

Scenic Railway to Golden Staircase Circuit



3 hrs 30 mins

Hard track

5.9 km Circuit

↑ 723m

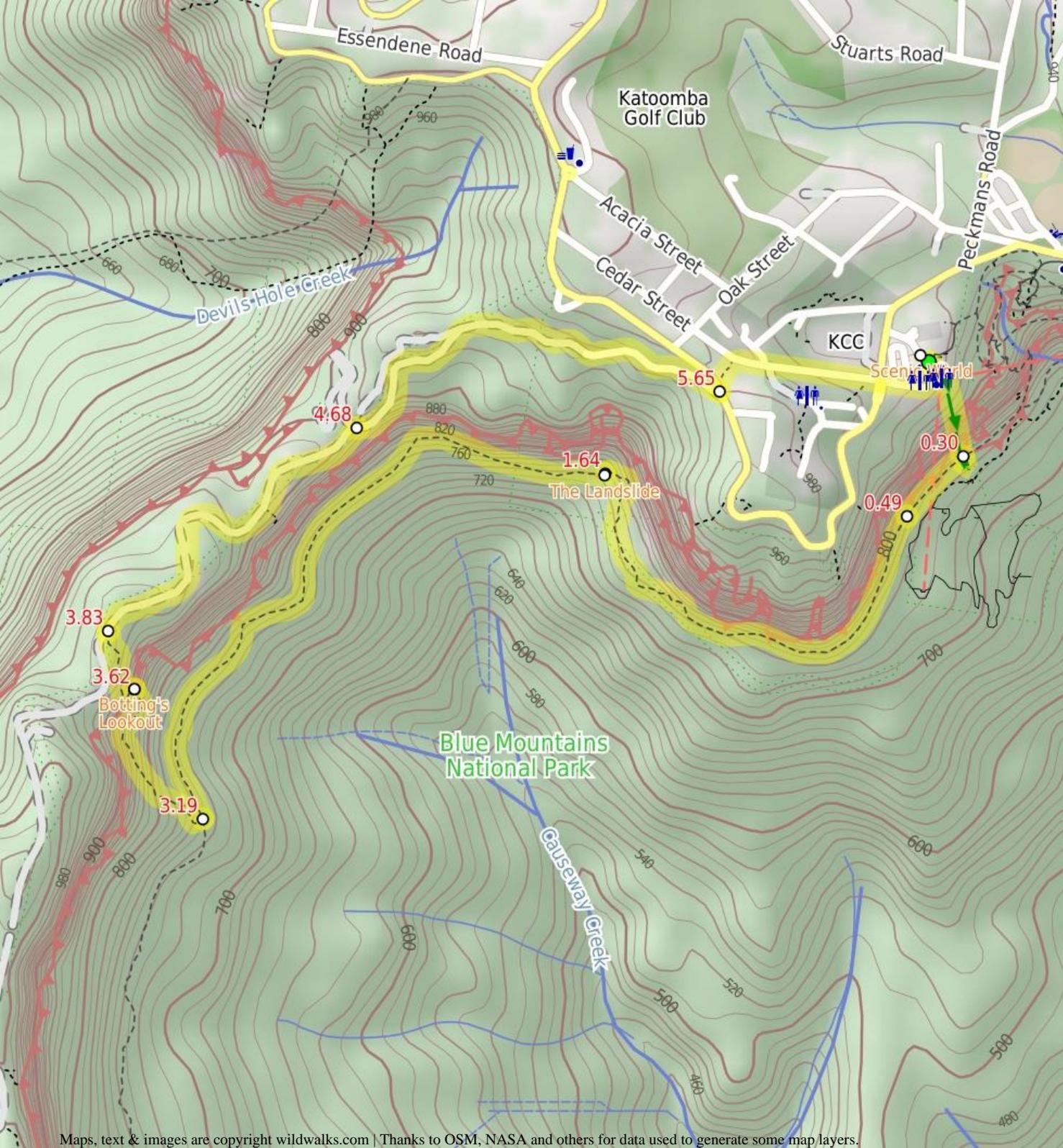
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Exploring below the cliffs on the western side of the Scenic Railway, this walk passes some spectacular lookouts, especially the view from the Landslide. In addition to this, it goes through beautiful shrouded forest before climbing steeply up the Golden Staircase. Once out of the valley, be prepared for a long walk back along dirt and asphalt roads to Scenic World.

735m

980m

Blue Mountains 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 Scenic World (gps: -33.7286, 150.301) 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/srtgsc>

0 | Scenic World

Scenic World is one of the most renowned tourist attractions of Katoomba and the Blue Mountains. Located on the cliffs of the Jamison Valley, visitors can enjoy a ride on the Scenic Railway (the world's steepest incline railway) or the Scenic Cableway, into the Jamison Valley, and explore the Scenic Walkway from the base. Alternatively, the Scenic Skyway offers a bird's eye view over the valley, with a glass floor to enhance the experience. Scenic World also features a revolving restaurant, a cafe and a kiosk, in addition to the documentary theatre and souvenir shop. Rides can be purchased, starting from \$16 for adults and \$10 for children, and combination or family passes are available. [More info.](#)

0 | Scenic World

(300 m 26 mins) From Scenic World, this walk goes down the cliffs using the Scenic Railway. Hang on tight! This 415m-long journey is the world's steepest railway. At the bottom, the track comes to a great viewing platform of the valley. Use of the railway costs \$10 for adults and \$5 for children one-way. Last train normally at 4:45pm (opens at 9am) [More info.](#)

0.3 | Scenic Railway (Bottom Platform)

(190 m 6 mins) Turn left: From the bridge over the bottom of the Scenic Railway, this walk follows the signs to 'scenic walkway', passing a replica of a mining cart, as well as an old mine. Just past this, the walk comes to a pipeline that runs down the hill collecting fresh water, signposted as drinkable. Continuing past the old mine shafts along the boardwalk, this walk comes to an intersection with a bush track going slightly off to the right. This is signposted as the way to the Landslide.

0.49 | Int of Scenic Railway Boardwalk and Landslide Bush

(1.2 km 40 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the wide track and signposts towards the 'landslide' (keeping the cliffs on the right). The walk winds along a bush track with small boulders strewn along it. There are a number of old

mine shafts just off the track and some interesting historical items. The track continues under Malaita Point before breaking out of the vegetation to a worthy view of the valley, just before the landslide. As the track comes to the old landslide site, it become rougher with plenty of boulders over the track. There are also excellent views of the cliffs above and the landslide as the vegetation is quite sparse here.

1.64 | The Landslide

'The Landslide' is a large rockfall going into the valley approximately 100m. There is a good vantage point for the landslide from under the cliffs to the east, and a great but more distant view from Narrow Neck lookout. The landslide occurred in 1931 after a few days of rumbling. There has been much debate as to whether this event was helped along by erosion and coal mining in the area at the time.

1.64 | Landslide

(1.6 km 42 mins) Continue straight: From the eastern side of the Landslide, the walk heads across the face of the landslide (keeping the cliff on the right). At this point, the track is quite rough, with frequent boulders making it a slight scramble. On the other side of the landslide, the track narrows and becomes a flat bush track that follows the base of the cliffs. The surrounding trees become quite dense again, adding quite an ambience to the area. The walk heads along the bottom of the Narrow Neck escarpment, until coming to an intersection with a set of stairs off to the right, signposted as the 'Golden Staircase'.

3.19 | Bottom of Golden Staircase

(430 m 19 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Golden Stairs car park' sign uphill past the termite mound then past the 'Warning - Sections of the Golden Stairs are unfenced and can be slippery when wet' sign. The walk heads up the broad spur along a narrow track, and before long, starts to climb the first set of rock and metal stairs. After this climb, the track is relatively flat for a little while before another climb up similar stairs. Then the walk makes its way around a gully to the base of a cliff. From here the track is flat for a while, heading between the cliff and the fence for about 100m, (passing a 'Caution Rockfall Hazard' sign) before another, smaller climb, up through a gap in the rock to the fenced and signposted 'Botting's L.O.'.

3.62 | Botting's Lookout

Botting's Lookout offers great views over the Jamison Valley and the cliff line, including the Landslide, Malaita Point and the Golden Stairs. A plaque at the lookout states that the lookout was named after Walter Botting (1887-1985), a pioneer trail-maker of the Katoomba District. [More info.](#)

3.62 | Bottings Lookout

(210 m 8 mins) Turn left: From Botting's Lookout, the walk heads up the hill where the track then turns left. The walk continues, steeply in a couple of places, up some eroded sections of track and

through a couple of switchbacks. Soon the narrow track mostly flattens out, leading to the signposted 'Golden Stairs' car park on Glenraphael Dr.

3.83 | Golden Staircase car park

(860 m 22 mins) Veer right: From the Golden Stairs car park, this walk follows the dirt road north, down the gentle hill and along the ridge as it undulates up and down for about 1km, before reaching the Sydney Water management trail - this is closed to the public at all times.

4.68 | Sydney Water pipe service trail

(970 m 26 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the dirt road heading up the hill and undulating along the ridge for about 1km, before it climbs up to the intersection with Cliff Drive.

5.65 | Int of Glenraphael and Cliff Drives

(570 m 11 mins) Turn sharp left: From the intersection, this walk heads up Cliff Drive briefly, then follows the management trail on the right, just past the house. At the end of the trail, this walk turns right onto Violet Street, following this to the front entrance of Scenic World.