



# Carnarvon Gorge to Big Bend

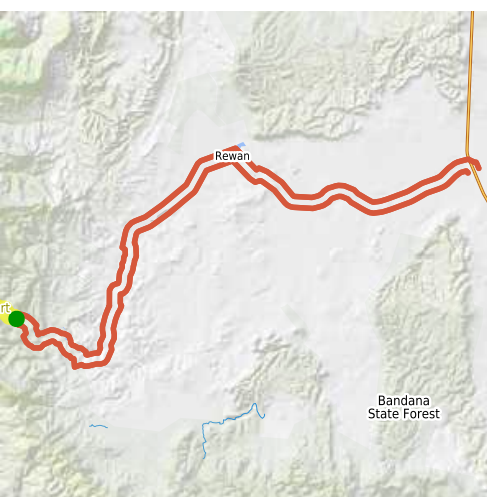
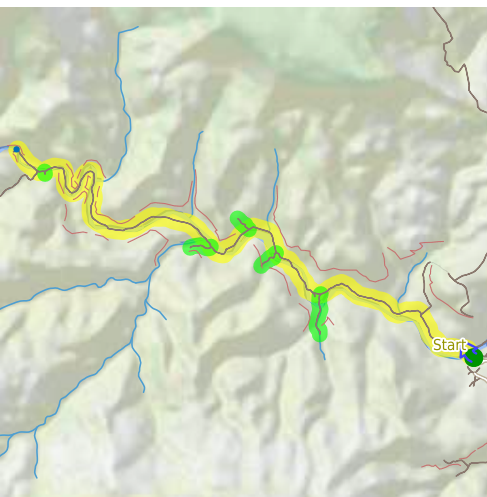
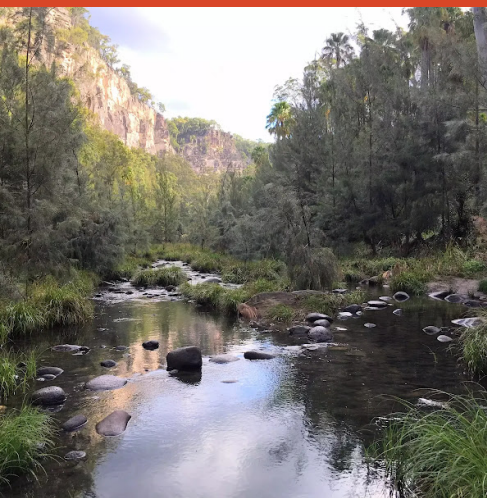
(Bidjara & Karingbal Country)

 2 h 45 min to 4 h 30 min

  
9.5 km  
One way segment

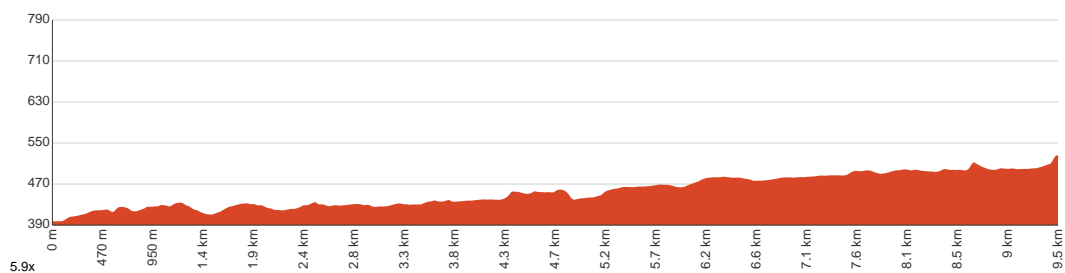
  
↑ 274 m  
↓ 144 m

  
Hard track



Starting from the Carnarvon Gorge Visitor Centre, Carnarvon Park, this walk takes you to the Big Bend walkers' camp via the first section of the 87 km Carnarvon Great Walk, visiting Moss Garden, Ward's Canyon, Art Gallery and Cathedral Cave along the way. Head along the iconic gorge and start off your journey with a comprehensive walk. Offering you cool havens in the otherwise scorching gorge with the side trips; this track features great views, top-notch rock art and some strangely peaceful moments in unique places. The gorge itself is stunning enough to justify the heat and effort, but the side trips diversify the experience greatly. The campsite has non-flush toilets and offers heaps of shade. Enjoy the relatively cool weather and try to spot some catfish. Unfortunately, you can't swim with them. Check the weather temperature beforehand and try to avoid midday hikes. Don't be fooled by the heat during the day as the campsite can get windy and cold during the night. Remember to bring some insect repellent for the mozzies (Australian slang for mosquitoes) as well. Be prepared to get your feet wet at the crossings. Keep in mind that you'll need a permit to access Carnarvon Park and the campsites. Let us begin by acknowledging the Bidjara & Karingbal people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we travel today, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

This is part of longer journey and can not be completed on it is own.  
Full journey: [Carnarvon Great Walk](#)



Class 4 of 6 Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely	
<b>Quality of track</b>	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
<b>Gradient</b>	Very steep (4/6)
<b>Signage</b>	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Limited facilities (such as cliffs not fenced, significant creeks not bridged) (4/6)
<b>Experience Required</b>	Moderate level of bushwalking experience recommended (4/6)
<b>Weather</b>	Foretasted & unexpected storms and severe weather may impact on navigation and safety (4/6)

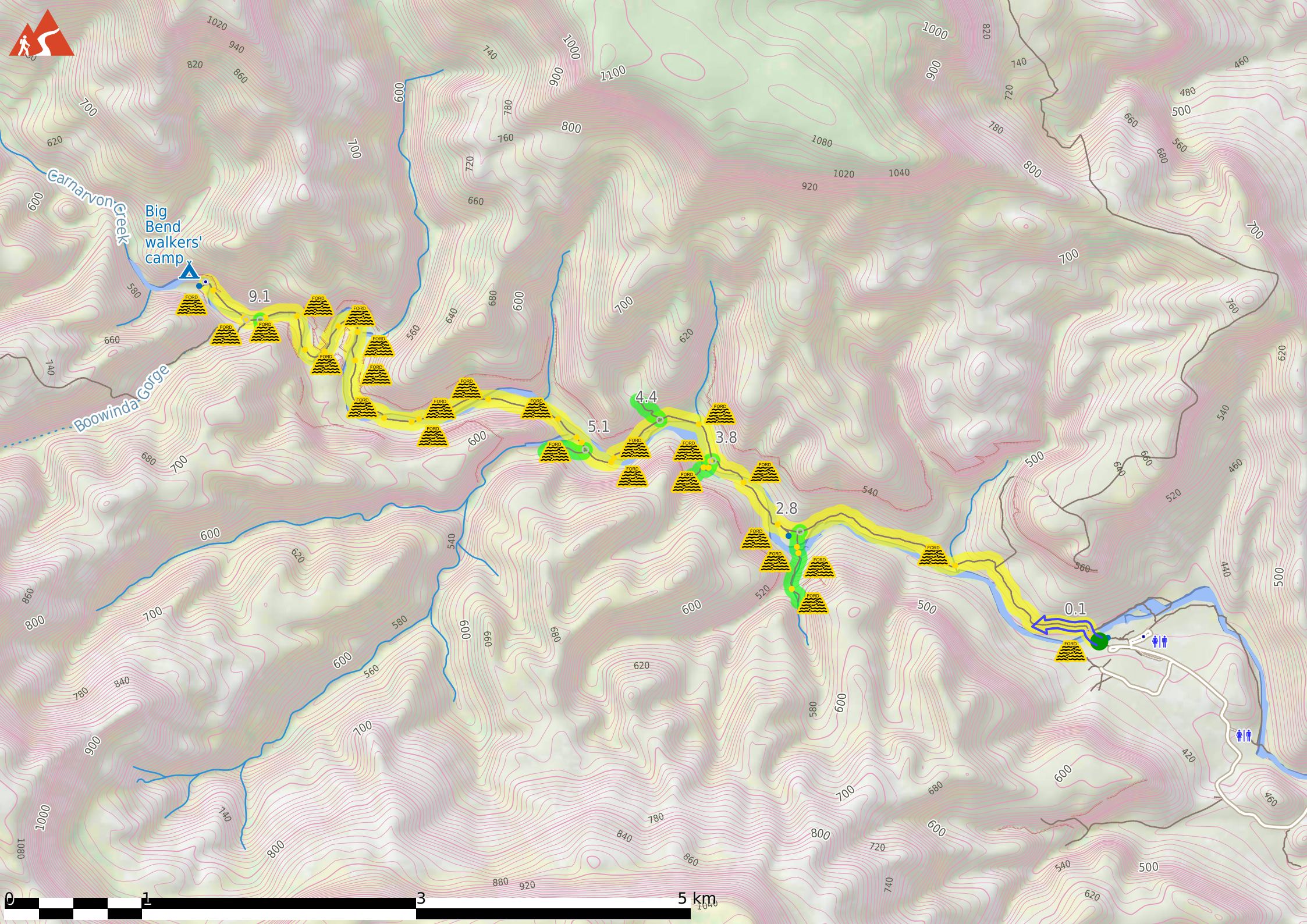
**Getting to the start:** From Carnarvon Highway, A7

- Turn on to Wyseby Road, 2 then drive for 18.1 km
- Turn left onto Obriens Road and drive for another 25.5 km
- Continue and drive for another 190 m

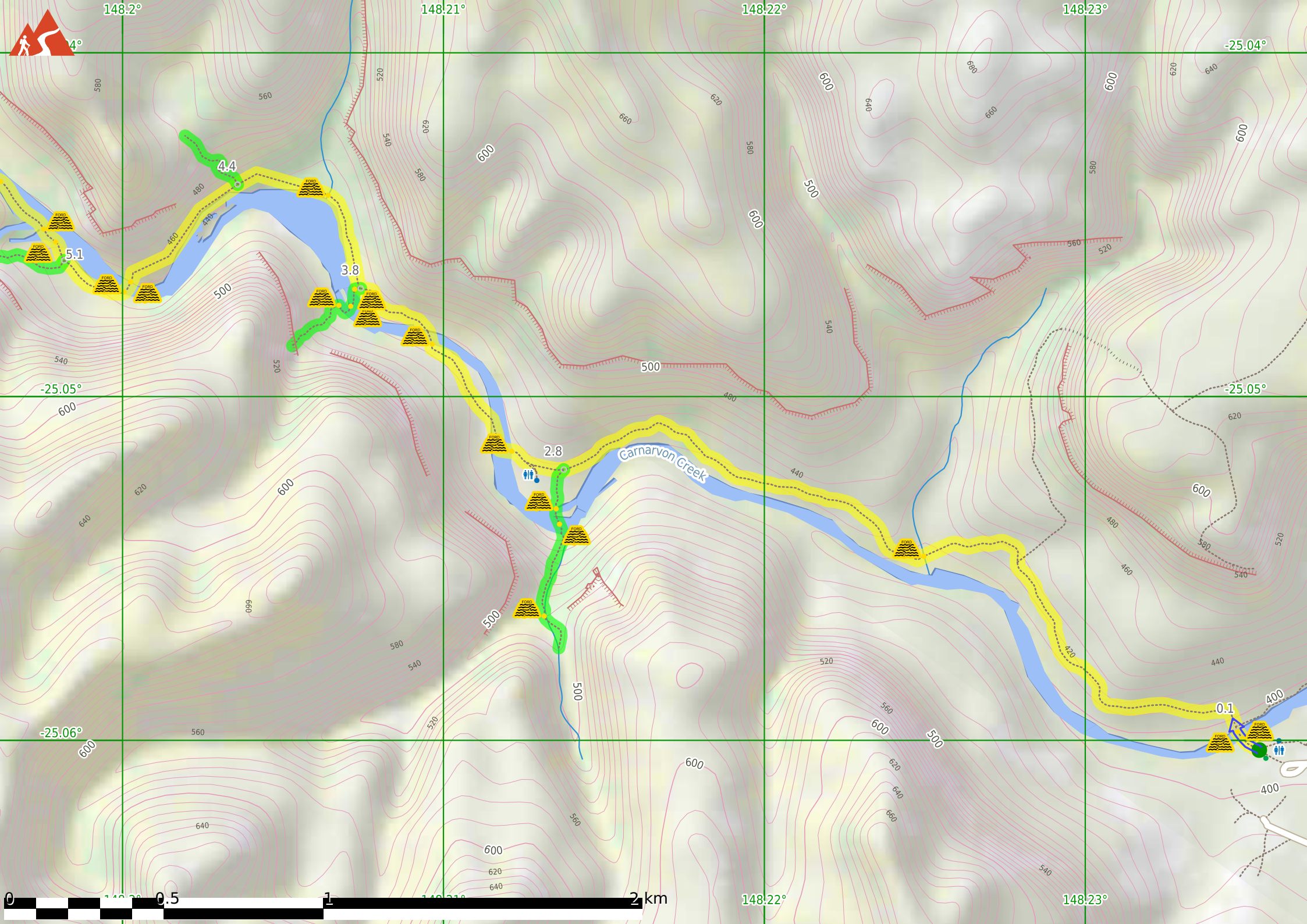
Share  
[Bushwalk.com](https://bushwalk.com/j/XC942Y)  
[/j/XC942Y](https://bushwalk.com/j/XC942Y)



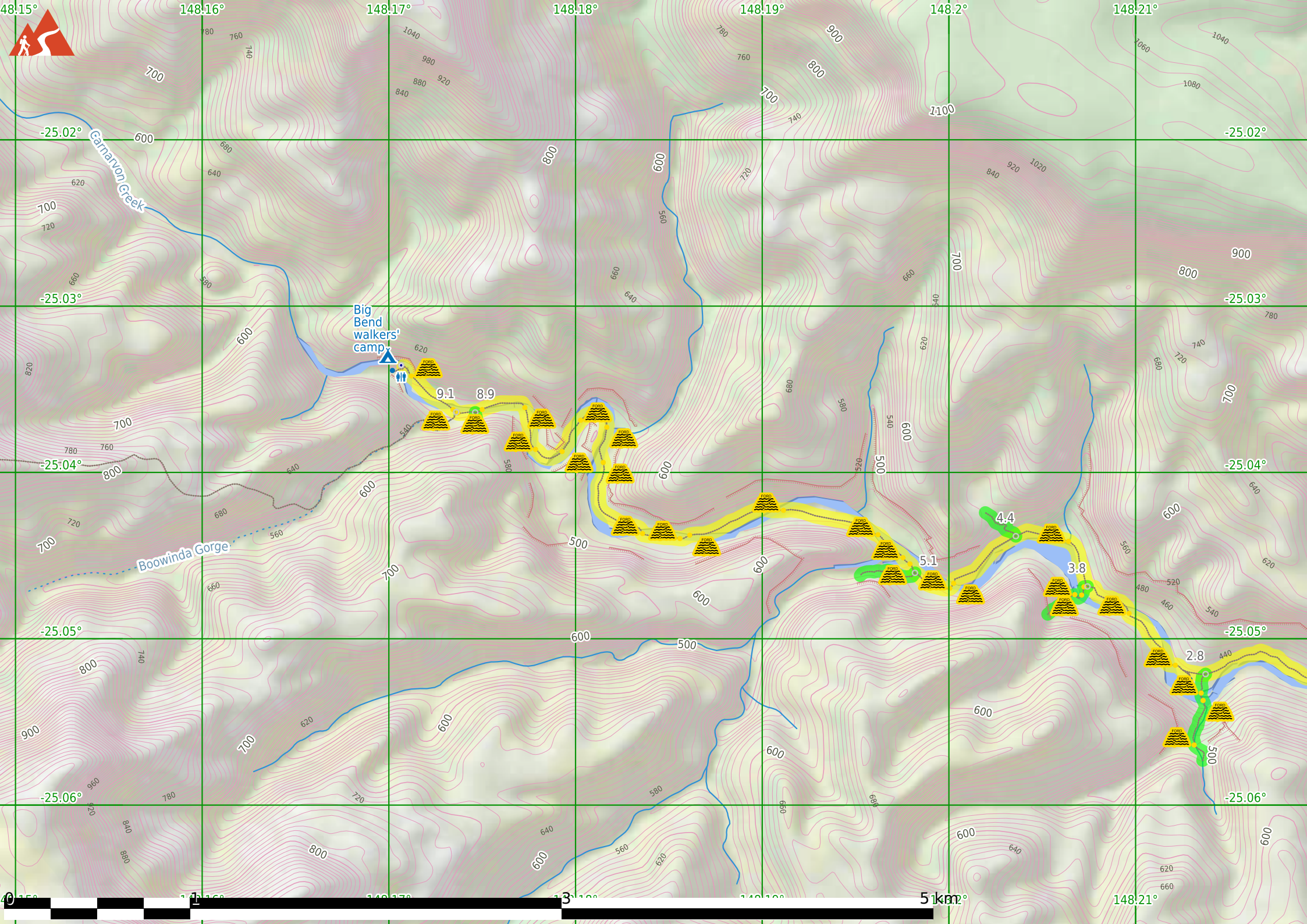




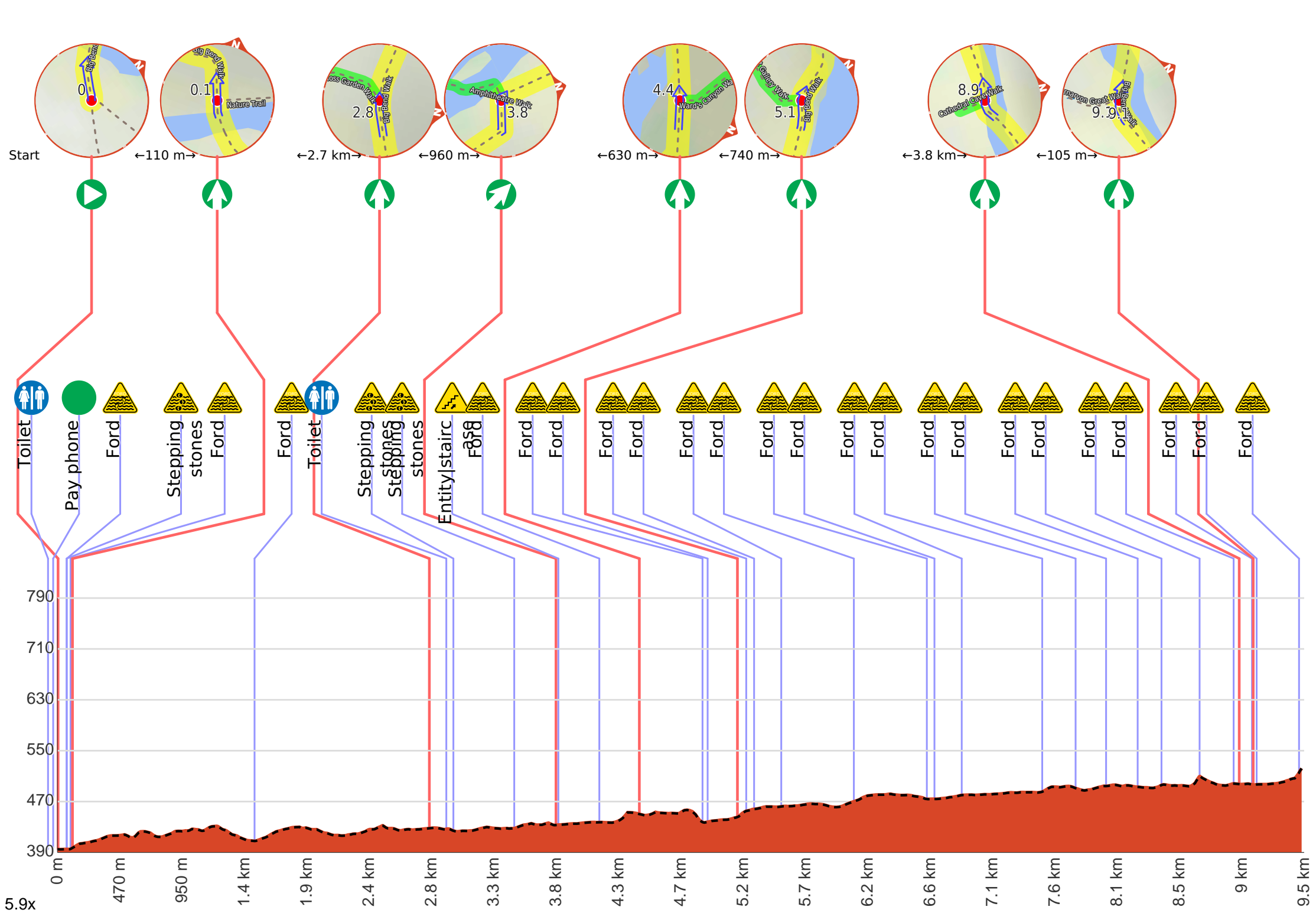




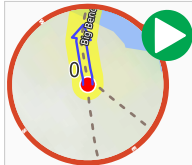








**Getting started:** From the Carnarvon Gorge Visitor Centre, head towards the creek along the formed walking track. After crossing the said creek, keep left at the first intersection to join the Big Bend Walk. Stay on the track as it veers left and meanders along the creek (to your left) to continue along Carnarvon Gorge Visitor Centre to Big Bend walkers' camp Track.



**Start** heading along *Big Bend Walk*.



There is a toilet (about 75 m back from the start).



There is a pay phone (about 35 m back from the start).



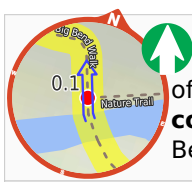
After 105 m cross the ford.



Then cross the stepping stones (about 30 m long)



Then cross the ford.



After another 15 m (at the intersection of Nature Trail & Big Bend Walk) **continue straight**, to head along Big Bend Walk.



After another 1 km (at the intersection of Big Bend Walk & Boolimba Bluff Walk) **continue straight**, to head along Big Bend Walk.



After another 370 m cross the ford.

**Start of an optional side trip:** This optional side trip takes you to the Moss Garden, a place that has an incredibly peaceful and stunning scenery, along with a little waterfall to add to the serenity.



To start this optional side trip veer left here. at the intersection of Moss Garden Walk & Big Bend Walk **Start** heading along *Moss Garden Walk* (a walking track).



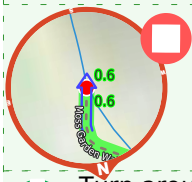
After 135 m cross the ford.



After another 55 m cross the ford.



After another 310 m cross the ford.



After another 125 m come to the end.



Turn around and retrace your steps back the 630 m to the main route.



Back at the main route veer left and follow on from the 2.8 km waypoint.



After another 1.3 km (at the intersection of Big Bend Walk & Moss Garden Walk) **continue straight**, to head along Big Bend Walk.



After another 130 m pass the toilet (50 m on your left).



**Continue straight**, to head along Big Bend Walk.

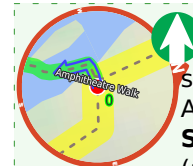


After another 85 m cross the stepping stones (about 140 m long)



After another 320 m cross the stepping stones (about 45 m long)

**Start of an optional side trip:** This optional side trip takes you to the Amphitheatre. 60 metres deep, this acoustic rock formation presents a unique audible experience.



To start this optional side trip continue straight here. at the intersection of Amphitheatre Walk & Big Bend Walk **Start** heading along *Amphitheatre Walk* (a walking track).



After another 10 m **continue straight**, to head along Amphitheatre Walk. Keep left.



After another 10 m cross the ford.



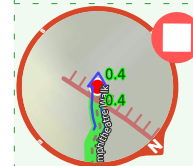
After another 60 m cross the ford.



After another 60 m cross the ford.



After another 15 m find the "tiered ladder" (on your left).



After another 195 m come to the end.



Turn around and retrace your steps back the 350 m to the main route.

Back at the main route ERROR >360 and follow on from the 3.8 km waypoint.



After another 270 m (at the intersection of Big Bend Walk & Amphitheatre Walk) **veer right**, to head along Big Bend Walk.

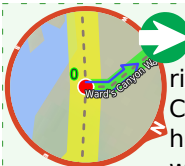


After another 20 m find the "tiered ladder" (110 m on your left).




After another 310 m cross the ford.

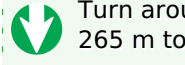
**Start of an optional side trip:** This optional side trip takes you to the Ward's Canyon. Step back in time as you're passing through the King ferns and slender tree ferns in this naturally cool spot.



To start this optional side trip turn right here. at the intersection of Ward's Canyon Walk & Big Bend Walk **Start** heading along *Ward's Canyon Walk* (a walking track).




After another 265 m come to the end.




Turn around and retrace your steps back the 265 m to the main route.

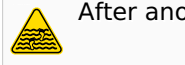
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After another 305 m (at the intersection of Ward's Canyon Walk & Big Bend Walk) **continue straight**, to head along Big Bend Walk.

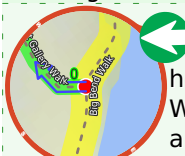


After another 480 m cross the ford.

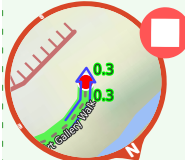


After another 40 m cross the ford.

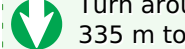
**Start of an optional side trip:** This optional side trip takes you to the historic Art Gallery, where Aborigines of the time engraved and painted 2000+ pieces of art. Especially the ochre stencils here are amongst the best in Australia.



To start this optional side trip turn left here. at the intersection of Art Gallery Walk & Big Bend Walk **Start** heading along *Art Gallery Walk* (a walking track).




After another 335 m come to the end.

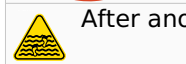

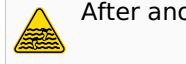
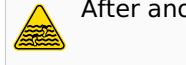
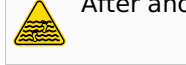
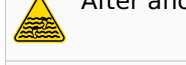
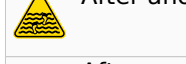
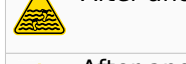
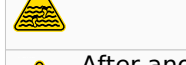

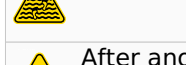

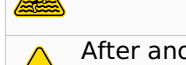
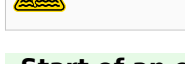


Turn around and retrace your steps back the 335 m to the main route.

Back at the main route ERROR >360 and follow on from the 5.1 km waypoint.




After another 225 m (at the intersection of Big Bend Walk & Art Gallery Walk) **continue straight**, to head along Big Bend Walk.


-  After another 65 m cross the ford.
-  After another 60 m cross the ford.
-  After another 205 m cross the ford.
-  After another 550 m cross the ford.
-  After another 550 m cross the ford.
-  After another 60 m cross the ford.
-  After another 205 m cross the ford.
-  After another 610 m cross the ford.
-  After another 255 m cross the ford.
-  After another 230 m cross the ford.
-  After another 240 m cross the ford.
-  After another 180 m cross the ford.
-  After another 290 m cross the ford.
-  After another 260 m cross the ford.

**Start of an optional side trip:** This optional side trip takes you to the Cathedral Cave. Eroded by wind and rain, this cave was used as shelter by the


Aborigines for thousands of years.




To start this optional side trip turn left here. at the intersection of Cathedral Cave Walk & Big Bend Walk **Start** heading along *Cathedral Cave Walk* (a walking track).



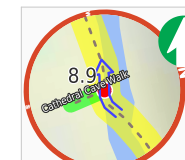
After another 40 m come to the end.




Turn around and retrace your steps back the 40 m to the main route.



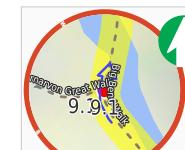
Back at the main route turn left and follow on from the 8.9 km waypoint.




After another 40 m (at the intersection of Big Bend Walk & Cathedral Cave Walk) **continue straight**, to head along Big Bend Walk.




After another 95 m cross the ford.



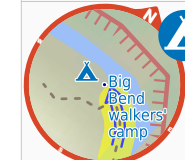
After another 9 m (at the intersection of Big Bend Walk & Boowinda Gorge) **continue straight**, to head along Big Bend Walk.



After another 25 m cross the ford.




After another 320 m cross the ford.



After another 75 m come to "Big Bend walkers' camp".  
W: [parks.des.qld.gov.au](http://parks.des.qld.gov.au)

There is a fee to use this campsite.  
About 75 m past the end is a toilet.





The end.