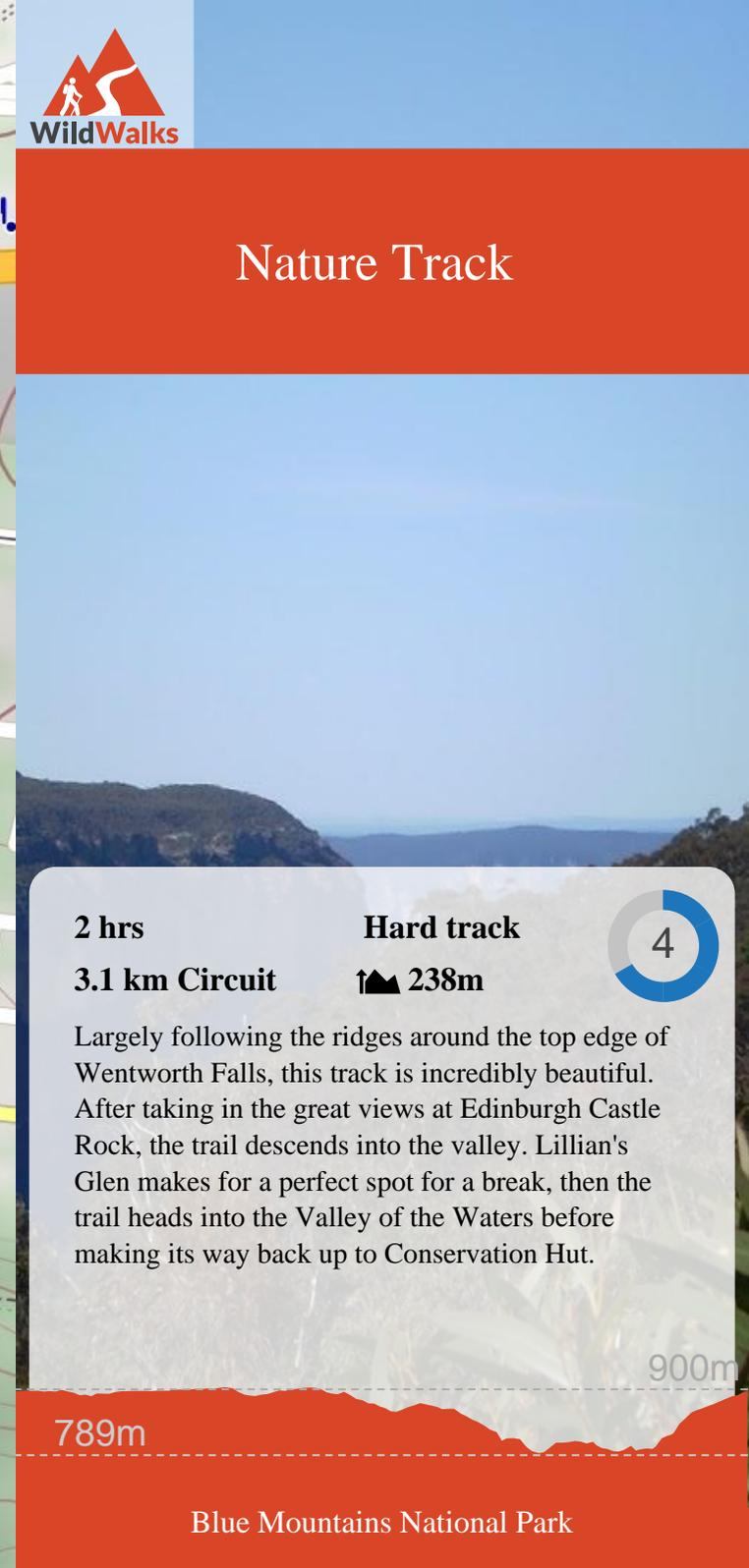
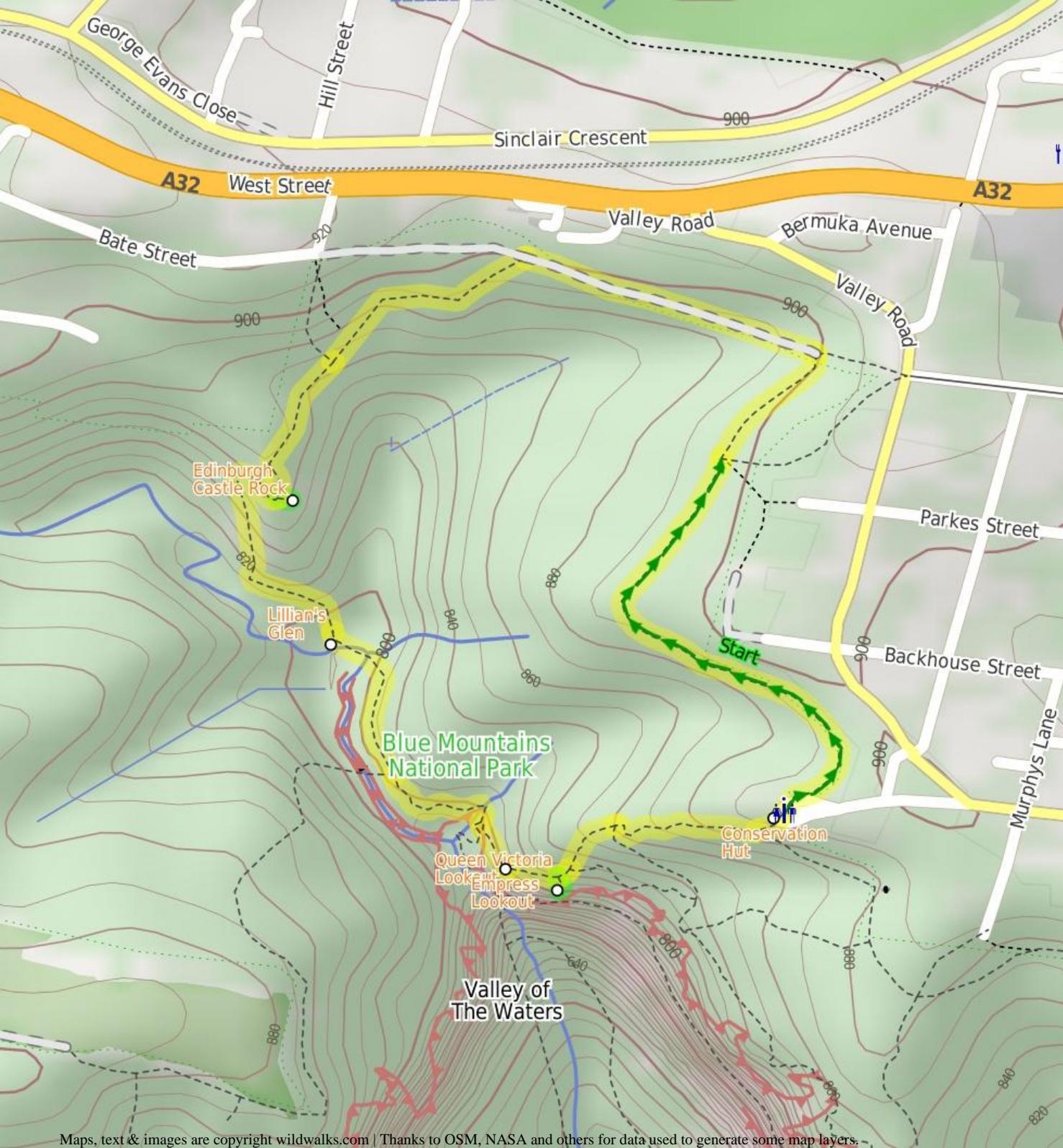


Nature Track



2 hrs

Hard track



3.1 km Circuit

↑ 238m

Largely following the ridges around the top edge of Wentworth Falls, this track is incredibly beautiful. After taking in the great views at Edinburgh Castle Rock, the trail descends into the valley. Lillian's Glen makes for a perfect spot for a break, then the trail heads into the Valley of the Waters before making its way back up to Conservation Hut.

789m

Blue Mountains National Park

Conservation Hut

Conservation Hut is a small cafe perched above the Valley of the Waters, Blue Mountains National Park. The hut was opened in 1963 as a meeting place for the local conservation movement. Rebuilt, Conservation Hut opened as a cafe in 1993, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, seven days a week. Around the Conservation Hut is a small parking area, public toilets, picnic shelters, town water and B&B's. For further information or bookings call (02) 4757 3827. [More info.](#)

Edinburgh Castle Rock

Edinburgh Castle Rock is a signposted, unfenced viewpoint on the Nature Track, in the Blue Mountains National Park. The rock platform has an interesting formation, with an uneven surface of circular lines. From Edinburgh Castle Rock, there is a view left, up the valley towards the houses on the ridge. Looking right, down the Valley of the Waters, it is possible to see the escarpment of Kings Tablelands.

Lillian's Glen

Lillian's Glen is a moss and fern filled section on the 'Valley of the Waters' Creek (where the Nature Track crosses the creek, south of Edinburgh Castle Rock). There are stepping stones to help cross the creek. Lillian's Glen is a great spot to rest and enjoy the area, especially on warmer days. For the sure-footed, a short clamber upstream to Asmodeus Pool at the bottom of a waterfall, is worthwhile - a very nice spot at the end of a narrow canyon.

Empress Lookout

Empress Lookout is a fenced and signposted lookout, perched on a sandstone overhang above the Valley of the Waters Creek. There is a view down to part of the Empress Falls and into the canyon. The views are filtered through the surrounding trees. It makes for a good spot to catch your breath when walking into, or out of, the Valley of the Waters.

Queen Victoria Lookout

The Queen Victoria Lookout is perched above the Valley of the Waters, south-west of Conservation Hut. The fenced lookout has views into the narrow section of the valley. The views are made more dramatic by the roar of the waterfalls below and the mists which frequent the area. Empress Falls are only just visible - the main views extend down Jamison Valley. Kings Tableland (left) and Sublime Point(right) dominate the views and the eastern edge of Mount Solitary and beyond is also visible.

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 Central Tablelands District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Greater Sydney Region](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ([Blue Mountains 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:89301S KATOOMBA

1:100 000 Map Series:8930 KATOOMBA



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 4/6
Hard track**

Length	3.1 km Circuit
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	Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)
Weather	Storms may impact on navigation and safety (3/6)
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 Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Conservation Hut (gps: -33.7202, 150.3629). 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.it/tnt>

0 | Conservation Hut

Conservation Hut is a small cafe perched above the Valley of the Waters, Blue Mountains National Park. The hut was opened in 1963 as a meeting place for the local conservation movement. Rebuilt, Conservation Hut opened as a cafe in 1993, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, seven days a week. Around the Conservation Hut is a small parking area, public toilets, picnic shelters, town water and B&B's. For further information or bookings call (02) 4757 3827. [More info.](#)

0 | Conservation Hut

(940 m 19 mins) From Conservation Hut, this walk follows the footpath towards the car park, past the toilet block and onto the track signposted as the 'Nature Track'. Following the 'Nature Track' sign, this walk heads down the steps and past a backyard. After passing some informal tracks (on the right,) the track widens and come to a sign pointing back to the 'Nature Track Circuit - Valley of the Waters Picnic Area'.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Nature Track Circuit - Edinburgh Castle Rock' sign along the trail, soon coming to a 'T' intersection with a wider management trail, and a sign pointing back to 'Conservation Hut 11min'.

0.94 | Int of Armstrong St Servicetrail and Nature Track

(350 m 8 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads downhill along the wide management trail. After about 60m, the trail passes a private track (and garden, on the right). Continuing along, the main trail soon narrows then widens again before coming to a 'Nature Track Circuit' sign at a three-way intersection.

1.29 | Int of Nature Track and West St Trail

(300 m 9 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Nature Track Circuit - Edinburgh Castle Rock' sign into the bush, along the narrower track. After a while, the track heads down some steps to come to a 'T' intersection, with the 'Valley of the Waters Picnic Area' sign pointing back.

1.58 | Int of Nature and West St Tracks

(240 m 6 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads down the timber steps, following the 'Nature Track' sign. After a short time, the walk heads down some metal stairs, then more timber steps before crossing a gully using a small metal bridge. After climbing out of the gully, the track starts heading gently downhill, coming to a three-way intersection marked with a 'Edinburgh Castle Rock' sign.

1.83 | Optional sidetrip to Edinburgh Castle Rock

(10 m 1 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk heads past the sign saying 'Edinburgh Castle Rock' towards the unfenced rock and great views -

this is Edinburgh Castle Rock. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn left.

1.83 | Edinburgh Castle Rock

Edinburgh Castle Rock is a signposted, unfenced viewpoint on the Nature Track, in the Blue Mountains National Park. The rock platform has an interesting formation, with an uneven surface of circular lines. From Edinburgh Castle Rock, there is a view left, up the valley towards the houses on the ridge. Looking right, down the Valley of the Waters, it is possible to see the escarpment of Kings Tablelands.

1.83 | Int of Nature and Edinburgh Castle Rock Tracks

(380 m 12 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk heads past the two 'Track' signs, following the right-hand arrow away from 'Edinburgh Castle Rock'. The track starts to wind down the steps, which become fairly steep before coming to post 8. From post 8, the walk follows the large rock wall (on the left), then heads down some steps and through a sandstone overhang to come to an unfenced view point, with great valley views. From the view point, this walk heads through the sandstone overhang, keeping the rockface to the left, passing post number 7. The track starts to head gently down the hill before becoming steeper and winding down the steps. Soon the track comes to a 'Lillians Glen' sign, just before a creek crossing.

2.21 | Lillian's Glen

Lillian's Glen is a moss and fern filled section on the 'Valley of the Waters' Creek (where the Nature Track crosses the creek, south of Edinburgh Castle Rock). There are stepping stones to help cross the creek. Lillian's Glen is a great spot to rest and enjoy the area, especially on warmer days. For the sure-footed, a short clamber upstream to Asmodeus Pool at the bottom of a waterfall, is worthwhile - a very nice spot at the end of a narrow canyon.

2.21 | Lillians Glen

(260 m 7 mins) Continue straight: From the 'Lillians Glen' sign, this walk crosses the creek using the stepping stones. After heading up the steps, the track leads back down to another set of stepping stones across the creek. (This is another nice but slippery spot to enjoy, with a small waterfall to the left). After crossing these stepping stones, the track heads up the steps and passes a few handrails before heading down to an intersection marked with a number 5 post, just before Lillian's Bridge.

2.47 | Lillian's Bridge

(170 m 6 mins) Continue straight: From the number 5 post (just next to Lillian's Bridge), this walk heads up the steps, keeping the handrail and valley to the right. The track bends and passes post 4 and comes to post 3 at the top of this climb. After a short time, the track passes post 2 and then starts to wind down the steps. Just after passing a 'Welcome to the Nature Track' information sign (point 1), the walk comes to a small clearing with a picnic table and small waterfall. From the picnic table, this walk crosses the small wooden bridge and heads up a few steps to come to an intersection, with a sign pointing back to the 'Nature Track'.

2.64 | Int of Valley of the Waters and Nature Tracks

(90 m 4 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads up the wooden steps, following the 'National Pass - Tea Rooms' sign. The walk soon heads through a long rock overhang to the base of a metal staircase. The walk climbs the series of steep metal staircases zigzagging up the hill. After climbing some wooden steps, the walk comes to the fenced and signposted 'Empress Lookout'.

2.73 | Empress Lookout

Empress Lookout is a fenced and signposted lookout, perched on a sandstone

overhang above the Valley of the Waters Creek. There is a view down to part of the Empress Falls and into the canyon. The views are filtered through the surrounding trees. It makes for a good spot to catch your breath when walking into, or out of, the Valley of the Waters.

2.73 | Empress Lookout

(60 m 2 mins) Turn left: From the Empress Lookout, this walk heads up the wooden steps away from the lookout. The walk heads up the hill, soon passing under a sandstone overhang then up more steps, coming to a 'Y' intersection with the signposted 'Queen Victoria Lookout' track (on the right).

2.79 | Optional sidetrip to Queen Victoria Lookout

(20 m 1 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Queen Victoria Lookout' sign down the steps towards the handrail. Soon the track passes a small lookout on the left and, shortly afterwards, the fence leads to the rock platform and fenced 'Queen Victoria Lookout'. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn right.

2.79 | Queen Victoria Lookout

The Queen Victoria Lookout is perched above the Valley of the Waters, south-west of Conservation Hut. The fenced lookout has views into the narrow section of the valley. The views are made more dramatic by the roar of the waterfalls below and the mists which frequent the area. Empress Falls are only just visible - the main views extend down Jamison Valley. Kings Tableland (left) and Sublime Point(right) dominate the views and the eastern edge of Mount Solitary and beyond is also visible.

2.79 | Int of Valley of the Waters and Queen Victoria Tra

(320 m 8 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads away from 'Queen Victoria Lookout' up the set of stairs to almost immediately come to a 'Y' intersection with the unsignposted Lyrebird Cliff track (on the right).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads up the timber and dirt steps, away from the valley views. The track passes a few faint tracks (on the right, that lead to an unfenced view point). The track soon comes to a signposted intersection with the 'Overcliff Track'.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'National Pass - Tea Rooms' sign up the steps, with the handrail on the left. After a short time, the track passes a couple of faint tracks (on the right, leading to an old picnic area). Heading up the main steps, the walk passes another handrail (and signs) then an information sign, before coming to a three-way intersection with the 'Shortcut Track'.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads up the steps towards the building. The walk passes a couple of picnic shelters (on the right) before coming to the road and the front of the 'Conservation Hut'.

Summary navigation sheet for the Nature Track



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
Start	Conservation Hut -33.7202,150.3629 (GR Katoomba, 556657)	32 -27	940 m 19 mins	From Conservation Hut, this walk follows the footpath towards the car park, past the toilet block and onto the track signposted as the 'Nature Track'.
0.94	Int of Armstrong St Servicetrail and Nature Track -33.7134,150.3633 (GR Katoomba, 557665)	17 -17	350 m 8 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads downhill along the wide management trail.
1.29	Int of Nature Track and West St Trail -33.712,150.36 (GR Katoomba, 553666)	5 -39	300 m 9 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Nature Track Circuit - Edinburgh Castle Rock' sign into the bush, along the narrower track.
1.58	Int of Nature and West St Tracks -33.7136,150.3578 (GR Katoomba, 551665)	13 -15	240 m 6 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads down the timber steps, following the 'Nature Track' sign.
1.83	Int of Nature and Edinburgh Castle Rock Tracks -33.7156,150.3572 (GR Katoomba, 551662)	2 -6	10 m 1 mins	Optional sidetrip to Edinburgh Castle Rock. Turn left: From the intersection, this walk heads past the sign saying 'Edinburgh Castle Rock' towards the unfenced rock and great views - this is Edinburgh Castle Rock.
1.83	Int of Nature and Edinburgh Castle Rock Tracks -33.7156,150.3572 (GR Katoomba, 551662)	15 -86	380 m 12 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, this walk heads past the two 'Track' signs, following the right-hand arrow away from 'Edinburgh Castle Rock'.
2.21	Lillians Glen -33.7175,150.3578 (GR Katoomba, 552660)	24 -12	260 m 7 mins	Continue straight: From the 'Lillians Glen' sign, this walk crosses the creek using the stepping stones.
2.47	Lillian's Bridge -33.7196,150.3585 (GR Katoomba, 552658)	19 -30	170 m 6 mins	Continue straight: From the number 5 post (just next to Lillian's Bridge), this walk heads up the steps, keeping the handrail and valley to the right.
2.64	Int of Valley of the Waters and Nature Tracks -33.7203,150.3595 (GR Katoomba, 553657)	20 -12	90 m 4 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads up the wooden steps, following the 'National Pass - Tea Rooms' sign.
2.73	Empress Lookout -33.721,150.3598 (GR Katoomba, 554656)	18 0	60 m 2 mins	Turn left: From the Empress Lookout, this walk heads up the wooden steps away from the lookout.
2.79	Int of Valley of the Waters and Queen Victoria Tracks -33.7211,150.3604 (GR Katoomba, 554656)	0 -17	20 m 1 mins	Optional sidetrip to Queen Victoria Lookout. Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Queen Victoria Lookout' sign down the steps towards the handrail.
2.79	Int of Valley of the Waters and Queen Victoria Tracks -33.7211,150.3604 (GR Katoomba, 554656)	75 -2	320 m 8 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads away from 'Queen Victoria Lookout' up the set of stairs to almost immediately come to a 'Y' intersection with the unsignposted Lyrebird Cliff track (on the right).