



# McKeowns Valley Walk

(Wiradjuri & Gundungurra Country)

1 h 30 min to 3 h

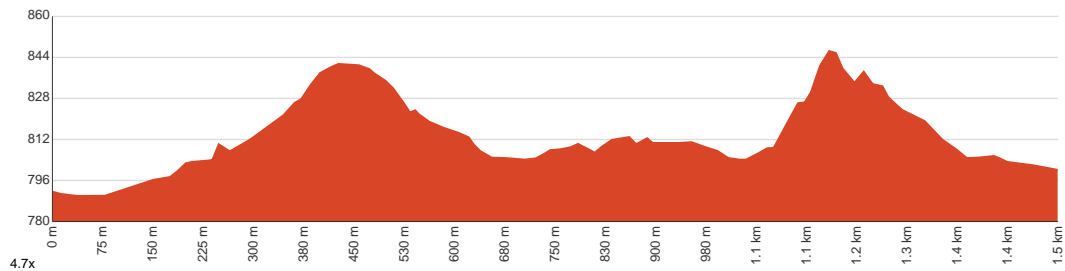
3 km  
Return

↑ 226 m  
↓ 226 m

4  
Hard track



Exploring the Jenolan River, this track makes for one of the more beautiful walks in the Jenolan area as it winds its way along the creek bed. High cliffs on either side form an amazing valley, and there are views of the caves as well as a great spot to break at the campsite. Let us begin by acknowledging the Wiradjuri & Gundungurra people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we travel today, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



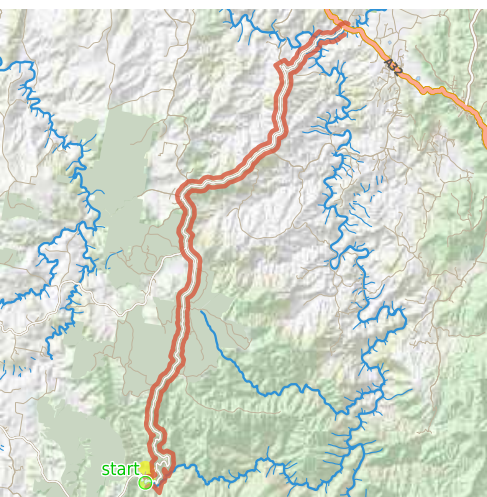
Class 4 of 6

Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely

Quality of track	Clear and well formed track or trail (2/6)
Gradient	Very steep (4/6)
Signage	Clearly signposted (1/6)
Infrastructure	Generally useful facilities (such as fenced cliffs and seats) (1/6)
Experience Required	Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)
Weather	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)

**Getting to the start:** From Great Western Highway, A32

- Turn on to then drive for 105 m
- Turn slight left onto Jenolan Caves Road, 1 and drive for another 46 km



## 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](https://bushwalk.com.au/7Y81N0)  
[/j/7Y81N0](https://bushwalk.com.au/7Y81N0)





start

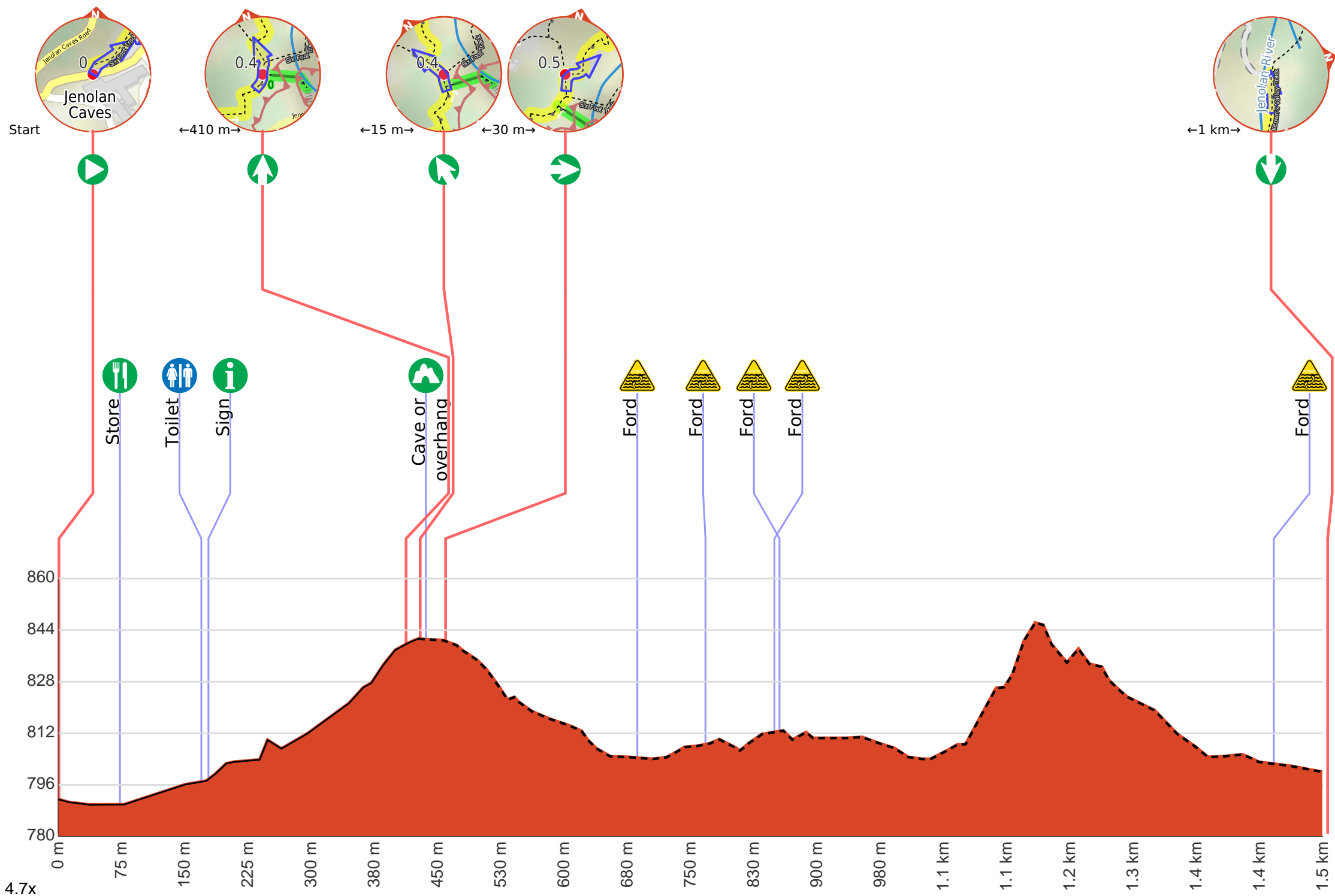
0.5

0.4

1 km

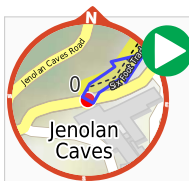
0.5

0





**Getting started:** From the opposite side of the Jenolan Caves Road from Caves House, this walk follows the 'Six Foot Track' sign up the concrete steps. The walk then follows the stone footpath up the side of the valley for about 80m to pass the 'Southside Show Caves' information sign then just over 30m later to the 'Grand Arch' information sign (and view of the Arch). The walk continues fairly gently up the path for 100m (as it bends right) to find 'Caves House' information sign. The path soon starts leading much more steeply up as it begins to Zig Zag up past a seat and more views down to caves house for 150m beside the limestone cliffs. At the top of this climb the path leads over a small small rise then gently down to a fenced lookout beside 'Carlotta Arch'.



**Start.**



After 70 m find the "Jenolan Caves House" (25 m on your right).



Jenolan Caves House, built in 1898, is a heritage-listed building which houses dining, a variety of accommodation options, and other services for visitors to the caves. Jenolan has two licensed restaurants: Trails Bistro is open from breakfast onwards and closes early evening. Trails serves a range of light meals including sandwiches, salads and hot food. Chisholm's Restaurant is open each morning for breakfast and each evening for dinner from 6.00pm. Essential items and beautiful souvenirs may be purchased from Things Jenolan, located on the ground floor of Caves House. Don't forget to explore one of the many caves to explore in the area. For more information, call Jenolan Caves on 1300 76 33 11.



After another 95 m pass the toilet (20 m on your right).



After another 8 m pass the "Tickets and Guide Office" (20 m on your right).

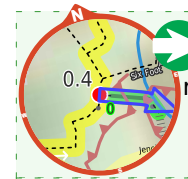


After another 255 m find the "Carlotta Arch" (50 m on your right).



Carlotta Arch is a large and spectacular cave remnant overlooking Blue Lake. It is believed that the arch was named in honour of a daughter of a surveyor - General P.F. Adams. Adams is credited with having taken some of the earliest photos at Jenolan.

**Start of an optional side trip:** An optional side trip to Bottom of Carlotta Arch Steps.



To start this optional side trip turn right here. **Start.**



After another 10 m head through the tunnel (about 35 m long)



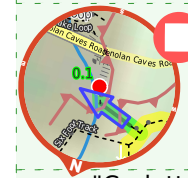
Then come to the cave.



After another 25 m come to a gate.



A cave.



The end.



"Carlotta Arch".



Carlotta Arch is a large and spectacular cave remnant overlooking Blue Lake. It is believed that the arch was named in honour of a daughter of a surveyor - General P.F. Adams. Adams is credited with having taken some of the earliest photos at Jenolan.

About 70 m past the end is "De Burghs Bridge".



The bridge spanning out from the Grand Arch was designed by Mr Ernest M. De Burgh, and built by the Public Works Department in 1896. The bridge allowed greater access to the caves and was built from locally cut limestone.



About 110 m past the end is "Blue Lake".




Blue Lake, or Lake Jenolan, is a small lake on the eastern side of the Grand Arch. The lake is fed by the River Styx and the Jenolan River. Blue Lake's intense colour comes from the refraction of light through limestone sediments.




Turn around and retrace your steps back the 60 m to the main route.



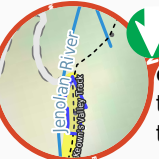
Back at the main route turn right and follow on from the 410 m waypoint.



Then cross the ford.




After another 590 m cross the ford.




Continue another 65 m to find the end. Then turn around here and retrace the main route for 1.5 km to get back to the start.




**Continue straight.**




After another 15 m **veer left.**




After another 30 m **turn right.**



After another 225 m cross the ford.



After another 80 m cross the ford.



After another 90 m cross the ford.