



# Western Girrakool Loop

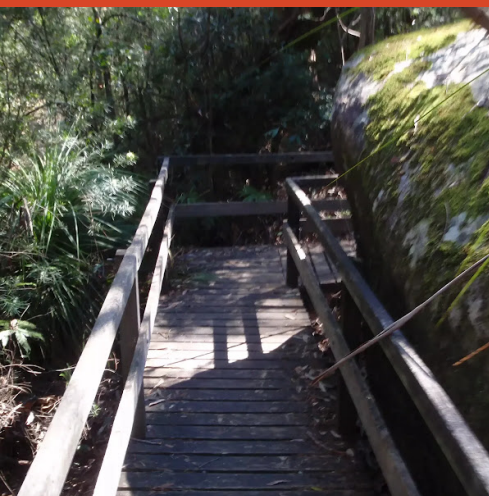
(Darkinjung & Guringai Country)

 25 min to 30 min

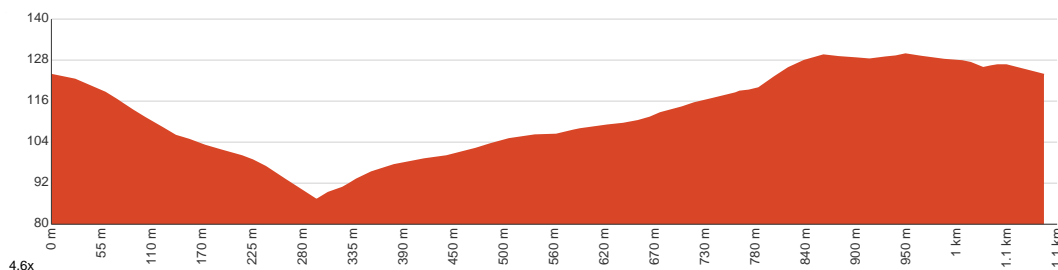
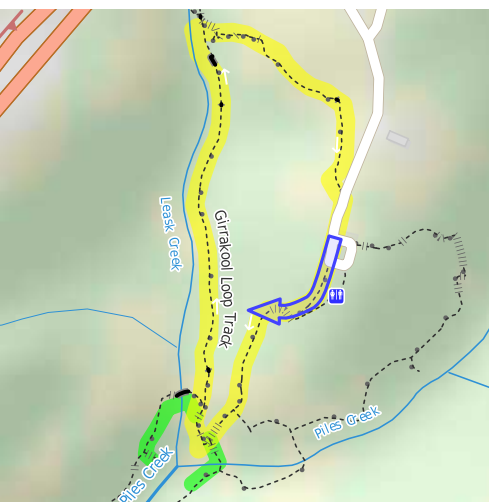
  
1.1 km  
Circuit

  
↑ 45 m  
↓ 45 m

  
Moderate track



This walk explores the western half of the Girrakool Loop track. From the picnic area, this walk heads down the footpath to Illoura Lookout, with views down over Piles Creek (there is an optional side trip to the top of the waterfall). The walk then has another optional trip to Bundilla Lookout, providing a distant but square view of Piles Creek falls. The walk continues around the loop, enjoying the wildflowers which are in bloom late winter and spring. Before looping back to the picnic area, there are two more lookouts with filtered views. Let us begin by acknowledging the Darkinjung & Guringai people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we travel today, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



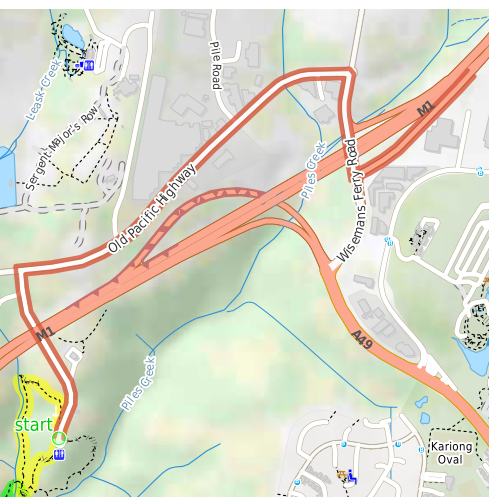
Class 3 of 6

Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles

Quality of track	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
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 Wisemans Ferry Road Offramp

- Turn on to Wisemans Ferry Road Offramp then drive for 55 m
- Turn right onto Wisemans Ferry Road, B83 and drive for another 390 m
- At roundabout, take exit 1 onto Old Pacific Highway, B83 and drive for another 1.6 km
- Turn left onto Quarry Road and drive for another 75 m
- Keep left onto Girrakool Road and drive for another 630 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  
[Bushwalk.com](https://bushwalk.com.au/P40L18)  
[/i/P40L18](https://bushwalk.com.au/P40L18)





Quarry Road

M1

Girrakool Road

0.8

Girrakool Loop Track

Girrakool Loop Track

1.1

start

0

0.1

0.3

0.2

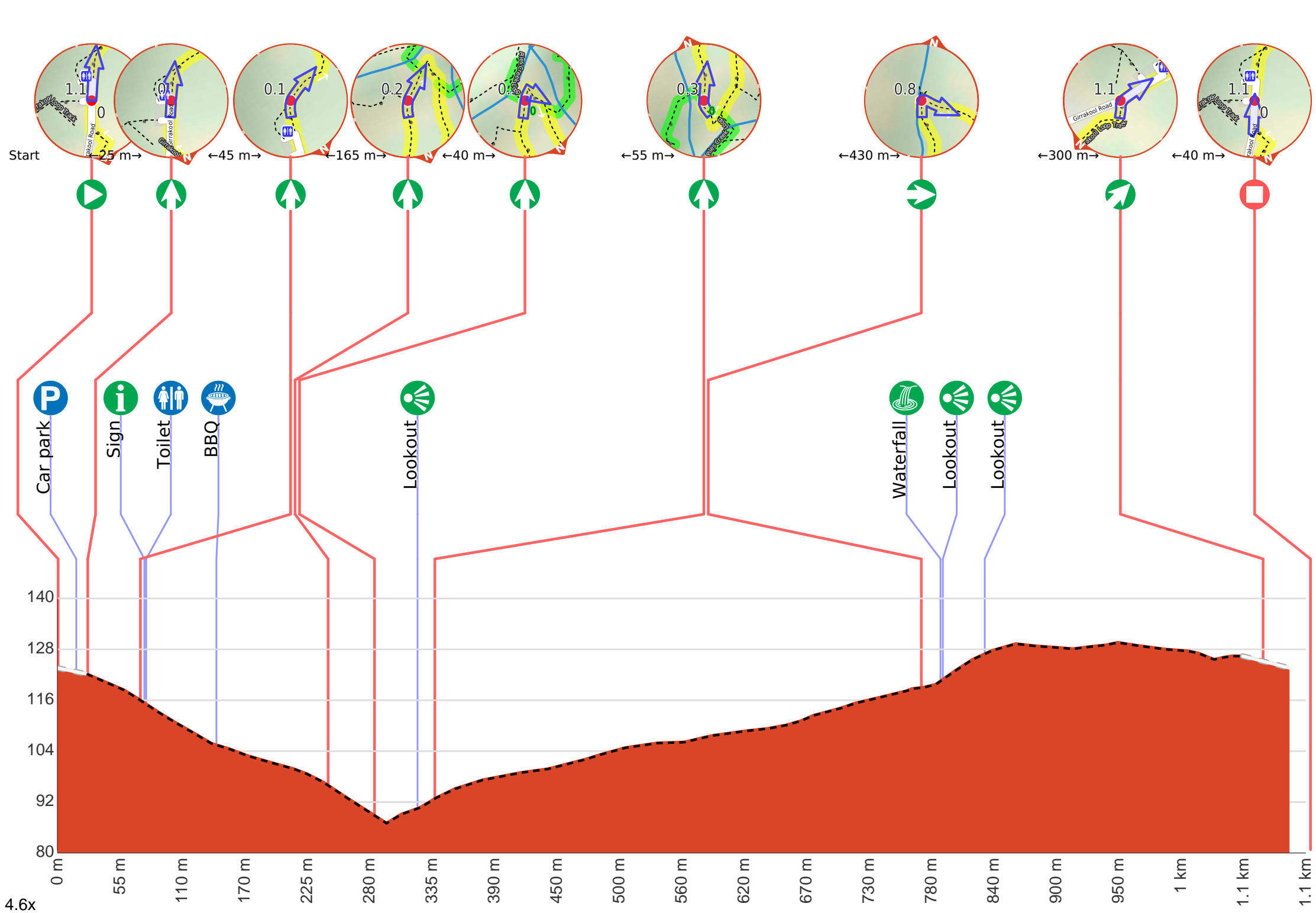
0.3

Piles Creek Loop

Piles Creek Loop

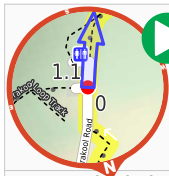
Piles Creek

0 100 200 m



**Getting started:** From the lower side of the car park, this walk follows the 'To The Great North Walk' sign down the path to the lower picnic area. The walk passes the toilet block (on the left) and comes to another picnic area. The path passes through this picnic area to turn right following the 'Piles Creek Loop Track' sign down the steps. The footpath then leads to an intersection with the Broula Lookout track (on the left) and a 'car park' sign pointing back up the hill.

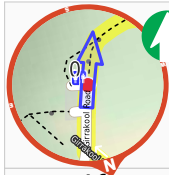
From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Girrakool Loop' sign down along the stone path. The path soon heads down some steps and comes to a fenced and signposted 'Illoura Lookout'.



**Start** heading along *Girrakool Road*.



Find the car park at the start.



After another 10 m **continue straight**.



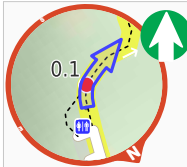
After another 50 m pass the sign (on your right).



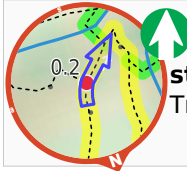
Then pass the toilet (10 m on your left).



After another 60 m pass the BBQ (25 m on your left).

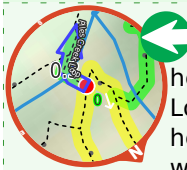


**Continue straight.**

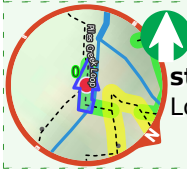


After another 165 m **continue straight**, to head along Girrakool Loop Track.

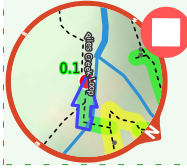
**Start of an optional side trip:** An optional side trip to Piles Creek Waterfall.



To start this optional side trip turn left here. at the intersection of Girrakool Loop Track & Piles Creek Loop **Start** heading along *Piles Creek Loop* (a walking track).



After another 45 m **continue straight**, to head along Piles Creek Loop.



After another 20 m come to the end.



"Piles Creek Waterfall".



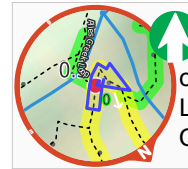
The large waterfall on Piles Creek is south of Girrakool Picnic Area in Brisbane Water National Park. At the Piles Creek Loop track crossing at the top of the falls, there is a large rock platform. The cliff edge is unfenced and would be dangerous to approach for the view. The water falls down the large drop, into a big pool below. The 'Bundilla Lookout' on the other side of the valley provides the only square view onto the falls, but even this only witnesses the top half.



Turn around and retrace your steps back the 65 m to the main route.



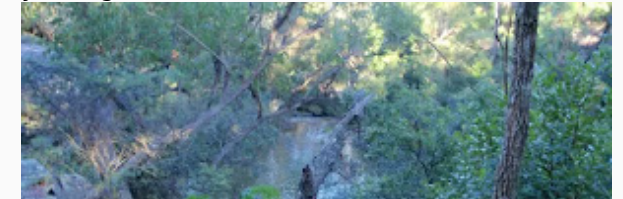
Back at the main route turn left and follow on from the 280 m waypoint.



After another 40 m (at the intersection of Girrakool Loop Track & Piles Creek Loop) **continue straight**, to head along Girrakool Loop Track.



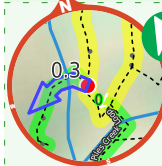
After another 40 m find the "Illoura Lookout" (on your right).



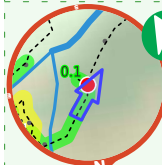
Illoura Lookout, Brisbane Water National Park, can be found a short walk south-west of the Girrakool picnic area, following the Great North Walk sign. This lookout provides a filtered view up and down the Leask and Piles Creek junction. There is a view of a waterfall from Piles Creek. Illoura is an Aboriginal word referring to a pleasant or peaceful place.



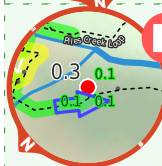
**Start of an optional side trip:** An optional side trip to Bundilla Lookout.



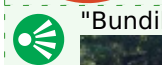
To start this optional side trip veer left here. at the intersection of Gurrakool Loop Track & Piles Creek Loop **Start** heading along *Piles Creek Loop* (a walking track).



After another 95 m **veer left**.



Continue another 10 m to find Bundilla Lookout at the end.



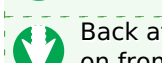
"Bundilla Lookout".



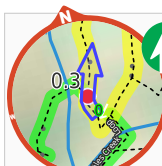
Bundilla Lookout provides a good (but filtered) view from the southern side of the Leask and Piles Creeks junction. From the fenced lookout, you can see the top part of Piles Creek waterfall and much of the surrounding bushland. Bundilla is an Aboriginal word meaning 'meeting of waters'.



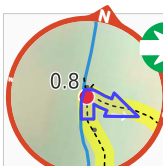
Turn around and retrace your steps back the 105 m to the main route.



Back at the main route turn around and follow on from the 330 m waypoint.



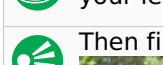
After another 15 m (at the intersection of Gurrakool Loop Track & Piles Creek Loop) **continue straight**, to head along Gurrakool Loop Track.



After another 430 m **turn right**, to head along Gurrakool Loop Track.



After another 15 m pass the waterfall (20 m on your left).



Then find the "Andamira Lookout" (on your left).



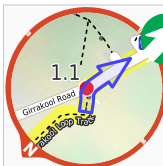
The fenced Andamira Lookout is on a platform, overlooking Leaskes Creek waterfall on the Gurrakool Loop walk. The waterfall is in a sandstone and ferny amphitheatre with a sandy base. Prior to reaching the waterfall, this creek has just passed under the F3 freeway, which can be heard a short distance away. Trees have grown up over the years and the view of the water is filtered through the leaves.



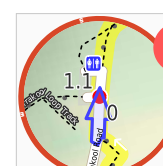
After another 35 m find the "Boondi Lookout" (10 m on your right).



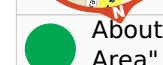
Boondi Lookout is a fenced and signposted lookout on the Gurrakool Loop track, in Brisbane Water National Park. The view is mostly of the trees in the valley, with some glimpses of Leaskes Creek to the right. 'Boondi' is a word used by the Darkinjung people meaning 'Club-headed weapon'.



After another 245 m **veer right**, to head along Gurrakool Road.



After another 40 m come to the end.



About 15 m past the end is "Gurrakool Picnic Area".



Gurrakool picnic area is a wonderful family destination, just 5 minutes' drive from Kariong. The picnic area provides all the necessary facilities for a full day's activities, including barbecues, tables, shelters, water and toilets. National Park fees apply. The main picnic area is on the eastern side of the car park, and smaller, older picnic area is at the north-eastern corner of the car park. The southern Gurrakool picnic area is located near the toilets. The picnic area is dedicated to John 'Jack' Higgs, the first superintendent of Brisbane Water National Park, and Mrs Vera Murdoch, who provided the funds. 'Gurrakool' is an Aboriginal word meaning 'place of still waters'.