



**NSW**

# **Great Walks**

Find your path in a  
NSW national park



**#NSWParks**

# NSW Great Walks

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The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is creating a network of spectacular multi-day walks across NSW.

These extraordinary walking experiences give people a chance to connect with nature in some of the state's most breathtaking landscapes.

More people than ever before are looking for opportunities to go walking in national parks. Bushwalking is fun and supports good physical and mental health.

The NSW Great Walks will deliver exciting new bushwalking opportunities and drive economic growth in regional communities.

The walks will also help build a legacy of support for conservation. The more people who visit national parks, the more people who fall in love with nature and appreciate the need to protect and restore our environment.

## NSW Great Walks are designed to:

- celebrate and raise awareness about the natural environment and cultural heritage
- enhance the status of NSW as a walking destination nationally and internationally
- improve the quality and range of walking experiences offered in NSW national parks
- deliver economic benefits for regional NSW
- enhance public support for conservation
- support visitation by a diverse cross-section of the community including less experienced walkers
- ensure visitation is ecologically sustainable by providing infrastructure that minimises environmental impacts.



## What is a Great Walk?

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service defines its Great Walks as:

- multi-day walking experiences of 2 or more days
- predominantly located within national parks
- featuring on- or off-park overnight accommodation options enroute.

# Benefits of Great Walks

## People

Research shows that walking in nature improves physical and mental health, self-confidence, resilience and social connection.

Walking in nature is extremely popular and the most common form of exercise and recreation undertaken in Australia.

Over **14 million** Australians regularly participate in walking for exercise and **5.5 million** go hiking or bushwalking. More than **90%** of people in NSW are interested in walking in national parks.

The NSW Great Walks support and enhance this strong community interest.

## Environment

The NSW Great Walks invite people from all walks of life into national parks for a memorable experience that is a gateway to caring for the natural world.

People may arrive as visitors, but they will leave as conservationists.

NSW national parks welcome more than 60 million visitors annually and this number is growing.

Proactive management of visitation is essential to protect our national parks.

The NSW Great Walks will provide facilities and infrastructure to cater for increasing visitation and minimise environmental impacts.

## NSW Great Walks are designed to:

- deliver resilient and durable walking tracks
- avoid environmentally sensitive areas
- disperse crowds across the state
- channel visitors through landscapes safely and sustainably
- provide infrastructure to meet future population growth and withstand severe weather events.



Photo: Jared Lyons/DPE

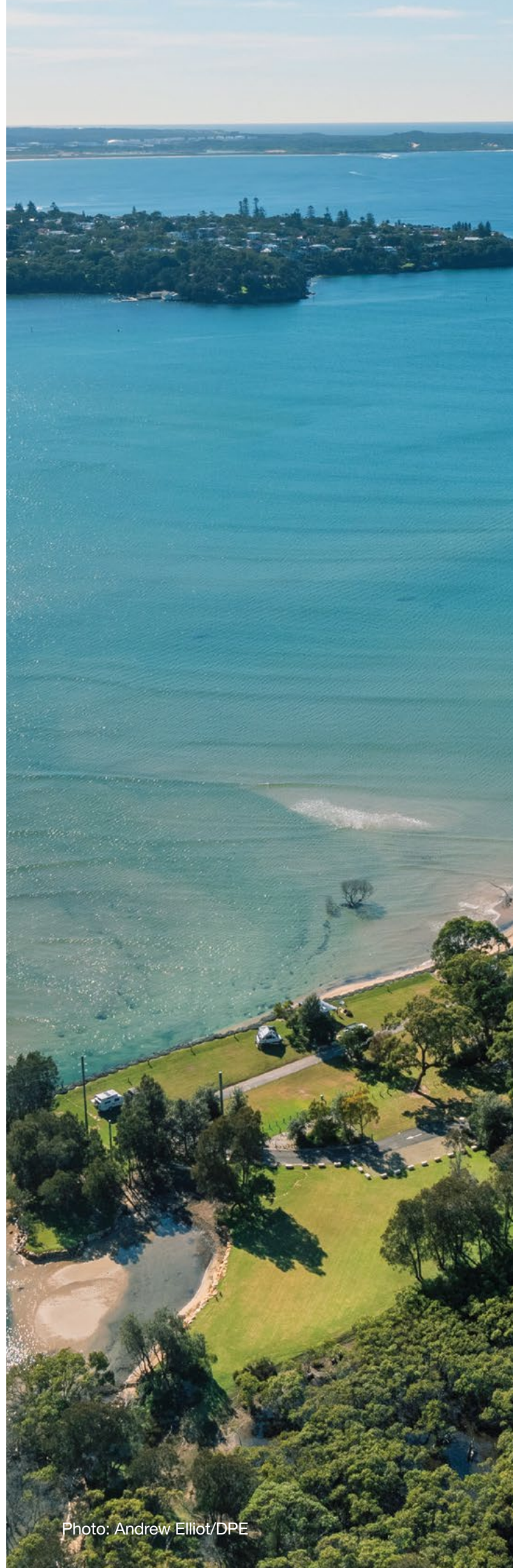


Photo: Andrew Elliot/DPE



## Spotlight on... Great Southern Walk

- ✓ 67 km – 5 days/4 nights
- ✓ Located in Royal National Park, Kamay Botany Bay National Park and the Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area
- ✓ 4 overnight locations with camping platforms, basic hiker huts and camp kitchens
- ✓ Linking existing tracks and campgrounds to create a new experience along the popular Greater Sydney coastline
- ✓ Providing resilient, eco-friendly infrastructure for a high volume of walkers
- ✓ Experience dramatic coastal cliffs, sweeping vistas and tall escarpment forests

## Economy

National parks play a vital role in the NSW visitor economy, generating **\$18 billion** of economic activity annually and supporting **74,000** direct and indirect jobs (2018).

Over **75%** of this activity is outside Sydney – national parks deliver important and sustained economic benefits to regional NSW.

The Visitor Economy Strategy 2030 identifies the development of nature-based experiences – particularly iconic walks – as key to delivering the state's tourism goals.

NSW Great Walks will build the reputation of NSW as a destination for nature-based tourism and walking holidays.

These multi-day experiences will attract domestic and international visitors and help create sustainable and resilient regional economies.

## Health and accessibility

Everyone should have the opportunity to experience the mental and physical health benefits of spending time in nature.

The NSW Government is making a significant investment to improve the accessibility of walking tracks throughout the state.

While the terrain in national parks can make it challenging to provide accessible walks, we make appropriate sections of our NSW Great Walks as accessible as possible.

These multi-day walks are also designed for those who prefer not to walk long distances or carry equipment by offering overnight options.

NSW Great Walks make bushwalking more accessible for the whole community, from experienced walkers interested in roughing it in the wilderness to people who want gentler options with comfortable accommodation.



Photo: Jared Lyons/DPE

# Great Walks in NSW national parks

There are currently **13 Great Walks** established or in development across NSW. These walks constitute **632 km**. There are **2,950 km** of walking tracks in NSW national parks.

| Great Walks                                   | Distance         | Days/nights     | Overnight options                                                           | Status           |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk</b>          | 46 km            | 4 days/3 nights | Huts/campgrounds                                                            | In development ● |
| <b>Gibraltar-Washpool World Heritage Walk</b> | 45 km            | 4 days/3 nights | Campgrounds                                                                 | Operating ●      |
| <b>Gidjoom Gulganyi Walk</b>                  | 39 km            | 4 days/3 nights | Campgrounds                                                                 | In development ● |
| <b>Grand Cliff Top Walk</b>                   | 20 km            | 2 days/1 night  | Off-park accommodation                                                      | Operating ●      |
| <b>Great Southern Walk</b>                    | 67 km            | 5 days/4 nights | Huts/campgrounds                                                            | In development ● |
| <b>Green Gully Track</b>                      | 65 km            | 4 days/5 nights | Cabins – restored stockman's quarters                                       | Operating ●      |
| <b>Light to Light Walk</b>                    | 34 km            | 3 days/2 nights | Huts/campgrounds                                                            | In development ● |
| <b>Murramarang South Coast Walk</b>           | 34 km            | 3 days/2 nights | Campgrounds                                                                 | Operating ●      |
| <b>Nadgee Wilderness Walk</b>                 | 55 km            | 4 days/3 nights | Campgrounds                                                                 | Operating ●      |
| <b>Snowies Alpine Walk</b>                    | 55 km            | 4 days/3 nights | Ski resort accommodation                                                    | In development ● |
| <b>Tomaree Coastal Walk</b>                   | 27 km            | 2 days/1 night  | Off-park accommodation                                                      | Operating ●      |
| <b>Wollemi to Gardens of Stone Walk</b>       | 90 km (estimate) | 5 days/4 nights | In development (campgrounds, on-park bush camps and off-park accommodation) | In development ● |
| <b>Yuraygir Coastal Walk</b>                  | 65 km            | 5 days/4 nights | Campgrounds, remote self-reliant camping, off-park accommodation            | Operating ●      |

**Note:** Days/nights are suggestions only. Walks can often be done in sections with distance determined by walkers.

# NSW Great Walks

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Photo: Branden Bodman/DPE



**Gidjuum  
Gulganyi Walk**  
39 km

**Gibraltar-Washpool World Heritage Walk**  
45 km

**Yuraygir  
Coastal Walk**  
65 km

**Dorrig Escarpment Great Walk**  
46 km

**Green Gully Track**  
65 km

**Tomaree Coastal Walk**  
27 km

**Wollemi to Gardens of Stone Walk**  
90 km

**Grand Cliff Top Walk**  
20 km

**Sydney**

**Great Southern Walk**  
67 km

**Murramarang South Coast Walk**  
34 km

**Snowies  
Alpine Walk**  
55 km

**Light to Light Walk** 34 km

**Nadgee Wilderness Walk** 55 km

# Guiding principles

The NSW Great Walks are designed for people with varying levels of fitness, experience and knowledge.

## Guiding principles considered when developing Great Walks include:

- walks may be enjoyed self-guided or with optional support services such as vehicle and pack transfers, meals and tours
- accommodation in national parks may be a combination of camping, semi-permanent bush camps or low-impact hiker huts, with off-park accommodation also utilised on some walks
- low-cost camping is provided as an option in combination with any new hut-style accommodation
- hut-style accommodation and campgrounds are designed to the highest sustainability standards
- tracks are safe, sustainable and help protect the environment
- single-day and half-day walk options are offered to enhance accessibility
- cultural interpretation is developed with Aboriginal people
- any net revenue is reinvested into the management of national parks including infrastructure maintenance.



Photo: Melissa Findley/DPE

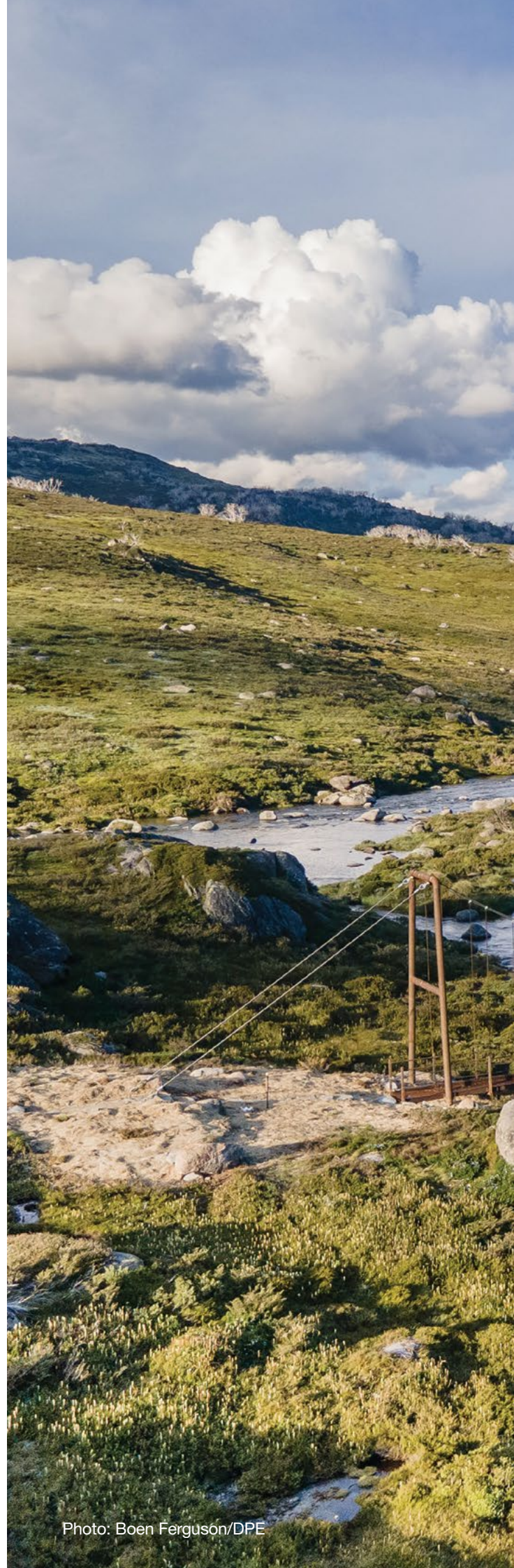


Photo: Boen Ferguson/DPE

## Spotlight on... Snowies Alpine Walk

- ✓ 55 km – 4 days/3 nights
- ✓ Located in Kosciuszko National Park – a popular destination with 3 million visitors annually
- ✓ Upgrades to existing walking tracks and construction of new tracks
- ✓ Experience walking across the alpine roof of Australia
- ✓ Includes summiting Australia's highest peak – Mount Kosciuszko at 2,228 m
- ✓ Re-routing 1.7 km of track to protect the extremely rare Windswept Feldmark plant community
- ✓ New raised walkways to protect alpine bogs, threatened reptiles and the mountain pygmy-possum
- ✓ Enhancing opportunities for summer tourism to create year-round employment
- ✓ Ski resort accommodation available – delivering economic benefits to alpine villages



## Spotlight on... Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk

- ✓ 56 km – 4 days/3 nights
- ✓ Located in Dorrigo National Park
- ✓ Upgrades to existing walking tracks and construction of new tracks
- ✓ Complemented by new Arc Rainforest Centre with fully accessible spiral walkway from the canopy to the forest floor – Australia's most accessible Gondwana Rainforest experience
- ✓ 3 communal, low-impact hiker huts and camping areas with tent platforms
- ✓ Additional shorter walking options for new walkers to experience World Heritage rainforest, majestic waterfalls and abundant wildlife
- ✓ Major drawcard for the North Coast attracting new visitors and boosting economic activity

[rainforests.org.au](#)



## Aboriginal and local partnerships

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is committed to expanding Aboriginal joint management arrangements and supporting Aboriginal employment and business development.

Aboriginal businesses will be invited to explore partnership opportunities and to offer services which enhance NSW Great Walks. This may include joint ventures for the provision of campground or hut management and partnerships for the provision of interpretation and guiding services.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is committed to supporting regional economies and employment, and will work with tour operators, transport providers and other businesses to provide optional support services on the NSW Great Walks.



Photo: Jessica Taunton/DPE



Photo: David Finnegan/DPE

# Future investment

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The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service will identify opportunities for additional Great Walks at suitable locations.

Locations will be chosen to disperse visitors across the state, relieving pressure on high-visitation national parks and boosting economic benefits for regions.

New walks will seek to broaden the diversity of landscapes that visitors can explore and strive to cater for all levels of skill and fitness.

Consultation with local communities will inform the selection of additional locations.

When developing new walks, local partnerships that maximise economic, social and cultural benefits for Aboriginal custodians will be prioritised.

New walks will link to key local environmental and cultural themes or projects in a manner that promotes awareness and support for conservation.

Rigorous environmental and cultural assessments will ensure any new Great Walks, including tracks and accommodation options, are designed to have minimal impact on the environment, consistent with best-practice sustainability/design criteria.

Community members and stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide feedback and input into new Great Walks during the master planning process.

## Consultation and information

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Consultation with stakeholders and communities is important when developing NSW Great Walks.

Plans and design concepts are placed on public exhibition for community feedback and interested community members can sign up for project updates.

For more information or to get involved, visit **[environment.nsw.gov.au](https://environment.nsw.gov.au)**.



Photo: E Sheargold/DPE



Photo: David Finnegan/DPE



## Spotlight on... Grand Cliff Top Walk

- ✓ 20 km – 2 days/1 night
- ✓ Located in Blue Mountains National Park – most visited NSW national park with more than 8 million visitors annually
- ✓ Created from existing tracks – track upgrades and signage only
- ✓ Off-park accommodation available – delivering economic benefits to local villages
- ✓ Providing resilient infrastructure for a high volume of walkers
- ✓ Rebuilding 100-year-old tracks with sandstone to last another 100 years
- ✓ Accessible for all ages
- ✓ Showcasing some of the world's most rugged and beautiful mountain scenery
- ✓ Developed in partnership with Blue Mountains City Council

**For more information visit  
[environment.nsw.gov.au](https://environment.nsw.gov.au)  
or call 1300 072 757  
(13000 PARKS)**

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Department of Planning and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124

Email: [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)  
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