

# Florabella Pass

(Warrimoo to Blaxland)

I would grade this as a medium walk for 6 to 8 year olds.

Florabella Pass, approximate length and time from train station to train station is approximately 6km and 3.5 to 4 hours (2hrs walking on the track). It is a proper bush walk, with no long steep grades and has sandstone steps up and down areas requiring steep/climbing access. Proper closed in walking shoes must be worn, raincoat, water and at least a snack are highly recommended to be taken on this walk. While there are creeks, **do not drink this water**. Mobile phone reception can be gained for most of the walk (mainly in the gum tree areas). The map attached is only a guide, please take a proper map and compass.

Get off at Warrimoo station, walk across the highway on the pedestrian overhead bridge and walk up the highway (on a side link road) to The Boulevard, walk down The Boulevard, cross and turn right into Arthur Street and quickly left into Florabella Street, Warrimoo (follow the sidewalk).

At the end of this street you will find the start of the track, it slowly drops into the valley of rainforest, follow the creek until you reach a red arrow on the tree pointing across the creek (these are interspersed throughout the walk), cross-here and start walking up into the gum trees. (If you continue on and not cross the creek, the track quickly becomes narrow).

The track winds it's self down from the gum trees back into the rainforest and to sandstone caves (see hole in the wall) image), cross the creek and climb back into the gum trees.

Shortly there will be a wooden bridge to cross. At the other end is a small track on the right hand side leading down to a sloping rock ledge with a 4m drop into the creek (a natural bridge). I suggest you keep the Joeys away from this rock and on the main track.

Further on a sign appears on the right hand side of the track with a track leading down to Glenbrook Creek return only. Do not take this and continue on your way.

The track then slowly winds up the side of the valley, and you pass through some tea trees.

The track divides into two, one goes down steeply to the right and on to Ross Cr (there is a sign up on the gum tree). Do not take this track; look up at the rock (LHS) and see the rock orchids. Continue on the left track - up the stairs, rest in the great camp cave. Continue on and up the 'fairy stairs' - right at the top and then left at the end of the rock ledge, don't take the wallaby trail along the creek. Continue up the side of the valley, you will be 20 minutes away from the train station when you reach the sign 300m to Plateau Parade. You will pop out onto a private driveway, this has right of way for walkers (new development) but we ask people to keep the noise down for the neighbours. Take the right hand street up to Bridge Road, turn right down Bridge Road, walk till you arrive at Burke street, right into Burke street, left into Taringah street and then walk down along the highway till you arrive at the shops - ice cream? There are toilets under the ramp for the pedestrian bridge (or ask at IGA). Then over the overhead pedestrian walkway and onto the Blaxland train station.

*Note: there is another way, go down (right) at the camp cave, but this takes you through the cliff walk and we prefer not to do that unless you have a high ratio of adults, and very trust worthy children, this pops out at the end of Ross Cr, Blaxland, walk to Taringah, turn right and out to the highway.*



Hole in the wall and caves

Bridge



Camp cave



Fairy Stairs

Can the Joeys find:

**Animals:** Lyre birds, wallabies, wrens, echidnas, cockatoos, rosellas, king parrots.

**Trees:** Coachwood, Pepperbush, Sassafras, Lilly Pilly, gum, banksia, grass, wattle, Tea.

**Plants:** Flannel flowers

(Dec-Feb), Native sarsaparilla vine, Waratah, Mountain Devils, 6 types of fern (rock felt, strap water, coral, common ground, spreading fan, tree fern).

How many sandstones caves?

Can you still see evidence of bush fire from 30 years ago?

*Native Plants of The Blue Mountains By Margaret Baker and Robin Corringham is a great companion on this walk, it may also be used in the Sydney basin.*

To Katoomba

Warrimoo Train Station



Caves & Hole in the wall

Bridge

Tea Trees

Fairy Stairs

Glenbrook Ck

Camp cave

Bridge Road

Plateau Parade

Bourke St

Taringah St

Ross Crescent

Blaxland Train Station

To Sydney

Great Western Highway

The Boulevard

Arthur St

Florabella Street

N

Legend

— Creek

- - - Walking track

- · - · - Don't use these walking tracks

***This map and guide is only roughly to scale a true topographic map (CMA - Springwood) and map reading skills should be used.***