




# Larapinta Trail, S8: Serpentine Gorge to Serpentine Chalet Dam

(Arrente Country)

 5 h to 2 days

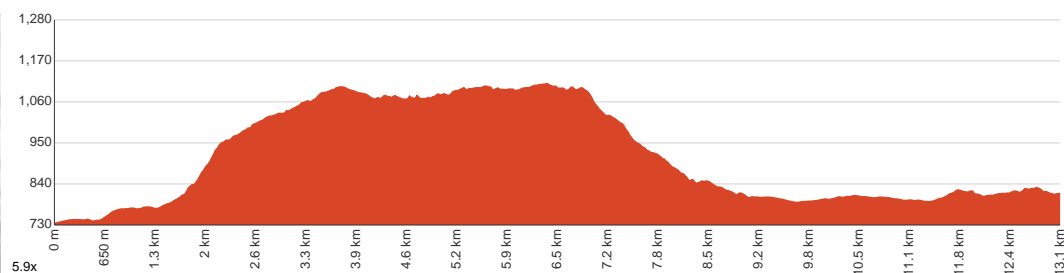
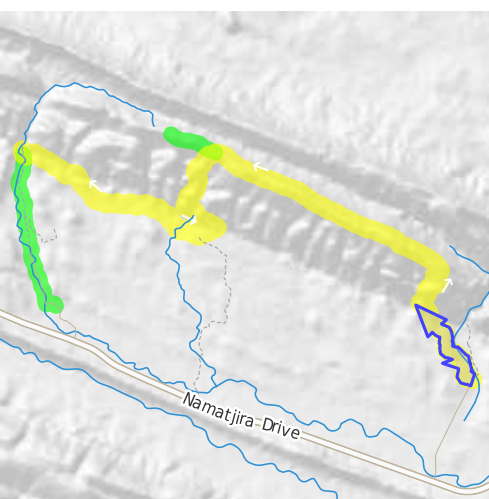
  
13.1 km  
One way

  
↑ 647 m  
↓ 568 m

  
Hard track

Starting from the end of Serpentine Gorge Road, Burt Plain, this walk takes you to the Serpentine Chalet Dam trailhead via the Larapinta Trail (Section 8), visiting Counts Point along the way. This is the eighth section of the 223km long Larapinta Trail. This part of the Larapinta is quite scenic and lets you ride the ridgeline for continuous panoramic views over the surrounding arid land. Although it gets steep and rocky, the steps at the steep parts are well-made to ease the ascent/descent. The vegetation in the area is quite varied, therefore there's almost always a plant species that is flowering. This helps feed the native animals such as the Common Brushtail Possum. There are two campsites midway that can be used to make this an overnight walk: Counts Point and Oxide Flat. Both have tent pads yet lack other crucial amenities such as water and toilets. Near the end, you'll have a chance to visit the ruins of the old Serpentine Chalet which operated in the late 50s as well as the dam up north. Keep in mind that the Serpentine Chalet Dam trailhead is only accessible by a 4WD vehicle to a car park 1 km south of the trailhead itself. Let us begin by acknowledging the Arrernte people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we travel today, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Full journey: [Larapinta Trail](#)



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      | Generally useful facilities (such as fenced cliffs and seats) (2/6) |
| Experience Required | Moderate level of bushwalking experience recommended (4/6)          |
| Weather             | Weather generally has little impact on safety (2/6)                 |

**Getting to the start:** From Telegraph Terrace, 87

- Turn on to 6 then drive for 25 m
- Continue onto Larapinta Drive, 6 and drive for another 850 m
- At roundabout, take exit 2 onto Larapinta Drive, 6 and drive for another 880 m
- At roundabout, take exit 1 onto Larapinta Drive, 6 and drive for another 44.3 km
- Turn right onto Namatjira Drive, 2 and drive for another 52.5 km
- Turn right and drive for another 1.8 km

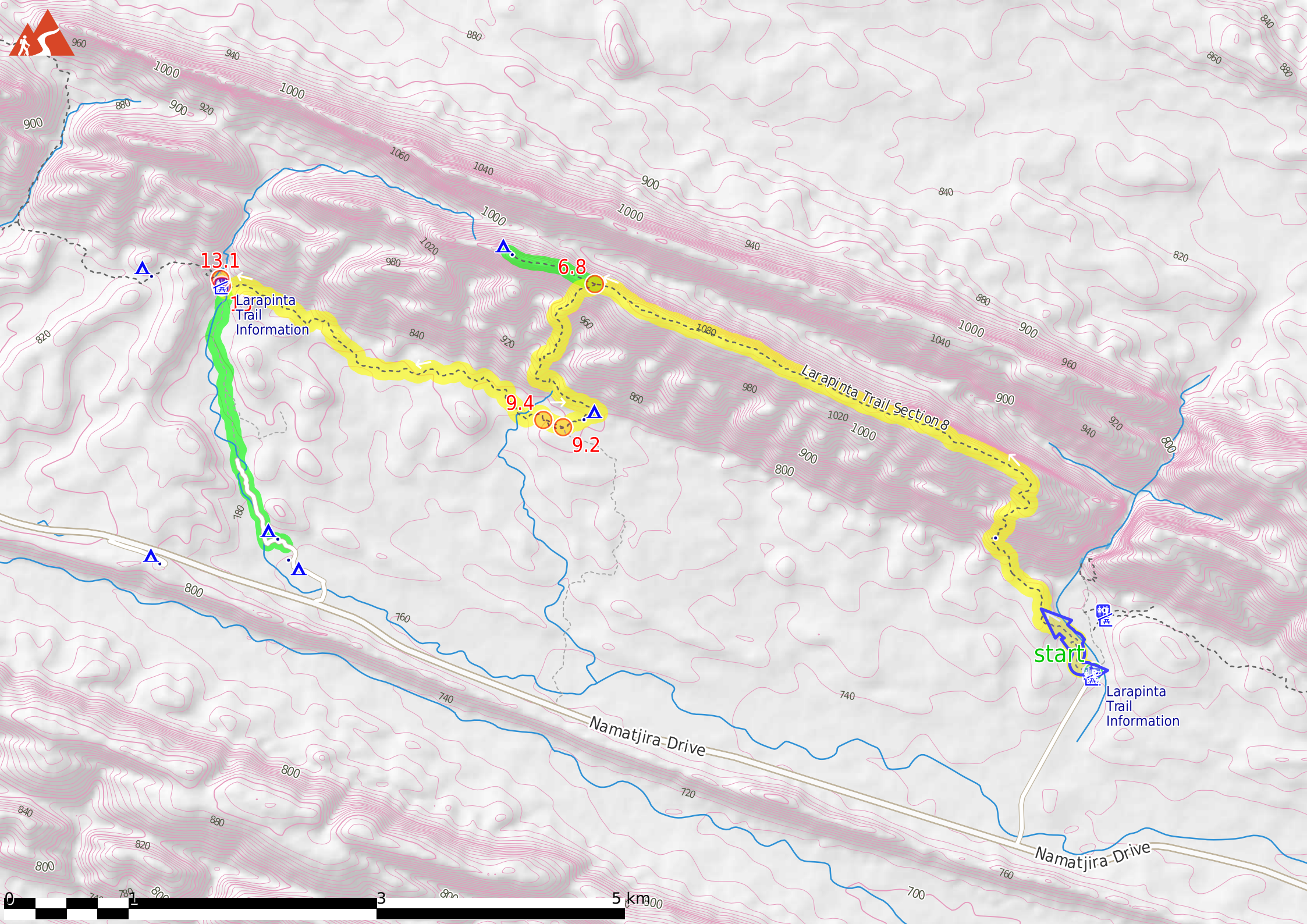
## Before you start any journey ensure you;

- 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

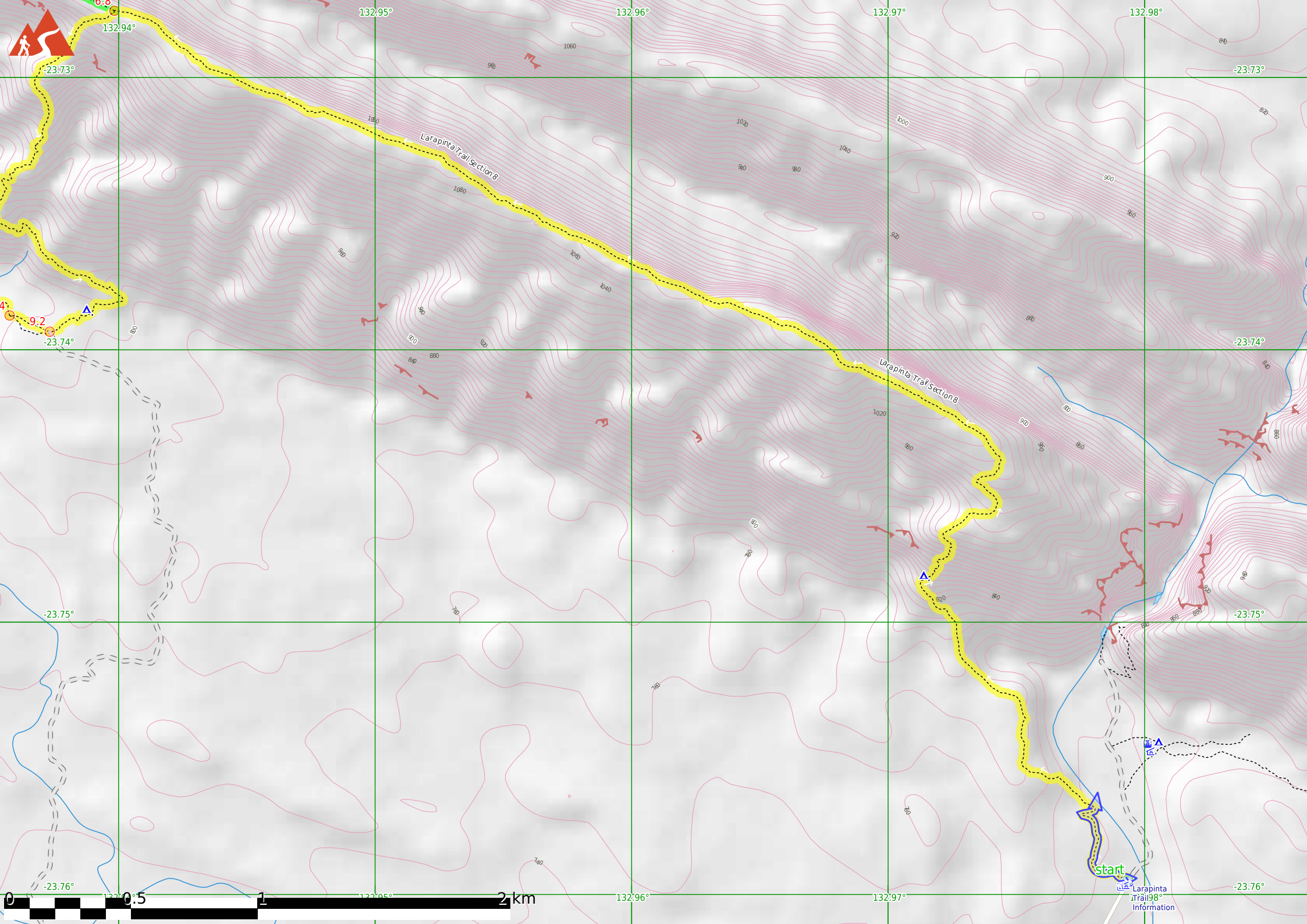
If not, change plans and stay safe. It is okay to delay and ask people for help.

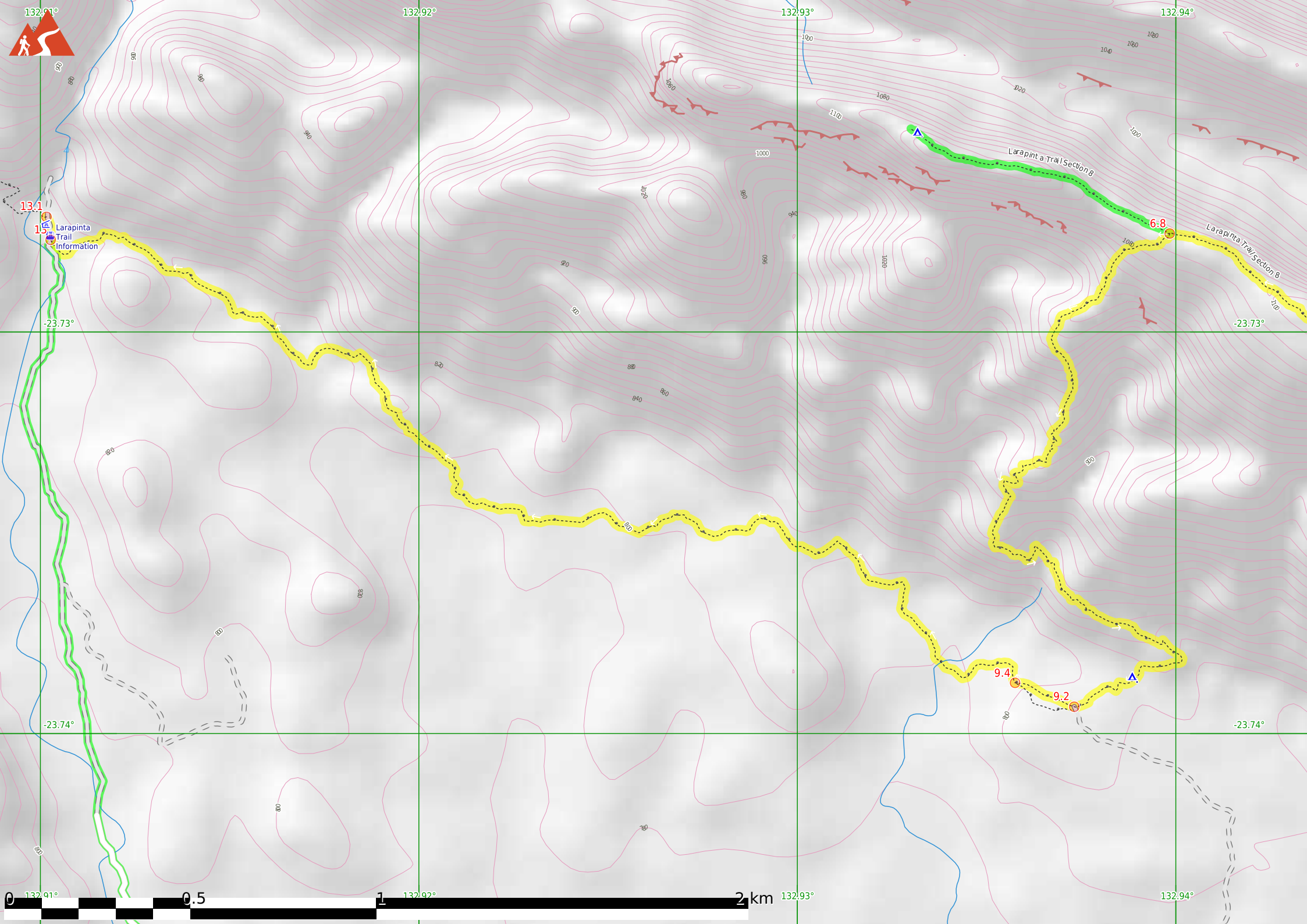
Share  
[Bushwalk.com](https://bushwalk.com/j/0IDUPV)  
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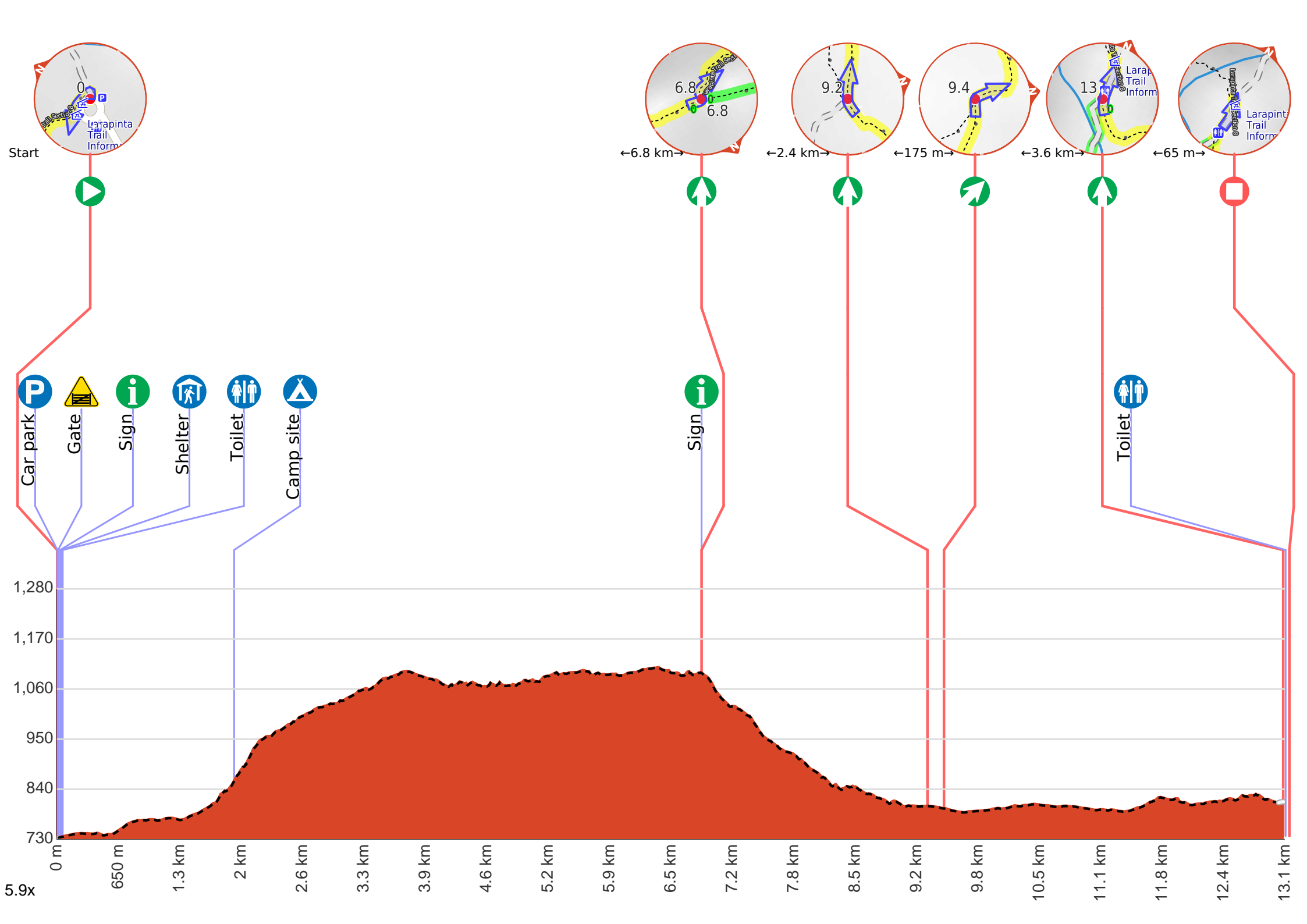














**Getting started:** From the car park at the end of Serpentine Gorge Road, Burt Plain, head towards the singular informational signpost with a small metal roof on it along the dirt path. Pass by the said signpost to your right and head towards the rocky dirt track located behind the logs on the ground. Head over the said logs and join the dirt track, moving directly away from the car park. Pass by a directional sign (a blue arrow on white background) to your left and stay on the designated track to continue along Larapinta Trail, S8: Serpentine Gorge to Serpentine Chalet Dam.



**Start.**



Find the Serpentine Gorge at the start.



Find the gate at the start.



**Turn left**, to head along Larapinta Trail Section 7.



After 20 m pass the sign (on your right).



After another 10 m pass the "Larapinta Trail Information" (on your left).



After another 20 m pass the toilet (40 m on your left).



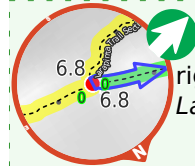
After another 1.8 km come to the camp site (6 m on your right).



After another 5 km pass the sign.

**Start of an optional side trip:** This highly recommended side trip takes you to the Counts Point viewpoint where there is a campsite as well (tent pads only). Breathtaking views of the surrounding

land await you.



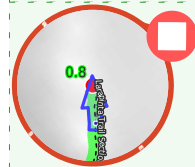
To start this optional side trip veer right here. **Start** heading along Larapinta Trail Section 8.



After 720 m come to the "Counts Point" (on your left).



After another 30 m come to the camp site.



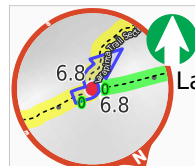
After another 25 m come to the end.



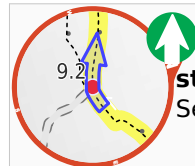
Turn around and retrace your steps back the 780 m to the main route.



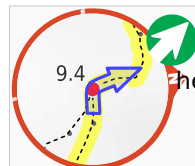
Back at the main route turn left and follow on from the 6.8 km waypoint.



**Continue straight**, to head along Larapinta Trail Section 8.

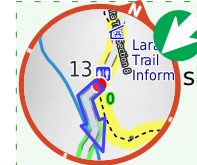


After another 2.4 km **continue straight**, to head along Larapinta Trail Section 8.

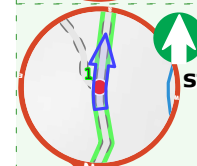


After another 175 m **veer right**, to head along Larapinta Trail Section 8.

**Start of an optional side trip:** This considerable side trip takes you to the Serpentine Chalet Bush Camp, passing by the Serpentine Chalet itself (ruins) along the way. Will add around an hour of moving time to your hike (out & back).



To start this optional side trip turn sharp left here. **Start.**



After another 1 km **continue straight**.



After another 780 m cross the ford.



After another 170 m find the "Serpentine Chalet" (15 m on your right). Built in 1958 by Len Tuit, this chalet was quite capable with 5 cabins, a kitchen and a living area for the staff. You can visit this place with a 2WD vehicle from Namatjira Drive, yet you'll need a 4WD vehicle to get to Serpentine Chalet Dam.



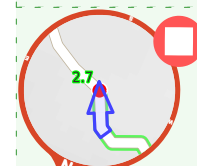
After another 345 m cross the ford.



After another 160 m cross the ford.



After another 240 m come to "Serpentine Chalet Bush Camping".

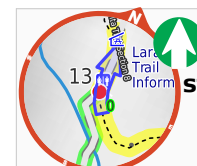


The end.



Turn around and retrace your steps back the 2.7 km to the main route.

Back at the main route ERROR >360 and follow on from the 13 km waypoint.



After another 3.6 km **continue straight**.



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



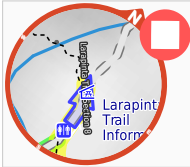
After another 35 m come to a shelter.



Then pass the water tap (10 m on your right).



After another 15 m come to "Larapinta Trail Information".



The end.