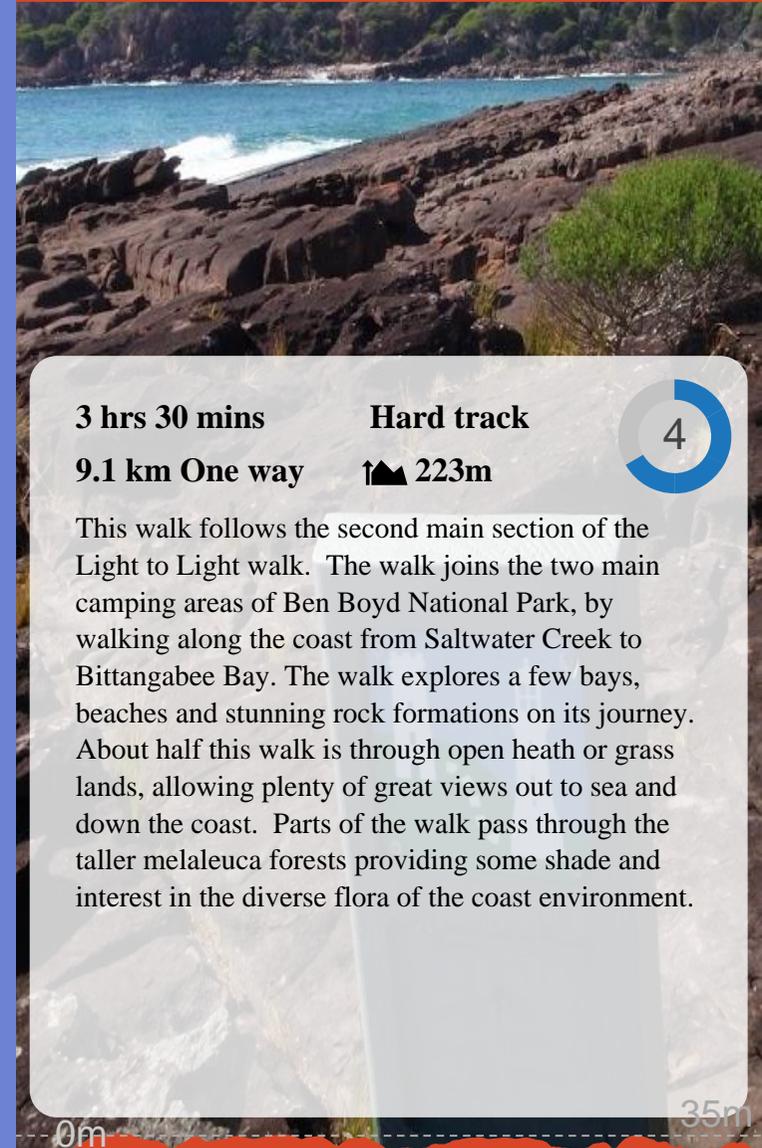


# Saltwater Creek to Bittangabee Bay



3 hrs 30 mins

Hard track

9.1 km One way

▲ 223m

4

This walk follows the second main section of the Light to Light walk. The walk joins the two main camping areas of Ben Boyd National Park, by walking along the coast from Saltwater Creek to Bittangabee Bay. The walk explores a few bays, beaches and stunning rock formations on its journey. About half this walk is through open heath or grass lands, allowing plenty of great views out to sea and down the coast. Parts of the walk pass through the taller melaleuca forests providing some shade and interest in the diverse flora of the coast environment.



### 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** Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Saltwater Creek Campsite Information Sign (gps: -37.169, 150.0007). Car: A park entry fee is required for driving into the park.

Traveling by car is the only practical way to get back from Bittangabee Bay Picnic area (gps: -37.2168, 150.0149). 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/scrb>

### 0 | Saltwater Creek campground

Saltwater Creek campground is a nice place from which to access the coastal walking track -there is plenty of swimming, fishing and snorkeling to be done as well. There are some rainwater tanks on site, but be prepared for them to be empty.

### 0 | Saltwater Creek Campsite Information Sign

*(180 m 3 mins)* From the information signs at Saltwater Creek camping area, the walk heads through the 'Day use' parking area to the far left corner. The track then follows the track-marker through the fenced area and onto the beach between the creek and ocean. The track continues towards the bush on the other side, where there is a signposted intersection.

### 0.18 | Saltwater Creek Beach

Saltwater Creek meets the South Pacific Ocean at a beautiful white sand beach in Ben Boyd National park. The beach looks north-east and has a rock shelf at either end. The wide Saltwater Creek forms a lagoon at the northern end, popular for swimming. Woodburn Creek also forms a lagoon on the southern end of the beach. Both creeks have a brown colouration from the tea tree, that forms a beautiful contrast with the white sand and blue ocean. The back of the beach is heavily wooded, providing some shade, and is home to the Saltwater Creek campsite. The beach can be accessed from the Saltwater Creek campsite at the end of the access road from Duck Hole Road.

### 0.18 | Saltwater Creek Beach Nth

*(4.7 km 1 hr 26 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the sign to 'Bittangabee Bay' heading to the far end of the beach, keeping the ocean on the left. This walk tends right, towards the dunes, to meet a signposted intersection just in the bush, on the hill above the creek.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the sign to 'Green Cape Lighthouse' across the hill, keeping the creek below on the right. The track soon turns left up the hill, away from the beach and creek, and then heads up the hill to an open grassland. The track meanders for a considerable time through different vegetation types - grasslands then heath, then melaleuca, and eucalypts/scrub, before reversing the order up the hill to continue around the flat of the grassy headland. The track continues in this way, passing views of Green Cape Lighthouse to the south and the cliffs, to wind down the hill onto Hegartys Bay beach.

Continue straight: From the beach, this walk heads along the rock platform following the arrow markers. The walk winds around the rock features, then turns away from the ocean and lead up stairs into the bush behind the bay. The track winds above the bay (below on the left) for a short time, to then

pass a fireplace and seats, before coming to a signposted clearing 'Hegartys Bay Camping Area' with bench seats and a fireplace.

### 4.89 | Hegartys Bay

Hegartys Bay is a north-east facing bay, about 2km north of Bittangabee in Ben Boyd National Park. The bay has many small boulders at the apex that then fade to rock shelves at each end. The bay is walled by red cliffs at the entrance and the northern wall has some spectacular examples of rock folding. The bay can be accessed along the Light to Light track and is home to a bush campsite.

### 4.89 | Hegartys Bay camping area

Hegartys Bay camping area is a basic bush campsite on the Light to Light walk, about 2km north of Bittangabee. The campsite is signposted and is just north of a small creek that leads to Hegartys Bay. There is another, smaller campsite that is not signposted, about 50m north. The creek is very unreliable and other than some impromptu chairs made from driftwood, there are no facilities provided. The campsite is nestled in a clearing among the tall, dense bush, providing some shade and shelter from winds.

### 4.89 | Hegartys Bay Camp

*(1.7 km 30 mins)* Continue straight: From the camp area, this walk keeps the camp on the right and ocean far on the left. The track heads down hill and over a creek, then winds up and out of the creek to meander across the headland. The track continues to wind through heath and melaleucas on the headland for some time, to go down the stairs onto the rock platform.

### 6.54 | Black cliffs north

*(280 m 5 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the cairns and track markers along the rock, with the ocean to the left. The walk follows the rockshelf down to an area where it starts to slope down into the sea - this is marked by numerous cairns and an arrow on a boulder.

### 6.82 | Black cliffs

The black cliffs of Ben Boyd National Park provide a great vantage point. The headland on the north side of Bittangabee has a fairly large clearing on a rock platform, high above the ocean. There are great views out to sea and into the mouth of Bittangabee Bay. There are no fences or facilities at this informal lookout. Being dark in colour, this rock platform can get very uncomfortable on hot days - trees on the south side provide some respite with shade. The rock slopes into the sea on the south side, but would be too dangerous for swimming.

### 6.82 | Black cliffs south

*(1.4 km 29 mins)* Veer right: From the intersection, this walk heads away from the ocean, behind, and bay, on the left of the rock shelf, leading up into the bush where a cairn is placed. The track winds along the hillside, following the track markers bolted to the trees. The track tends right, up the hill, then veers left down into a gully, with a rocky creek bed at the bottom. The track continues down to cross the creek.

### 8.25 | Bittangabee Creek

Bittangabee Creek is a small creek feeding Bittangabee Bay in Ben Boyd National Park. The creek enters the bay and is crossed by the Light to Light track about 800m north-west of Bittangabee Campsite. The creek provides a quiet place for people to paddle and relax.

### 8.25 | Bittangabee Creek

*(580 m 12 mins)* Continue straight: From above the creek, the walk winds above the gully (below on your left). The track veers right, and soon meets a signposted intersection.

Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the sign 'Via Ruins' up the hill. The track tends right as it climbs, soon winding up to a large black wooden platform. This platform overlooks the ruins.

### 8.84 | Imlay House

Imlay House ruins still show the foundations of a house built by the Imlay brothers in 1844. The ruins are found in Bittangabee Bay in Ben Boyd National Park, along the Light to Light track. The house was to be a station for the Imlay family to further their grazing and whaling in the area. It appears the stone house was never completed, with the brothers dying in 1846 (George) and 1847 (Alexander). Soon after the Imlay brothers died, Benjamin Boyd began using the bay for his own whaling company in 1848. [More info.](#)

### 8.84 | Imlay House Ruins

*(300 m 6 mins)* Continue straight: From the black platform, this walk keeps the platform and ruins on the left of the track, heading down the hill. The track winds quickly down to a signposted intersection with views of a beach below.

Veer right: From the intersection, the walk heads down the hill towards the water. The track goes across a rocky creek bed to rise up the other side of the gully. The walk continues up the hill to soon find formed log road barriers on the right and then a signposted intersection and picnic area.

### 9.13 | 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.

### 9.13 | Bittangabee Bay Picnic Area

Bittangabee Bay Picnic Area is near Bittangabee Bay and camp area in Ben Boyd National Park. The picnic area is a day-use only area with a few picnic tables, an electric BBQ and a pit toilet. There is a reasonable amount of natural shade, and is close to a car park. There is short walk to the beach and ruins at Bittangabee Bay. The picnic area is well signposted on the loop road near the Bittangabee camping area.