

## Willow Tree to Calala



4 hrs

Moderate track

3

10.4 km Return

↑ 282m

On this walk you follow the historic Lady Carrington Drive from Willow tree picnic area to Calala before returning the same way. The walk passes two icons on the old road, Gibraltar Rock and Jersey Spring whilst crossing several small brooks. At Calala you will find a large clearing and natural shade from some large trees, there is also access down to a small beach on the side of the shallow Hacking River.

3m

18m

Royal 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** Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Lady Carrington Drive gate (Willow Tree) (gps: -34.0793, 151.0552). Car: A park entry fee is required for driving into the park.

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/wtc>

### 0 | Willow Tree

Willow Tree is a picnic area in the Royal National Park. It is found on the south side of Audley, between the old Lady Carrington Drive and the Hacking River. The picnic area has a large shelter with 4 picnic tables, an open grassy area, parking, BBQ's, tap water, garbage bins, recycling and toilets. The picnic area stretches along the river bank and provides a lovely spot to stop and enjoy the park .

### 0 | Lady Carrington Drive

Opened in 1886 by Lady Carrington, this road was formally named 'Lady Carrington Road' (later changed to 'drive'), and started on the southern side of the then newly constructed Audley weir. The road become popular among people exploring the region. The road follows the Hacking River's east bank and then Bola Creek to Sir Bertram Stevens Drive. Much history has been preserved, with several drinking troughs still filling with water and many sandstone retaining walls still standing. The brooks that the old road crosses have been named using the traditional names of birds, the following is a list with the English name in brackets. Mullion (Eagle), Wurrul (Bee Eater), Burowa (Bustard), Karonga (White Crane), Gorra Worra (Laughing Jackass), Buralga (Native Companion), Kobardo (Parrot), Birumba (Plover), Dirijiri (Wagtail), Murrindum (Quail), Dumbal (Crow), Tamur (Bronze winged Pigeon), Burunda (Swan), Karani (Duck), Palona (Hawk) Brooks.

### 0 | Lady Carrington Drive gate (Willow Tree)

(430 m 8 mins) From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Lady Carrington Drive' sign around the locked gate and along the management trail (keeping the picnic area and river to the right). This walk winds along the trail gently uphill for about 400m to step over a potential trip hazard with the sandstone paving below the overhanging Gibraltar Rocks.

### 0.43 | Gibraltar Rock

Gibraltar Rock, Royal National Park, is a sandstone overhang found near the northern end of Lady Carrington Drive. The old road passes under the rocks and is home to a small section of sandstone cobblestone. At this point, the old road offers great views of the Hacking River and across to Wattle Forest picnic area. These and many other sandstone formations, together with the history, make this old road quite interesting to explore. There is a picnic table under the overhang.

### 0.43 | Gibraltar Rock

(2.1 km 39 mins) Continue straight: From Gibraltar Rock, this walk follows the old road, keeping the river to the right. After 100m, the trail passes over an old sandstone culvert and past a few small palms. The trail then continues winding along the side of the hill for a while until coming to a wooden bench seat and the 'Jersey Spring'.

### 2.48 | Jersey Spring

The Jersey Spring is beside the old Lady Carrington Drive in the Royal National Park. The permanent spring feeds into two sandstone troughs, built in 1892 to provide water for horses and people traveling along the road. The troughs are still fed by the same spring (although it has moved overtime and the water is no longer suitable for drinking). The springs are named after Rt. Hon. Victor George (Earl of Jersey), the 17th governor of NSW. [More info.](#)

### 2.48 | Jersey Spring

(130 m 3 mins) Continue straight: From Jersey Spring, this walk follows the Lady Carrington Drive past the 'Jersey Spring' information sign keeping the river to the right. The trail winds down the hill to come to a large clearing, the unsignposted Jersey Spring clearing.

### 2.61 | Jersey Spring Clearing

The Jersey Spring Clearing is an open grassy area between the old Lady Carrington Drive and the Hacking River. The clearing is not formally named but is just south of the Jersey Spring. This is a great area to stop, rest and enjoy the journey along the old road.

### 2.61 | Jersey Spring clearing

(2.6 km 51 mins) Continue straight: From the Jersey Spring clearing, this walk heads along the old road, keeping the clearing and river to the right. The walk passes some lovely rock formations on the left and heads through some palm groves. The trail passes over three main creeks before coming to the unsignposted Kobardo Brook. In the gully of Kobarado Brook (on the left) is a small sandstone water trough. Over the next 1km, the trail crosses three more creeks before coming to 'Calala', a signposted clearing and picnic area.

### 5.22 | Calala

The signposted 'Calala' clearing lies between the old Lady Carrington Drive and the Hacking River. The large clearing has a picnic table and plenty of shade from the surrounding trees. There is access to a small sandy beach on the Hacking River, making this a lovely spot to rest on a warm day.

