



On this short walk, you will follow the footpaths through Nielsen Park, visiting some of the historic buildings. Walking past the beautiful Shark Bay, you may be tempted to take a dip or at least stop and enjoy the blue water and sandstone boulders. Climbing up the stairs, you will then be able to explore the historic Steele Point Gun Emplacement and Greycliffe House before wandering back down to Shark Bay where you can grab a drink from the kiosk.

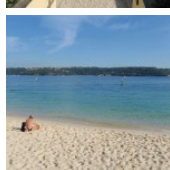
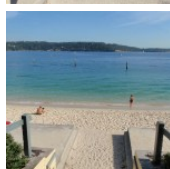
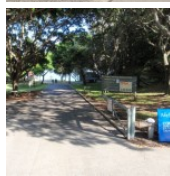
Length: 0.9 km
Time: 20 mins
Climb: 25 m
Style: Return
Rating: Walk: Easy
Where: 2.2 km NW of Vaucluse
Transport: bus car



Sydney Harbour National Park

Visit www.wildwalks.com for more info

Side trips and Alternate routes mentioned in these notes are not included in the tracks overall rating, distance or time estimate. The notes only describe the side trips and Alternate routes in one direction. Allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing these notes but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury sustained by using these notes or maps. Please take care and share your experience through the website. Please check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating just before leaving for your walk. Walk maybe closed during Total Fire Ban. GPS for start and end of this walk: -33.8508,151.2686



Wildwalks



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The eMagazine is produced by the community at bushwalk.com and the Wildwalks team
[Bushwalk.com](http://bushwalk.com) Australia's most active bushwalking forum - Check it out.
 Happy Reading. Matt :)

Greycliffe Ave Car Park to Nielsen Park Cafe 0.2km 3 mins

(From S) From the lower end of the car park on Greycliffe Ave, this walk heads around the gate and along the sealed path (driveway) towards the water, passing the 'Sydney Harbour National Park' sign. After ~50m, the path leads to a four-way intersection just past the garbage bins.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads towards the water following the wide path. The path soon bends left (near the toilet block, on the right) and heads behind the beach, past the large information sign. Soon the path heads over the 'Dressing Pavilion' tunnel and, ~50m later, comes to the front of the Nielsen Park Cafe with its great water views.

Shark Bay

Located at the northern end of Nielsen Park, this beach faces north across Sydney Harbour. The sandy beach offers a swimming net enclosure, public toilets and change rooms, showers and is a popular place for people to simply relax. The beach is a focal point of Nielsen Park and also boasts a cafe. Protected by the harbour, there is no surf at this beach. The beach is not patrolled. This is a lovely spot, with natural shade not far from the beach.

Nielsen Park Cafe

Open 8-5 daily, this historic cafe offers inside seating and a range of meals, including breakfast, sandwiches and hot food. This is one of a number of buildings in Nielsen Park which are available for functions. For further enquiries, contact 9337 1574. [More info](#)

Nielsen Park Cafe to Western end of Shark Bay 0.1km 1 mins

(From 0.2 km) Continue straight: From Nielsen Park Cafe, this walk heads the short distance along the path in front of the cafe and behind the beach (keeping the water to your right). The path heads past the 'William Albert Notting' and 'Niels R.W. Nielsen, MLA' memorial (on your left) to soon find a four-way intersection (at the base of some steps) at the eastern end of Shark Bay.

Western end of Shark Bay to Degaussing range 0.1km 2 mins

(From 0.28 km) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Hermitage Foreshore Walking Track' sign up the stairs. The path soon flattens out through the open grassy area, and heads up a few more steps to come to an intersection with a road (driveway) next to the fenced degaussing range (on your right).

Degaussing range

This degaussing range, found at Steele Point, was constructed in 1960 and is still operated by the Royal Australian Navy today. Degaussing is the process of removing (or at least reducing) a magnetic field. This degaussing range services four areas in the harbour (about 500m from the building), where metal ships passing over will be automatically de-magnetised. Why? Mostly to prevent the triggering of seabed mines. [More info](#)



Degaussing range to Steele Point Gun Emplacement 0.1km 1 mins **Optional Side Trip:**
 (From 0.35 km) Turn sharp right: From the intersection, this walk heads up the driveway, keeping the degaussing range fence just to your left. At the end of the driveway, the walk heads across the grass to find the Steele Point Gun Emplacement just behind the degaussing range. Beware of the unfenced drop into the emplacement.
 (Retrace your steps back to the main track, then turn left to continue along this walk.)



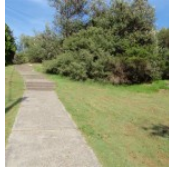
Steele Point Gun Emplacement
 Construction of this initial emplacement took about three years and was completed in 1874. The sandstone pit once had a steel dome (to protect from shells) and was part of a series of gun emplacements protecting from the threat of invasion. Today, you will find a series of tall sandstone channels and the circular pit where the main gun once stood. A set of un-railed steps leads into the pit - please take care in the area, as the pit is not fenced.



Degaussing range to Greycliffe House 0.1km 2 mins
 (From 0.35 km) Turn left: From the degaussing range, this walk follows the 'Greycliffe House' sign along the road (driveway), following the tall hedge. The road soon leads past a small car park and then bends right, entering into the grounds of Greycliffe House. Just past the small sandstone wall, the road comes to a four-way intersection (with some steps on the right and an information sign on the left).



Greycliffe House
 Greycliffe House was completed in 1851 by John Reeve, son-in-law to the explorer W C Wentworth. The house was unoccupied between 1898 and 1911, when it was taken over by the State Government and used as a baby hospital and Tresillian mothercraft home in to the 1930s. Many of the plantings are from this era. Today, the building is home to the Sydney Harbour South office of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, and is one of few remaining examples of gothic architecture in Sydney. [More info](#)



Greycliffe House to Western end of Shark Bay 0.1km 3 mins **Alternative ROUTE:**
 (From 0.45 km) Turn left : From the intersection (in front of Greycliffe House), this walk follows the path past the 'Greycliffe House' information sign (with the house on your right). The path almost immediately bends left and heads down the steps towards the water and beach. Near the bottom, the path heads past the sandstone toilet block (on your left) and comes to a four-way intersection at the eastern end of Shark Bay.
 Turn left to rejoin the main walk, following the notes from 0.28km 'Western end of Shark Bay'.



This is a 'Return' style walk - retrace your steps back to the beginning when you are ready.



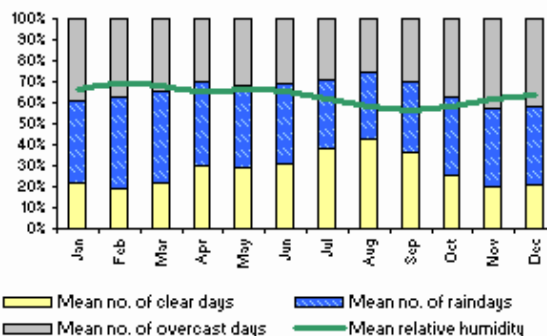
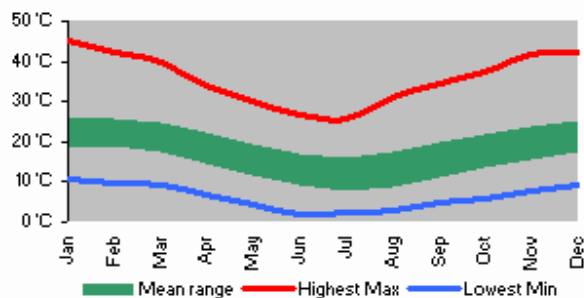
A list of paper topographical maps that cover this walk

- [Sydney Heads](#) 1:25 000 Map Series
- Sydney 1:100 000 Map Series



Nearby outdoor and camping stores

- Outdoor Equipment** 60 Spring St Bondi Junction (02) 9389 8122
- Inski** 46 York St Sydney (02) 9233 3200
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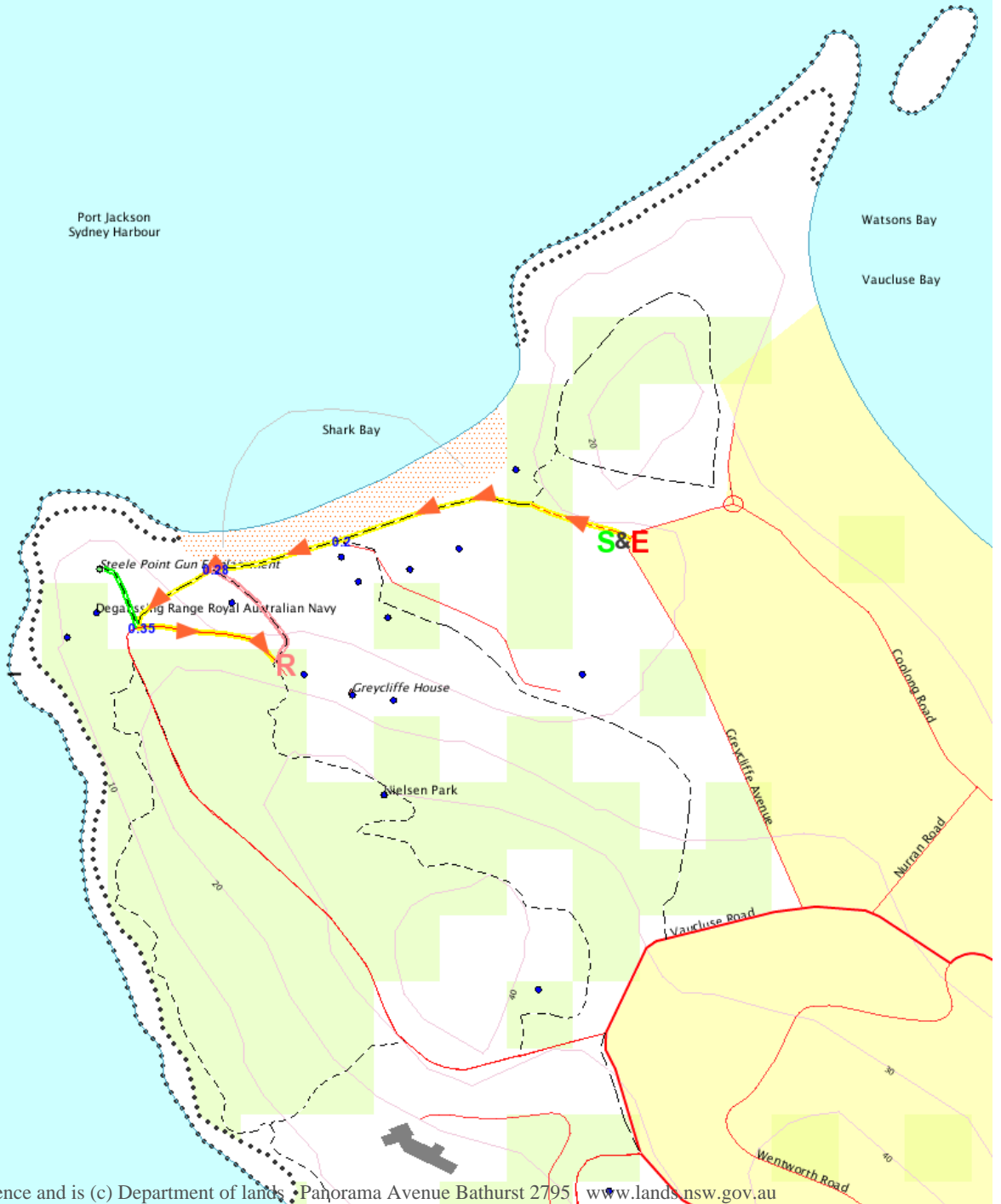
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A walk for every body



Map Scale 500 m



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