



# Nichols Gorge Cave Loop

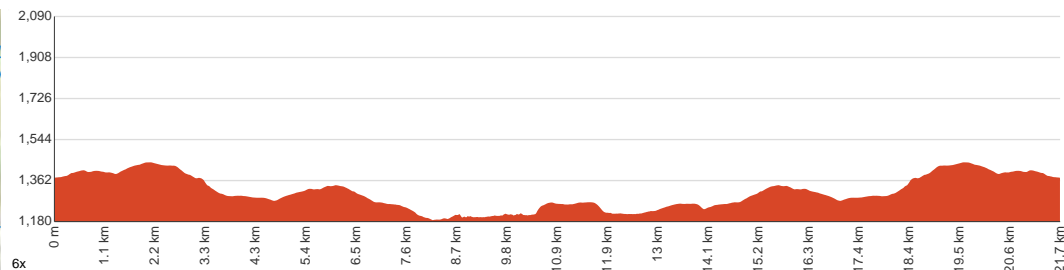
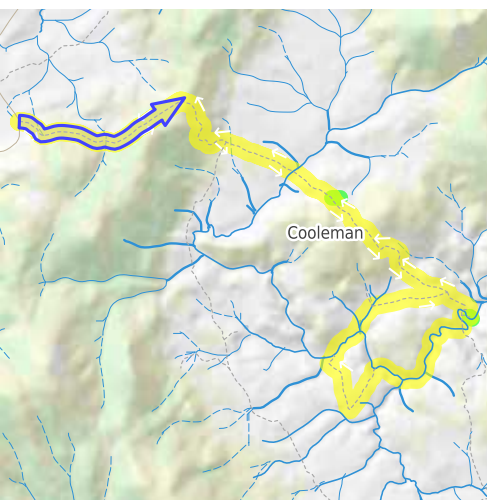
 6 h 30 min, 10 h 30 min to 2 days

  
21.7 km  
Circuit

  
↑ 675 m  
↓ 675 m

  
Hard track

Starting from Long Plain Road, Bimberi, this circuit walk takes you to the Nichols Gorge and the nearby caves via the Blue Waterholes Fire Trail and loops back. The track passes by the Blue Waterholes(not accessible to the public), Cooleman, Right Cooleman and Murray Caves, so don't forget to bring a light source, good boots and a jacket to truly enjoy the insides. You'll also pass by the historic Coolamine Homestead midway through the hike. These sets of buildings exhibit different building styles from the late 1800s. The main residence's walls are covered with old newspapers and informational signposts, so feel free to read them and see what made the headlines in the early 1900s. Wallabies and non-native brumbies(wild horses) can make an appearance as you walk on the generally dry riverbed of Cave Creek. Speaking of, please try not to damage the ancient fossilised shells of brachiopods and sea lilies found on the riverbed. There are 2 campsites(Magpie Flat and Blue Waterhole) before heading into the gorge so you can make this a multi-day journey if you'd like to. 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.



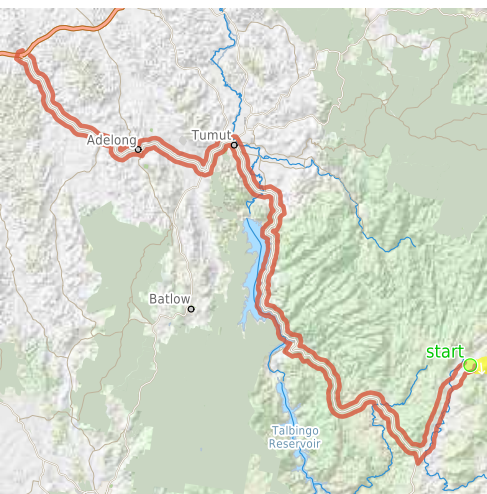
Class 4 of 6

Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely

Quality of track	Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely (4/6)
Gradient	Short steep hills (3/6)
Signage	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
Infrastructure	Generally useful facilities (such as fenced cliffs and seats) (2/6)
Experience Required	Moderate level of bushwalking experience recommended (4/6)
Weather	Storms may impact on navigation and safety (3/6)

**Getting to the start:** From Hume Highway, M31

- Turn on to Snowy Mountains Highway Offramp, B72 then drive for 630 m
- Continue onto Snowy Mountains Highway, B72 and drive for another 26.7 km
- Turn left onto Snowy Mountains Highway, B72 and drive for another 93.5 km
- Turn left onto Long Plain Road and drive for another 17.2 km
- Turn right onto Blue Waterholes Fire Trail and drive for another 5 m



## Before you start any journey ensure you;

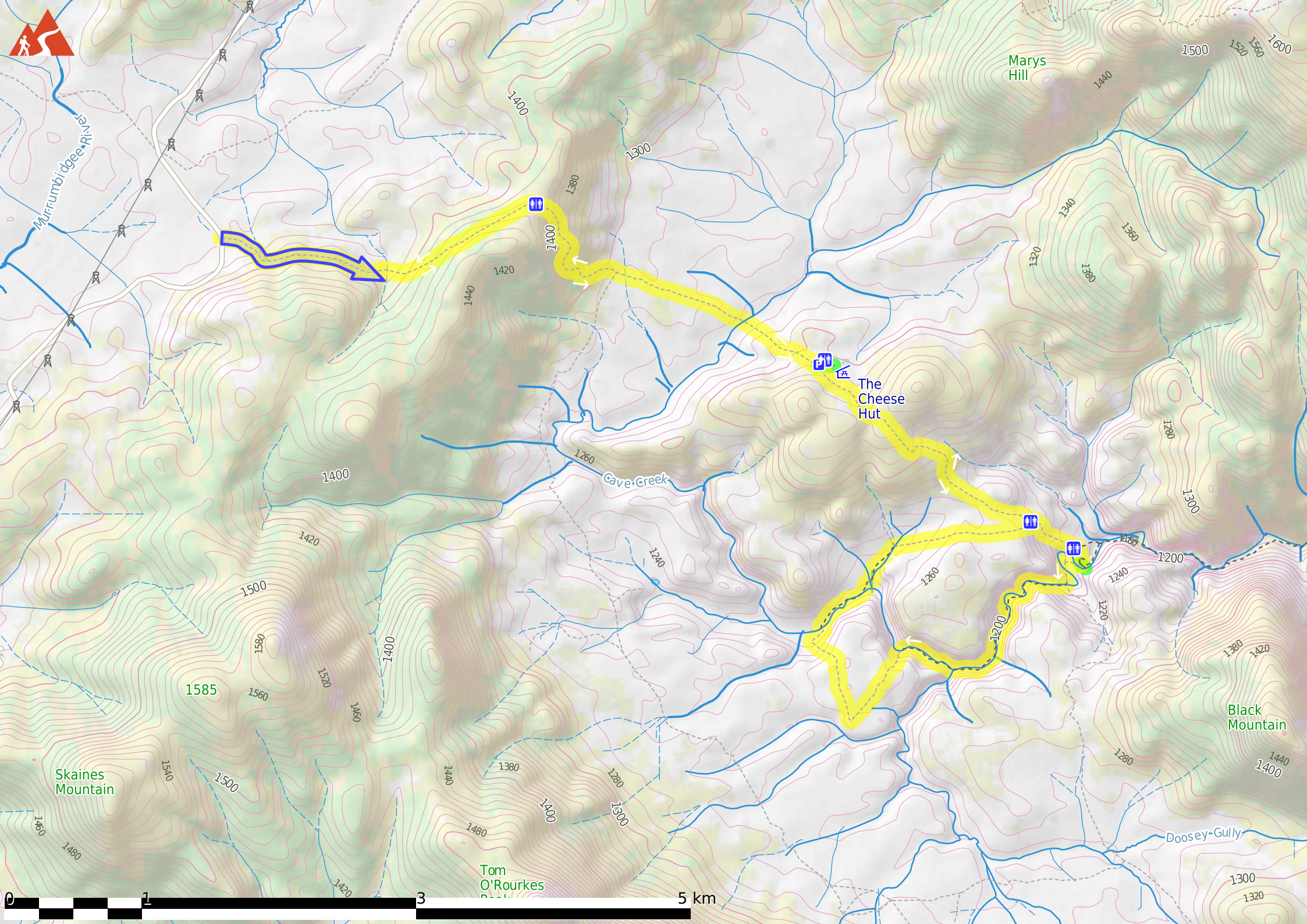
- Tell someone you trust where you are going and what to do if you are late returning
- Have adequate equipment, supplies, skills & knowledge to undertake this journey safely
- Consider weather forecasts, park/track closures & fire dangers
- Can respond to emergencies & call for help at any point
- Are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

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

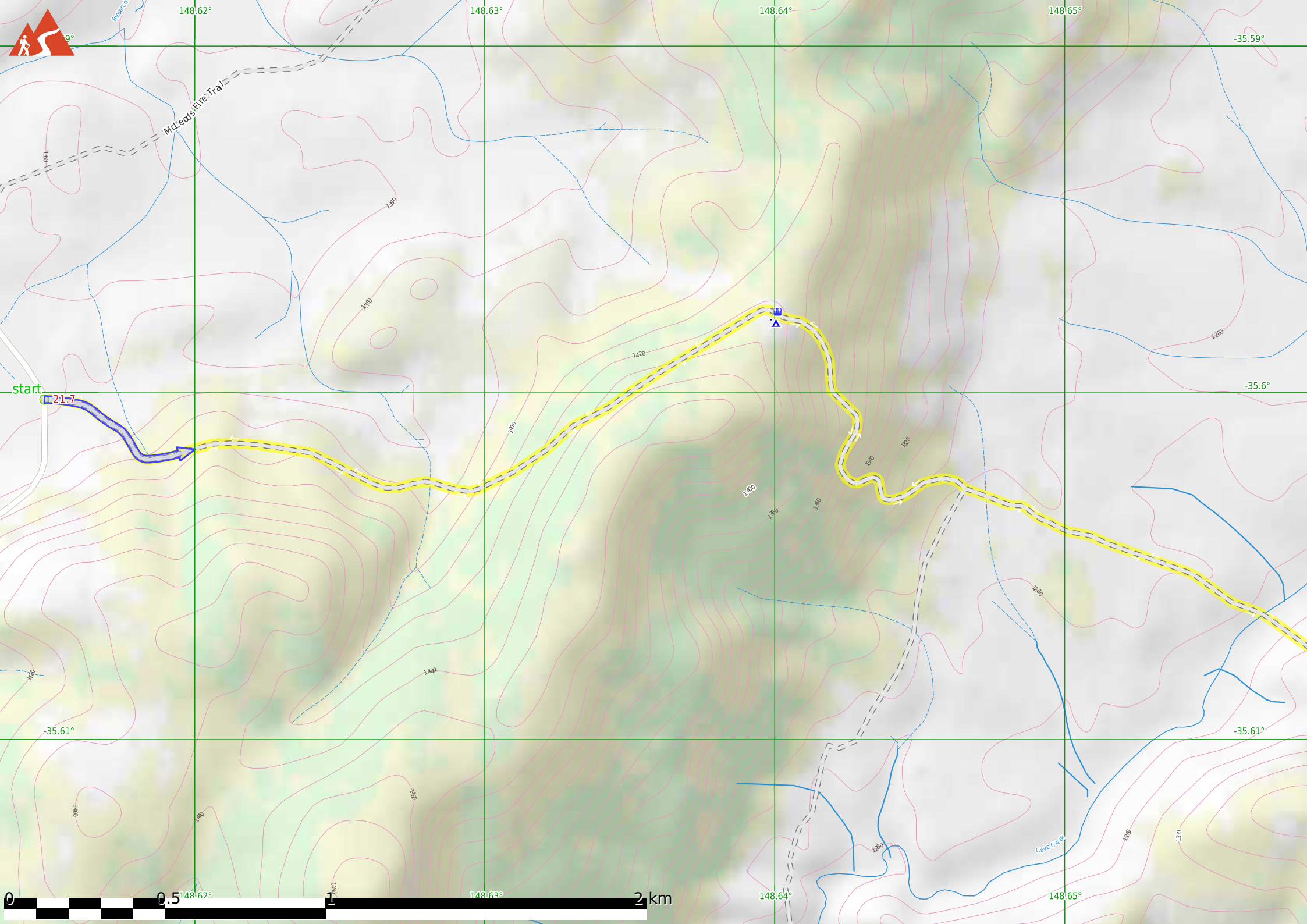
Share  
[Bushwalk.com  
/i/OLGELH](https://bushwalk.com.au/OLGELH)

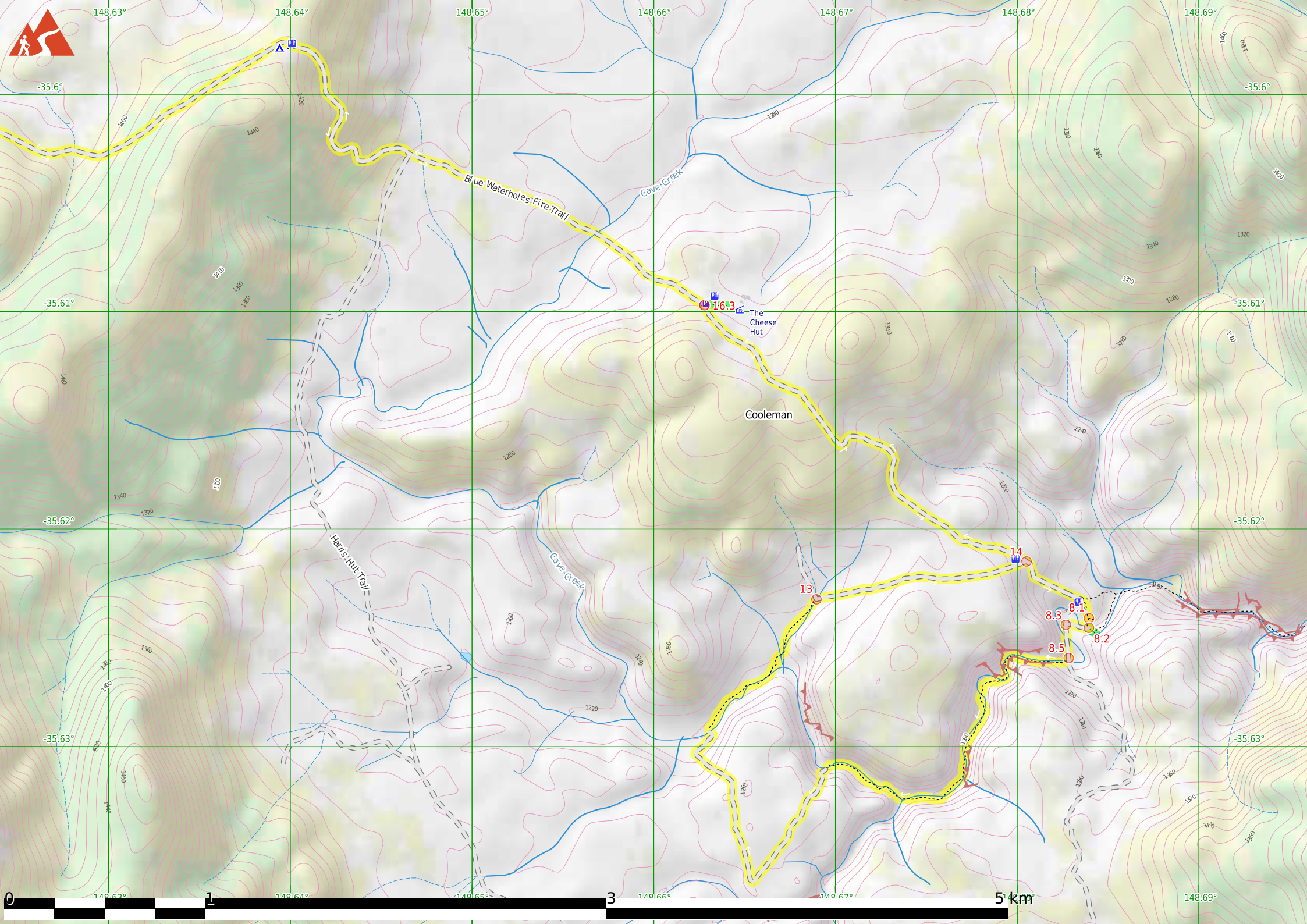




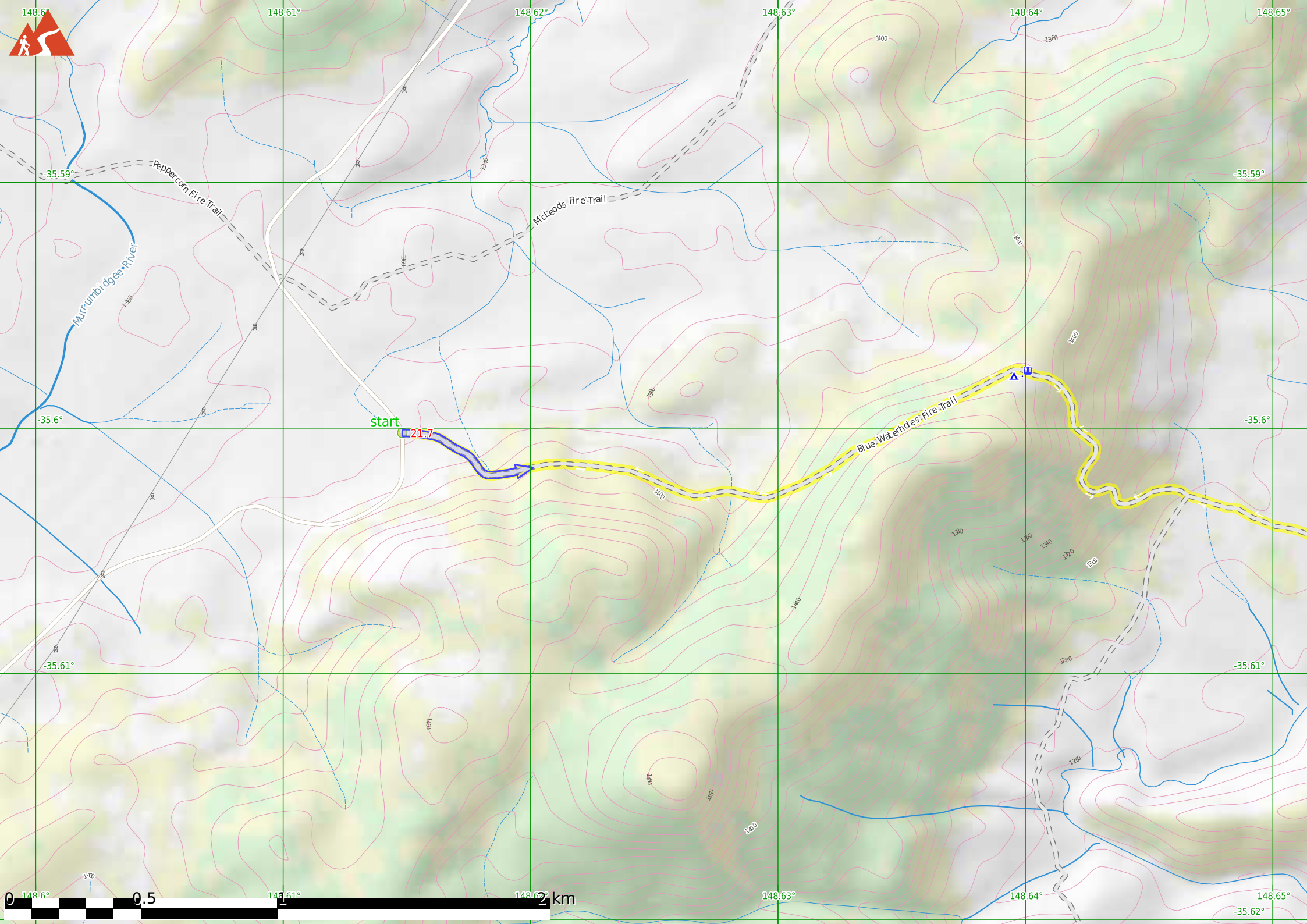


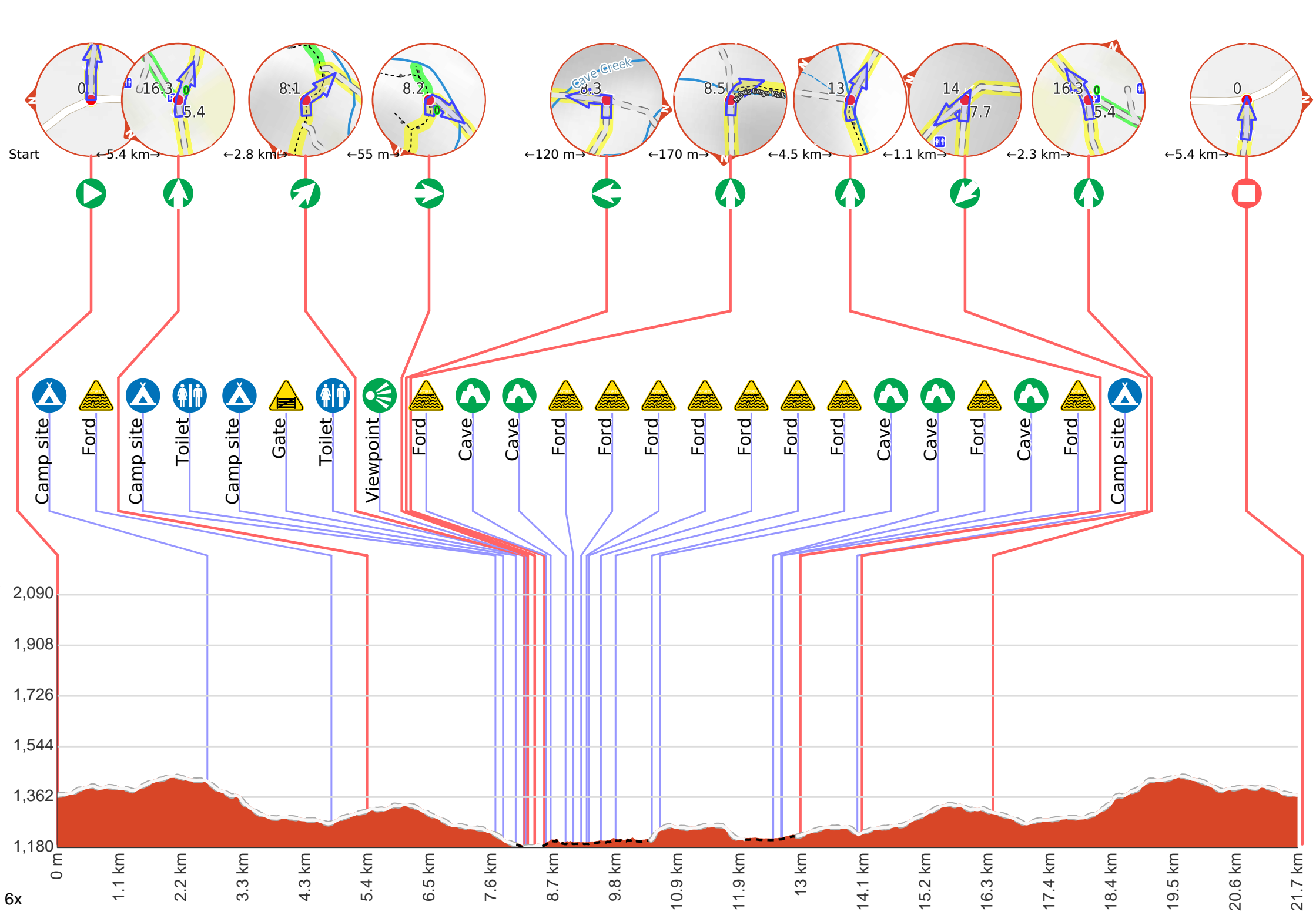




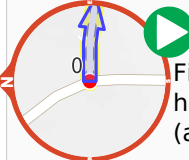










**Getting started:** From the intersection of Long Plain Road and Blue Water Holes Trail (15.4 km northeast of intersection with Snowy Mountains Highway), head towards the Blue Water Holes Trail marked by the signpost with a "Blue Water Holes Trail" sign and a directional arrow. Move directly away from Long Plain Road and pass by the said signpost to your left, then follow the dirt trail as it veers right to continue along Nichols Gorge Cave Loop.




At the intersection of Blue Waterholes Fire Trail & Long Plain Road **Start** heading along *Blue Waterholes Fire Trail* (a vehicle track).

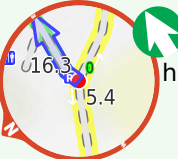
 After 2.6 km come to the "Coolman Mountain Camp Site" (30 m on your right).  
W: [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

This is a free campsite.


 After another 1.1 km (at the intersection of Harris Hut Trail & Blue Waterholes Fire Trail) **continue straight**, to head along Blue Waterholes Fire Trail.


 After another 1.1 km cross the ford.

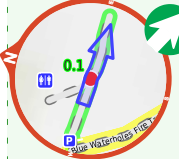
**Start of an optional side trip:** Side trip to the historic Coolamine Homestead, where you can go back in time and see what life was like in the early 1900s.




To start this optional side trip veer left here. **Start.**


 After 20 m pass the "Coolamine Homestead".


 About 55 m past the end is a toilet.





**Veer right.**


 After another 55 m head through/around the gate.


 After another 2 m come to the end.

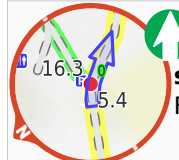
 About 40 m past the end is "Stockyards".

 About 85 m past the end is "The Cheese Hut".


 Turn around and retrace your steps back the 120 m to the main route.


 Back at the main route turn left and follow on from the 5.4 km waypoint.


 Back at the main route veer right and follow on from the 16.3 km waypoint.




After another 620 m **continue straight**, to head along Blue Waterholes Fire Trail.


 After another 2.2 km come to the "Magpie Flat campground".  
Campsite managed by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. This is a free campsite.


 After another 130 m pass the toilet (25 m on your right).


 **Continue straight**, to head along Blue Waterholes Fire Trail.

 After another 305 m come to the "Blue Waterholes campground".  
W: [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)


Campsite managed by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. This is a free campsite.

 After another 140 m head through/around the gate.

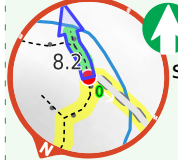
 After another 70 m pass the toilet (25 m on your right).




**Veer right.**


 After another 20 m come to the viewpoint (35 m on your left).

**Start of an optional side trip:** Optional side trip to a viewpoint looking over the creek, located across the Blue Waterholes Cave which is not open to the public.





To start this optional side trip continue straight here. **Start.**


 There is a viewpoint (about 60 m back from the start).





After another 75 m **continue straight**.

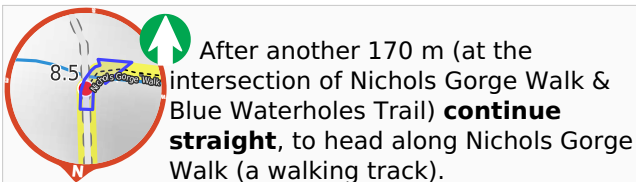
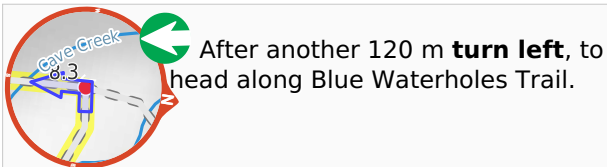
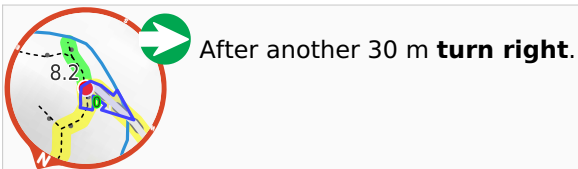
 After another 15 m come to the end.


 A viewpoint.


 About 20 m past the end is "Blue Waterholes Cave".


 Turn around and retrace your steps back the 45 m to the main route.


 Back at the main route turn left and follow on from the 8.2 km waypoint.





 After another 30 m cross the ford.


 After another 75 m pass the "Right Coolerman Cave" (50 m on your right).


 After another 260 m pass the "Coolerman Cave" (45 m on your right).


 After another 135 m cross the ford.


 After another 135 m cross the ford.


 After another 95 m cross the ford.


 After another 35 m cross the ford.


 After another 210 m cross the ford.


 After another 255 m cross the ford.


 After another 630 m cross the ford.

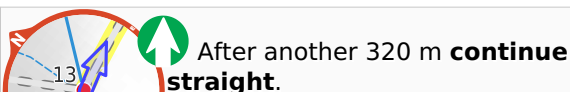
 After another 145 m pass the "Murray Cave" (35 m on your right).


 After another 2 km pass the "North Branch Sink" (60 m on your right).

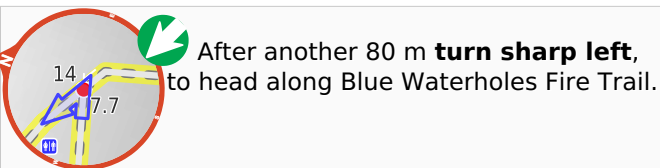
 Then cross the ford.

 After another 145 m pass the "Northeast Branch Sink" (40 m on your right).

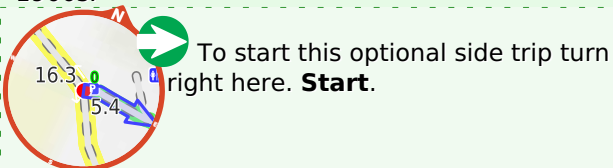
 After another 15 m cross the ford.





 After another 1000 m come to the "Magpie Flat campground". Campsite managed by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. This is a free campsite.

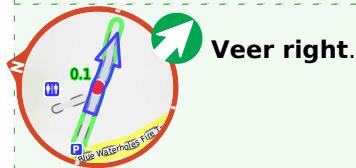



**Start of an optional side trip:** Side trip to the historic Coolamine Homestead, where you can go back in time and see what life was like in the early 1900s.

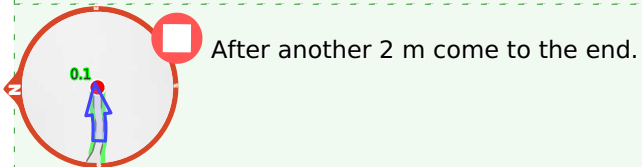



 After 20 m pass the "Coolamine Homestead".


 About 55 m past the end is a toilet.





 After another 55 m head through/around the gate.




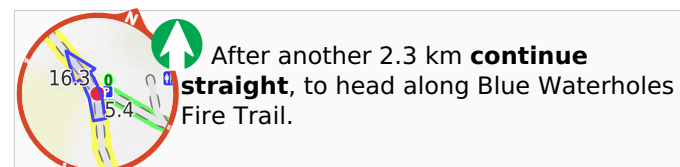
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 After another 1.7 km (at the intersection of Blue Waterholes Fire Trail & Harris Hut Trail) **continue straight**, to head along Blue Waterholes Fire Trail.

