

Bittangabee Bay to Green Cape Lighthouse



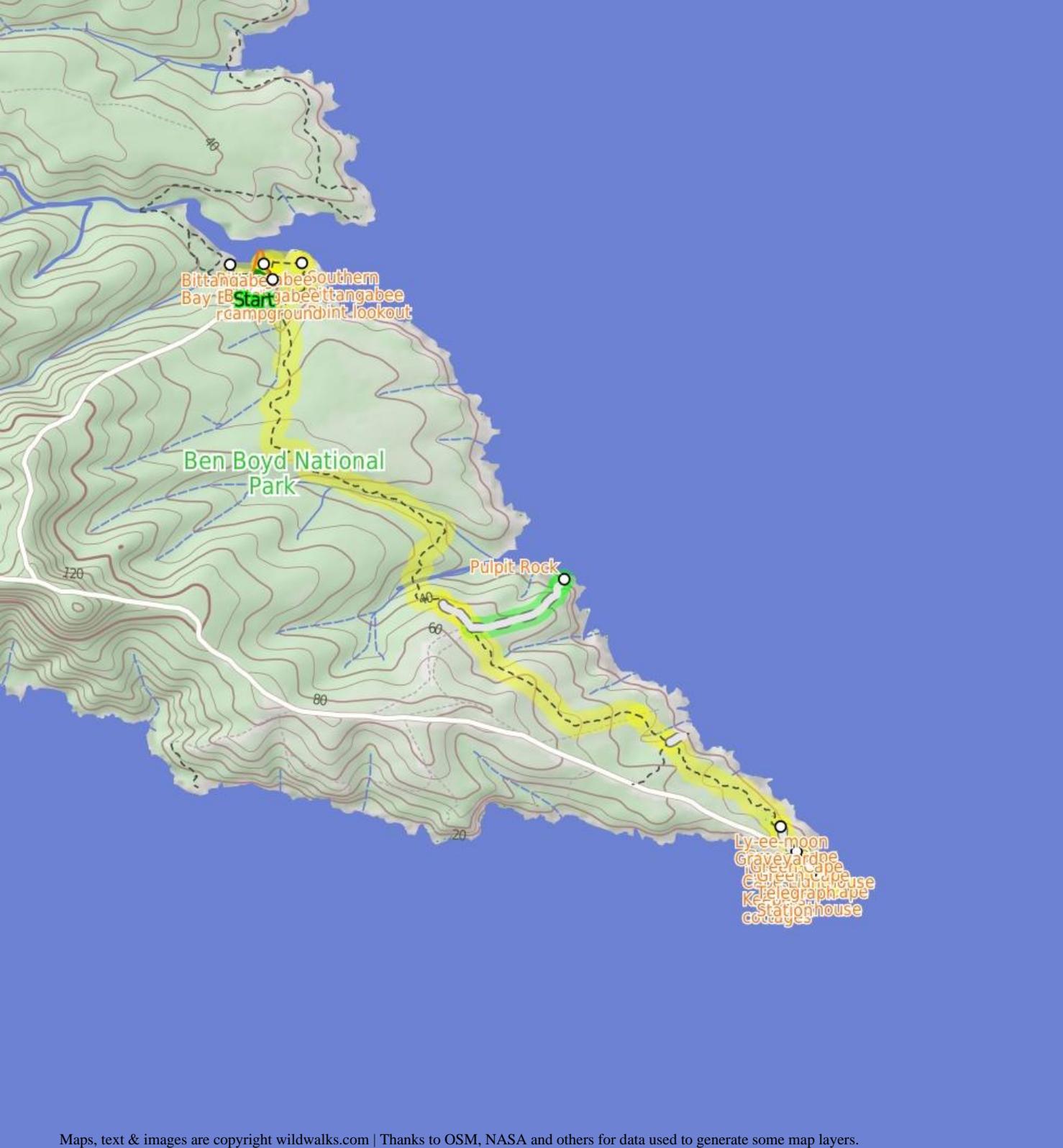
3 hrs

Hard track



8.5 km One way  **191m**

This is the final of the three formal sections of the classic Light to Light track. This walk starts at Bittangabee Bay, where walkers can explore the ruins and the scenic beach. The walk follows the coast through a variety of environments, mostly in open heath, taking full advantage of the coastal views. The walk explores a variety of natural splendours and human stories of triumph and tragedy. The walk finishes at the lighthouse on Green Cape.



Bittangabee campground

A popular beach-side campsite, Bittangabee campground is a bush campsite with a short walk to the nearby Bittangabee Bay. The bay has a beach and a couple of creeks. This is a great place to access the coastal walking track - there is also plenty of swimming, fishing and snorkeling. The area has some interesting history, with the ruins of the storehouse and Imlay Brothers' house worth exploring. There are some rainwater tanks, but these are not suitable for drinking so bring your own water.

Bittangabee Bay Beach

Bittangabee Bay Beach, Ben Boyd National Park, is a small beach at the south-western corner of the bay. The beach can be accessed by a short walk from Bittangabee picnic area in Ben Boyd National Park. The yellow sand beach has a small creek and lagoon behind. The beach also has rock platforms at each end and is fairly well-protected from swells, being tucked away in the bay. The historic storehouse is visible on the shore to the right.

Bittangabee Storehouse ruins

Bittangabee Storehouse ruins is located on the shore of Bittangabee Bay, near the campground, in Ben Boyd National Park. The concrete structure was built by Albert Aspinall (1839 - 1903) in 1881. The building was used to store material unloaded from ships onto a wooden jetty built at the same time. Aspinall then built a wooden tramway to move material and supplies to Green Cape to help in the construction of the lighthouse. The building is now a basic shell, missing roof, windows and a door. The concrete foundations of the timber wharf are still visible. Unfortunately, the building has been marred by graffiti, but is still worth the visit. [More info.](#)

Southern Bittangabee Point lookout

Southern Bittangabee Point lookout is an unofficial lookout on the southern headland forming the entrance to Bittangabee Bay in Ben Boyd National Park. The lookout is not fenced or signposted and does not have any facilities. The lookout provides a view across the mouth of Bittangabee Bay and a short way down the coast to the south. There is also a view of the red rock platform below, forming a picturesque contrast with the ocean on sunny days.

Before You walk

Bushwalking is fun and a wonderful way to enjoy our natural places. Sometimes things go bad, with a bit of planning you can increase your chance of having an enjoyable and safer walk. Before setting off on your walk check

- 1) Weather Forecast ([BOM South Coast District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Far South Coast](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ([Ben Boyd National Park](#))
- 4) Research the walk to check your party has the skills, fitness and equipment required
- 5) Agree to stay as a group and not leave anyone to walk solo

Think before you TREK

The 'Think before you TREK' program developed by NSW Police & NPWS promotes the benefits of planning ahead for your bushwalking trip by using an easy to remember acronym:

- T** Take adequate supplies of food, water, navigation and first aid equipment.
- R** Register your planned route and tell friends and family when you expect to return.
- E** Emergency beacon (PLB's) should be carried on walks with significant gaps in mobile coverage (check terrain profile).
- K** Keep to your planned route and follow the map and walking trails.

Topo Maps

The maps provided on wildwalks are helpful, but there are times where you may need maps covering a broader area. Maps that cover this walk include;

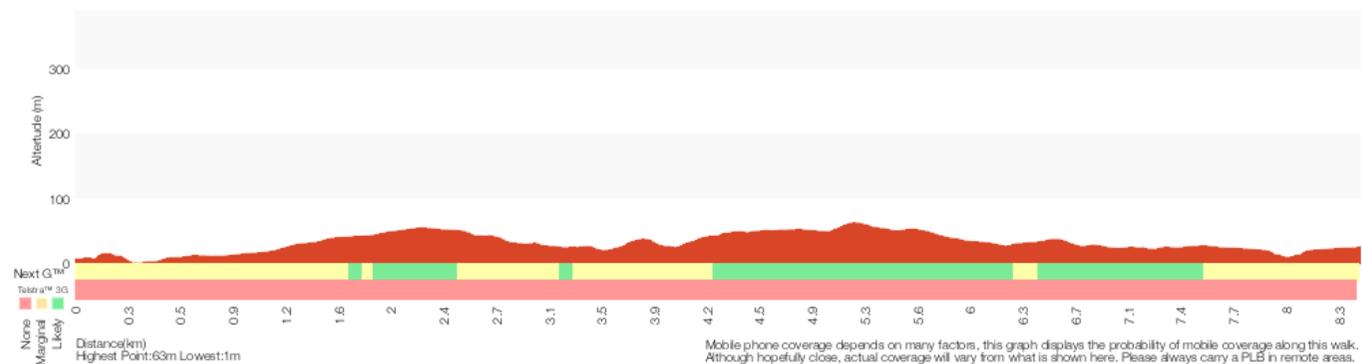
1:25 000 Map Series:88232N NARRABARBA, 88231S KIAH

1:100 000 Map Series:8923 GREEN CAPE

Grade

This walk has been graded using the AS 2156.1-2001. The overall grade of the walk is determined by the highest classification along the whole track.

 Grade 4/6 Hard track	
Length	8.5 km One way
Time	3 hrs
Quality of track	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
Signs	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
Experience Required	No experience required (1/6)
Weather	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)
Infrastructure	Limited facilities, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6)



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 walk's 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 Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Bittangabee Bay Picnic Area (gps: -37.2168, 150.0149). Car: A park entry fee is required for driving into the park.

Traveling by car is the only practical way to get back from Green Cape Lighthouse Car Park (gps: -37.2596, 150.048). Car: A park entry fee is required for driving into the park.

Find up to date and more information including; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at <http://wild.tl/1w>

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Bittangabee Bay Beach, Ben Boyd National Park, is a small beach at the south-western corner of the bay. The beach can be accessed by a short walk from Bittangabee picnic area in Ben Boyd National Park. The yellow sand beach has a small creek and lagoon behind. The beach also has rock platforms at each end and is fairly well-protected from swells, being tucked away in the bay. The historic storehouse is visible on the shore to the right.

0 | Bittangabee Bay Picnic Area

(320 m 8 mins) From the picnic area, the walk follows the sign to 'Camping Area 500m', keeping the car park on your right. The track leads below the road (above on the right) for some time, following the arrow markers to a signposted intersection next to the log road barriers.

Turn left: From the intersection, the walk follows the sign for 'Walking Track' (not the same direction as the 'Beach' arrow) down the hill. The track leads down the hill a short way to an arrow track marker.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk does not follow the arrow marker but heads straight down the hill towards the water. The walk steps down to the water's edge where there is a roofless building on the right. The walk follows around the building on the water side, to an information sign.

0.32 | Bittangabee Storehouse ruins

Bittangabee Storehouse ruins is located on the shore of Bittangabee Bay, near the campground, in Ben Boyd National Park. The concrete structure was built by Albert Aspinall (1839 - 1903) in 1881. The building was used to store material unloaded from ships onto a wooden jetty built at the same time. Aspinall then built a wooden tramway to move material and supplies to Green Cape to help in the construction of the lighthouse. The building is now a basic shell, missing roof, windows and a door. The concrete foundations of the timber wharf are still visible. Unfortunately, the building has been marred by graffiti, but is still worth the visit. [More info.](#)

0.32 | Bittangabee Storehouse Ruins

(220 m 4 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, the walk leads up the hill, keeping the bay on your left and the storehouse ruins behind on the right. The track veers right, up the hill to a signposted intersection.

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Walking Track' sign and arrow posts up the hill. The track winds through the heath and melaleuca for a short time, passing near the campsite (on the right) while following the arrow markers. The track leads closer to the sea on the left, to a clearing overlooking a rock shelf below at the sea and the mouth of Bittangabee Bay.

0.54 | Southern Bittangabee Point lookout

Southern Bittangabee Point lookout is an unofficial lookout on the southern headland forming the entrance to Bittangabee Bay in Ben Boyd National Park. The lookout is not fenced or signposted and does not have any facilities. The lookout provides a view across the mouth of Bittangabee Bay and a short way down the coast to the south. There is also a view of the red rock platform below, forming a picturesque contrast with the ocean on sunny days.

0.54 | Bittangabee Sth Headland Lookout

(3.8 km 1 hr 10 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the arrow markers around the headland, keeping the ocean to the left and the camping area to the right. The track soon comes to a set of wooden stairs. The walk heads down these stairs into the creek bed, and then up the stairs on the other side.

Continue straight: From the top of the stairs, this walk leads upstream of the creek, which is below on the right. The track follows this creek for some time, tending left away from it into the bush at times. The track winds slightly uphill for a while, then winds downhill to cross the rocky surface of another creek. The track heads up the hill and over the ridge before heading down to another creek bed. The track then leads up the hill to the cul-de-sac of a service trail.

4.36 | Int. Light to Light Walk and Pulpit Rock Rd Access

(260 m 4 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the track markers up the hill to a signposted intersection.

Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the track marker along the hillside, keeping the ocean on the left of the track. The track passes a few overgrown service trails on either side, as it continues on to the signposted intersection with the main service trail.

4.62 | Optional sidetrip to Pulpit Rock

(700 m 14 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows none of the signs but instead heads down the hill towards the sea. The track winds down through the heath to the one-way car park and toilet. The walk continues through to the far side of the car park, where there is a fenced lookout over the rocks.

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk heads down the stairs just near the lookout. The stairs lead onto the rock shelf, with stunning views to the north (left) and of waves crashing onto the rocks below. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn left.

4.62 | Pulpit Rock

Pulpit Rock is a large rock platform on the south-east coast of NSW, between Green Cape and Bittangabee in Ben Boyd National Park. The rock platform is a popular spot for rock fishing. Pulpit Rock is accessed via a staircase near the end of a service trail off Green Cape Rd. Near the car park is a pit toilet and garbage facilities. From the rock platform, there are great views north up the coast, with the red rock cliffs providing a spectacular highlight.

4.62 | Int. Light to Light Trk and Pulpit Rock Rd

(2.8 km 49 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows

the sign to 'Green Cape Lighthouse 2.5km' keeping the ocean on the left of the track. The track meanders through the heath, then turns left and slowly head down through the heath. The track leads to an arrow-marked intersection with a badly overgrown service trail, on both sides of the track.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads through the heath following the arrow marker, and keeping the ocean on the left of the track. The track leads through the heath and Banksias for a short time, coming to a slightly overgrown service trail.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk keeps the ocean on the left of the track as it winds through the heath and the Banksias. The track soon becomes surrounded by melaleuca trees, which have many fallen branches. The track continues to a signposted intersection for 'Ly-ee-moon Cemetery'.

7.39 | Ly-ee-moon Graveyard

The Ly-ee-moon Graveyard is a stark reminder of the horrific accident on the night of May 31st, 1886, when 71 men, women and children lost their lives. The white stone and single cross marks the positions of the unnamed graves. The nearby plaque names the people who lost their lives - sadly some names where not known and these people are remembered only by comments such as 'one who had a German accent'. During the dark night, the lighthouse keeper and assistant heroically rescued 16 people from the sea, and were left to listen to cries for help though the night of other people who could not be saved. The mother of Blessed Mary MacKillop, the first Australian to be beatified by the Catholic church, was one of those lost during the night. The fast and normally reliable ship, operated by the Australian Steam Navigation Company, was a single screw ship converted from a paddle steamer when it was brought to Australia in 1876. The graveyard is about 300m north-west of the Green Cape lighthouse, which was operational at the time the SS Ly-ee-moon struck the reef and sunk. [More info.](#)

7.39 | Ly-ee-moon Graveyard

(250 m 4 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the arrow marker through the melaleuca trees, away from the 'Ly-ee-moon Cemetery' sign (behind on the left). The track winds through the trees for a short time, to open out onto the clearing of the Green Cape Lighthouse car park. The walk continues to the far end of the car park where there are signs.

7.63 | Green Cape

Green Cape is a headland at the southern end of Ben Boyd National Park, forming the northern head of Disaster Bay. The cape's traditional owners are the people of the Yuin nation, from whom there remains evidence of a number of camps in the area. The cape was named 'Green Point' by Matthew Flinders in 1798. The area began its notorious fame in 1802 when eight of Flinders' crew disappeared when fetching water, in what he then appropriately named 'Disaster Bay'. The Imlay brothers and Boyd both established whaling business in the area in the early to mid 1800's, leaving several buildings in the park. There were many shipwrecks in the surrounding waters, the most famous being the SS Ly-ee-moon, whose victims are buried on the cape. The most visible feature on the cape is the 29-metre high lighthouse that is still operational today. NPWS run tours on the site in the middle of the day from Thursdays to Monday - the tour takes about 1 hour and costs \$20 per family. There is a pit toilet at the car park at the end of Green Cape Road. Accommodation is also available in the renovated lighthouse keeper cottages. [More info.](#)

7.63 | Green Cape Lighthouse Car Park

(100 m 2 mins) Continue straight: From the car park, the walk follows the 'Walkway to Lighthouse' signs along the grass and through the heath. The walk comes to a fence which it follows to the corner (keeping the fence on the left). The track then continues, coming to be opposite a small white cottage signposted as 'Telegraph Station'.

7.73 | Green Cape Telegraph Station

Green Cape Telegraph Station was established in 1882. The station acted as a relay station, re-sending ship-to-shore messages from boats passing by. Ships, and communication staff on Green Cape, would use semaphore flags to communicate a message. When required, the messages could also be relayed using Morse code. The telegraph station is a white concrete building with a tin roof. The building has a blue painted base and is less than 100m north of Green Cape Lighthouse in Ben Boyd National Park. [More info.](#)

7.73 | Cape Lighthouse Keepers' cottages

The Cape Lighthouse Keepers' cottages is a large concrete building near Green Cape Lighthouse in Ben Boyd National Park. There are two cottages that have been refurbished, each sleeping up to 6 guests and boasting 3.5 stars. Each cottage has a fully equipped kitchen, dining room, bathroom, lounge room (with sofa bed), Master bedroom (Queen) and second bedroom (2 singles). The price starts from \$200 a night per cottage. Bookings are essential, for more info call NPWS on 02 6495 5000 [More info.](#)

7.73 | Green Cape Lighthouse Telegraph Station

(170 m 3 mins) Continue straight: From the Telegraph Station, the walk continues down the hill towards the lighthouse. This walk keeps the houses and fence on the left of the track, as it passes large solar panels to your right. The track continues to a gate with a 'No Entry' sign, outside the lighthouse.

7.9 | Green Cape Lighthouse

Green Cape Lighthouse is a majestic, 29 metre tall, white octagon-shaped, concrete and blue stone monolith, at the southern tip of Ben Boyd National Park. The lighthouse construction was tendered in 1880 and Albert Aspinall started construction in 1881. He built a timber tram line from Bittangabee Bay to transport materials. After having to dig footing much deeper than expected, in addition to dealing with workers' disputes, Aspinall went broke and his creditors completed the project. The original lantern was oil-fired and was visible 19NM out to sea. Today, the lighthouse still operates with a solar-powered electric light. The lighthouse is open to the public via daily tours, and the surrounding grounds are well worth the time to explore. [More info.](#)

7.9 | Green Cape Lighthouse entry gate

(140 m 3 mins) Continue straight: From Green Cape Lighthouse, the walk heads down the hill towards the white metal tower. The track passes the metal tower (on the left of the track) to then pass a helicopter landing pad on the right. The walk continues down through the grass and heath to a rough track to the right. This is before the weather station.

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk heads down the ridge, away from the lighthouse, passing a weather station to the right of the track. The walk then continues down the hill, passing an information sign before coming to the partially-fenced lookout over Green Cape.

8.04 | Green Cape Lookout

The lookout at the point of Green Cape, at the southern end of Ben Boyd National Park, provides great views out to sea and along the coast. On the right, the view extends across Disaster Bay to Nadgee Nature Reserve and down into Victoria. To the left, there are views north along rugged sea cliffs and views of Green Cape Lighthouse and accommodation. An information sign at the lookout tells some of the story of the Ly-ee-moon tragedy. The lookout is slightly elevated on a steel platform, and is unfenced. There is a leaning post to rest against whilst taking in the view.

8.04 | Green Cape Lookout

(410 m 8 mins) Turn around: From the lookout, this walk heads up the ridge towards the lighthouse. The track heads up the hill, passing an information sign, and then a weather station on the left. This walk soon comes to a rough

track on the left, which leads down to the rock platforms below.

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk heads up the hill towards the lighthouse. The track heads past a helicopter landing pad (on the left of the track) and past a metal tower on the right. The walk continues to follow the wire fence on the right, until the 'No Entry' sign on the gate of the lighthouse.

Continue straight: From the gate, the walk heads up the hill towards the large solar panels. This walk keeps the houses and fence on the right of the track as it leads near the corner in the fence, where a signpost opposite states that a small white cottage structure is the 'Telegraph Station'.

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk heads in the opposite direction to the lighthouse, following the fence around the corner and then down the track through the heath. The walk continues down the grassy hill to the car park.







WildWalks

Ben Boyd National Park

Pulpit Rock

Green Cape Road

Ly-ee-moon Graveyard

Green Cape Telegraphhouse

Green Cape Lookout

Bittangabee Bay Beach
Starangit lookout
Starangit campground

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Summary navigation sheet for the Bittangabee Bay to Green Cape Lighthouse



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
0.00	Bittangabee Bay Picnic Area -37.2168,150.0149 (GR Kiah, 351769)	13 -19	320 m 8 mins	From the picnic area, the walk follows the sign to 'Camping Area 500m', keeping the car park on your right.
0.32	Bittangabee Storehouse Ruins -37.2159,150.0167 (GR Kiah, 353770)	8 0	220 m 4 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, the walk leads up the hill, keeping the bay on your left and the storehouse ruins behind on the right.
0.54	Bittangabee Sth Headland Lookout -37.2159,150.019 (GR Kiah, 355770)	99 -62	3.8 km 1 hr 10 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the arrow markers around the headland, keeping the ocean to the left and the camping area to the right.
4.36	Int. Light to Light Walk and Pulpit Rock Rd Access -37.2412,150.0273 (GR Kiah, 363742)	6 -2	260 m 4 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the track markers up the hill to a signposted intersection.
4.62	Int. Light to Light Trk and Pulpit Rock Rd -37.2429,150.0289 (GR Kiah, 365740)	3 -49	700 m 14 mins	Optional sidetrip to Pulpit Rock. Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows none of the signs but instead heads down the hill towards the sea.
4.62	Int. Light to Light Trk and Pulpit Rock Rd -37.2429,150.0289 (GR Kiah, 365740)	44 -70	2.8 km 49 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the sign to 'Green Cape Lighthouse 2.5km' keeping the ocean on the left of the track.
7.39	Ly-ee-moon Graveyard -37.2577,150.047 (GR Narrabarba, 381725)	5 -3	250 m 4 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the arrow marker through the melaleuca trees, away from the 'Ly-ee-moon Cemetery' sign (behind on the left).
7.63	Green Cape Lighthouse Car Park -37.2596,150.048 (GR Narrabarba, 382722)	0 -2	100 m 2 mins	Continue straight: From the car park, the walk follows the 'Walkway to Lighthouse' signs along the grass and through the heath.
7.73	Green Cape Lighthouse Telegraph Station -37.2604,150.0483 (GR Narrabarba, 382722)	0 -3	170 m 3 mins	Continue straight: From the Telegraph Station, the walk continues down the hill towards the lighthouse.
7.90	Green Cape Lighthouse entry gate -37.2616,150.0494 (GR Narrabarba, 383720)	0 -11	140 m 3 mins	Continue straight: From Green Cape Lighthouse, the walk heads down the hill towards the white metal tower.
8.04	Green Cape Lookout -37.2621,150.0507 (GR Narrabarba, 385720)	16 0	410 m 8 mins	Turn around: From the lookout, this walk heads up the ridge towards the lighthouse.