



## Somersby Store to Ourimbah Valley Trackhead

**2 hrs 30 mins**

**Hard track**

**6 km One way**

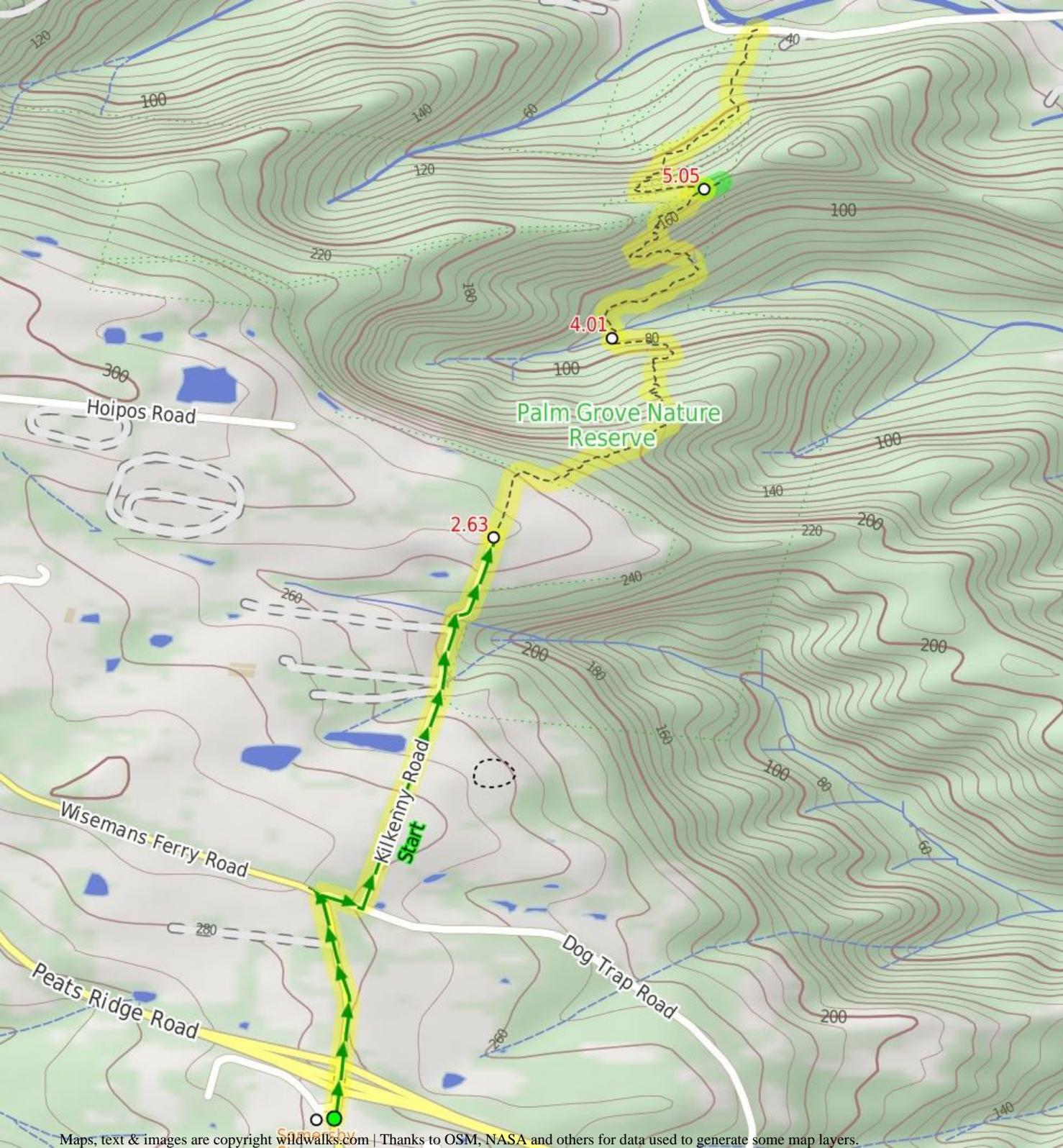
**194m**



Starting with a walk through the streets of urban Somersby, you soon leave the farms and head into Palm Grove Nature Reserve. First you will follow the signposted track down the open dry ridge to the dense rainforest. In this valley you can explore the moist rainforest with towering Eucalypts, Strangler Fig trees, Cabbage Palms and a tangle of vines. From here walk up the rocky track to another dry ridge, where you can follow a side trip to a flat clearing and designated campsite. From near the campsite the track winds down through another moist forest and past more Cabbage Palms before coming to the signposted Ourimbah Valley Trackhead on Ourimbah Creek Road.

34m

Gosford LGA



### 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 Somersby Store (gps: -33.3581, 151.2903) by car or bus. Bus: A bus service runs along Wisemans Ferry Rd passing Somersby store. The service runs between Gosford and Spencer only a few times a day. Please check timetable for more info or Phone Busway on (02) 4368 2277. The bus only picks passengers up from Somersby to head to Gosford on the morning runs. Car: There is free parking available.

Traveling by car is the only practical way to get back from Ourimbah Valley Trackhead (gps: -33.3174, 151.3001). 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/sstovt>

#### 0 | Somersby Store

Somersby Store offers a good place to have lunch or pick up the basic food supplies. The store serves hot food including burgers, chips, pies etc and cold drinks. Opening hours are 6am - 6pm Monday to Friday and 6.30am to 4pm on Saturdays (closed Sundays). There is a pay phone and a bus stop however services are limited to two buses a day. Contact details are (02)4372 1269, at 841 Wisemans Ferry Road Somersby, NSW 2250. The store owners are happy for you to phone ahead. If you are a large group you can order ahead to save the stress. I always encourage people to use local stores like this on track, but since it is a small store it is worth phoning ahead to see what they have what you want in stock.

#### 0 | Somersby Store

*(2.6 km 48 mins)* From the Somersby Store, this walk heads north, gently downhill along the side of 'Wisemans Ferry Rd', past the public toilet. After about 120m, this walk crosses an on-ramp then heads over the bridge crossing Peats Ridge Road, then past another on-ramp. The walk continues along Wisemans Ferry Rd for about 700m to then turn sharp right at the three-way intersection, onto 'Dog Trap Rd'. Just over 100m along Dog Trap Rd, this walk turns left into 'Kilkenny Rd'. The walk follows Kilkenny Rd past the rural properties for about 1.2km, where the walk continues along the now dirt road. About 50m after becoming dirt, the road leads across a rock ford that can be extremely slippery when wet. The walk continues up along the dirt road for another 300m to come to the end of the road and a 'Great North Walk' sign, beside 'Illawong' (farm).

#### 2.63 | End of Kilkenny Road

*(1.4 km 32 mins)* Continue straight: From the northern end of Kilkenny Road next to 'Illawong' (farm), this walk follows the 'The Great North Walk' sign along the management trail, between the two farms. After about 300m, the trail leads to a clearing, where this walk turns right to follow the GNW arrow post along track beside the fence line (keeping the paddock on your right) for about 70m. The walk then turns left and follows the 'The Great North Walk' sign down the hill. The track leads steeply at first and become progressively less steep as the walk heads down the ridge line, until almost flattening out about 400m after leaving the farm. The track then bends left and winds steeply down the side of the ridge, down a series of rock steps for about 600m, leading into a dense moist rain forest. The track passes some wonderful examples of bird's nest ferns (*Asplenium australasicum*) before the last little walk down to the rocky intermittent creek. This walk then crosses

the creek in the mossy, cool and moist valley.

#### 4.01 | creek crossing

*(1 km 28 mins)* Continue straight: From beside the creek, this walk follows the GNW arrow post uphill, using the series of rock steps. The track leads uphill, passing some notably large trees over about 120m to then turn right onto a leafy trail. Here the walk crosses an ephemeral creek then continues along the leafy trail in the shaded rainforest. After about 250m, the walk turns left, following the 'Great North Walk' sign gently up along a narrow track for about 60m to pass a large strangler fig tree. Just past the fig, this track begins to climb steeply up a series of rock steps and switch-backs for about 100m to pass along side a rock wall (on your right). Just past the rock wall, this walk ducks under a fallen tree then continues steeply (into the more open forest) up more rock steps and switchback for another 250m, where the track flattens out and comes to the signposted 'Walker Register' tube. After leaving your comments, and having a bit of a read of other people's adventures, this walk turns right and follows the GNW arrow post along the top of the ridge, through a clearing. Here the walk start to lead down along the top of the ridge for about 150m to come to a three-way intersection, marked with a couple of GNW arrow posts (just before a campsite, ahead).

#### 5.05 | Optional sidetrip to Palm Grove Campsite

*(50 m 1 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads gently downhill along the top of the ridge towards the clearing for just shy of 50m to come to the signposted 'Camping Area'. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn right.

#### 5.05 | Palm Grove Campsite

*(0 m )* A Great North Walk signposted campsite with plenty of room for a few tents but providing minimal facilities ie. no water, toilets or tables however there is a bench and barbeque plate and room for a fire.

#### 5.05 | Palm Grove Campsite intersection

*(990 m 24 mins)* Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post north-west, gently down off the side of the ridge (initially keeping the campsite track down to your right). The track leads down along the side of the ridge for about 150m before leading much more steeply down a series of rock steps for about 200m. The track mostly flatten out just before passing a tall fig growing over a large boulder (on your right). Here the track winds more gently downhill for about 150m to pass a couple cabbage palms (*Livistona australis*), then continues to wind fairly steeply down for another 400m where the track mostly flattens out again. Near the end of this 400m, the track leads through a short weedy section before heading down a short embankment to a T-intersection with the dirt Ourimbah Creek Rd, marked with a large 'Ourimbah Valley Trackhead' sign.

