




## Cape Baily track from visitor centre (return)



**3 hrs**      **Moderate track**

**8.9 km Return**      **↑ 175m**

**3**

This great return walk starts from the Discovery centre in Kurnell, and follows a series of bush tracks and service trails, that wind south through wooded forest, to the Cape Baily walking track. At about halfway, the track breaks into heath, winding in between hanging swamps and along the cliff tops to the Cape Baily Lighthouse. The lighthouse is a great spot for lunch before the return journey.

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### **Are you ready to have fun?**

Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. Check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating before setting out. Optional side trips and alternate routes noted are not included in this walks overall grade, length or time estimate. Please allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing this information but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury you may experience. Please take care, have fun - Happy Walking.

**Getting there** You can get to Carpark (gps: -34.0053, 151.2217) by car or bus. Car: Parking fees apply in the area.

This is a return walk, so you will finish back at the start.

Find up to date and more information including; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at <http://wild.tl/cbtfvc>

### **0 | Visitor Centre**

This visitors' centre can be found on Cape Solander Drive, inside Kamay Botany Bay National Park. It provides great information about the area's history and environment, plus there is a souvenir shop, where some simple food and drink is also available. A Trailrider is also available for free hire for people with limited mobility. There is a male & female toilet block on the eastern side of the Visitor Centre. And a large parking area in front.

### **0 | Carpark**

*(260 m 5 mins)* From the main exit of the Botany Bay Discovery Centre car park, the track heads south-east, out of the car park along the old service trail (Not on the Banks Solander Track). Partway along, the track passes over a small bridge. This is shortly before an intersection with Cape Solander Drive. Just across the road, another service trail begins.

Continue straight: From Cape Solander Dr, this walk heads south-east away from the discovery centre and along the management trail for approximately 200m until coming to an intersection with a sandy track on the left.

### **0.26 | Int of Kurnell Lookout and Muru Tracks**

*(440 m 10 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads south-west along the sandy track until coming to an intersection with another track on the left. Kurnell Lookout is at the top of the knoll at this intersection, view obstructed with trees. Continue straight: From the intersection at Kurnell Lookout, this walk heads south-west meandering along a narrow sandy bush track that has several small ups and downs. The track soon comes to an intersection with a wide management trail.

Turn left: From the intersection, the walk follows the main management trail to the south-east through the open ferny forest. Soon, the Yena trail meets the radar track (on the right).

### **0.7 | Int of Yena Servicetrail and link track**

*(480 m 8 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads south along a sandy bush track towards the water tank and radar tower. This is a very sandy trail, with several small ups and downs along the way to a 'T' intersection with a wide bush track - just to the west of here (approximately 5m), there is another intersection with a service trail.

### **1.17 | Int of Cape Baily and link track**

*(380 m 6 mins)* Turn left: From the intersection, the walk initially heads east, then turns right along the wide bush track, keeping the water tank and the radar on the right as it winds through the heath forest, coming to a four-way intersection with a wide management trail.

### **1.55 | Int of Cape Baily track and the radar service trail**

*(1.3 km 22 mins)* Veer left: From the intersection, the walk heads south (with the water tank directly behind) along the sandy bush track, and then along the rock-shelf until coming to an intersection marked by several arrows.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads south (keeping the ocean to the left, about 150m away) along the rock and the sandy track, through the low dense scrub. Along this part of the track, there are several sections where wind and water erosion has developed small holes along the rock shelf that give it a very interesting look. After some time, this walk passes a small bush track on the left (which heads out to the coast), and shortly after this, comes to an intersection with a service trail at Tabbigai Gap.

### **2.85 | Tabbigai Gap Track Int**

*(550 m 9 mins)* Veer left: From the Tabbigai Gap, this walk follows the clear, sandy track east (with the Tabbigai Gap on the left) up a short hill until it turns right at the small clearing. The track stays away from the ocean and soon comes to a large sand dune clearing. From the other end of the clearing, the walk follows the track south (ocean on the left) through the thick scrub, winding along until it rises up a hill to a long sand dune clearing. From the far end of this clearing, the walk follows the overgrown track through the thick scrub, until it widens out a little and continues south for a short distance, to the intersection in the pit of a sand dune, with a large hanging swamp on the right.

### **3.39 | Hanging Swamps**

There are a number of hanging swamps that can be found along the Cape Baily walk. They are home to a number of different plants and animals like reeds and frogs. Hanging swamps are formed on high ground when rainfall seeps out of surrounding hills and accumulates in a slight depression, over time forming a swamp. Interestingly, they are sometimes difficult to see from far away as the thick build up of reeds and other plant life often cover the water.

### **3.39 | Sand dune int**

*(950 m 18 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the narrow bush track that heads west to the top of the dunes. (From the top of the dune there are some great views of the hanging swamp straight ahead). The track then turns left and drops off the top of the sand dune, keeping the swamp on the right. The track then climbs a sandy hill to some more views before turning left and heading along a sandy track, through several more large sand dunes. After these dunes, the track starts to flatten out and widen, to head along to an intersection with a bush track (which heads to the lighthouse).

### **4.35 | Int of Cape Baily Lighthouse track**

*(80 m 2 mins)* Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the sandy bush track, heading up and away from the ocean. The track is relatively defined for most of the way, however in the last 20m the track becomes quite overgrown and a little less defined (the lighthouse is always visible). Once at the lighthouse, there are good views inland, however the views to the east are largely blocked by the high scrub.

### **4.43 | Cape Baily Lighthouse**

Established in 1950, the lighthouse was required so north-bound shipping could hug the coast and avoid the strong southerly currents further out to sea. This lighthouse can be found a stone's-throw from the Cape Baily coastal walk, about 1.5 kilometres north from the Joseph Banks Drive car park. [More info.](#)