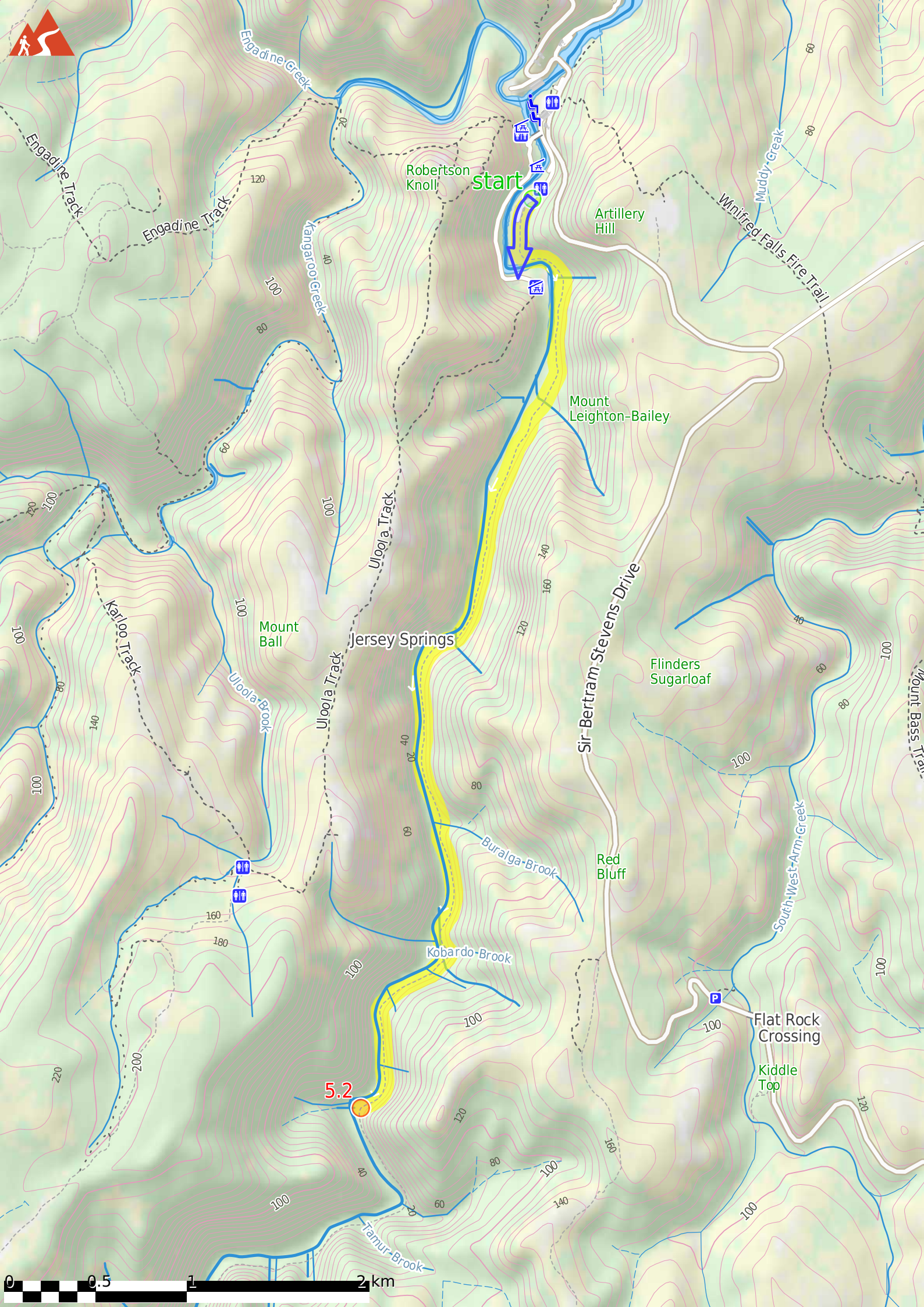
Before you start any journey ensure you;

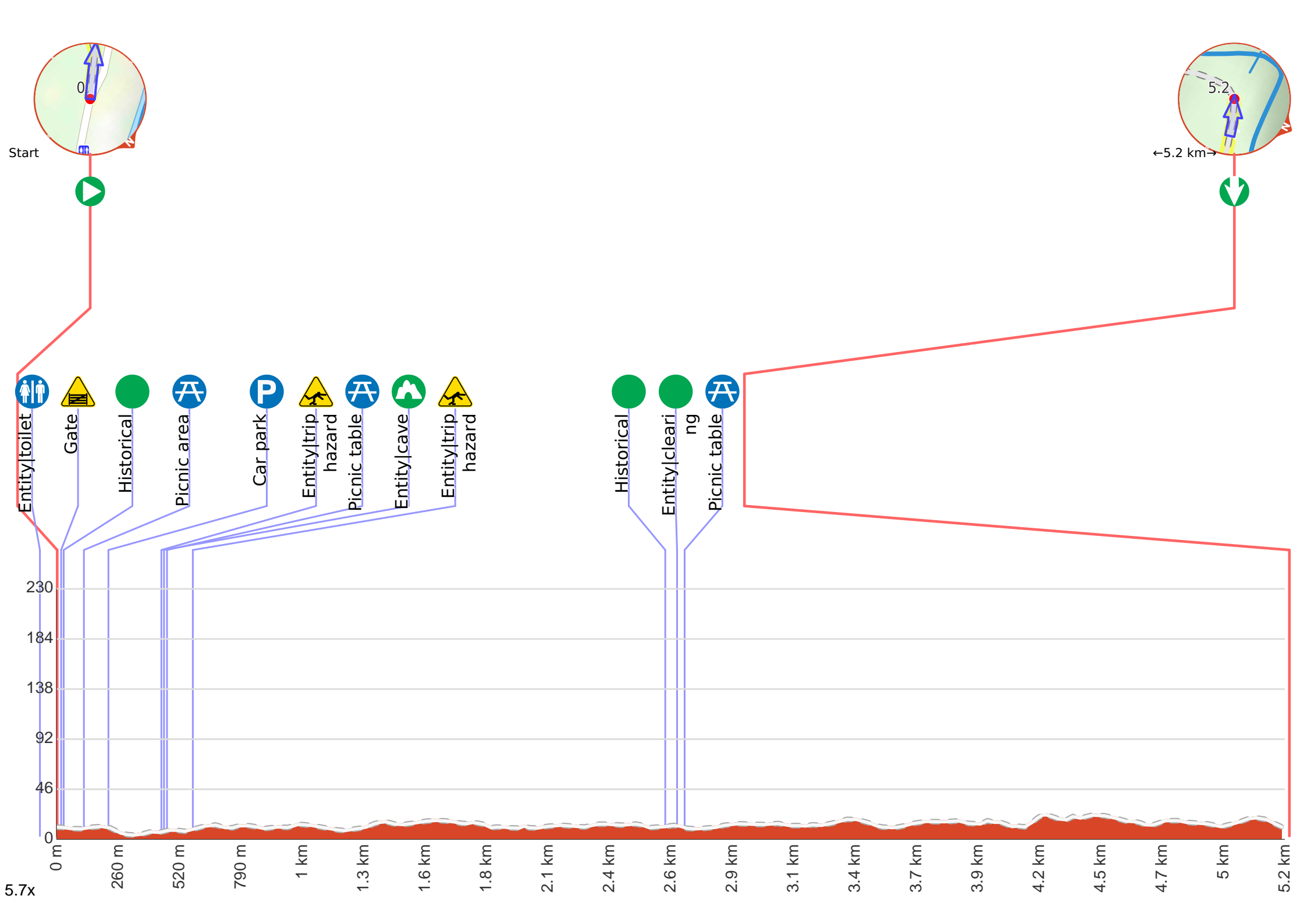
- Tell someone you trust where you are going and what to do if you are late returning
- Have adequate equipment, supplies, skills & knowledge to undertake this journey safely
- Consider weather forecasts, park/track closures & fire dangers
- Can respond to emergencies & call for help at any point
- Are healthy and fit enough for this journey

If not, change plans and stay safe. It is okay to delay and ask people for help.

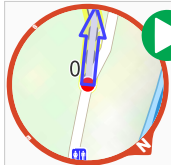
Share
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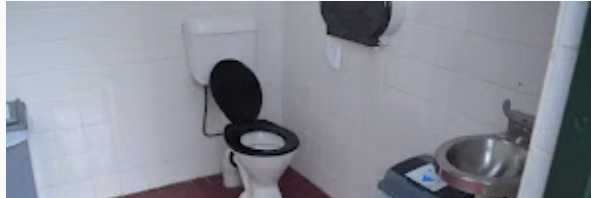
Getting started: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Lady Carrington Drive' sign around the locked gate and along the management trail (keeping the picnic area and river to the right). This walk winds along the trail gently uphill for about 400m to step onto the cobblestone section below the overhanging Gibraltar Rocks beside the picnic table.



Start heading along *Lady Carrington Drive*.



Toilet (about 80 m back from the start).



Male and female toilet block. Entrance is 67cm wide, hand basins 90cm high, toilet seat 43cm high. Male toilet has a urinal with 20cm step. No handrails. There's a bigger toilet at the back, entrance is 81cm wide, hand basins 76cm high, toilet seat 47cm high.



Find the gate at the start.



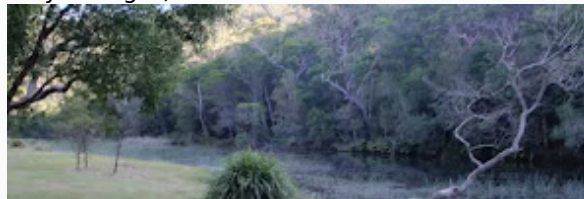
After another 10 m find the "Lady Carrington Drive" (on your left).



Opened in 1886 by Lady Carrington, this road was formally named 'Lady Carrington Road' (later changed to 'drive'), and started on the southern side of the then newly constructed Audley weir. The road became popular among people exploring the region. The road follows the Hacking River's east bank and then Bola Creek to Sir Bertram Stevens Drive. Much history has been preserved, with several drinking troughs still filling with water and many sandstone retaining walls still standing. The brooks that the old road crosses have been named using the traditional names of birds, the following is a list with the English name in brackets. Mullion (Eagle), Wurrul (Bee Eater), Burowa (Bustard), Karonga (White Crane), Gorra Worra (Laughing Jackass), Buralga (Native Companion), Kobardo (Parrot), Birumba (Plover), Dirijiri (Wagtail), Murrindum (Quail), Dumbal (Crow), Tamur (Bronze winged Pigeon), Burunda (Swan), Karani (Duck), Palona (Hawk) Brooks.



After another 85 m find the "Willow Tree" (45 m on your right).



Willow Tree is a picnic area in the Royal National Park. It is found on the south side of Audley, between the old Lady Carrington Drive and the Hacking River. The picnic area has a large shelter with 4 picnic tables, an open grassy area, parking, BBQ's, tap water, garbage bins, recycling and toilets. The picnic area stretches along the river bank and provides a lovely spot to stop and enjoy the park.



After another 105 m pass the car park (9 m on your right).



After another 225 m find the "Trip Hazard" (on your left).



An 8cm trip hazard between dirt and cobblestones.



After another 25 m find the "Picnic Table" (on your right).



A timber slat picnic table and bench seats. The table is 79cm high, 91cm deep and 2.1m wide. The seats are 40cm high, 30cm deep and 2.1m wide (no backrest).



Then find the "Gibraltar Rock" (on your left).



Gibraltar Rock, Royal National Park, is a sandstone overhang found near the northern end of Lady Carrington Drive. The old road passes under the rocks and is home to a small section of sandstone cobblestone. At this point, the old road offers great views of the Hacking River and across to Wattle Forest picnic area. These and many other sandstone formations, together with the history, make this old road quite interesting to explore. There is a picnic table under the overhang.



After another 120 m come to the "Trip Hazard".



There are a number of tall stone walls and culverts crossing creeks along Lady Carrington Drive that are unfenced and have unmarked edges. The potential fall is significant enough to cause serious injury or death. Stay well clear of the edges.



After another 2 km find the "Jersey Spring" (on your left).



The Jersey Spring is beside the old Lady Carrington Drive in the Royal National Park. The permanent spring feeds into two sandstone troughs, built in 1892 to provide water for horses and people traveling along the road. The troughs are still fed by the same spring (although it has moved overtime and the water is no longer suitable for drinking). The springs are named after Rt. Hon. Victor George (Earl of Jersey), the 17th governor of NSW.



After another 50 m find the "Jersey Spring Clearing" (9 m on your right).



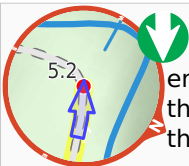
The Jersey Spring Clearing is an open grassy area between the old Lady Carrington Drive and the Hacking River. The clearing is not formally named but is just south of the Jersey Spring. This is a great area to stop, rest and enjoy the journey along the old road



After another 30 m find the "Picnic Table" (30 m on your right).



A timber slat picnic table and bench seat. The table is 77cm high, 93cm deep and 2.1m wide. The seats are 42cm high, 30cm deep and 2.1m wide (no backrest).



Continue another 2.6 km to find the end. Then turn around here and retrace the main route for 5.2 km to get back to the start.



About 50 m past the end is "Calala".



The signposted 'Calala' clearing lies between the old Lady Carrington Drive and the Hacking River. The large clearing has a picnic table and plenty of shade from the surrounding trees. There is an informal steep track that provides access to a small sandy beach on the Hacking River, making this a lovely spot to rest on a warm day.



About 50 m past the end is "Picnic Table".



A timber slat picnic table and bench seat. The table is 77cm high, 91cm deep and 2.1m wide. The seats are 39cm high, 30cm deep and 2.1m wide (no backrest).