

La Perouse Historical Walk



30 mins

Easy track

792 m Circuit

▲ 9m

2

This walk, primarily across open lawns, offers views across Botany Bay while visiting historically significant landmarks. The side trip to the Bare Island Fortifications is well worth it, with tours available on Sunday afternoons. However, a walk across to the locked gate on Bare Island is still well worth the time - also, there are steps at the far side of the bridge down onto attractive unfenced rock platforms. Both the historic tombstone and monument by the museum are worth a visit, to contemplate our early explorers. Food, beach and a children's playground are available close to the end of this walk. A magnificent location with so much history.

6m

13m

Botany Bay National Park

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 Southern End of Cann Park (gps: -33.9886, 151.2337) 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/phw>

0 | Southern End of Cann Park

(140 m 2 mins) From the southern end of Cann Park and 'Congwong Beach Walk' sign, this walk initially follows a footpath toward the water and a stone tower). The walk crosses a sealed road and after about 50m finds a 'Botany Bay National Park' sign. This walk then passes between timber posts, walking across grass for about 50m, until coming to the stone tower (The Barrack Tower).

0.14 | The Barrack Tower

(90 m 2 mins) Continue straight: From the stone tower (The Barrack Tower), this walk travels gently downhill, towards the water, over grass for about 80m. The walk then continues over the sealed road for about 20m, until coming to white timber posts and a 'Botany Bay National Park' sign.

0.23 | Optional sidetrip to Bare Island Fortification

(190 m 4 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the management trail gently downhill toward Bare Island. Then this walk continues to follow the trail for about 90m to find a long timber bridge. This walk crosses the bridge (for about 110m), until coming to a large metal gate and a 'Bare Island Fortification' sign behind the gate. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn left.

0.23 | Bare Island Fortification

In 1885 the Bare Island Fortification on the northern side of Botany Bay was built in order to prevent foreign invasion and protect the water supply of the new colony. While the building is now accessible for tours, originally the only way of getting onto the island was by flying fox. The fortifications were decommissioned in the early 1900s. In 1912, Bare Island became a retirement home for war veterans from the Crimea, Sudan and China campaigns. It continued to operate as a retirement home until 1963, after this the Randwick District Historical Society became caretakers of the island. In 1967 it was passed onto the New South Wales Parks and Wildlife Service for use as a museum and tourist attraction. The Bare Island fort has now been declared an historical site. The Bare Island Fortification is available for tours on Sundays in the afternoons, for more information on how to book tours call 9247 5033. Bare Island is also one of the most popular scuba diving sites in New South Wales.

0.23 | Int of Bare Island Fortification & Anzac Rd

(230 m 4 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the gravel track for about 80m, keeping the road on the right and water on the left, to find a roadside car park. Then this walk crosses the road and then the grass for about 170m (towards the large brick building) to find the LaPerouse Museum.

0.46 | LaPerouse Museum

The La Perouse museum, in Botany Bay National Park, is housed in the historic cable station at La Perouse. The museum contains much information regarding Bare Island, the fate of La Perouse himself and Botany Bay National Park. There are many relics from ship wrecks, with maps and scientific instruments dating back to the 16th century. The museum contains over 2000 items, with one of the most significant collection items being a complete Atlas of the Voyage of La Perouse, consisting of 72 coloured drawings and maps, featuring places the expedition visited between 1785 and 1788. The museum is open Thursday to Sunday 10am to 4pm, closed Christmas Day. Contact La Perouse (Botany Bay National Park) on 02 9311 3379. [More info.](#)

0.46 | Tombstone of Pere Receveur

The tombstone near Bare Island belongs to Pere Receveur. Pere Laurent Receveur died on 17th February 1788 (due to injuries sustained en route in Samoa) and this grave is therefore the first known European grave on Australia's soil. Receveur was a priest and botanist serving under De La Perouse on the French scientific expedition to the Pacific. The tomb itself dates from 1829 but has since been restored several times .

0.46 | Monument to De La Perouse

This monument to De La Perouse, near Cape Banks is named after Jean-Francois de Galaup (1741-88) (aka La Perouse), who landed on the northern shore of Botany Bay on 26 January 1788. Perouse's ships, the Astrolabe and the Boussole, disappeared shortly after visiting Australia with no surviving crew, making the landing in Botany Bay the last known point of contact of the scientific expedition. [More info.](#)

0.46 | LaPerouse Museum

(110 m 2 mins) Turn sharp left: From the LaPerouse Muesum, this walk crosses grass and a sealed road and after about 100m, comes to the Boatshed Cafe, with access to the beach, children's play area and a picnic area.

0.58 | Frenchmans Bay Beach

Frenchman's Bay beach, on the northern side of Botany Bay, offers a sheltered beach with a children's playground, electric barbeques and nearby a number of cafes and restaurants.

0.58 | Boatshed Cafe on Anzac Parade

(220 m 4 mins) Continue straight: From the Boatshed Cafe, this walk follows the footpath gently uphill for about 240m, passing Danny's Seafood Restaurant, a public telephone and crossing sealed roads, until coming to the southern end of Cann Park and the 'Congwong Beach' sign.

