

Guide to West Head Bushwalks & Attractions

www.hikingthworld.blog/westhead

1 Elvina Bay (3.6km return / 4.5km loop)

A relatively short and easy walk down a firetrail. Continue beyond end of firetrail to Elvina Waterfall. Fredricks Track is a more interesting bushwalking track that provides an alternative route, with a short detour to **Lovetts Pool**.

2 Waratah Track (9.5km return)

Long firetrail. but nice views at the end. Best in Spring for wildflowers. Rough walking trail up to Waratah trig station.

3 Salvation Loop 4km circuit

A fairly level firetrail which passes some hanging swamps.

3a Wallaroo Track (8.6km return) which goes to a rock platform and informal lookout

3b Yeomans Track (9.2km) which ends at a rock platform.

4 Towlers Bay (6-9km return)

An easy walk along a firetrail which provides access to Lovett Bay and Morning Bay. Some nice views before trail descends.

4a A bushwalking trail via the spectacular Birnie Lookout enables the more interesting **6.5km Towlers Bay Circuit**

5 Willunga Trig (1.5km return)

Steep but short walk to the highest point in West Head (at 228m). Nice views from the top to the coast.

6 Topham Track (4.5km return)

Easy walking along firetrail. Continue "off track" beyond the end of the trail for better views from a large cave.

7 Bairne Track (6.8km return)

A long and fairly level firetrail. Great views from Towlers Lookout (take right-hand trail when the track splits).

8 Bairne to Basin Loop (12km circuit)

Connects Bairne Track (via Soldiers Point) and Basin Track to form a loop. Wade across to Basin at low tide or take ferry.

9 America Bay (2km return)

Nice bushwalk past two Aboriginal engraving sites to small creek and top of waterfall (good spot for lunch).

10 Challenger Track (3km return)

Short firetrail to lookout with filtered views over Pittwater.

11 Basin Track (5.6km return)

Maintenance road down to Basin campsite (BBQ, swimming, toilets). Not a nice track but passes Basin Aboriginal Site.

12 Mackerel Track (2km) / Basin Loop (6km)

Great view from end of Mackerel Track. Can return via Currawong Beach & Basin Track (low tide / hard route).

13 Hungry Beach (3.6km return)

Off-track route along coastline from Flint & Steel Bay.

14 Flint & Steel Beach / Bay (2-3km)

Easy bushwalking track down to beautiful Flint & Steel Beach. Overgrown track to Flint & Steel Bay / Whitehorse Beach. Follow coastline around headland for challenging loop walk.

15 Koolewong Lookout (1km / 1.2km loop)

Short bushwalking track to very nice lookout over Pittwater.

16 Resolute Loop (4km circuit)

One of the nicest walks at West Head, passing two beaches, some WWII fortifications and two Aboriginal rock art sites.

17 West Head Beach (0.8km return)

Short and occasionally steep track down to sheltered beach.

18 West Head Army Track (0.8km return)

Interesting walk down to historic WWII II gun embankments. Some very steep sections & metal stairs. Continue along coastline to access **Flannel Flower Beach** (challenging).



Aboriginal Engraving Sites

West Head has over 200 recorded Aboriginal rock art sites; a few of these are signposted or easily accessible.

- **America Bay Track:** an unmarked path leads to two small sites; one of them has large deity figure.
- **Basin Aboriginal Site:** the most impressive site, with 53 mostly distinct engravings and signage.
- **Elvina Bay Track:** an extensive site best known for a design called the "Great Emu In The Sky"
- **Red Hands Cave:** Near the Resolute Picnic Area, the shelter has multiple red ochre handprints.
- **Resolute Track Aboriginal Site:** several figures, including a man with a club across his waist.



Best Views

The West Head Lookout at the end of West Road has arguably the best view. Some others worth walking to are...

- **America Bay Track:** views over Cowan Creek from end
- **Birnie Lookout:** a spectacular lookout accessed via an unmarked trail off the Towlers Bay Track
- **Koolewong Lookout:** nice views over Pittwater and solitude at the end of the short Koolewong Track
- **Topham Track:** average views from end of track, but much better view from large cave beyond track.
- **Towlers Lookout:** it's a long (but flat) walk along the Bairne Track to this lookout with extensive views
- **Willunga Trig:** views of ocean in the distance.



Beaches & swimming holes

There are stunning beaches just a short bushwalk away!

- **West Head Beach:** short but steep walk from W Head
- **Resolute Beach:** access via end of West Head Road (2km return) or Resolute Picnic Area (3.2km return)
- **Great Mackerel Beach:** about 4.5km return from Resolute Picnic area or via Basin Track. Large beach.
- **The Basin:** sheltered beach & lagoon accessed via Basin Track (5.4km return). Picnic area, BBQ, toilets.
- **Flint & Steel Beach:** approx. 2km return
- **Lovett Bay Swimming Hole:** 3km return via Elvina Track

Map of West Head Walks

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westhead

5. Willunga Trig
1.5km return. <1 hour

3a. Wallaroo Track
8.6km return (2-3 hours)

3b. Yeomans Track
9.2km return (2-3 hours)

3. Salvation Loop
4km loop (1 hour)

2. Waratah Track
9.5km return (3-4 hours)

10. Challenger Track
3km return. 1 hour

9. America Bay
2km return. 1 hour

6. Topham Track
4.5km return. 1-2 hours

14. Flint & Steel Beach
2km return (1 hour)
3km loop (2 hours)

13. Hungry Beach
3.6km return. 2-3 hours

15. Koolewong Lookout
1km return / 1.2km loop (<1hr)

18. W Head Army Track
0.8km return (1 hour)

17. W. Head Beach
0.8km return (<1 hour)

16. Resolute Loop
4km loop (1-2 hours)

Ferry from **Palm Beach** → Bonnie Doon → The Basin → Currawong → Mackerel → Palm Beach

12. Mackerel & Basin
6km loop (3-4 hours)

11. The Basin
5.6km return (2 hours)

8. Bairne to Basin
12km loop (4-6 hours)

7. Bairne Track
6.8km return (2-3 hours)

Ferry from **Church Point** → Morning Bay (YHA) → Lovett Bay → Elvina Bay → Church Point

4. Towlers Bay
6-9km return (2-3 hours)

4a. Towlers Bay Loop
6.5km loop (2-3 hours)

1. Elvina Bay
3.6km return or 4.5km loop (2-3 hours)

KEY	
	Recommended walk
	Challenging walk
	Aboriginal site
	Beach
	Lookout
	Firetrail
	Walking track
	Route / off-track

