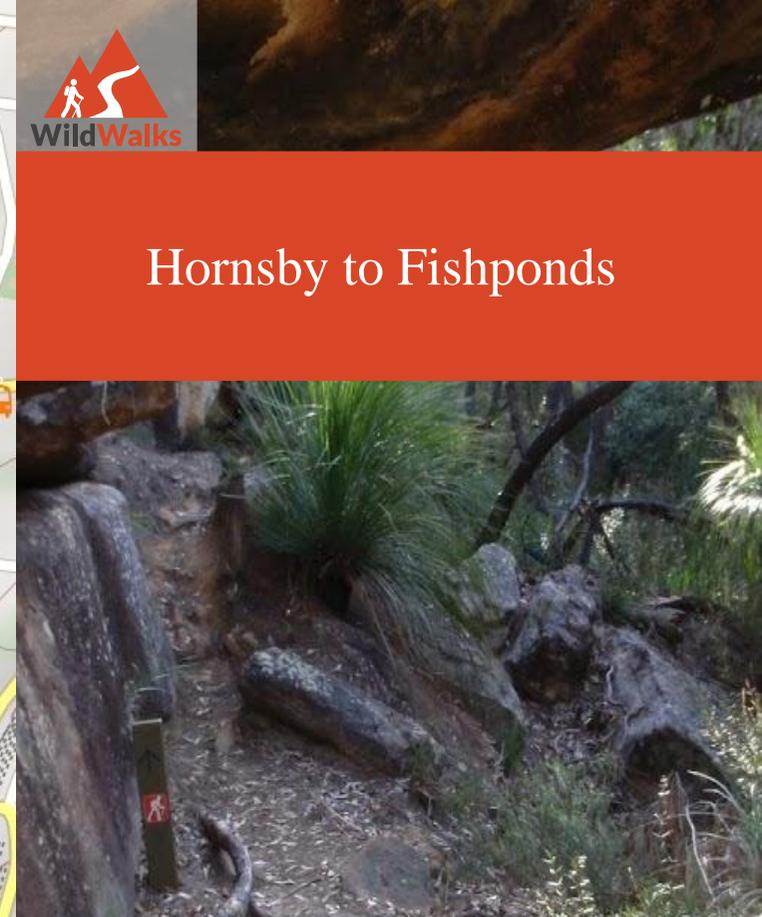
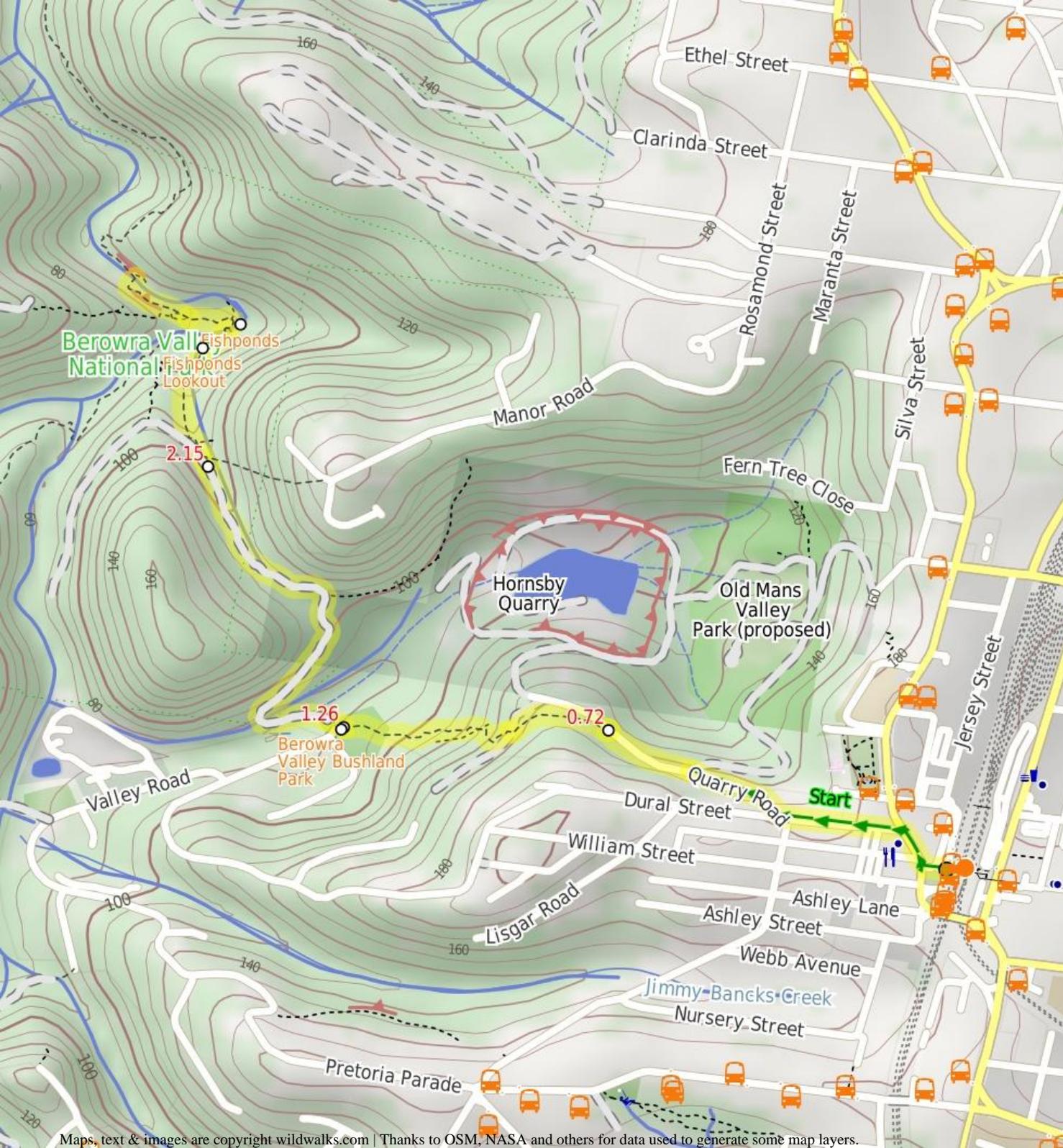


Hornsby to Fishponds



2 hrs 30 mins

Hard track

5.6 km Return

296m

4

A short walk from Hornsby to reach a great spot for admiring Berowra Creek. This walk explores several different environments in the Regional Park along the way. Allow some time to sit and enjoy the view at Fishponds. Expect to see other people along the track as this is one of the most popular walks in the area.

48m

184m

Berowra Valley 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 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 Hornsby Train Station (gps: -33.7035, 151.098) by car, train or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

This is a return, 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/htf>

0 | Hornsby Train Station

(720 m 14 mins) From the western side of Hornsby Railway Station, this walk first crosses the bus lane, then follows the large 'To the Great North Walk' sign across the Station St pedestrian crossing, and then across the Pacific Highway at the traffic lights. Here the walk turns right and follows the footpath (across 'Dural Lane') past some shops to cross 'Dural St'. The walk then turns left and follows the footpath down along 'Dural St', past a few more shops. Continuing past the units, this walk then turns right onto 'Quarry Rd' and follows the road down the gently hill for about 180m to an intersection with 'Old Mans Valley' management trail and locked gate (on your right).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows Quarry Road down the gentle hill, leaving the houses behind to come to an intersection with a track, signposted with a 'Great North Walk' sign (on your left).

0.72 | Int of Quarry Road and GNW

(540 m 14 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk' sign up the hill. The track leads up over the rise, then continues down to the intersection with the Quarry Rd Management trail.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk' sign down the steep rock steps. The walk winds steeply down a number of sets of stone steps, passing some large rock walls for a bit over 100m, to find a welcome flat section of track midway the hill. As the track leads past some houses (through the trees on your left), this walk heads down more steps before coming to the open area of 'Berowra Valley Bushland Park', at the end of Rosemead Road.

1.26 | Berowra Valley Bushland Park

'Berowra Valley Bushland Park' is also known as Rosemead Rd

Park and is found at the bottom end of Rosemead Rd, Hornsby.

This is an open area park surrounded by shady eucalyptus trees, making a pleasant spot to rest on a walk. It has a picnic table with bench seats, and a sheltered free electric BBQ. There is a water tap in the park, near the road. There is also a 'Welcome to Old Mans Valley' information sign with information about the traditional country of the Darug and Guringai peoples.

1.26 | Berowra Valley Bushland Park

(890 m 20 mins) Veer right: From the lower side of Berowra Valley Bushland Park (at the end of Rosemead Rd, Hornsby), this walk follows the 'Fishponds 1.2km' arrow on the large sign, down the track for approximately 30m, to the intersection with the Rosemead management trail, marked with a Great North Walk arrow.

Veer right: From the intersection, this walk heads downhill along the wide rocky management trail as it bends left (and passing some houses off to the left). The trail then bends right and leads across Old Mans Creek using some concrete stepping stones. The walk then continues by heading up the moderately steep hill and then through a thick blue gum and bracken fern forest. The wide trail leads to the top of the hill then bends left, (ignoring the track on the right) to pass over a saddle. Here the trail leads down the gentle hill, through the turpentine forest for just over 300m to find an intersection with narrower track on the right, marked with arrow posts.

2.15 | Int of Blue Gum Walk and Joes Mountain Service Tra

(300 m 7 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Great North Walk' arrow down the narrower track a short distance to find a three-way intersection marked with a large 'Great North walk' signpost.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Fishponds' sign along the flat narrow track past the 'Berowra Valley Regional Park' sign. The track soon bends left (passing along the top of an unfenced cliff) then winds down some steep carved rock steps (with a hand rail). The rocky track then leads down along the side of the valley for just over 100m to cross a timber foot bridge. The track then continues for another 70m to find a fenced rock platform and signposted intersection.

2.45 | Fishponds Lookout

Fishponds Lookout is a fenced rock platform at the intersection of the Benowie walking track and the Rosemead trackhead. It is marked with a number of Great North Walk signs. This informally named lookout has good views down over Fishponds, a large waterhole on Berowra Creek. Looking north across the creek, there are views to the upper waterhole and the cliffs on the other side.

2.45 | Fishponds Lookout

(350 m 8 mins) Turn right: From the lookout, this walk follows

the 'Galston Gorge' sign along the fenced rock shelf (keeping the fence to your left). The track leads down the rocky steps to the edge of Berowra Creek. The walk crosses the creek using the stepping stones, and comes to a small cave on the other side. This creek may be impassable after rain.

Veer right: From the cave, this walk follows the 'Galston Gorge' sign up the track and timbers steps. Soon the track turns left and follows a Great North Walk arrow up the hill, at the red and white 'Danger' sign (ignoring the other track). The track climbs up the carved steps onto the rock platform and continues up the rocky track until just after passing through a narrow gap between two rocks, where this walk comes to the un-signposted (and faint) intersection with the Pogson's Trig track (on the left).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads down along the side of the hill, whilst keeping the main valley to your right. The track leads down some rocky steps, passing just above a rock platform (a short distance down on your right, with a plaque dedicated to 'Cora'). The track then leads down along the base of a cliff, passing under a rock overhang. The track continues along the base of the cliff for another 50m then starts to wind downhill (with some handrails) to come to a rock platform beside the creek. This walk then crosses Berowra Creek on the flat timber bridge.

2.79 | Fishponds

Fishponds is a long waterhole on Berowra Creek in Berowra Valley Regional Park. The waterhole is lined with tall cliffs and a few sandstone caves. At the southern end, there are stepping stones to help cross the creek, and a small timber bridge at the northern end. This is a beautiful spot and a worthy place to rest and enjoy the water passing by. The waterhole is fairly popular with local teens in summer, cooling off. Swimming and jumping at the Fishponds waterhole has resulted in fatalities - please heed the signs and Cora's parents' plea and enjoy the water from the edge.