

# Marramarra Ridge to Smugglers Ridge walking track

Marramarra National Park



## Overview

Discover the beauty of Marramarra, near Hornsby, on this day walk. Enjoy scenic views, historic heritage, colourful wildflowers and picnicking along the way.

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### Where

Marramarra National Park in Sydney and surrounds

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### Distance

13km loop

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### Time suggested

4 - 6hrs

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### Grade



**Grade 4**

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### Trip Intention Form

It's a good idea to let someone know where you're going. Fill in a [trip intention form](#) to send important details about your trip to your emergency contact.

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## **What to bring**

Drinking water, hat, sunscreen

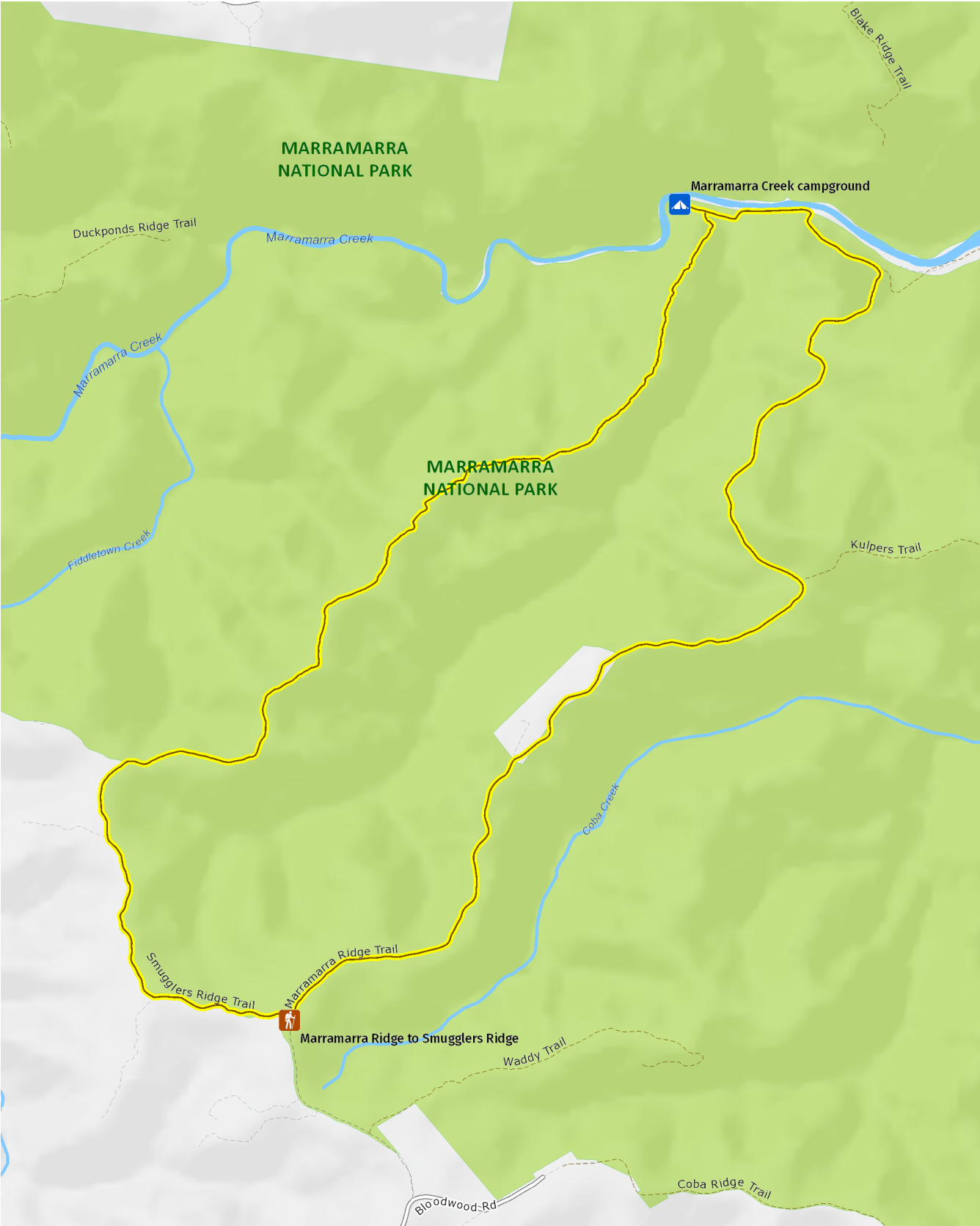
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Discover the Hawkesbury Sandstone ridge tops and explore the tidal creek lines of Marramarra on this beautiful day walk.

































Enjoy easy walking along Marramarra Ridge trail down to Marramarra Creek. Stop for a while and enjoy picnicking and a refreshing swim at Marramarra Creek campground. Head off to explore the historic orange orchards, and in late winter, you can probably pick an orange from these historic trees.

Continue along the walking track that takes you back up to Bloodwood Road along Smugglers Ridge. It'll be impossible to miss the wildflowers in spring. Admire the beautiful colours of pink eriostemons and boronias, yellow peas and white epacris, as well as yellow and red bloodwoods and angophoras.

Map



# Map legend


 Feature Park/section	 Other NPWS reserve	 Mount/Peak/Hill	 Waterfall
 Track	 Management trail (no motor vehicle access)	 Motorway	 Primary road
 Arterial road	 Sub-arterial road	 Distributor road	 Local road
 Sealed road	 Unsealed road	 Feature route	 Railway
 Watercourse	 Waterbody	 Marine Park/ Aquatic Reserve	 Firearms range/ Danger area
<b>Attractions and activities</b>		<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Transport</b>
 Aboriginal site	 Adventure sports location	 Accommodation	 Train station
 Birdwatching spot	 Boating location	 Boat ramp	 Bus station
 Campground	 Canoe/Kayak location	 Café/kiosk	 Ferry wharf
 Cave entrance	 Fishing spot	 Education centre	 Airport
 Historic site	 Lookout	 Picnic area	<b>Warnings</b>
 Snow sports facility	 Surfing spot	 Venue	
 Swimming spot	 Visitor centre		 Gate – may be locked
 Canoe/Kayak route	 Car touring route		 Warning
 Cycling trail	 Horse riding trail		
 Snow trail	 Walking track		
 4WD touring route			


## Local alerts

For the latest updates on fires, closures and other alerts in this area, see <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/marramarra-ridge-to-smugglers-ridge-walking-track/local-alerts>

## General enquiries


National Parks Contact Centre


 7am to 7pm daily

 [1300 072 757](tel:1300072757) (13000 PARKS) for the cost of a local call within Australia excluding mobiles

 [parks.info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:parks.info@environment.nsw.gov.au)

## Park info

 in [Marramarra National Park](#) in the [Sydney and surrounds](#) region

 Marramarra National Park is always open but may have to close at times due to poor weather or fire danger.

## Visitor info

All the practical information you need to know about Marramarra Ridge to Smugglers Ridge walking track.

## Track grading

 **Grade 4**     [Learn more about the grading system](#)

### Features of this track

Distance	Time	Quality of markings	Experience required
13km loop	4 – 6hrs	Limited signage	Experienced bushwalkers

Gradient	Steps	Quality of path
Short steep hills	Occasional steps	Formed track, some obstacles

## Getting there and parking

Marramarra Ridge to Smugglers Ridge walking track is in the southern precinct of Marramarra National Park. To get there:

- From Fiddletown, follow Bloodwood Road until you see the sign to Marramarra Ridge on your left
- Follow Marramarra Ridge trail to the Smugglers Ridge turn-off
- Park your car here and start the walk along Marramarra Ridge trail.

### **P** Parking

Parking is available at Smugglers Ridge turn-off.

## Best times to visit

There are lots of great things waiting for you in Marramarra National Park. Here are some of the highlights.

 **Autumn**

Unwind and take in the serenity of camping at Gentlemans Halt or Marramarra Creek campgrounds.

### **Spring**

Wander through the bush and enjoy the colourful display of wildflowers.

### **Summer**

Paddle the waterways by kayak or canoe and have a swim in the rivers.

### **Winter**

Enjoy longer hikes and day walks such as Canoelands Ridge walking track or Marramarra Ridge to Smugglers Ridge walking track.

## **Weather, temperature and rainfall**

### **Summer temperature**

Average	Highest recorded
19°C and 28°C	44.8°C

### **Winter temperature**

Average
6°C and 16°C

## **Maps and downloads**



**Marramarra Ridge to Smugglers Ridge walking track factsheet**



**Marramarra Ridge to Smugglers Ridge walking track map** (1.5MB pdf)

## **Safety messages**

This walk takes you to a remote location. Please ensure you're well prepared – bring appropriate clothing and equipment, and advise a family member or friend of your travel plans.



### **Bushwalking safety**

If you're keen to head out on a longer walk or a backpack camp, always be prepared. Read these [bushwalking safety tips](#) before you set off on a walking adventure in national parks.

If you're bushwalking in this park, it's a good idea to bring a topographic map and compass, or a GPS.



### **Fishing safety**

Fishing from a boat, the beach or by the river is a popular activity for many national park visitors. If you're planning a day out fishing, check out these [fishing safety tips](#).



### **Mobile safety**

Dial Triple Zero (000) in an emergency. Download the [Emergency Plus app](#) before you visit, it helps emergency services locate you using your smartphone's GPS. Please note there is limited mobile phone reception in this park and you'll need mobile reception to call Triple Zero (000).



## Permitted



### Fishing

A current NSW [recreational fishing licence](#) is required when fishing in all waters.

## Prohibited



### Pets

Pets and domestic animals (other than certified assistance animals) are not permitted. Find out which [regional parks allow dog walking](#) and see the [pets in parks policy](#) for more information.



### Smoking

NSW national parks are [no smoking areas](#).

## Learn more

Marramarra Ridge to Smugglers Ridge walking track is in Marramarra National Park. Here are just some of the reasons why this park is special:

## Darug country



Marramarra is part of the traditional lands of the Darug Aboriginal people. Their use and respect of the land can be found in isolated corners of the park. The surviving Aboriginal sites, which provide the only indications of traditional life in the area, are of special importance to local Aboriginal communities. Cave art, rock engravings, grinding grooves, middens, scarred trees, and other occupational deposits and stone arrangements are all part of Marramarra.

## Exploring the land



In the early days of the new colony, Hawkesbury River was a major communication route and supported an active river-based community. European exploration began as early as 1789 when Governor Arthur Phillip took his second trip up Hawkesbury River and camped at Gentlemans Halt. By 1884, there was a small community at Gentlemans Halt and a provisional school had been established; you can still see the foundations of a road and a wharf from this era. Other reminders of European historic heritage include remains of orange orchards along Marramarra Creek and the foundations of a hut, stone walls and a well at Big Bay.

## Is it a bird?



Marramarra is home to a great diversity of animals and birds, making it a great place for wildlife spotting and bird watching. You're likely to spot a white-breasted sea eagle, swamp wallaby, possum or kingfisher in your travels. If you're lucky, you might come across some of the more uncommon animals found here such as rails, gang-gang and glossy black cockatoos, and red-crowned toadlets.



**Canoelands Ridge walking track** Canoelands Ridge walking track is a beautiful day walk near Hornsby and Sydney. See scenic Hawkesbury River views and native wildflowers along the way on this long hike.



**Marramarra Ridge to Smugglers Ridge walking track** Discover the beauty of Marramarra, near Hornsby, on this day walk. Enjoy scenic views, historic heritage, colourful wildflowers and picnicking along the way.

## Plentiful lands





The sandstone ridges and deep gullies of Marramarra support a wide range of environments. Experience salt marsh and mangrove forests on the shores of Hawkesbury River, to tall open forest and ridge-top woodlands. In spring, the bush turns into a brilliant display of colour as the wildflowers burst in action. Discover the unique plant life and help preserve it – why not participate in the [bush regeneration volunteer programs](#) in the park?



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**Marramarra adventurous journeys with YouthAdvance** Fuel your sense of adventure on an exciting trip with YouthAdvance. You'll learn navigation, teamwork and campcraft in beautiful Marramarra National Park, near Sydney.



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## Education resources (1)



**Who cares about national parks?, Stage 2 (Years 3–4), Geography**