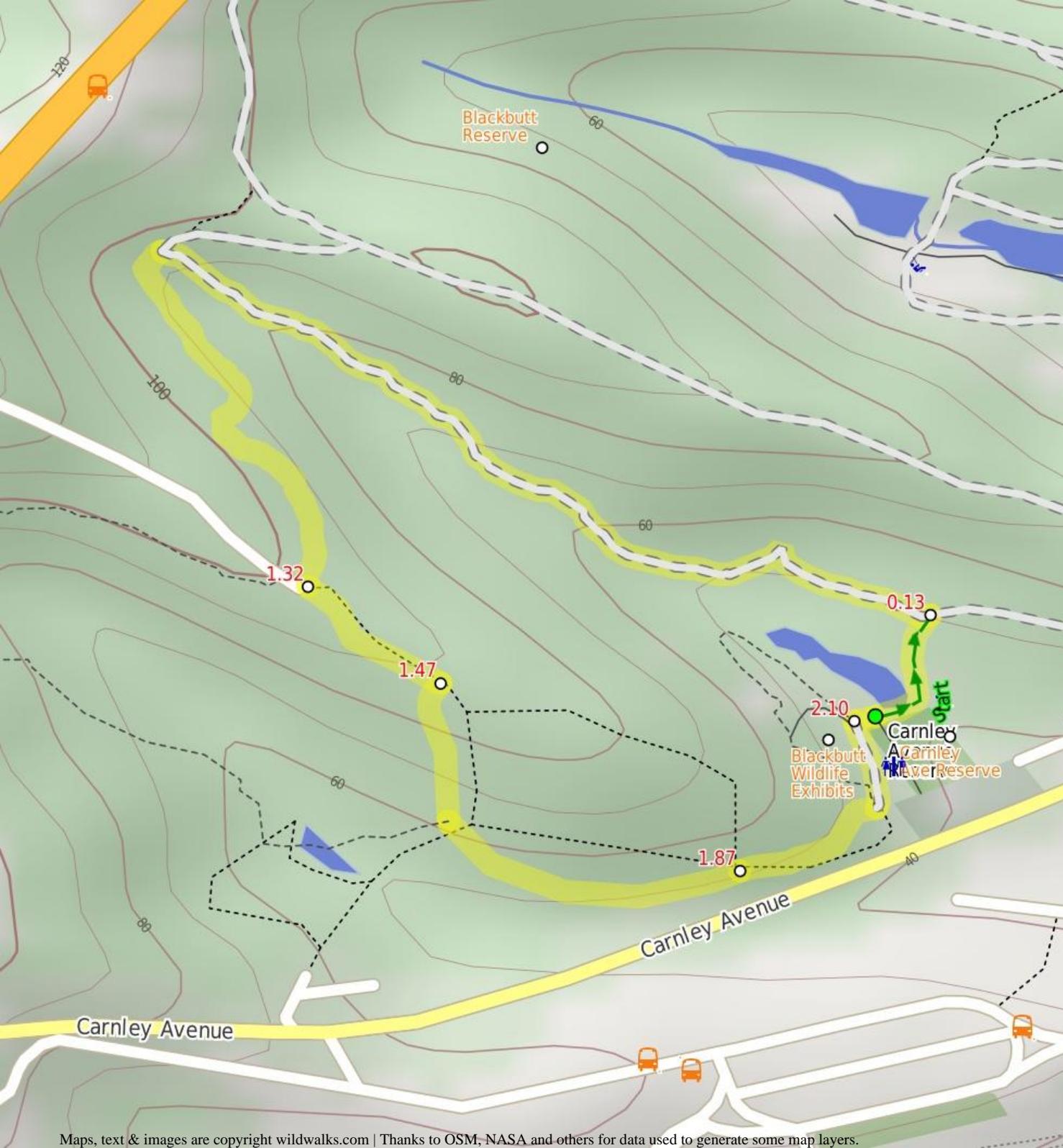




# Black Duck Creek Circuit Walk



**1 Hr**

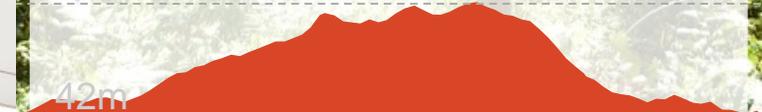
**Moderate track**

**2.1 km Circuit**

**↑ 89m**



This walk circumnavigates Black Duck Creek by following the shady Blueberry Ash trail. The walk then returns to Carnley Reserve using the Main Ridge Walking Trail. This relatively short walk has a good combination of shady moist forest and more exposed ridge forest. Make sure you visit the Wildlife Exhibit while at Carnley Reserve. A recommended walk.



Newcastle 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 Carnley Avenue Reserve (gps: -32.937, 151.698) by car 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/bdcccw>

### 0 | Blackbutt Reserve

Blackbutt Reserve, near Newcastle, occupies over 182 hectares of land and provides visitors with the chance to enjoy nature trails, wildlife exhibits, children's playgrounds and recreational facilities. The reserve is the perfect place for a relaxing family picnic or to explore on a bushwalk. Native wildlife, such as the Powerful Owl and the Grey-headed flying fox can be seen within the park. There is an information cottage at Carnley Avenue, which is open 7am to 5pm, or 7am to 7pm during daylight savings. The reserve has car parking at Carnley Avenue, Richley Reserve, Lookout Road and Mahonoy Drive. For more information, phone 02 4904 3344.

### 0 | Carnley Ave Reserve

The Carnley Avenue Reserve, within Blackbutt Reserve, is wheelchair accessible and has toilets, drinking fountains, gas/electric barbeques, sheltered picnic tables, a children's playground, fenced displays of kangaroos and emu, a large black duck pond and an information centre that is housed within a replica pioneering cottage. The information cottage has a range of souvenirs, focusing on quality and affordable products. A fee of \$4 per vehicle can be paid from the automatic machines in the car park. The information centre is open 7am to 5pm, or 7am to 7pm during daylight savings. For further information phone: 02 4904 3344.

### 0 | Carnley Avenue Reserve

(130 m 2 mins) From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed road, while initially keeping the Black Duck Pond on your left and the replica pioneering cottage directly behind you. This walk continues, passing the Black Duck Pond (on the left)

and continues gently uphill for about 150m (passing a sheltered picnic area and children's playground on the right) until coming to a three-way intersection with a gravel trail (on the left), a metal ring fence (on the right) and a 'Main Ridge Walk (loop)' sign.

### 0.13 | Int of Blueberry Ash Walk and Carnley Trail

(1.2 km 24 mins) Turn sharp left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Blueberry Ash Walk to Lookout Rd CarPark' sign and gravel trail gently downhill, while leaving the metal ring fence directly behind. This walk continues, undulating through mature forest for about 800m, with Black Duck Creek visible (on the left), until coming to a T-intersection with a sealed road and the 'Blueberry Ash Walk to Carnley Ave Carpark' sign.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Main Ridge Walk to Lookout Rd Car Park' sign and sealed road gently downhill, while keeping the valley on your left. This walk continues, undulating for about 400m through attractive forest until coming to a three-way intersection with a road and brick buildings (on the left) and yellow metal posts and a 'Main Ridge Walk (Loop)' sign (on the right).

### 1.32 | Rain Forest Walk & Main Ridge Walk

(150 m 3 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed road, while passing the two square brick buildings (on your right) and leaving the yellow metal posts (directly behind). This walk continues through a picnic area for about 160m until coming to a three-way intersection with a sealed road and 'Rainforest Walk' sign (on the right).

### 1.47 | Int of Lookout Road & Main Ridge Trail

(410 m 9 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Rainforest Walk' sign gently downhill, while keeping the valley on your right. This walk continues through dense forest for about 170m until coming to a T-intersection, with a 'Rainforest Walk to Lookout Rd Carpark' sign indicating a right turn.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Wildlife Exhibit' sign and sealed road gently downhill, while keeping the valley on the right. This walk continues, undulating for about 260m until coming to a three-way intersection, with a 'Lookout Road Carpark' sign and gently uphill sealed road on the left.

### 1.87 | Int of Main Ridge Trail & Lookout Road

(230 m 5 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Wildlife Exhibitions 120m' sign and sealed road gently downhill, while keeping the 'Lookout Road Carpark' sign directly behind you. This walk continues through forest for about 140m, until coming to a four-way intersection

with the Wildlife Exhibits boardwalk (on the left), a car park ahead and a disabled car park (on the right).

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed trail gently downhill, while initially keeping the 'Animals' sign and elevated timber boardwalk on the left. This walk continues for about 90m, passing an 'Animals' sign and 'Information' sign (on the left) and concrete stairs (on the right), until coming to a three-way intersection, with a large timber fenced gate (on the left).

### 2.1 | Blackbutt Wildlife Exhibits

This boardwalk in the Blackbutt Reserve offers wildlife exhibits on an elevated timber boardwalk which is wheelchair accessible. Some of the wildlife that you are likely to encounter are kangaroos, koalas, wombats, Lace monitors, Wonga Pigeons, Red-winged Parrots, Black-winged Stilt, Buff-banded Rail, Herons, Eastern long-necked Turtle, Kingfishers, Turquoise Parrot, Banded Plover, Peaceful Dove, Cockatoos, Lorikeets, True Parrots, Major Mitchell Cockatoo, Bush Stone Curlew, Long-tailed Finch and Barking Owls. Entry is free and the exhibit is open from 9.00am to 5.00pm every day (closed Christmas Day, Good Friday and until 1pm ANZAC Day). Personal koala encounters are available at 2pm daily and cost \$3.50/person. For further information, phone: 02 4904 3344. [More info.](#)

### 2.1 | Int of Boardwalk & Carnley Trail

(20 m ) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed trail gently downhill and towards the Black Duck Pond, while initially keeping the large timber fenced gate on your left. This walk continues for about 20m until coming to a four-way intersection, with the replica pioneering cottage, Black Duck Pond and a 'Richley Reserve' sign (on the left).