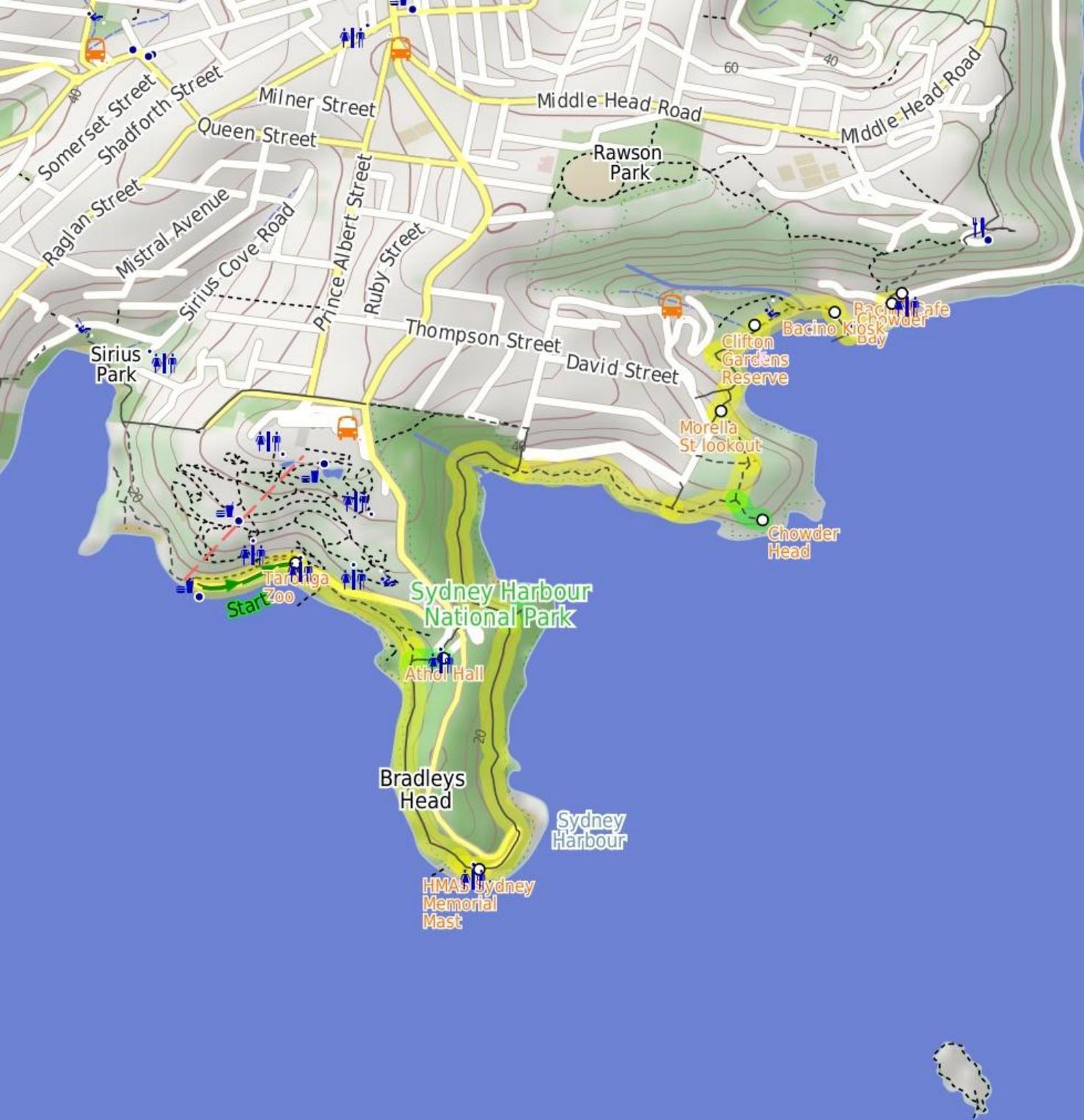


Taronga Wharf to Chowder Bay



2 hrs

Moderate track

4.4 km One way

↑ 246m

3

Starting at Taronga Wharf, this walk passes many icons of Sydney, including Taronga Zoo, HMAS Sydney Mast, Chowder Bay. The walk also provides views across the water to the Harbour Bridge, Opera House, Fort Denison and the city skyline. The walk has many brilliant vantage points over the harbour with some spots to stop for a coffee and lunch. A great walk to see Sydney Harbour from a different view.

Taronga Zoo

Taronga Zoo was founded in 1916, with the vision of imitating the Hamburg Zoo's bar-less exhibits. Since its opening, Taronga Zoo has directed more attention to research, education and conservation efforts to support the animals. Taronga Zoo is open everyday 9am-5pm. Phone: +61 2 9969 2777 or email: groups@zoo.nsw.gov.au. [More info.](#)

Athol Hall

Athol Hall, built in 1908, was once a hotel. Sections of the original building date back to the 1800's. The hall has an excellent vantage point over the harbour with the Sydney Opera House, Harbour Bridge and city all well within its scope. Athol Hall today is a cafe and function centre with the cafe open Tues-Fri and Sun, 11am-3pm. [More info.](#)

HMAS Sydney Memorial Mast

The HMAS Sydney Memorial Mast was erected in 1934, following the HMAS Sydney's decommissioning in 1928. The mast stands as a sign of respect for 'Australian officers, sailors and ships lost at sea and in combat'. HMAS Sydney itself was a Chatham Class light cruiser which saw action in WW1. [More info.](#)

Chowder Head

Chowder Head provides a small unfenced rocky outcrop to enjoy the wide harbour views. From this vantage point, there are views across the water to South Head, Vacluse, Rose Bay, Shark Island and Bradleys Head. A great spot to watch the sailing boats on a clear day.

Morella St lookout

This informally named clearing behind some houses on Morella St provides a great view across the harbour. The fairly large clearing has been maintained and is a good place to stop if wanting to avoid the large groups at Clifton Gardens.

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 Metropolitan District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Greater Sydney Region, unknown](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ([Sydney Harbour 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:91303N PARRAMATTA RIVER, 91302N SYDNEY HEADS

1:100 000 Map Series:9130 SYDNEY

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	2 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 You can get to Taronga Zoo Wharf (gps: -33.8458, 151.2398) by car, ferry or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

You can get back from Roundabout at end of Chowder Bay Road (gps: -33.8384, 151.2561) 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/twtch>

0 | Taronga Zoo Wharf

(220 m 4 mins) From the wharf, the walk heads uphill along the footpath beside the road to the Taronga Zoo entrance at the pedestrian crossing.

0.22 | Taronga Zoo

Taronga Zoo was founded in 1916, with the vision of imitating the Hamburg Zoo's bar-less exhibits. Since its opening, Taronga Zoo has directed more attention to research, education and conservation efforts to support the animals. Taronga Zoo is open everyday 9am- 5pm. Phone: +61 2 9969 2777 or email: groups@zoo.nsw.gov.au. [More info.](#)

0.22 | Taronga Zoo Entrance

(410 m 9 mins) Turn right: From the opposite of the zoo entrance, the walk heads down the ramp leaving the road up to the left. The track soon leads to a lookout with a set of bench seats and good harbour views. The walk continues along the footpath to a wire fence then follows the 'Walking Track' sign along the hillside to climb a few steps and cross a wooden bridge. The track comes to the corner of Athol Hall's grass clearing.

Veer right: From the intersection, the walk heads down the stairs then continues along the hill for a short time. The walk descends more stairs to a signposted intersection.

0.63 | Optional sidetrip to Athol Hall

(70 m 2 mins) Turn left : From the intersection, this walk follows the sign to 'Athol Hall' up the stairs, crossing a large grassy area. The walk then continues up to Athol Hall entrance. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Veer left.

0.63 | Athol Hall

Athol Hall, built in 1908, was once a hotel. Sections of the original building date back to the 1800's. The hall has an excellent vantage point over the harbour with the Sydney Opera House, Harbour Bridge and city all well within its scope. Athol Hall today is a cafe and function centre with the cafe open Tues-Fri and Sun, 11am -3pm. [More info.](#)

0.63 | Int. Boroegal Walking Trail and Athol Hall Trk

(670 m 16 mins) Continue straight: From the stairs, this walk heads around the hillside with the harbour below on the right. The walk travels across large sections of boardwalk which undulate slightly as the walk comes up to a trail (which leads to a bench overlooking Sydney Harbour). From the trail, this walk keeps contouring along the hillside, south and tending left, to the intersection, signposted as the way to 'Cannons picnic area'.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads towards the car park, keeping the harbour to the right. The walk leads approximately 10m to

the intersection with a track (leading down to Bradleys Head Amphitheatre).

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads along the footpath next to the car park for a short distance, until it comes to be above the flag pole, HMAS Sydney Mast.

1.3 | HMAS Sydney Memorial Mast

The HMAS Sydney Memorial Mast was erected in 1934, following the HMAS Sydney's decommissioning in 1928. The mast stands as a sign of respect for 'Australian officers, sailors and ships lost at sea and in combat'. HMAS Sydney itself was a Chatham Class light cruiser which saw action in WW1. [More info.](#)

1.3 | HMAS Sydney Mast, Bradleys Head

(790 m 17 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads along the footpath, keeping the road to the left, for about 150m to where the road bends sharply left. From this point, this walk heads along boardwalk, on your right, keeping the water glimpses to your right. The board walk soon end and this walk follows the track along the side of the hill for about 600m to come to an intersection with a sign pointing back to 'Bradleys Head'.

2.09 | Optional sidetrip to Taylors Bay Lookout

(50 m 1 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, the walk heads away from the main tracks winding into the bush. The track winds past two white benches, to a small rock shelf overlooking the water. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn right.

2.09 | Int. Boroegal Walking Trail and Taylors Bay Looko

(680 m 17 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads into Taylors Gully, with Taylors Bay below on the right. The track continues for approximately 300m, contouring around the hill with views of Taylors Bay on the right. Tending right, this walk enters and exits Taylors Gully, to continue approximately 250m to the signposted intersection at the beginning of the houses, on the left.

2.77 | Taylors intersection

(570 m 14 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk heads along the line of the houses, on the left, for approximately 140m. The track passes a Japanese Submarine information sign on the right as it continues along sections of boardwalk track, to the intersection next to the last house. The walk heads up the stairs below the last house to be met by a large sandstone staircase on the left and a track to the front.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads away from the house and clearing along the fairly flat track keeping the water glimpses to your right. The path soon leads to a clear three-way intersection with a 'Ashton Park' sign pointing back along the track.

3.33 | Optional sidetrip to Chowder Head

(90 m 2 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Chowder Head' sign south-west along the clear track. The track heads gently downhill and bends left past some dead gums to find an unfenced rock platform with great harbour views. (Note the informal track continues down becoming steeper, leading to a small bay.) At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Veer right.

3.33 | Chowder Head

Chowder Head provides a small unfenced rocky outcrop to enjoy the wide harbour views. From this vantage point, there are views across the water to South Head, Vaucluse, Rose Bay, Shark Island and Bradleys Head. A great spot to watch the sailing boats on a clear day.

3.33 | Chowder Head track intersection

(110 m 2 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows 'Clifton Gardens' sign gently up the hill. The track leads through the bush for a short time to soon come to another three-way intersection, this one marked with a 'Morella Rd' sign (on your left).

3.44 | Bottom of Morella Rd track

(170 m 4 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the main track keeping the water glimpses to your right (and the Morella Rd track to your left). The track gently works its way around the hill to come to a sign point back to 'Ashton Park' and a large clearing with good views behind some houses.

3.61 | Morella St lookout

This informally named clearing behind some houses on Morella St provides a great view across the harbour. The fairly large clearing has been maintained and is a good place to stop if wanting to avoid the large groups at Clifton Gardens.

3.61 | Morella St lookout

(80 m 3 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows 'Clifton Gardens' sign downhill along the concrete path, behind the line of houses. The path leads down the hill, following a series of steps past a bench seat to come to a 'T' intersection (with Sarah's Walk, part way down a set of steps).

3.68 | Bottom of Sarahs walk steps

(250 m 5 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads down the steps that soon flatten out as the footpath leads around the headland under a few sandstone overhangs. The walk soon comes to a 'Foresore Path' sign pointing back along the path at the south-western end of Clifton Gardens.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads down onto the beach, towards the wharf in the middle of the beach. The walk passes an Illawarra Flame tree, as it heads approximately 100m along the beach to the start of the wharf.

3.94 | Clifton Gardens Reserve

Clifton Gardens was developed as a picnic spot in the late 1800s, with a local hotelier building a wharf and dance pavilion. In 1909, Sydney Ferries Ltd purchased the estate, and further developed the area, including a large swimming enclosure. The structure burned down in 1956. Today, Clifton Gardens is touted as 'remnant bushland', offering birdwatching, a netted swimming enclosure, change rooms, a fenced playground, and of course, spectacular views over Chowder Bay. A short bush track leads through to Rawson Oval.

3.94 | Clifton Gardens Baths

(210 m 5 mins) Continue straight: From the wharf, this walk heads towards the playground-end of the beach. The walk leads along the beach, passing the playground and rocky outcrop on the left to tend right onto a boardwalk. The boardwalk takes the walk to the lower gate of Chowder Bay.

4.14 | Bacino Kiosk

The Bacino Kiosk, just next to Clifton Gardens, is a smaller version of the Bacino Bar above at Chowder Bay. This kiosk supplies passers-by with a home-blend coffee and sandwiches, and all at a reasonable price (\$5-12). The Kiosk is open from 7am-4pm every day, except Christmas and bad weather. [More info.](#)

4.14 | Chowder Bay Lower Gate

(230 m 4 mins) Continue straight: From the gate, this walk heads towards the wharf approximately 80m away. The walk soon passes Bacino Kiosk on the left, and continues along the foreshore footpath to the start of the wharf.

Turn left: From the wharf, this walk heads directly away from that wharf, heading up the stairs. At the top of the stairs, this walk follows the footpath right, around a flag pole and house on the left. The walk continues past a round-about, to the start of a car park, opposite Bacino Bar.

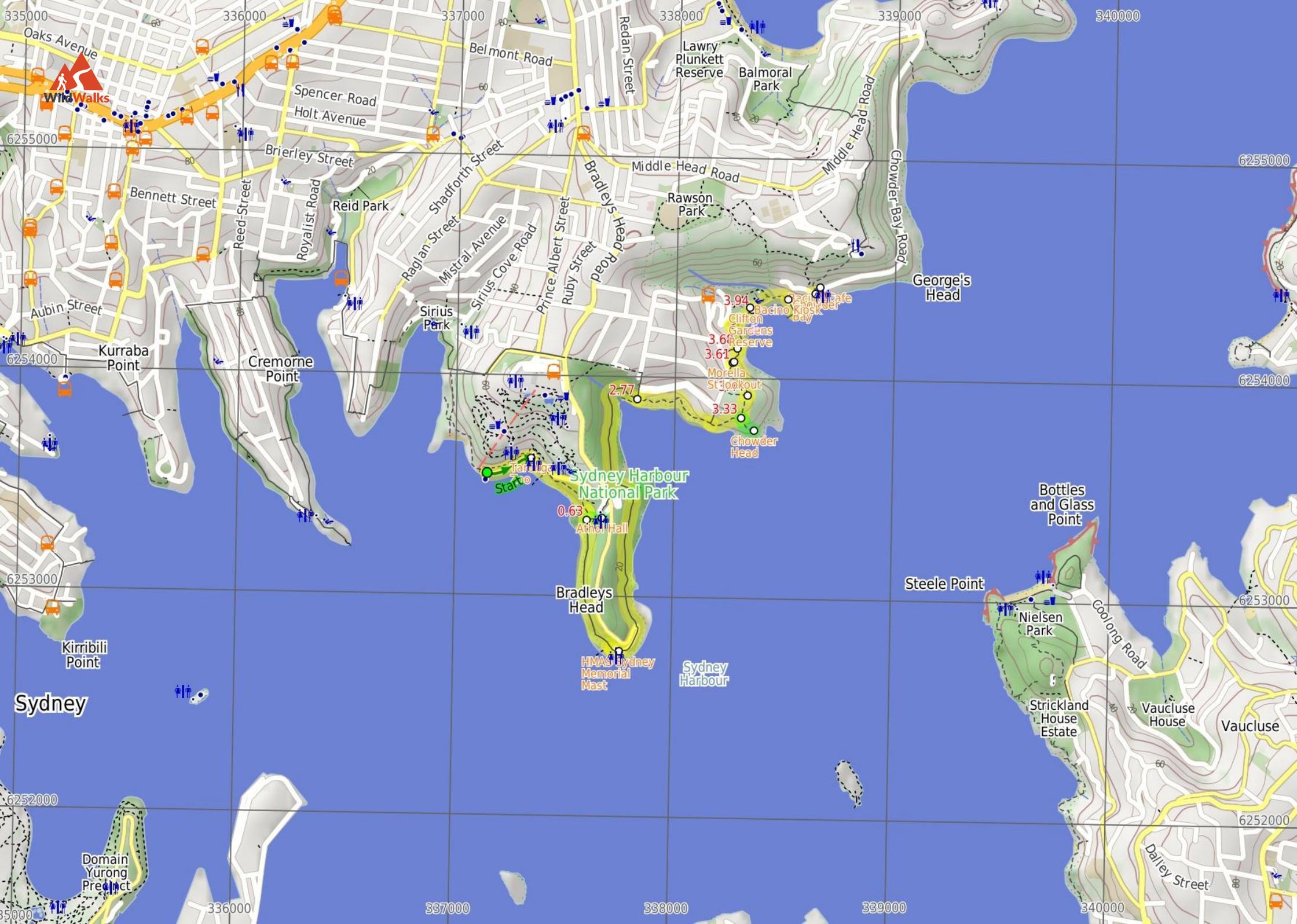
4.37 | Chowder Bay

Chowder Bay looks over Sydney Harbour, to Vaucluse and Rose Bay. The bay is named after the food of the American whalers stationed at Clifton Gardens, 'clam chowder'. Chowder Bay then became a Submarine Mining Depot in 1889. Today, Chowder Bay still has great views from the remaining military buildings on the hillside. One of the newer buildings houses a cafe, and other buildings stand as monuments to their former use. Chowder Bay offers great views with easy access to Clifton Gardens for a swim.

4.37 | Bacino Cafe

The Bacino Bar is in Building No.2 at Chowder Bay, with great views across Sydney Harbour. The bar sells pastas, panini, arancini, tramezzini, stuffed eggplant and biscotti, along with homemade sandwiches and treats. The Bacino Bar prices are reasonable, ranging between \$5-12 for the delicacies, and their coffee is made of their own blend. The bar is open every day from 7am- 4pm except for Christmas. A public toilet is available at the Eastern end of the building. [More info.](#)





Summary navigation sheet for the Taronga Wharf to Chowder Bay



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
Start	Taronga Zoo Wharf -33.8458,151.2398 (GR Parramatta River, 371536)	11 -5	220 m 4 mins	From the wharf, the walk heads uphill along the footpath beside the road to the Taronga Zoo entrance at the pedestrian crossing.
0.22	Taronga Zoo Entrance -33.8452,151.242 (GR Parramatta River, 373536)	24 -15	410 m 9 mins	Turn right: From the opposite the zoo entrance, the walk heads down the ramp leaving the road up to the left.
0.63	Int. Borogegal Walking Trail and Athol Hall Trk -33.8477,151.2447 (GR Parramatta River, 376533)	9 0	70 m 2 mins	Optional sidetrip to Athol Hall. Turn left : From the intersection, this walk follows the sign to 'Athol Hall' up the stairs, crossing a large grassy area.
0.63	Int. Borogegal Walking Trail and Athol Hall Trk -33.8477,151.2447 (GR Parramatta River, 376533)	31 -40	670 m 16 mins	Continue straight: From the stairs, this walk heads around the hillside with the harbour below on the right.
1.30	HMAS Sydney Mast, Bradleys Head -33.8531,151.2463 (GR Parramatta River, 378528)	42 -29	790 m 17 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads along the footpath, keeping the road to the left, for about 150m to where the road bends sharply left.
2.09	Int. Borogegal Walking Trail and Taylors Bay Lookout track -33.8467,151.247 (GR Parramatta River, 378535)	0 -6	50 m 1 mins	Optional sidetrip to Taylors Bay Lookout. Turn right: From the intersection, the walk heads away from the main tracks winding into the bush.
2.09	Int. Borogegal Walking Trail and Taylors Bay Lookout track -33.8467,151.247 (GR Parramatta River, 378535)	41 -51	680 m 17 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads into Taylors Gully, with Taylors Bay below on the right.
2.77	Taylors intersection -33.8427,151.2472 (GR Parramatta River, 378539)	47 -30	570 m 14 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk heads along the line of the houses, on the left, for approximately 140m.
3.33	Chowder Head track intersection -33.8435,151.2524 (GR Sydney Heads, 383538)	0 -10	90 m 2 mins	Optional sidetrip to Chowder Head. Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Chowder Head' sign south-west along the clear track.
3.33	Chowder Head track intersection -33.8435,151.2524 (GR Sydney Heads, 383538)	12 -2	110 m 2 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows 'Clifton Gardens' sign gently up the hill.
3.44	Bottom of Morella Rd track -33.8426,151.2527 (GR Sydney Heads, 383539)	3 -14	170 m 4 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the main track keeping the water glimpses to your right (and the Morella Rd track to your left).
3.61	Morella St lookout -33.8413,151.2519 (GR Sydney Heads, 383541)	0 -17	80 m 3 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows 'Clifton Gardens' sign downhill along the concrete path, behind the line of houses.
3.68	Bottom of Sarahs walk steps -33.8407,151.2522 (GR Sydney Heads, 383541)	3 -16	250 m 5 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads down the steps that soon flatten out as the footpath leads around the headland under a few sandstone overhangs.
3.94	Clifton Gardens Baths -33.8391,151.2529 (GR Sydney Heads, 383543)	13 -10	210 m 5 mins	Continue straight: From the wharf, this walk heads towards the playground-end of the beach.
4.14	Chowder Bay Lower Gate -33.8387,151.2547 (GR Sydney Heads, 385544)	19 -5	230 m 4 mins	Continue straight: From the gate, this walk heads towards the wharf approximately 80m away.