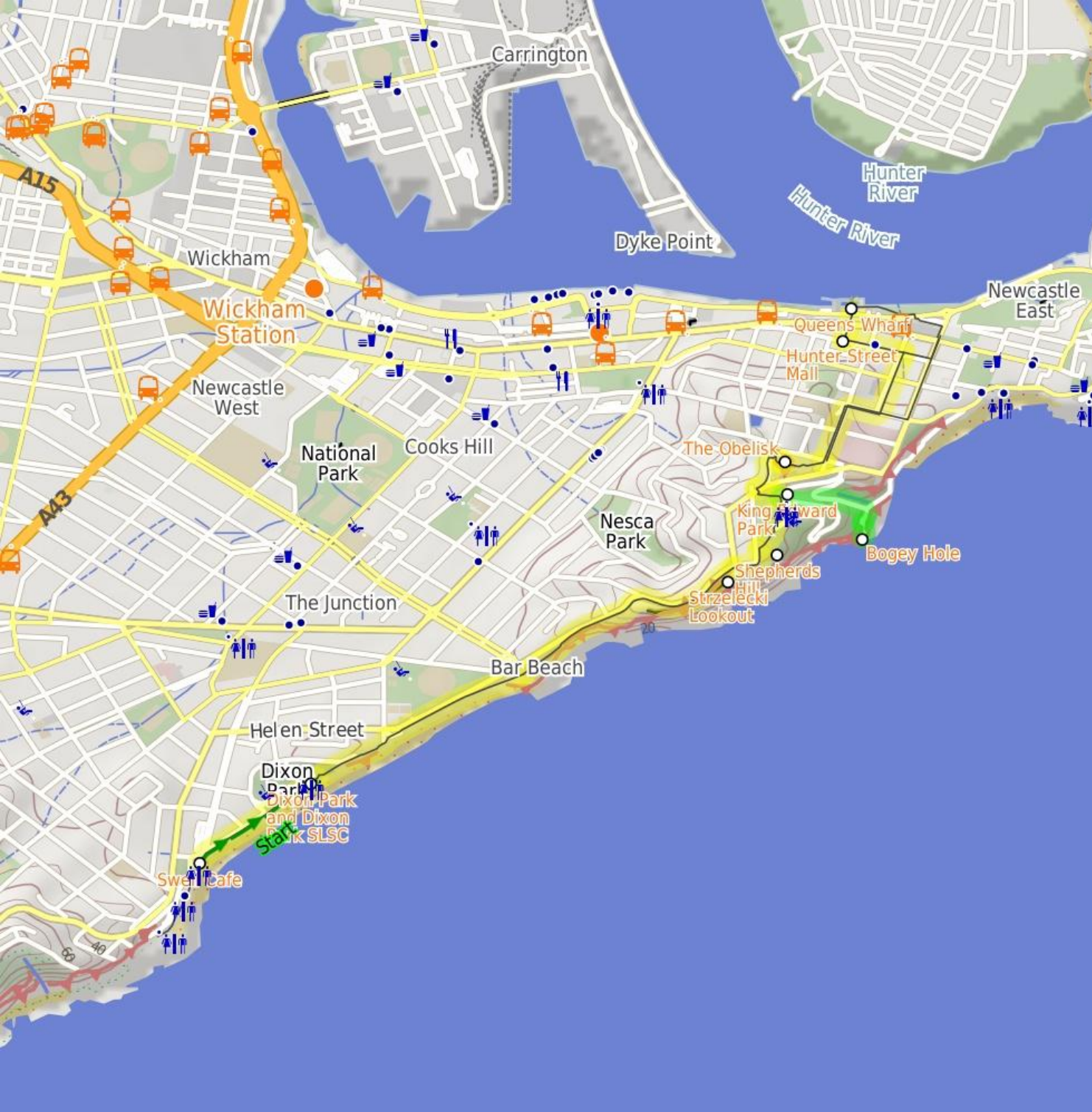


Merewether to Queens Wharf



1 hr 30 mins

Moderate track

3

4.4 km One way

▲ 104m

Starting from Merewether, you will mostly follow the coast line to Queens Wharf. After exploring some of Newcastle's (and arguably Australia's) best beaches, the grand views from Strzelecki Lookout, you then wander through King Edward Park where you can take the optional side trip to the intriguing Bogey Hole. The walk then takes you up to more panoramic views from the The Obelisk, before you stroll through Newcastle CBD and mall to Queens Wharf. There are a few long hills, just take your time and enjoy the salt air.

2m

Newcastle LGA

Swell Cafe

Swell cafe is located right on the beach (with the Merewether Surf Lifesaving Club above it) and just off John Parade in Merewether. Swell cafe offers fresh juices, cafe food, a toilet and water. [More info.](#)

Dixon Park and Dixon Park SLSC

Dixon Park and the Dixon Park SLSC are located in the middle of Bar beach in Merewether. Dixon Park has a large open grassed area, sheltered picnic tables, barbeques, a children's playground, toilets and tap water. The open space of Dixon Park is often used for hangliding or kite flying. [More info.](#)

Strzelecki Lookout

Strzelecki Lookout, atop the hill, is named in honor of the Polish geologist and explorer whose chemical analyses and research into coal deposits from 1839-45 influenced the development of the region. Wonderful views of the coastline south are available here and if you are lucky, you will see a hanglider taking off. [More info.](#)

Shepherds Hill

Shepherds Hill is located just south of King Edward Park (off The Terrace in Newcastle). Shepherds Hill is an exposed headland with wonderful views along the coastline. During World War Two, Shepherds Hill was home to gun emplacements, pits, a 100 metre-long tunnel and observation posts. The gun was designed to be a discrete, hard-to-spot weapon which would contract downwards, below its parapet to be reloaded. Shepherds Hill also housed a World War Two radar station. Shepherds Hill is named after a survey report that called it 'Sheep Pasture Hill' after its resemblance to English countryside. Hang-gliding is also very common from the hilltop. [More info.](#)

King Edward Park

King Edward Park is a large hilly park with established trees, abutting the ocean just 500m from the centre of Newcastle. King Edward Park has toilets, barbeques, a children's playground, an historic water fountain and flower gardens. King Edward Park was once referred to as the 'lungs of Newcastle' as it supplied a natural parkland in contrast to the increasing urbanization of the nineteenth century. [More info.](#)

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 Hunter District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Greater Hunter](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ()
- 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:92322S NEWCASTLE

1:100 000 Map Series:9232 NEWCASTLE

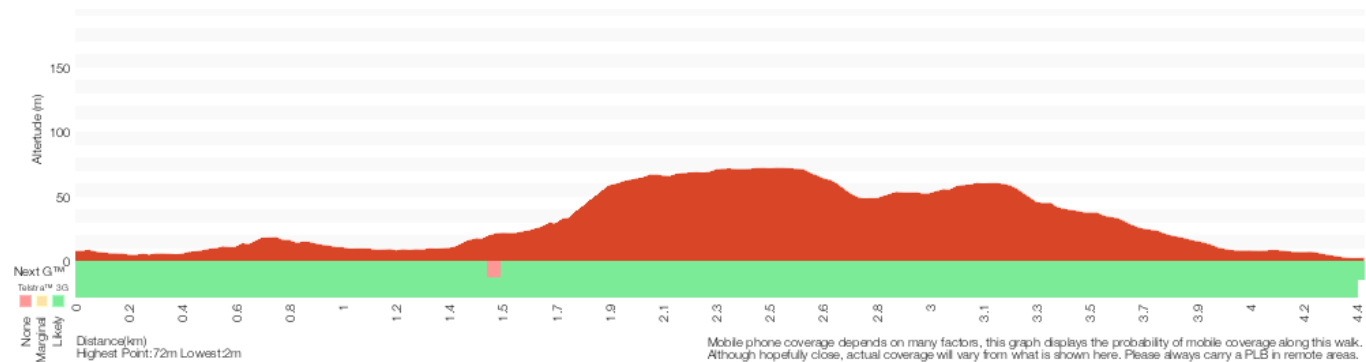
Grade

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 3/6
Moderate track

Length	4.4 km One way
Time	1 hr 30 mins
Quality of track	Smooth and hardened path (1/6)
Signs	Clearly signposted (1/6)
Experience Required	No experience required (1/6)
Weather	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)
Infrastructure	Generally useful facilities (such as fenced cliffs and seats) (1/6)



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 You can get to Swell Cafe (gps: -32.9483, 151.7568) by car, ferry or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

You can get back from Queens Wharf (gps: -32.9258, 151.7814) by car or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

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

0 | Swell Cafe

Swell cafe is located right on the beach (with the Merewether Surf Lifesaving Club above it) and just off John Parade in Merewether. Swell cafe offers fresh juices, cafe food, a toilet and water. [More info.](#)

0 | Swell Cafe

(560 m 10 mins) From the Swell cafe, this walk heads up to 'John Pde' and turns right. The walk follows the footpath alongside 'John Parade' (keeping the beach to your right) for 300m to continue straight into 'Dixon Park'. Continue up past the 'Bathers Way' sign along the footpath for another 200m (to pass alongside the carpark) and come to the picnic shelter outside the 'Dixon Park SLSC'.

0.56 | Dixon Park and Dixon Park SLSC

Dixon Park and the Dixon Park SLSC are located in the middle of Bar beach in Merewether. Dixon Park has a large open grassed area, sheltered picnic tables, barbecues, a children's playground, toilets and tap water. The open space of Dixon Park is often used for hanggliding or kite flying. [More info.](#)

0.56 | Dixon Park SLSC

(880 m 16 mins) Continue straight: From 'Dixon Park SLSC', this walk follows the footpath moderately steeply uphill, keeping the ocean on your right for just over 100m to find Ocean St. Here the walk turns right and continues beyond the end of Ocean St heading downhill for 160m past the end of 'Kilgour Ave' to a small car park. The walk veers left across the car park and follows the footpath, past the playing fields (on the left) and alongside the beach for 350m to the 'Cooks Hill SLSC' building (on the right). The walk continues straight, beside the road and car park before climbing up some concrete stairs, to find the large Bar Beach car park (opposite the end of Parkway Ave). There are wide ocean views at the end of the car park, on your right.

1.45 | Bar Beach car park

(950 m 20 mins) Continue straight: From the large Bar Beach car park (opposite the end of Parkway Ave), this walk heads moderately steeply uphill across the car park then up the footpath beside Memorial Dr, keeping the ocean on your right. 200m past the car park, this walk comes to an intersection with a set of stairs (on your right) at a gap in the fence (these stairs lead up to an old trig point and stunning coastal views). Here, the walk continues up along the footpath beside Memorial Dr for almost 500m (past a picnic shelter and bubbler) to an intersection with High St. 'Strzelecki Lookout' is a short distance to your right, on the other side of the car park.

2.39 | Strzelecki Lookout

Strzelecki Lookout, atop the hill, is named in honor of the Polish geologist and explorer whose chemical analyses and research into coal deposits from 1839-45 influenced the development of the region. Wonderful views of the coastline south are available here and if you are lucky, you will see a hanglider taking off. [More info.](#)

2.39 | Strzelecki Lookout

(160 m 3 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection (near Strzelecki Lookout), this walk follows the GNW arrow post across High St then gently uphill alongside 'Cliff St'. After passing a few houses, the road bends, becoming 'The Terrace' (with views to the right). The walk follows 'The Terrace' for about 60m, past 'Shepherds Hill' (and the Marine Rescue Building) gently downhill to the signposted southern entrance of 'King Edward Park'.

2.55 | Shepherds Hill

Shepherds Hill is located just south of King Edward Park (off The Terrace in Newcastle). Shepherds Hill is an exposed headland with wonderful views along the coastline. During World War Two, Shepherds Hill was home to gun emplacements, pits, a 100 metre-long tunnel and observation posts. The gun was designed to be a discrete, hard-to-spot weapon which would contract downwards, below its parapet to be reloaded. Shepherds Hill also housed a World War Two radar station. Shepherds Hill is named after a survey report that called it 'Sheep Pasture Hill' after its resemblance to English countryside. Hang-gliding is also very common from the hilltop. [More info.](#)

2.55 | King Edward Park (southern entrance)

(260 m 5 mins) Veer right: From the southern entrance of 'King Edward Park', this walk enters the park following the driveway (York Dr) through the usually open gate. The driveway leads downhill, alongside a car park for about 80m, to veer left onto a footpath marked with a GNW arrow post. This walk follows this footpath moderately steeply downhill for about 150m, among the large pine trees, down some concrete stairs, past the toilet block to find the barbeque area beside York Dr and the 'King Edward Park Fountain'.

2.81 | King Edward Park

King Edward Park is a large hilly park with established trees, abutting the ocean just 500m from the centre of Newcastle. King Edward Park has toilets, barbecues, a children's playground, an historic water fountain and flower gardens. King Edward Park was once referred to as the 'lungs of Newcastle' as it supplied a natural parkland in contrast to the increasing urbanization of the nineteenth century. [More info.](#)

2.81 | Optional sidetrip to Bogey Hole

(460 m 9 mins) Turn sharp right: From the King Edward Park barbeque area, this walk follows York Drive gently downhill, while keeping toilets on your right. The walk follows York Drive for about 100m, to turn left moderately steeply downhill to Shortland Esplanade. Then the walk follows Shortland Esplanade gently downhill for about 240m, to come to a three-way intersection with Bogey Hole Rd (on the right). The walk turns right at Bogey Hole Rd and continues gently downhill for about 60m, until coming to a three-way intersection, with a track (on the right).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows Bogey Hole Rd gently downhill, while keeping Bogey Hole track on your right and the ocean on your left. The walk continues for about 60m, until coming to concrete steps and the Bogey Hole. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Veer left.

2.81 | Bogey Hole

The Bogey Hole on Shortland Esplanade is a bathing pool that is open to the ocean. The Bogey Hole was built by convict labour for the personal pleasure

of Major James T. Morriset, the military commandant from 1819-1822 who did much to improve the breakwater, roads and barracks in the settlement. Over the years, the Bogey Hole was enlarged to its present size. The name "Bogey Hole" came from the Aboriginal word meaning "to bathe". The Bogey Hole can be dangerous during high tides or times of rough seas. For more information, contact the City of Newcastle on 02 4974 2000. [More info.](#)

2.81 | King Edward Park barbeque area

(290 m 5 mins) Turn left: From the barbeque area, this walk follows the GNW arrow post up along the footpath heading between the BBQ and fountain, away from York Dr. The footpath leads up among the large pine trees for 80m, to Reserve Rd. Here the walk follows the GNW arrow post across the road at the safety island to the footpath on the other side, beside the intersection of 'Reserve Rd' and 'The Terrace'.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post along the footpath beside 'Reserve Rd' keeping the white timber fence on your left. After 30m this walk turns left into 'Wolfe St' then after about 110m, this walk crosses 'Wolfe St', just before 'Ordnance St' to come to a set of concrete steps marked with a GNW arrow post.

3.1 | Int of Wolfe Street AND the Obelisk steps

(70 m 1 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post up the concrete stairs with metal hand railing. At the top of the stairs this walk follows the sealed footpath for about 25m to the tall white stone Obelisk and monument.

3.17 | The Obelisk

This white stone monument sits above the city of Newcastle, on a green grassy knoll. The Obelisk Park is popular and gives views across the Lower Hunter Plains. The Obelisk was first erected in 1850, to replace the windmill that had stood there before it. The Obelisk was erected to act as a navigational aid for ships. On the grassy knoll is a water fountain and a large sundial.

3.17 | The Obelisk

(150 m 3 mins) Turn right: From the Obelisk, this walk heads across the grass to follow the GNW arrow post east down the gravel footpath towards the clear ocean views. This walk soon leads down the series of concrete stairs for about 120m, to find the intersection of 'Ordnance' and 'Newcomen' streets.

3.32 | Int of Newcomen AND Ordnance Streets

(690 m 12 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post, across 'Ordnance St' then gently downhill along the footpath beside 'Newcomen St'. After about 250m, this walk turns right, crossing the road using the pedestrian crossing to then follow 'Church St' gently downhill for another 110m, to use cross the road using another pedestrian crossing turning left into 'Bolton St'. Here the walk follows the footpath beside 'Bolton St' (past 'The Grand Hotel') and continues gently downhill for just over 250m, crossing 'King St' then 'Hunter St' (both with pedestrian crossings). Here the walk comes to the intersection of 'Bolton' and 'Hunter' streets, marked with a GNW arrow post.

4.01 | Hunter Street Mall

The Hunter Street Mall offers an open air shopping experience, with a variety of shops, cafes and services. Trading hours are Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri: 9am-5.30pm, Thurs:9am-9pm, Sat:9am-4pm, Sun:10am-4pm. For further information please contact the Hunter Street Mall Office on 02 4926 3477. [More info.](#)

4.01 | Int of Hunter AND Bolton Streets

(220 m 3 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk crosses 'Bolton St'

(using the crossing) and follows the footpath beside 'Hunter St' past the 'ANZ' bank building. The walk continues for 100m, to cross 'Newcomen St' then walk through the Hunter St pedestrian mall for another 100m to an intersection in the middle of the mall, just past the 'Sanity' store, marked with a GNW arrow post and a yellow pedestrian bridge (on the right).

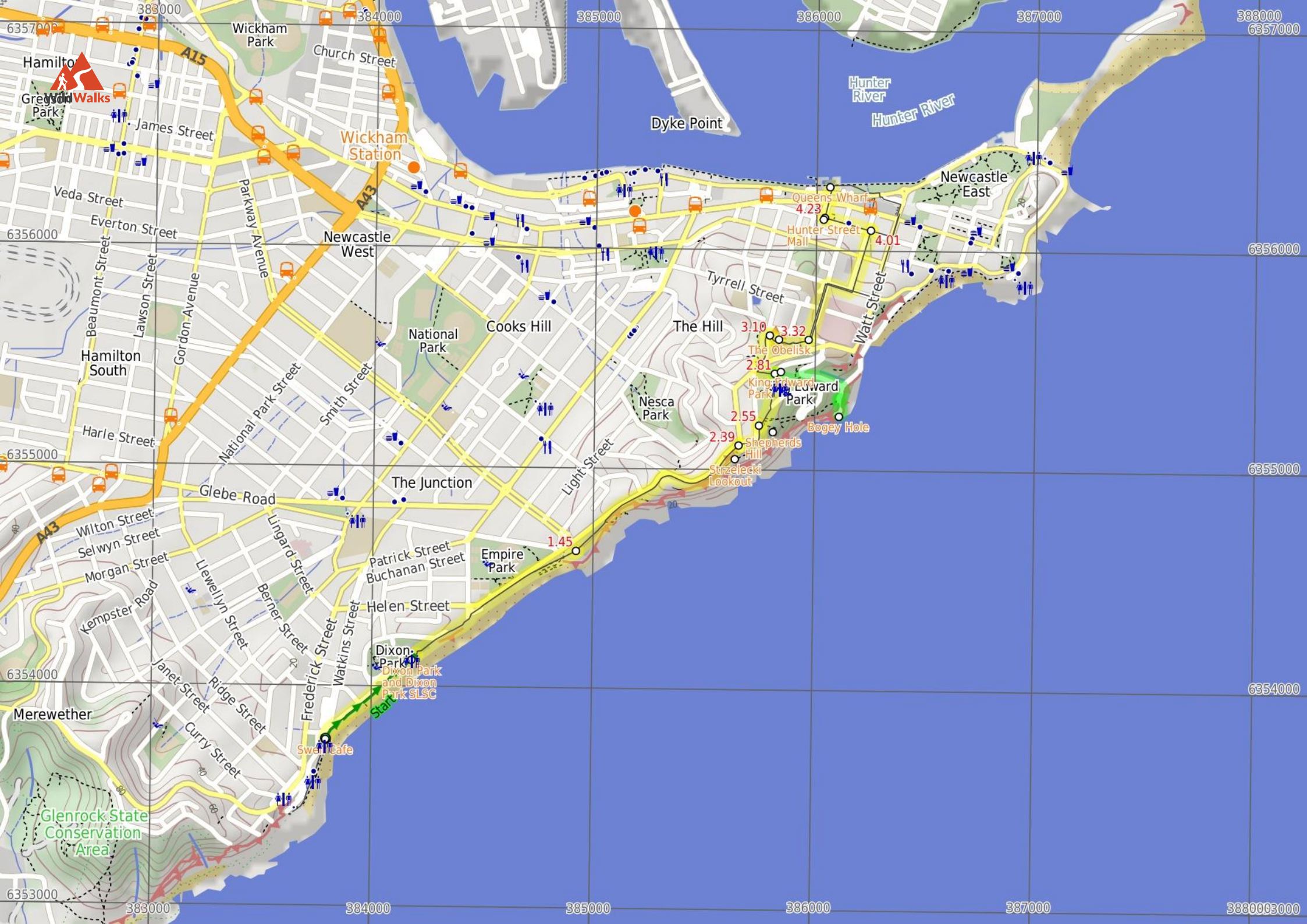
4.23 | Int of Hunter AND Market Streets

(180 m 3 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk leaves the main mall and heads north up the yellow pedestrian footbridge. The walk crosses the 130m long footbridge (passing over Scott St, the train line then Wharf St), before heading down the metal spiral staircase and coming to 'The Great North Walk - Queens Wharf Trackhead' sign on a large concrete pillar, at Queens Wharf.

4.4 | Queens Wharf

Queens Wharf is on the Newcastle harbour, just minutes from the centre of Newcastle. The Queens Wharf Tower is over 40m in height and open to the public. From the top of the tower, you are able to see up to 20km in all directions, particularly up and down the coastline (Note that the tower is closed in bad weather). Queens Wharf Tower, was built in 1988 and opened by Queen Elizabeth II to mark the Australian Bicentenary. The Tower was built to mark the spot where the city meets the park and the sea. Queens Wharf is home to a number of restaurants and a bar, and there is a raised pedestrian footbridge from the tower into Hunter Street Mall shops. There is a ferry service across the harbour to Stockton, which gives good views back to across the water to Newcastle City. For more information contact the Newcastle Visitor Information Centre on 02 4974 2999. [More info.](#)





Summary navigation sheet for the Merewether to Queens Wharf



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
0.00	Swell Cafe -32.9483,151.7568 (GR Newcastle, 838538)	8 -6	560 m 10 mins	From the Swell café, this walk heads up to 'John Pde' and turns right.
0.56	Dixon Park SLSC -32.9449,151.7612 (GR Newcastle, 842541)	21 -15	880 m 16 mins	Continue straight: From 'Dixon Park SLSC', this walk follows the footpath moderately steeply uphill, keeping the ocean on your right for just over 100m to find Ocean St.
1.45	Bar Beach car park -32.9406,151.769 (GR Newcastle, 849546)	58 -4	950 m 20 mins	Continue straight: From the large Bar Beach car park (opposite the end of Parkway Ave), this walk heads moderately steeply uphill across the car park then up the footpath beside Memorial Dr, keeping the ocean on you...
2.39	Strzelecki Lookout -32.9363,151.7769 (GR Newcastle, 857551)	1 -1	160 m 3 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection (near Strzelecki Lookout), this walk follows the GNW arrow post across High St then gently uphill alongside 'Cliff St'.
2.55	King Edward Park (southern entrance) -32.9355,151.7779 (GR Newcastle, 857552)	1 -24	260 m 5 mins	Veer right: From the southern entrance of 'King Edward Park', this walk enters the park following the driveway (York Dr) through the usually open gate.
2.81	King Edward Park barbeque area -32.9334,151.7787 (GR Newcastle, 858554)	1 -44	460 m 9 mins	Optional sidetrip to Bogey Hole. Turn sharp right: From the King Edward Park barbeque area, this walk follows York Drive gently downhill, while keeping toilets on your right.
2.81	King Edward Park barbeque area -32.9334,151.7786 (GR Newcastle, 858554)	12 -2	290 m 5 mins	Turn left: From the barbeque area, this walk follows the GNW arrow post up along the footpath heading between the BBQ and fountain, away from York Dr.
3.10	Int of Wolfe Street AND the Obelisk steps -32.9318,151.7784 (GR Newcastle, 858556)	2 0	70 m 1 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post up the concrete stairs with metal hand railing.
3.17	The Obelisk -32.932,151.7788 (GR Newcastle, 858556)	0 -15	150 m 3 mins	Turn right: From the Obelisk, this walk heads across the grass to follows the GNW arrow post east down the gravel footpath towards the clear ocean views.
3.32	Int of Newcomen AND Ordnance Streets -32.932,151.7803 (GR Newcastle, 860556)	0 -37	690 m 12 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post, across 'Ordinance St' then gently downhill along the footpath beside 'Newcomen St'.
4.01	Int of Hunter AND Bolton Streets -32.9275,151.7833 (GR Newcastle, 862561)	1 -2	220 m 3 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk crosses 'Bolton St' (using the crossing) and follows the footpath beside 'Hunter St' past the 'ANZ' bank building.
4.23	Int of Hunter AND Market Streets -32.927,151.7811 (GR Newcastle, 860561)	0 -5	180 m 3 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, this walk leaves the main mall and heads north up the yellow pedestrian footbridge.