



Charles Darwin, National Pass and Nature Track walk

5 h to 6 h 30 min

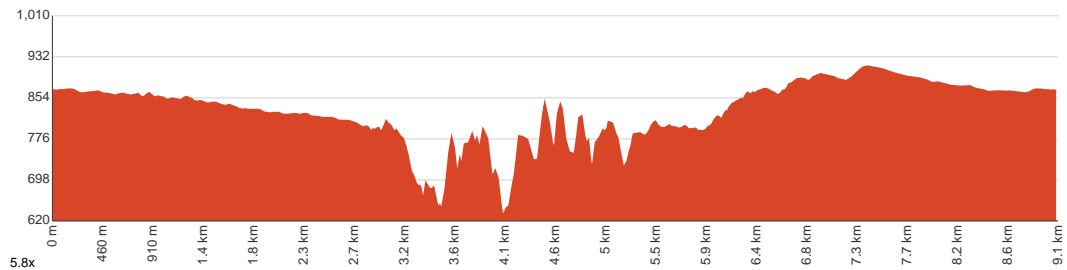
9.1 km
Circuit

↑ 1218 m
↓ 1218 m

4
Hard track



This is a wonderful circuit walk that starting at Wentworth Falls Train Station. You kick off with a lovely stroll down Charles Darwin walk to Weeping Rock where you soon come to Queen's Cascades and the wonderful views in to the valley. Now we walk partway down the cliff on the Grand Stairway to follow the Historic National Pass exploring more amazing views and then some wonderful waterfalls on the way out of the Valley Of the Waters. Before following the Nature Track back towards the station there is a optional side trip to Conservation Hut if you want a lovely cafe lunch. This walk has a lot of steps so you do need to be fairly fit to enjoy it. Let us begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we travel today, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



Class 4 of 6 Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely	
Quality of track	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
Gradient	Very steep (4/6)
Signage	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
Infrastructure	Limited facilities, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6)
Experience Required	Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)
Weather	Storms may impact on navigation and safety (3/6)

Before you start any journey ensure you;

- Tell someone you trust where you are going and what to do if you are late returning
- Have adequate equipment, supplies, skills & knowledge to undertake this journey safely
- Consider weather forecasts, park/track closures & fire dangers
- Can respond to emergencies & call for help at any point
- Are healthy and fit enough for this journey

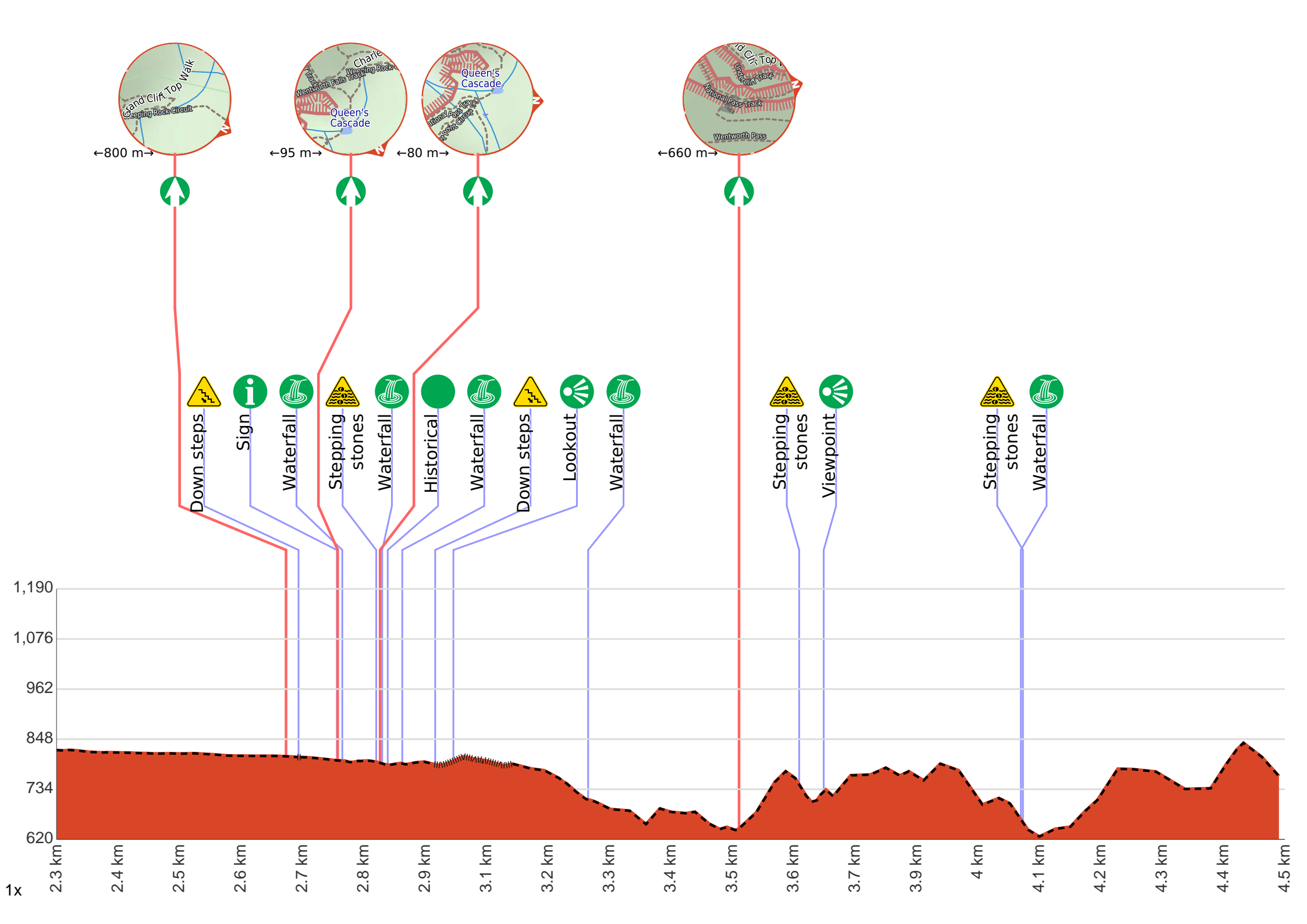
If not, change plans and stay safe. It is okay to delay and ask people for help.

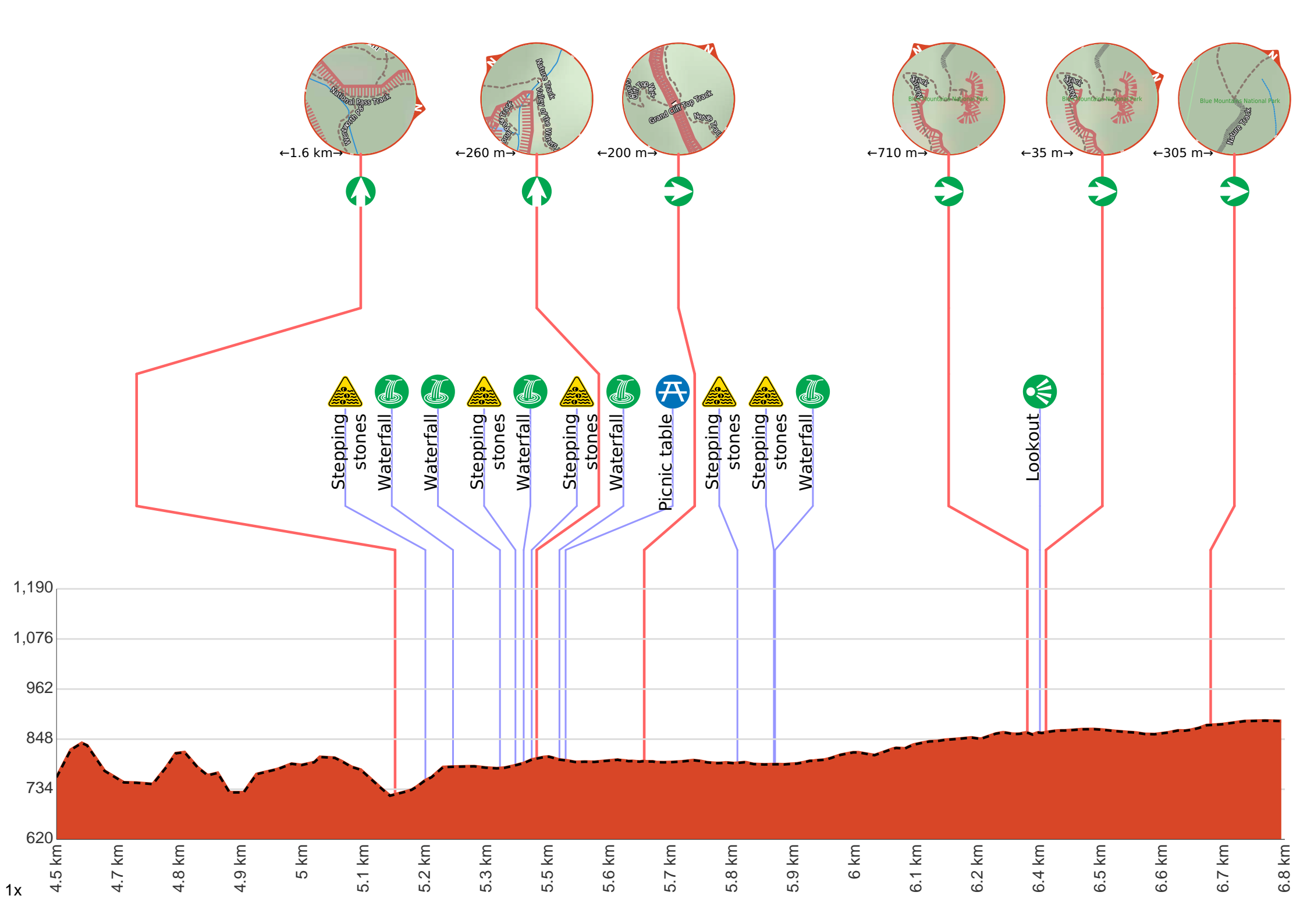
Share
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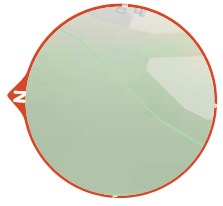























Getting started: From Wentworth Falls Railway Station, this walk exits the station on the western side, on Station St, and turns left to head down to the Great Western Highway past the shops. At the highway, the walk crosses at the lights and turns right, heading down the hill along the foot path. This walk then turns left into Wilson Park soon after the colourful bus stop. The walk follows the footpath through Wilson Park. At the toilet block in the centre of the park, the walk tends slightly more to the left until coming to a large archway entrance to the Charles Darwin Walk, near the tennis courts.



-  After another 35 m cross the bridge (about 6 m long)
-  After another 35 m cross the bridge (about 15 m long)
-  After another 20 m cross the bridge (about 10 m long)
-  After another 55 m cross the bridge (about 7 m long)
-  After another 55 m cross the bridge (about 5 m long)




-  After another 345 m (from the Charles Darwin Walk) **continue straight**, to head along Charles Darwin Walk.
-  After another 600 m pass the waterfall (10 m on your left).
-  After another 95 m cross the bridge (about 5 m long)

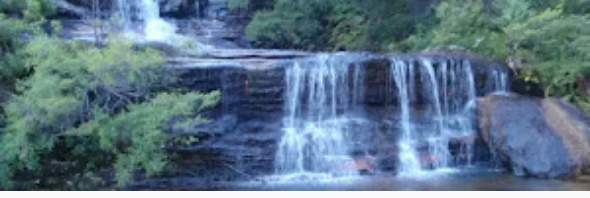
-  After another 100 m (at the intersection of Weeping Rock Circuit & Charles Darwin Walk) **continue straight**, to head along Weeping Rock Circuit.
-  After another 25 m head down the steps (about 6 m long)
-  After another 65 m pass the "Charles Darwin passed this way 1836" (on your right).

-  After another 10 m find the "Weeping Rock" (9 m on your left).






Weeping Rock is a waterfall on Jamison Creek, upstream of Wentworth Falls in the Blue Mountains National Park. The water falls over the wide circular top overhang, to then cascade down the rocks to a pool below. A staircase beside the falls helps walkers view this waterfall from different angles. This is a nice cool spot on hot days. The rocks are slippery and there are no fences, care is needed.

-  At the intersection of Wentworth Falls Track & Weeping Rock Circuit **continue straight**, to head along Wentworth Falls Track.
-  After another 70 m cross the stepping stones.
-  After another 10 m find the "Queen's Cascades" (5 m on your left).






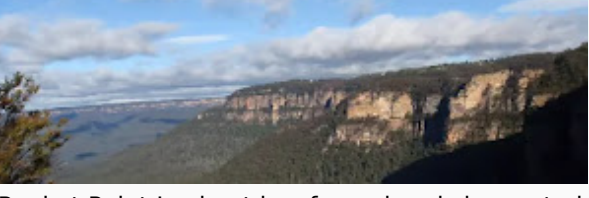
Queen's Cascades are a lovely set of falls on the Jamison Creek at the top of Wentworth Falls. The creek heads down the wide, two-stage cascades into a sandy pool. From the pool, the water flows between the stepping stones, under the fence and down the very tall Wentworth Falls. There are also great views to Sublime Point across the valley.

-  At the intersection of National Pass Track & Wentworth Falls Track **continue straight**, to head along National Pass Track.
-  After another 15 m find the "Grand Stairway" (6 m on your left).



The Grand Stairway is a very memorable section of the National Pass in the Blue Mountains National Park. The stairway is reported to be 'the tallest outdoor staircase in Australia' and was built in the early 1900's by hand (and dynamite). This stairway, and the rest of the National Pass, was built by a team nicknamed 'the Irish Brigade' for the cost of £430 . Today, the Grand Stairway is well-maintained and provides walkers access to the valley below Wentworth Falls.

-  After another 25 m pass the "Upper Wentworth Falls" (20 m on your right).
-  After another 60 m head down the rock steps (about 145 m long)
-  Then find the "Rocket Point Lookout" (8 m on your left).



Rocket Point Lookout is a fenced and signposted lookout, high on the cliff south-west of Wentworth Falls, in the Blue Mountains National Park. The lookout provides a good view down Wentworth Falls and into the valley. There is also a great view of the Sublime Point escarpment. The lookout itself has an interesting sandstone wall and is just down from a natural rock arch.



After another 250 m find the "Middle of Wentworth Falls" (on your left).



The National Pass crosses Wentworth Falls halfway down its long drop. At this crossing, NPWS have installed sandstone block bridges to improve access for walkers. There are a few side tracks that have been used to explore the area - beware of the slippery rocks and unfenced ledges. There is also a great view into the valley from where the water continues to fall on its long journey further into the valley. This is a lovely spot to cool down on a warm day.



After another 540 m pass a seat (7 m on your left), has a backrest.



After another 40 m cross the stepping stones.



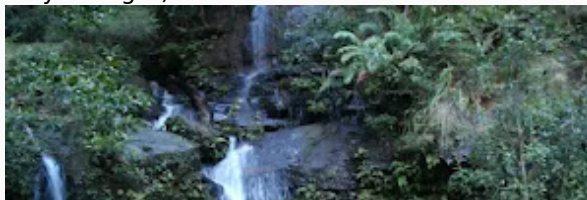
After another 540 m (at the intersection of National Pass Track & Wentworth Pass) **continue straight**, to head along National Pass Track.



After another 55 m cross the stepping stones.



After another 50 m find the "Lodore Falls" (25 m on your right).



Lodore Falls are a lovely set of falls on the Valley of the Waters Creek. The narrow falls have a staircase on one side and stepping stones (and handrail) crossing the bottom, making it easier for walkers to appreciate this waterfall from many angles. Just beyond the handrail, the water falls over another cliff, providing a great view down the valley.



After another 85 m find the "Sylvia Falls" (30 m on your right).



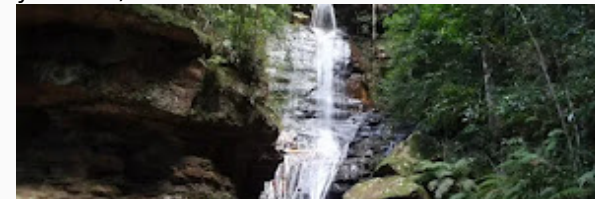
Sylvia Falls on the Valley of the Waters Creek is a lovely tall cascade. The falls are in a deep sandstone canyon with mossy walls. The stairs and handrail pass closely to these falls, helping walkers get nice and close. From near the top of the falls, there is a great view down the valley looking between the canyon walls.



After another 30 m cross the stepping stones.



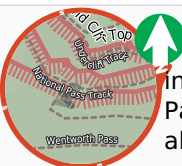
After another 15 m find the "Empress Falls" (on your left).



Empress Falls is a spectacular waterfall in the Valley of the Waters. The Valley of the Waters Creek comes out of the slot in the cliff and tumbles down a series of cliffs to a sandy pool. The fall is the site of the last abseil in a popular canyon, making a great site for walkers in the area. Stepping stones help walkers cross below the falls. There is a small overhang next to the falls, giving the area shade and offering a great place to rest.



After another 15 m cross the stepping stones.



After another 280 m (at the intersection of Slacks Stairs & National Pass Track) **continue straight**, to head along National Pass Track.



After another 110 m cross the stepping stones.



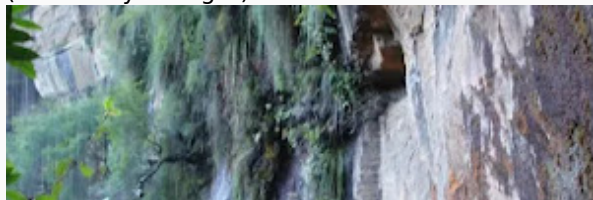
After another 45 m come to the viewpoint.



After another 370 m cross the stepping stones.

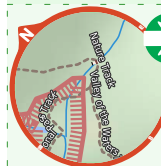


Then find the "Den Fenella falls (National Pass)" (20 m on your right).



The Den Fenella Creek falls down the cliff to this halfway point on the National Pass. Here, the timber platform and handrails, installed by the NPWS, allow walkers to cool off at the pass under the dripping water. As with much of this pass, there are great views into the valley.

Start of an optional side trip: An optional side trip to Conservation Hut.



To start this optional side trip turn right here. at the intersection of Valley of the Waters Track & Nature Track **Start** heading along *Valley of the Waters Track* (a walking track).



After another 95 m (from the Valley of the Waters Track) **turn left**, to head along Valley of the Waters Track.



After another 20 m find the "Empress Lookout" (10 m on your left).



Empress Lookout is a fenced and signposted lookout, perched on a sandstone overhang above the Valley of the Waters Creek. There is a view down to part of the Empress Falls and into the canyon. The views are filtered through the surrounding trees. It makes for a good spot to catch your breath when walking into, or out of, the Valley of the Waters.



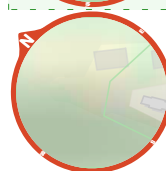
After another 50 m (from the Valley of the Waters Track) **turn sharp left**, to head along Valley of the Waters Track.



After another 130 m (at the intersection of Valley of the Waters Track & Overcliff Track) **veer right**, to head along Valley of the Waters Track.



After another 155 m (at the intersection of Valley of the Waters Track & Short Cut Track) **continue straight**, to head along Valley of the Waters Track.





After another 25 m find the "Edinburgh Castle Rock" (on your right).



Edinburgh Castle Rock is a signposted, unfenced viewpoint on the Nature Track, in the Blue Mountains National Park. The rock platform has an interesting formation, with an uneven surface of circular lines. From Edinburgh Castle Rock, there is a view left, up the valley towards the houses on the ridge. Looking right, down the Valley of the Waters, it is possible to see the escarpment of Kings Tablelands.



After another 10 m (from the Nature Track) **turn right**, to head along Nature Track.



After another 305 m (from the Nature Track) **turn right**, to head along Nature Track.

