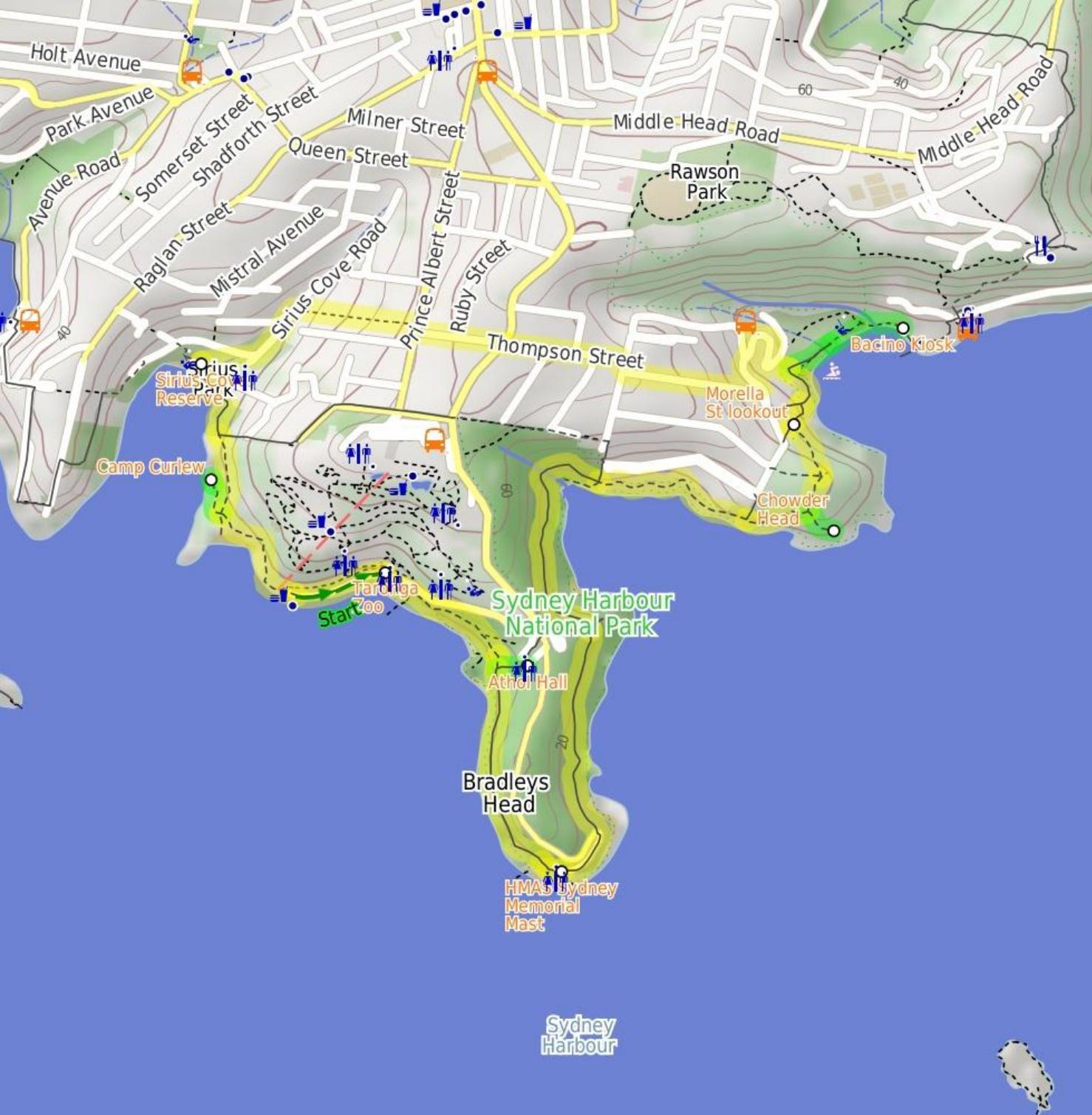


## Taronga Zoo, Clifton Gardens return via Sirius Cove



**3 hrs 30 mins**

**Moderate track**

3

**6.5 km Circuit**

**352m**

This walk winds along the coast of Sydney Harbour with many beautiful views across to the city and of the bush surrounding the track. Bacino Bar at Clifton Gardens is worth a visit for a coffee before walking through the streets over to Sirius Cove. The walk passes Taronga Zoo, which could be added to your walk to make a great day out.

## 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.

## 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.](#)

## 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

<b>Length</b>	6.5 km Circuit
<b>Time</b>	3 hrs 30 mins
<b>Quality of track</b>	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
<b>Signs</b>	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
<b>Experience Required</b>	No experience required (1/6)
<b>Weather</b>	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)
<b>Infrastructure</b>	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 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.

This is a circuit, so you will finish back at the start.

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

### 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 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. Borogegal 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

(1.5 km 34 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'. 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

(280 m 6 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). 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

(130 m 3 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 'Foreshore Path' sign pointing back along the path at the south-western end of Clifton Gardens.

### 3.81 | Optional sidetrip to Chowder Bay Lower Gate

(330 m 7 mins) 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. 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. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Veer right.

### 3.81 | 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.](#)

### 3.81 | Western end of Clifton Gardens

(1.8 km 40 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, the walk heads away from the water and follows the road (coming out of the car park) up the hill. The walk continues along Morella Rd. then turns right into David St. The walk then turns right into Burrawong Ave. and soon turns left into Thompson St, continuing to the round-about intersection with Bradleys Head Rd. Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads west along Thompson St, passing Ruby St (on the right). The walk then turns right onto Prince Albert St, then immediately turning left into the laneway between houses no. 22 and 24. At the end of the laneway, the walk turns left onto Sirius Cove Rd, and continues down to the end, past the car park, and onto the grassy reserve to the middle of the beach.

### 5.64 | Sirius Cove Reserve

Sirius Cove Reserve is next to the sandy beach of Little Sirius Cove, Mosman. The reserve is open and grassy, with a few picnic tables, a fenced playground and drinking fountain at the western end, and a toilet block at the eastern end. The beach has no surf and faces south to Cremorne Point. Road access is via Sirius Cove Road.

### 5.64 | Sirius Cove Reserve

(250 m 5 mins) Turn left : From the intersection, this walk heads along the park foreshore with the water to your right, then heads up the hill bending right. The walk follows the footpath below some houses and past a small beach with a two-storey scout hall. Just after the last house, the path comes to a three-way intersection at the start of a large wall/fence. There is a 'Curlew

Camp' sign pointing back to 'Sirius Cove'.

#### **5.88 | Optional sidetrip to Camp Curlew**

*(360 m 8 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the sign pointing to 'Curlew Camp', following the footpath beside the tall barbed wire fence and wall. The track leads over a few sections of boardwalk, and soon comes to an intersection (with a track on the right marked with another 'Curlew Camp' sign, pointing '130 metres'.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads down the hill following the 'Welcome to Curlew Camp' sign. The track quickly turns right, over a boardwalk, then turns left down more stairs. The walk then winds down the hill to the corner of a large rock, just above the water.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads down towards the water and onto the wooden platform. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn sharp right.

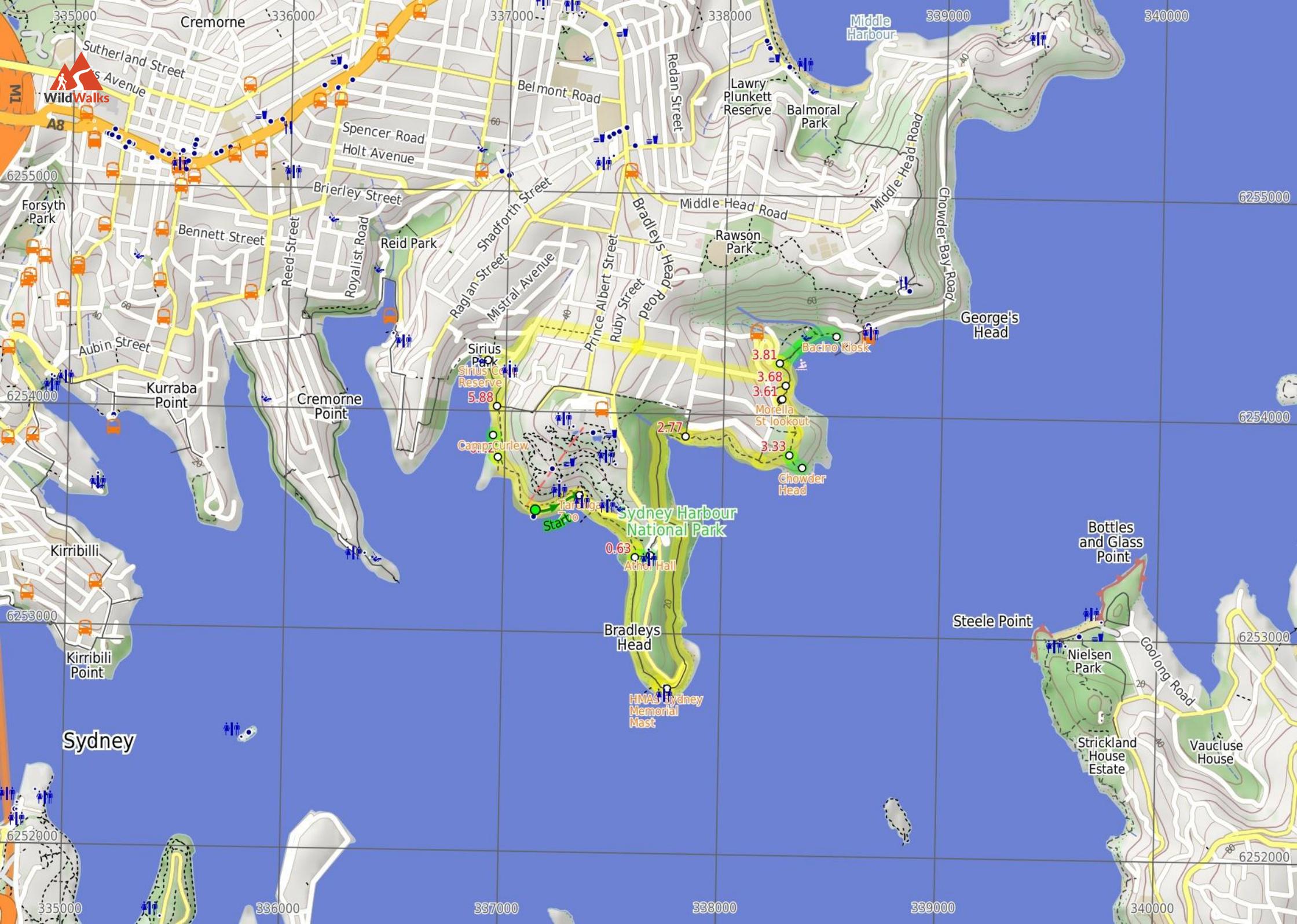
#### **5.88 | Camp Curlew**

Camp Curlew was created in 1890 as an artists' retreat, as was popular at the time. Artists of the day would visit for long periods (although women were not permitted to stay overnight), enjoying the surrounds and painting some of Australia's most prized works. Arthur Streeton is a notable artist who stayed at the camp. The site was less than rustic, with tents to accommodate billiards and dining, and also a hired cook and youth to help with odd jobs. Camp Curlew was abandoned after the siting of Taronga Zoo in the area in 1912.

#### **5.88 | Int. Boroegal Walking Trail and Curlew Camp Trk**

*(340 m 9 mins)* Turn left: From the intersection, this walk heads along the fenceline, with the water below on the right of the track. The walk heads along large sections of boardwalk with a tall barbed-wire fence above on the left. After approximately 300m, the track turns left above a small beach and then after the beach turns right. The walk continues along the hillside, with the tall fence on the left, then heads up boardwalked steps and passes a building on the left before crossing the cul-de-sac to Taronga Zoo wharf.





## Summary navigation sheet for the Taronga Zoo, Clifton Gardens return via Sirius Cove



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)	83 -80	1.5 km 34 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.
2.77	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)	15 -16	280 m 6 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows 'Clifton Gardens' sign gently up the hill.
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 -13	130 m 3 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.
3.81	Western end of Clifton Gardens -33.8397,151.2519 (GR Sydney Heads, 383542)	13 -13	330 m 7 mins	Optional sidetrip to Chowder Bay Lower Gate. Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads down onto the beach, towards the wharf in the middle of the beach.
3.81	Western end of Clifton Gardens -33.8398,151.2519 (GR Sydney Heads, 383542)	83 -86	1.8 km 40 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, the walk heads away from the water and follows the road (coming out of the car park) up the hill.
5.64	Sirius Cove Reserve -33.8396,151.2374 (GR Parramatta River, 369542)	17 -6	250 m 5 mins	Turn left : From the intersection, this walk heads along the park foreshore with the water to your right, then heads up the hill bending right.
5.88	Bottom of Whiting Beach Rd steps -33.8415,151.2379 (GR Parramatta River, 370540)	18 -28	360 m 8 mins	Optional sidetrip to Camp Curlew. Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the sign pointing to 'Curlew Camp', following the footpath beside the tall barbed wire fence and wall.
5.88	Int. Borogegal Walking Trail and Curlew Camp Trk -33.8436,151.2379 (GR Parramatta River, 370538)	22 -26	340 m 9 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk heads along the fenceline, with the water below on the right of the track.