



## Stringybark Ridge and Zig Zag Creek loop from Thornleigh Station



**2 hrs 30 mins**

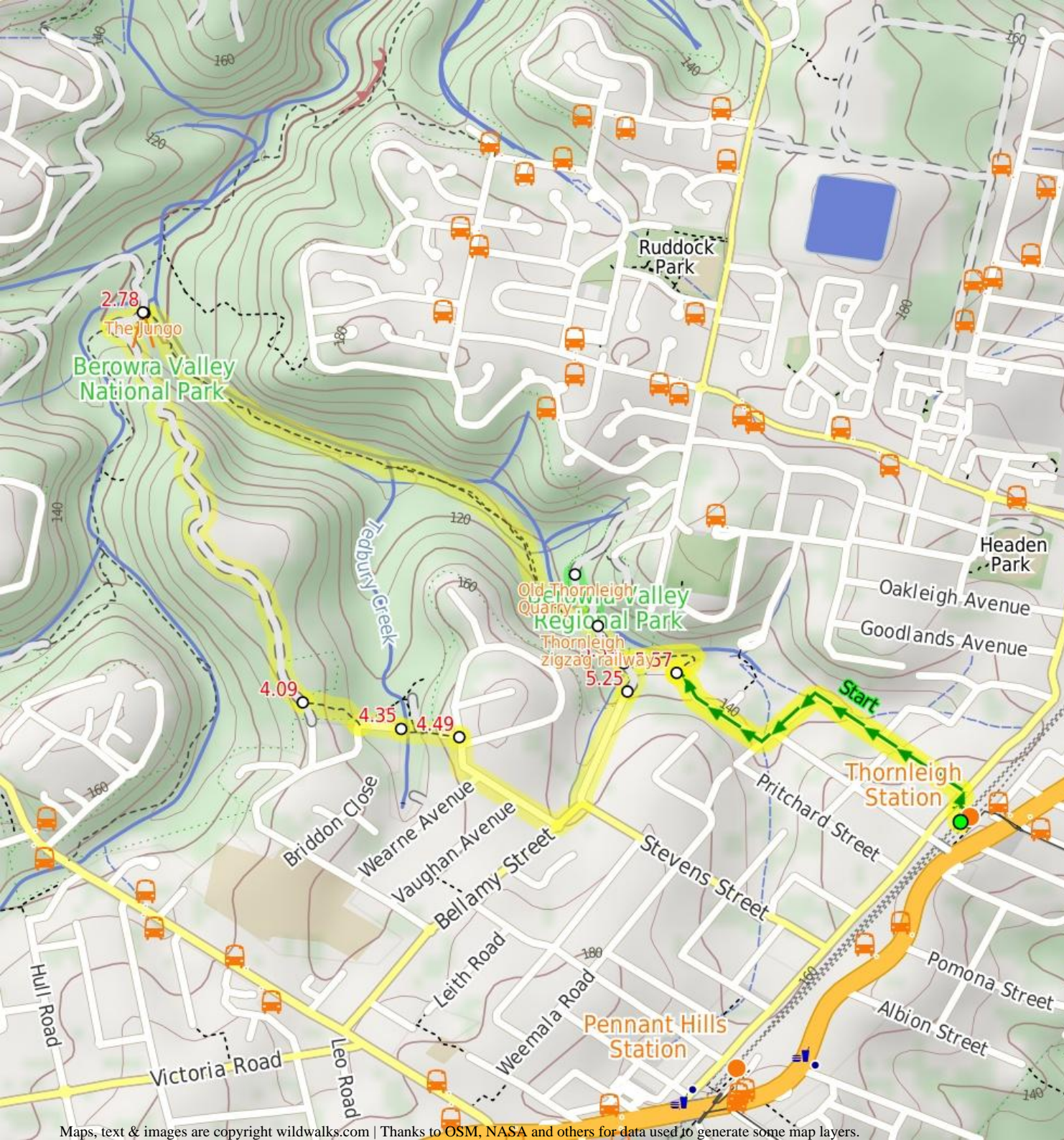
**Hard track**



**6.6 km Circuit**

**187m**

A really nice loop walk in a corner of Berowra Valley Regional Park with good access by public transport. The walk starts and finishes at Thornleigh train station. The scenery includes beautiful scenes along Zig Zag creek and nice forest while going up Stringybark ridge, plus as an optional side trip to see the remnants of the historic Thornleigh Quarry and Zig Zag railway. There are good spots to eat or grab a coffee near Thornleigh station before or after the 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 Thornleigh Train Station (gps: -33.7319, 151.0781) by car, train 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/srazzclfts>

### 0 | Thornleigh Train Station

*(990 m 18 mins)* From the western (north bound) side of Thornleigh Station, this walk follows the 'Jungo Rest Area' sign along the footpath towards the car park and The Esplanade. The walk then heads down a short distance further to turn left and cross 'The Esplanade' at the traffic lights, then continue straight along the footpath down along Eddy Rd. Following a couple of GNW arrows down Eddy Rd as it then bends left, turning into Tillock St, and shortly later this walk then turns right into Morgan St. Continuing down till just before the end of this street, this walk comes to an intersection marked with a GNW arrow and the 'Elouera Bushland Natural Park' sign (on the right).

### 0.99 | Morgan Rd

*(230 m 4 mins)* Turn right: From the end of Morgan Street, the walk follows the GNW arrow and the 'Elouera Bushland Natural Park' sign between houses no. 28 and 26. Once behind the houses at a small clearing, the track turns left and follows down the rocky side of Zig Zag Creek. Soon after passing behind the third house, the track comes to an intersection with a wide concrete trail, where a sign points back along the track to 'Sydney Cove'.

### 1.22 | Int of Bike Trail and Morgan Rd tracks

*(140 m 2 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'The Jungo' sign downhill along the wide concreted trail, and soon crosses over the culverted creek (with green side rails). The walk continues down into the valley, coming to a signposted intersection marked with a 'Great North Walk' sign (on your left), just before Zig Zag Creek and the long bridge.

### 1.36 | Optional sidetrip to Thornleigh Quarry

*(140 m 3 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk crosses the 'Zig Zag Creek' bridge, following the 'Historic Quarry' arrow and climbs steeply up the hill on the concrete management trail. The walk soon arrives in front of the old Thornleigh Quarry, marked with a plaque on a large stone. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn right.

### 1.36 | Old Thornleigh Quarry

The old Thornleigh Quarry is located on the Heritage Trail in Thornleigh. The quarry dates back to 1883 and was initially a source of 'ballast' for portions of the Sydney (Homebush) to Newcastle (Waratah) rail link. A book is available with some detail on this quarry and the associated zigzag railway: 'Sydney's Forgotten Quarry Railways' by John Oakes, ISBN 0 9757870 3 9

### 1.36 | Thornleigh zigzag railway

The Thornleigh zigzag railway originally ran from the main rail line near Thornleigh to an historic quarry, near present day De Saxe Cl, Thornleigh. There are only minor fragments still visible today. The 'Heritage Trail' in

Thornleigh has interpretive signs for the railway and the old Thornleigh Quarry. A book is available with some detail on railway and associated quarry: 'Sydney's Forgotten Quarry Railways' by John Oakes, ISBN 0 9757870 3 9

### 1.36 | Zig Zag Creek Bridge intersection

*(1.4 km 25 mins)* Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk' sign along the narrower track, keeping the gully to your right. The pleasant track leads into, then through, the ferny forest with tall trees for about 700m, before crossing a side creek on a timber bridge. The track then continues in a similar manner for another 700m, coming to a large clearing and campsite, The Jungo. On the far side of this clearing is a well-signposted intersection with a 'Bellamy Street' sign pointing back through the campsite.

### 2.78 | The Jungo

The Jungo is a relatively small clearing and campsite near the junction of Berowra and ZigZag Creeks at a well signposted intersection. There is often water in the creeks (treat well before drinking) but there are no facilities. Speculation on the source of the name 'Jungo' includes the Aussie tendency to abbreviate words ('Junction' gets corrupted to 'jung-o' etc) as well as a possible derivation from one of a few similar sounding aboriginal words.

### 2.78 | The Jungo

*(1.3 km 26 mins)* Veer left: From 'The Jungo', the walk follows the 'Callicoma Walk' arrow along the management trail which climbs steeply and soon comes to the intersection (with the management trail going up the hill to the left and the red Great North Walk marker pointing straight ahead).

Turn left: From the intersection, the walk follows the management trail up the hill, climbing steeply at times, before turning right at the intersection at the old pony club grounds (marked with a 'Berowra Valley Regional Park' sign). The walk follows the management trail, keeping the cleared grounds to the left, then passes around a gate, and bends to the right in the car park and follows the 'Stringybark Ridge' management trail, arriving an intersection immediately after passing around a gate (with a private property access coming in from the left).

### 4.09 | Int of Stringybark Ridge trail and Redgum Ave acce

*(160 m 4 mins)* Veer left: From the intersection, whilst looking away from the locked gate, the walk follows an initially faint bush track, off to the left (east) (avoiding the entry to the 'Private Property' also behind to the left) and comes to the intersection of Laurence St and Redgum Ave.

### 4.25 | Int of Laurence St and Redgum Ave

*(100 m 2 mins)* Turn left: From the intersection, the walk follows Redgum Ave, keeping the houses to the right, for a short distance, until reaching the end of this section of Redgum Ave.

### 4.35 | End of Redgum Ave west

*(140 m 3 mins)* Continue straight: From the end of the asphalt, the walk follows a narrow bush track down toward the creek. After crossing the small creek, the walk emerges into a grassy clearing and continues up the hill between the houses, arriving at the intersection of Redgum Ave and Thorn St.

### 4.49 | Int of Redgum Ave and Thorn St

*(770 m 14 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection, the walk follows Thorn St, soon passing the intersection with Jackson Cr. At the 'T' intersection of Thorn St and Bellamy St, the walk turns left and continues to the end of Bellamy St

### 5.25 | End of Bellamy St

*(90 m 2 mins)* Continue straight: From the end of Bellamy St, the walk passes

around a gate and follows the 'Heritage Trail' along the concrete management trail, down the hill, soon arriving at an intersection marked by a 'Great North Walk' signpost (there is a bush track coming in from the right here). There is a tap at the end of Bellamy St and a picnic table just after the gate.

### 5.34 | Int of Bike Trail and Morgan Rd tracks

*(230 m 4 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Sydney Cove' sign along the narrow track away from the wide concrete trail. The track leads behind the house (on your right) following along the rocky side of Zig Zag Creek. After the third house, in a small clearing, the track turns right, heading up between the houses a short distance to come to the top of the turning circle at the end of Morgan Road, Thornleigh.

### 5.57 | Morgan Rd

*(990 m 18 mins)* Turn left: From the end of Morgan Street, this walk heads up along the road to left into 'Tillock Street'. This street soon bends right to become 'Eddy Street' following the footpath and GNW arrows to the top of the hill where there is a set of traffic lights. The walk crosses 'The Esplanade' at the lights to then turn right walking past the car park, and through a small park to find a large 'Great North Walk' sign at the (north bound) entrance to Thornleigh train station.