



This circuit walk explores the great sea cliffs of The Bluff on the ocean side of South Head, before heading to the scenic and historic Camp Cove and Green Point on Sydney Harbour. During this walk, you will visit several historic military defense systems for the harbour, as well as enjoying some of the natural beauty of the region. For much of the year, especially in spring, you will see some lovely coastal wildflowers as well.

Sydney Harbour National Park

Length: 2.5 km
Time: 1 Hr
Climb: 84 m
Style: Circuit
Rating: Track: Hard
Where: 0.8 km N of Watsons Bay
Transport: ferry bus car



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: -33.8433,151.2818



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The eMagazine is produces by the community at bushwalk.com and the Wildwalks team

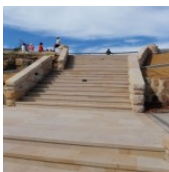
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Happy Reading. Matt :)



Watsons Bay

Watsons Bay is a popular spot to enjoy the harbour, Robertson Park and some fish and chips. Doyles offers a formal dining restaurant and the more relaxed fish and chip shop on the ferry wharf. Robertson Park is a large open grassy park with some natural shade, a rotunda, toilets, children's play equipment, garbage bins and picnic tables. [More info](#)



Watsons Bay Wharf to The Gap 0.3km 5 mins

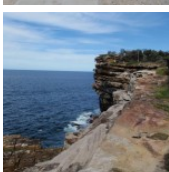
(From S) From Watsons Bay Wharf, this walk heads diagonally across the turning circle at the end of Military Rd and into 'Robertson Park'. The walk follows the path diagonally across the open park and tends a little left (straight ahead) at the four-way intersection beside the rotunda. Here the walk goes up the ramp and crosses Military Rd using the crossing, coming to the base of the steps (that lead to The Gap).

Continue straight: From the bottom of the Gap steps, this walk heads up the steps (or ramp). About halfway up the steps, there is an emergency phone for contacting the police or Lifeline, then at the top there is a fenced section of footpath (lookout) and ocean views from The Gap.



The Gap

The Gap is one of Sydney's most famous ocean cliff lookouts. The view from the track beside the stretch of cliff is simply stunning. The tall cliffs are enhanced by the rock platform and the pounding ocean far below. Sadly, this site is not only known for the natural wonder, but also for the many deaths that occur here each year. Security cameras and an emergency phone have been installed, to help assist people considering suicide. On the unlikely event that you see someone in distress, please call the police on 000 and lifeline on 131 114, or use the nearby emergency phone. [More info](#)



The Gap to The Gap Bluff Lookout 0.2km 5 mins

(From 0.25 km) Turn left: From The Gap, this walk heads up the hill along the path, keeping the fence and water views to your right. The path leads past the 'Sydney Harbour National Park - Gap Bluff' sign and more great views of The Gap. The path comes to a three-way intersection in a small clearing, marked with a few signs including 'The Gap timeline'.

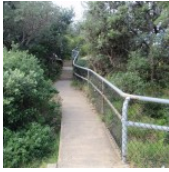
Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads up the path then steps, following the fence and keeping the water views to your right. The path leads past several information signs on local plant life and some lovely wildflowers. The walk continues up the many steps to a rocky clearing near the top. Here the walk tends left and takes the steps through the cleft in the rock to find another rocky clearing and lookout with great panoramic views at the top of Gap Bluff.



The Gap Bluff Lookout

The Gap Bluff Lookout sits high on the rocky hill overlooking the South Pacific Ocean. On the left is a view to North Head and to your right, looking south down the coast, there are great views over The Gap. There are also distant views over the harbour to the city. This site is significant to the traditional owners, the Birrabirragal people, who once occupied the area - although not at this site, there are some rock engraving still remaining. This is a great place to visit and well worth climbing the steps for the view.





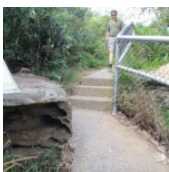
The Gap Bluff Lookout to Old car park Int 0.1km 2 mins

(From 0.44 km) Turn left: From the Gap Bluff Lookout, this walk follows the footpath away from the gap and into the heath, keeping the ocean to your right. This path soon leads to a three-way intersection (at an old car park undergoing regeneration) marked with a 'Banksia integrifolia - coast banksia' information sign.



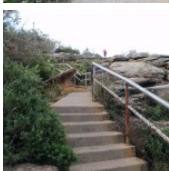
Old carpark Int to Gun Emplacement Lookout 0.1km 2 mins **Optional Side Trip:**

(From 0.54 km) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk heads uphill along the sealed footpath, away from the face of the 'Banksia integrifolia - coast banksia' information sign. Soon the path passes a lookout on your right and comes to a old gun emplacement marked with a 'The gunnery range' sign and a short track to a fenced lookout with another sign. (Retrace your steps back to the main track, then turn right to continue along this walk.)



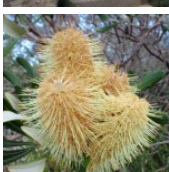
Gun Emplacement Lookout

Once home to several gun emplacements, this is now a peaceful, fenced lookout. There are information signs explaining some history, and also some remaining sections of the fortifications to explore.



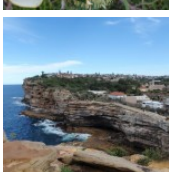
Old car park Int to The Armoury 0.2km 5 mins

(From 0.54 km) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads along the sealed footpath, directly away from the ocean (not in view) whilst keeping the 'Banksia integrifolia - coast banksia' information sign initially on your left. The path leads into the heath and after ~70m, passes a rock cutting then turns left onto a yellow-painted concrete path. After a while, this path leads down a series of steps, past the side of the 'The Armoury' and a 'Gunning for Australia' sign and comes to a large clearing and intersection with a road (driveway) in front of 'The Armoury'. The intersection is marked with a 'Access to South Head Heritage Trail' sign (pointing to the right).



The Armoury

The Armoury was a store building built in 1938, to keep defence supplier secure. Since then, it has undergone several changes and is now a popular function centre. The building is at the back of a large grassy clearing that hosts some great harbour views, popular for wedding parties. There is also a public toilet block and several other historic buildings in the area, including the larger Officer's Mess to the south-east.



The Armoury to HMAS Watson entrance 0.4km 5 mins

(From 0.76 km) Turn right: From the front of 'The Armoury', this walk follows the 'Access to South Head Heritage Trail' sign arrow, passing the palm trees and water views (to your left). This walk follows the driveway for ~270m and passes around the locked gates to find a 'Sydney Harbour National Park' sign and an intersection with a road in front of HMAS Watson security gates. Here the walk crosses the road using the pedestrian crossing, then turns left and follows the 'Access to Camp Cove Beach and South Head Heritage Trail' sign down the footpath. Just before the sandstone HMAS Watson gates, this walk follows the footpath to the right and down the steps to Cliff St and another 'Access to Camp Cove Beach and South Head Heritage Trail' sign.



HMAS Watson entrance to Camp Cove Beach 0.2km 4 mins

(From 1.19 km) Veer right: From the near the sandstone pillars at the HMAS Watson entrance, this walk follows the 'Access to Camp Cove Beach and South Head Heritage Trail' sign downhill along Cliff Street. The road soon leads to the signposted 'Camp Cove car park' at the intersection with Victoria St.



Continue straight: From the signposted 'Camp Cove Car Park', this walk follows the 'No Through Road' sign to the end of 'Cliff St'. The footpath leads past a 'Camp Cove timeline' information sign then, at the end of the road, turns left, coming to the front of the kiosk at the northern end of Camp Cove Beach.



Camp Cove

Camp Cove is home to a lovely, yellow sand, north-east facing beach. The cove is on the protected side of South Head and is a popular spot for swimming and relaxing on the beach. At the northern end of the beach is a kiosk, toilet block and an entrance to Sydney Harbour National Park.

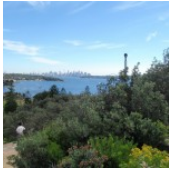
The cove was an important location to the Cadigal (Gadigal) people who gathered fresh water, shellfish, launched their canoes and buried some of their people nearby.

This cove is also believed to be the first landing place for Europeans in 1788. The name Camp Cove was given during that landing and appears on the earliest maps of Sydney Harbour.

Camp Cove Beach to Cannon 0.1km 3 mins **Optional Side Trip:**

(From 1.43 km) Veer right: From the front of Camp Cove Beach kiosk, this walk crosses the beach (keeping the water to your left) and climbs up the timber staircase. From the intersection at the top of the stairs, this walk continues straight, along the timber boardwalk that soon turns into a concrete path. The path soon comes to a wide, cobbled sandstone path that leads up a disused cannon, gun emplacement and great harbour views.

(Retrace your steps back to the main track, then veer right to continue along this walk.)



Cannon

This cannon was placed here prior to 1890, along with the rest of this gun emplacement and rifle walls. The emplacement was designed to protect a military jetty and boat shed from the threat of an invasion. The 'Cobblestone Road' beside the cannon was built during the late 1870s or early 1880s and extends from the jetty in Camp Cove up to Hornby Road above. The road was built to carry supplies and ordnance from Camp Cove to the various military installations on south head. [More info](#)



Camp Cove Beach to Green (Laings) Point Park 0.3km 5 mins

(From 1.43 km) Turn left: From the northern end of Camp Cove Beach, in front of the kiosk, this walk heads along the sand (or the footpath) to the far end of the beach, keeping the water to your right. At the far end of the beach, the walk comes to an intersection with a couple of other tracks.

Turn right: From the southern end of Camp Cove Beach, this walk heads up the timber staircase, keeping the beach and water to your right. At the top of the stairs, this walk follows the footpath up the steps through the open parkland to find a monument commemorating the landing of Governor Phillip in 1788 just below the toilet block.



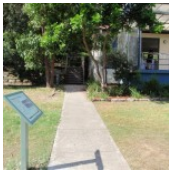
Green Point Park

Also known as Laings Point, Green Point is a headland on the inside of South Head. The park (at the end of Pacific St) is inside the National Park and is on sloped ground. There is a toilet, great water views, an open grassy area, bench seats and a monument. The monument reminds visitors that Cove Beach (just below) was the first landing place for Governor Phillip in 1788. The park is a pleasant place to rest and is sometimes hired for weddings. A cottage at the top can also be hired from NPWS to make a weekend of your adventures.



Green (Laings) Point Park to Green (Laings) Point 0.1km 2 mins

(From 1.71 km) Veer right: From the monument commemorating the landing of Governor Phillip in 1788, in the middle of the park, this walk heads downhill diagonally across the grassy area, keeping the water ahead and to your right. The walk then follows the steps down between the gap in the bushes and across the grass to find a tall sandstone monument and an information sign about the 'World War II Anti-Torpedo Boom' at Green (Laings) Point, beside the water.



Green (Laings) Point

Green (Laings) Point is an open grassland reserve with extensive harbour views. The western tip of the point is still home to many relics, reminding visitors that this area played a significant role in the 1480m anti-submarine net that spanned the harbour entrance, built in 1942. The other end of the net attached to Georges Head. Midway through construction, in May 1942, was when the three Japanese midget submarines entered and attacked vessels in the harbour. From this headland, there are still some preserved parts of the net's construction, including the winch house foundations, the anti-motor torpedo boat defensive battery entrance and another battery. There is also an information sign with more details about the history of the area. [More info](#)



Green (Laings) Point to End of Pacific St 0.1km 3 mins

(From 1.8 km) Continue straight: From the 'World War II Anti-Torpedo Boom' information sign, this walk heads along the grass away from the tall sandstone monument, keeping the water on your right. The walk follows the worn path between the bushes then between the two bunkers, and then across the next grassy clearing towards the house. Near the house, the walk turns left and heads up the hill then steps to find the end of Pacific St.



End of Pacific St to Int of Cove and Short Sts 0.4km 5 mins

(From 1.92 km) Turn right: From the end of Pacific St, this walk heads downhill along the road. The road soon bends right and comes to an intersection with Victoria St and the signposted 'Marine Biological Station Park' (on your left). Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads downhill, the wrong way along Pacific Street past the 'no entry' signs. The road soon leads past the signposted 'Victoria Wharf Reserve' (on your right) and continues along the road, soon turning right into Cove St. The walk follows the footpath that soon leads down a ramp, coming to an intersection just below the intersection of Cove and Short Streets.



Int of Cove and Short Sts to Watsons Bay Wharf 0.2km 4 mins

(From 2.28 km) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk heads down the path and steps, towards the water. Here the walk turns left and follows the footpath along the back of Watsons Bay Beach, between the boats and the houses. Soon the walk passes 'Doyles Restaurant' to find 'Watsons Bay Wharf'.



The Gap Bluff and Green Point loop

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