



## St Ives to Davidson Park via Casuarina Track



4 hrs

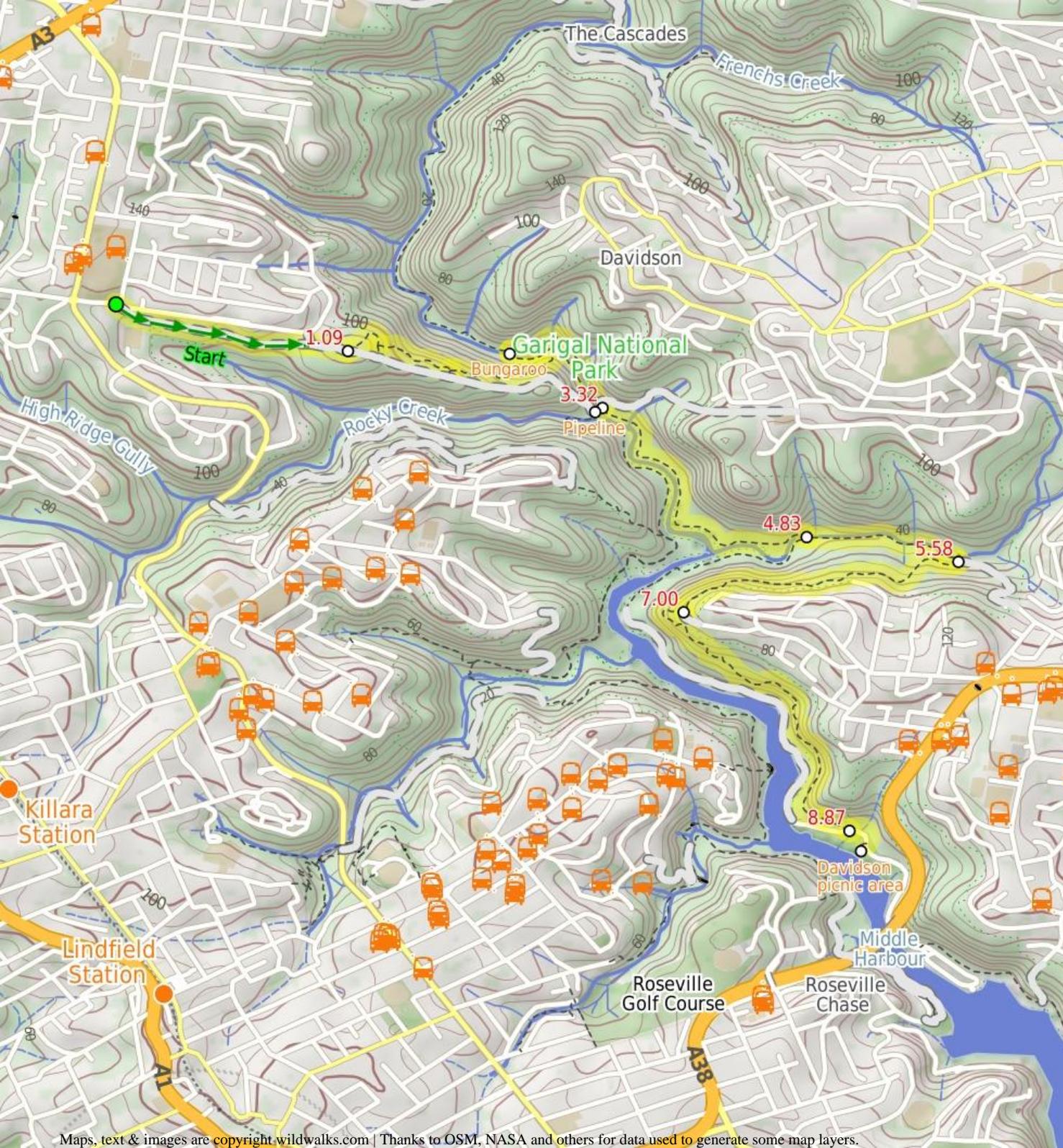
Hard track

9 km One way

▲ 399m

4

This walk starts in St Ives and follows the Pipeline and Bungaroo tracks down to Middle Harbour Creek, crossing the creek at the stepping stones and continuing to Davidson Picnic area. Much of this walk follows Middle Harbour Creek, providing great water views and passing some interesting sandstone caves along the way. The Davidson park picnic area is a great place for a rest and play after this walk.



### **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** You can get to Hunter Ave (opposite Yarrabung Rd) (gps: -33.7418, 151.1669) by car or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

You can get back from Int of Davidson Park driveway and Rotary Rotunda path (gps: -33.7682, 151.2032) by car or bus. Car: A park entry fee is required for driving into the park.

Find up to date and more information including; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at <http://wild.tl/ptdpvc>

### **0 | Hunter Ave (opposite Yarrabung Rd)**

*(910 m 19 mins)* From the intersection, this walk heads through the metal gate and follows the service trail down the hill, keeping the pipeline on the right, as it heads through the bush and behind the houses to the intersection of the wide service trail on the left.

### **0.91 | Int of Pipeline Track and Founders Way**

*(180 m 3 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the management trail keeping the pipeline on the right as it heads up the gentle hill and past a Garigal National Park sign. It then continues through the bush for a while before coming to the signposted intersection with the Bungaroo Track.

### **1.09 | Int of Pipeline and Bungaroo Tracks**

*(1.3 km 33 mins)* Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Bungaroo Track' sign along the bush track, heading away from the pipeline and through the gum trees, winding down some wooden steps before coming to the intersection of the lookout rock at the track markers. Here, the track turns right and continues along through the bush to the intersection with the upper link track, where a power line tower comes into view at a rock surface with some painted green arrows.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the bush track east towards the rock platforms, where it follows the steps down a cleft between the rocks. The walk continues along the bush track, winding through the bush and under some high-tension power lines and down some spaced-out wooden steps, until it comes to the intersection with the middle link track at a rock surface with some green painted arrows.

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the bush track heading east, down the hill and through the bush for a while, steadily winding down wooden and rock steps. The track heads down around some rock platforms and past an information sign on a local bird called the Anomalous Hornbill. The walk passes a track marker and continues down some more wooden steps to the intersection of the lower link track.

### **2.39 | Int of Bungaroo and Lower Link Track**

*(240 m 4 mins)* Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the bush track, with the ground sloping up to the left and keeping the wide creek a short distance (through the bush) to the right. The track continues through the thick bush and around some boulders for a little while before bending to the right and coming to the Middle Harbour Creek, which it crosses at the large sandstone steppingstones (not safe to cross if stepping stones covered in water). The walk then continues up the steps on the other side to the signposted intersection of the 'Governor Phillip Track'.

### **2.63 | Bungaroo**

Governor Arthur Phillip (first governor of NSW) described this section of the river as where "the flowing of the tide ceased". Phillip and his party of nine camped here in 1788 whilst looking for land suitable for farming. John White (Surgeon General) described the area as "the most desert, wild and solitary seclusion that the imagination can form any idea of". Over the past 200 years the river has changed, but somewhere not far upstream of the stepping stone is Bungaroo. [More info.](#)

### **2.63 | Int of Gov. Phillip and Bungaroo tracks**

*(700 m 16 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection, the track follows the 'Governor Phillip Walk' sign, keeping Middle Harbour Creek to the right of the track. The track mostly follows the bank of the creek, bending to avoid a few obstacles along the way. Before long, the track comes to an intersection at the bottom of the concrete Davidson Track management trail. This intersection is well-signposted and is a few meters before the large pipe bridge.

### **3.32 | Pipeline**

This pipeline is unearthed at Hunter Street, St Ives, and travels through Garigal National Park, across Middle Harbour Creek to John Oxley Drive, Sorlie. The pipe carries water under pressure from Ryde to Pymble to the reservoir at Beacon Hill. The old smaller-capacity pipe can still be seen running parallel to the larger pipe.

### **3.32 | Int of Davidson and Governor Phillip tracks**

*(1.5 km 28 mins)* Veer right: From the intersection, this walk crosses under the pipebridge and continues along the rocky bush track, following Middle Harbour Creek as the track undulates up and down for a while. The walk then steadily climbs up the side of the hill to the left for some time, before dropping back down and continuing along beside Carrol Creek. The walk passes a "Governor Phillip Walk" sign, as the track bends to the right and crosses the creek at the stepping stones at the signposted intersection of 'Carroll Creek Track' and 'Lyrebird Track'.

### **4.83 | Int of Lyrebird and Carroll Creek tracks**

*(740 m 12 mins)* Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Carroll Creek Track' sign along the bush track, winding through the dense vegetation as it follows the creek for a while. The walk winds under a long rock overhang and continues up to the bottom of a concrete staircase and a metal bridge. (The track doesn't cross the bridge but does have quite a pretty view of Carroll Creek.) From here, the track turns right and climbs the concrete staircase to the end of the management trail at the top.

### **5.58 | Int of Casuarina and Carroll Creek Tracks**

*(1.4 km 34 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Casuarina Track' sign, following the bush track as it winds up the side of the hill for a while. The track flattens out and passes under a long rock overhang, then continues to wind up the hill until it comes to a large rocky outcrop. Here, the walk flattens out for a little while before undulating up and down along the side of the hill for a while, before coming to the base of a large high-tension power line tower.

### **7 | Int of Casuarina Track and Boree Road service trail**

*(1.7 km 46 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Casuarina Track' signpost along the bush track, heading around the large power line tower (keeping the tower on the left of the track) and down the steep rocky hill. The track crosses under the power lines before flattening for a short distance, continuing along the rough track as it undulates up and down along the side of the hill, crossing a few rock platforms and a creek. As the track continues along the side of the hill, it becomes more defined and

easier-going, passing under a short rock overhang and down one last rocky hill before flattening out and continuing to the lookout at the top of the Casuarina Stairway.

### **8.74 | Casuarina Lookout**

*(130 m 2 mins)* Continue straight: From the lookout, this walk heads down the long wooden staircase descending to the bottom of the hill where it comes to Davidson Park.

### **8.87 | Bottom of the Casuarina Steps**

*(160 m 3 mins)* Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows along the driveway (keeping the park and Middle Harbour Creek on the left) for a little while before coming to the signposted intersection of the 'Rotary Rotunda' footpath.

### **9.03 | Davidson picnic area**

Davidson Picnic Area is in Garigal National Park, under Roseville Bridge (access via Warringah Road, south bound lanes, or via many walking tracks in the area). The picnic area has a boat ramp, wheelchair-accessible toilets, large open grassy areas, picnic tables, free electric BBQ's, and a large rotunda. There are plenty of shady spots provided by the trees. The northern section of the picnic area has a small beach swimming area, and the southern section boasts a boat ramp. The park is open 6am to 8pm (6:30pm outside daylight savings time). Ticket machines are provided to pay the car access fee.