

Old Great North Road - World Heritage walk

Dharug National Park



Fire affected area

Some areas of this park were affected by fire in 2019/2020. You'll notice some changes to the landscape, as well as signs of recovery. Some areas may remain closed for longer to allow habitat to recover or because we're repairing park infrastructure. [Stay safe with these after-fire tips for visitors.](#)

Overview

Old Great North Road – World Heritage walk highlights a historic convict-built road with scenic river views, via Finchs Line, in Dharug National Park.

Where [Dharug National Park](#)

Distance 9km loop

Time suggested 3hrs 30min - 4hrs 30min

Grade  [Grade 4](#)

Trip Intention Form It's a good idea to let someone know where you're going. Fill in a [trip intention form](#) to send important details about your trip to your emergency contact.

Price Free

What to bring Drinking water, hat, sunscreen

Please note

- The weather in this area can be extreme and unpredictable, so please ensure you're well-prepared for your visit.
- Bikes need to be walked down Devines Hill and the walking track section of Finchs Line.

Old Great North Road - World Heritage walk features a historic convict-built, some in chains, road overlooking the Hawkesbury River, in Dharug National Park. Returning via Finchs Line, this moderately steep track is popular with families and history buffs with some bushwalking experience.

Starting on [Devines Hill loop](#), you'll pass the quarry, with historic graffiti carved in the rocks by convicts long gone. You can almost hear the sound of picks striking the blocks and the clinking of leg irons. Marvel at the craftsmanship of the beautifully preserved stonework that includes towering stone buttresses, culverts and even a curved wall. Unpack a picnic along the way and soak up the tranquil bush setting with scenic river views. Round off your day with a night under the stars at [Mill Creek campground](#), only a short drive away.

Download the [Convict Road app](#) to learn about the hardships of the convicts who constructed the road. The app features two walks, short films about the convict experience, and expert commentary. Learn more about the [World Heritage listing](#) of Old Great North Road.

Take a virtual tour of Old Great North Road - World Heritage walk captured with [Google Street View Trekker](#).

Local alerts

For the latest updates on fires, closures and other alerts in this area, see <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/old-great-north-road-world-heritage-walk/local-alerts>

General enquiries

National Parks Contact Centre

 7am to 7pm daily

 1300 072 757 (13000 PARKS) for the cost of a local call within Australia excluding mobiles

 parks.info@environment.nsw.gov.au

Park info

 in [Dharug National Park](#) in the [Sydney and surrounds](#) region

 Dharug National Park is always open but may have to close at times due to poor weather or fire danger.

Visitor info

All the practical information you need to know about Old Great North Road - World Heritage walk.

Track grading

 **Grade 4** [Learn more about the grading system](#)

Features of this track

Time 3hrs 30min - 4hrs 30min	Quality of markings Limited signage	Gradient Short steep hills
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Distance 9km loop	Steps Many steps	Quality of path Rough track, many obstacles	Experience required Some bushwalking experience recommended
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Getting there and parking

Old Great North Road - World Heritage walk starts at Devines Hill, 500m west of Wisemans Ferry, in Dharug National Park. To get there:

From Gosford

- Follow the signs to Wisemans Ferry
- Drive along Wisemans Ferry Road
- Pass the ferry crossing and drive approximately 500m to the bottom of Devines Hill

From Sydney

- Follow the signs to Wisemans Ferry
- Driving along Old Northern Road
- Drive through the town of Wisemans Ferry and cross the Hawkesbury River on the Wisemans Ferry
- Turn left and drive approximately 500m to the bottom of Devines Hill or alternatively, park on the southern side and take the ferry over on foot.

Park entry points

- Devines Hill loop trackhead

Parking

Parking is limited near Devines Hill and Finchs Line, especially on weekends. It's recommended to park at Wisemans Ferry and travel across the ferry as a pedestrian.

Best times to visit

There are lots of great things waiting for you in Dharug National Park. Here are some of the highlights.

Autumn

The water has warmed up nicely by late summer so autumn is great for kayaking and canoeing along the Hawkesbury river.

Spring

The spring months are perfect for enjoying more strenuous activities in the park, like the longer walks and mountain bike riding. It's also the perfect time to see wildflowers.

Winter

The park is still stunning in winter and walking on sunny days is very pleasant. It can be cold at night so bring warm gear if you're camping.

Weather, temperature and rainfall

Summer temperature

Average	Highest recorded
13°C and 27°C	42.9°C

Winter temperature

Average	Lowest recorded
8°C and 18°C	-0.1°C

Rainfall

Wettest month	Driest month	The area's highest recorded rainfall in one day
February and March	September	230.2mm

Maps and downloads

 [Old Great North Road - World Heritage walk factsheet](#)

Safety messages

Bushwalking safety

If you're keen to head out on a longer walk or a backpack camp, always be prepared. Read these [bushwalking safety tips](#) before you set off on a walking adventure in national parks.

If you're bushwalking in this park, it's a good idea to bring a topographic map and compass, or GPS.

Mobile safety

Dial Triple Zero (000) in an emergency. Download the [Emergency+](#) app before you visit, it helps emergency services locate you using your smartphone's GPS. Please note there is limited mobile phone reception in this park and you'll need mobile reception to call Triple Zero (000).

River and lake safety

The aquatic environment around rivers, lakes and lagoons can be unpredictable. If you're visiting these areas, take note of these [river and lake safety tips](#).

Prohibited



Pets

Pets and domestic animals (other than certified assistance animals) are not permitted. Find out which [regional parks allow dog walking](#) and see the [pets in parks policy](#) for more information.



Smoking

NSW national parks are [no smoking areas](#).

Learn more

Old Great North Road - World Heritage walk is in Dharug National Park. Here are just some of the reasons why this park is special:

Aboriginal heritage



Dharug National Park is the traditional Country of the Dharug Aboriginal people. Abundant in animal, plant and bird life, the area was a rich source of food, medicines and shelter. The park's diverse landscapes and all they contain feature in all aspects of Aboriginal culture and are associated with Dreaming stories and cultural learning that is still passed on today.

Rugged beauty



From the rugged bushland containing gang-gang cockatoos, satin bowerbirds and Lewin's honeyeaters to the sparkling waters of the creeks and the rich colours of the sandstone cliffs and formations, Dharug National Park offers a diverse range of landscapes. Bring your bike, bushwalk, camp by the creek, canoe on the Hawkesbury or make the most of the backdrop with your camera, there is so much to explore.

Step into Australia's past



Dharug National Park contains the Old Great North Road, one of 11 historic sites which form the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage property. It's a spectacular example of early colonial engineering and demonstrates the use of convict labour; up to 720 convicts - some in chains - worked on the road, which spanned 264km, connecting Sydney to the settlements of the Hunter Valley. Only 43km of the road remains relatively intact, running from Wisemans Ferry in the south to Mount Manning in the north and includes the oldest surviving stone bridges in mainland Australia. It makes a great walk to explore over two or three days or an exhilarating day's cycle.

 **Devines Hill loop** Head to Devines Hill loop in Dharug National Park, near Wisemans Ferry this weekend for a bike ride or walk along the historic World Heritage-listed Devines Hill loop.

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Plants and animals you may see

Animals



Superb lyrebird (*Menura novaehollandiae*)

With a complex mimicking call and an elaborate courtship dance to match, the superb lyrebird is one of the most spectacular Australian animals. A bird watching must-see, the superb lyrebird can be found in rainforests and wet woodlands across eastern NSW and Victoria.



Australian brush turkey (*Alectura lathami*)

The Australian brush turkey, also known as bush or scrub turkey, can be found in rainforests along eastern NSW. With a striking red head, blue-black plumage and booming call, these distinctive Australian birds are easy to spot while bird watching in several NSW national parks.



Common wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*)

A large, squat marsupial, the Australian common wombat is a burrowing mammal found in coastal forests and mountain ranges across NSW and Victoria. The only other remaining species of wombat in NSW, the endangered southern hairy-nosed wombat, was considered extinct until relatively recently.



Lace monitor (*Varanus varius*)

One of Australia's largest lizards, the carnivorous tree-dwelling lace monitor, or tree goanna, can grow to 2m in length and is found in forests and coastal tablelands across eastern Australia. These Australian animals are typically dark blue in colour with whitish spots or blotches.

Plants



Gymea lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*)

The magnificent Gymea lily is one of the most unusual Australian native plants, found only along the coast and surrounding bushland of the Sydney Basin, from Newcastle to Wollongong. In spring this giant lily shoots out spectacular red flowers that can reach heights of 2-4m.

Environments in this park



Eucalypt forest environments

Education resources (1)



Who cares about national parks?, Stage 2 (Years 3-4), Geography