

Bushwalking

In the Bathurst Region



For those looking to get outdoors and active, there's no better way to experience the Bathurst region than bushwalking. Whether you're looking for short easy walk or a long and challenging trek, Bathurst has something for everyone.

These walks are graded on a 5-stage basis, with '1' being an easy walk to '5' being a difficult walk requiring navigational skills and experience. The grades are a general guide only. Learn more by visiting official websites, nationalparks.nsw.gov.au, for current alerts, closures and other information before you travel.

ABERCROMBIE KARST CONSERVATION RESERVE

55mins south of Bathurst, left off Goulburn Road.



Known for its extensive cave system Abercrombie Karst Conservation Reserve, also has some fantastic bushwalking opportunities with two signed trails. **Currently closed.**

Grove Creek Falls Walking Track

Grade 4
6km return
2-3hrs

This walking track takes you through bushland alongside the picturesque Grove Creek and finishes with dramatic views of the Grove Creek Falls 70 meters high.

Mount Gray Walking Track

Grade 4
7km
3-4hrs

Take a journey back in time on the Mount Gray walking track, where hopeful gold miners braved the remote bush conditions in their quest for fortune. After exploring this historic site, the walk leads down the road to the magnificent 70 meter Grove Creek Falls.

BOUNDARY ROAD RESERVE

3km west of Bathurst CBD



Turn left at Boundary Road off the Mid-Western Highway. Entrance through the Vietnam Veteran's Park. Boundary Road Reserve is Bathurst's most important area of remnant native bush.

Grade 4
3.5km
1hr

Under restoration and revegetation by the Boundary Road Reserve Landcare Group, the 80-hectare reserve has seen amazing progress and revegetation over the years, providing important ecosystems for the 120 bird species in the area. There are also several mobs of kangaroos living in the vicinity of the reserve.

EVANS CROWN NATURE RESERVE SUMMIT WALK

45kms east of Bathurst

Access is from Honeysuckle Falls Road off the Lithgow, Tarana, Sodwalls Road. The summit walk can be started from the carpark and is a 30 min uphill walk (one way).



Grade 4
1 km return
45 min-1 hr

Overlooking the village of Tarana, Evans Crown Reserve is an area of 425 hectares of open bushland with spectacular granite formations. It was a sacred area of the local indigenous people and walkers are asked to respect this. It is suitable for bushwalkers who are confident of exploring open bushland without designated tracks. There is an information board at the start of the walking track.

HILL END TOWNSHIP

80km north of Bathurst – Allow 1 hour, 10 min



The town of Hill End dates to the gold rush days of the 1870s and is set in a semi-bush setting. The whole town is classified by the National Trust, as many buildings and houses date from its boom years of the early 1870s. For those who enjoy walking, it is easy to spend a day wandering around the township.

Bald Hills Walking Track

Grade 3

4km loop

1.5hrs – 2.5 hrs

The Bald Hill walking track starts and finishes at the Post Office (Reef Street). Follow this circular bushwalk past the site of the largest stamper battery on the field, up to the dam site that provided essential water for the battery's operation to the old diggings on the edge of the town.

JENOLAN KARST CONSERVATION RESERVE

74 km, 1hr southeast of Bathurst



The Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve is home to the world-famous Jenolan Cave system. With guided and self-guided tours through several caves, it's easy to spend a day out. However, for those who don't like underground activities, there are plenty of bushwalks available. **Currently closed.**

Carlotta Arch Walking Track

Grade 3 – short but steep

1km one-way

30 min-1 hr 15min

This track starts opposite the historic Jenolan Caves House and climbs steeply uphill behind the ticket office. Rising along the valley and providing spectacular views of the Caves House below, this track is a great way to see the Carlotta Arch, Blue Lake, and Grand Arch entrance to the Jenolan Caves.

Jenolan River Walking Track

Grade 3

2.6km return

45 min - 1.5 hrs

Starting at the eastern side of the Grand Arch, this track traces along the edge of Blue Lake, continuing on along the Jenolan River downstream to the bottom of the small waterfall and swimming hole. While you can't swim in the Blue Lake because it's an important platypus habitat, you can enjoy a swim at the swimming hole downstream.

McKeown's Valley Walking Track

Grade 3

2.6km return

1.5hrs-2hrs

McKeown's Valley Walking Track sets out along the road from Jenolan Caves House. Following signs through the Devil's Coach House open cave, and into McKeown's Valley. For those looking to explore more, a visit to Nettle Cave inside the Devil's Coach House is available, as a self-guided tour (Charges apply).

KANANGRA-BOYD NATIONAL PARK

55mins southeast from Bathurst



Kanangra-Boyd National Park is part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area with sheer sandstone cliffs, waterfalls, lookouts, 2 cycling tracks and 1 bushwalk. Unsealed road; 2WD accessible.

Kanangra Walls Lookout

Grade 2

800m one way

10min

A short walk from the carpark, the Kanangra Walls lookout is a sight to behold. This walk can be done by itself or completed along with the Waterfall Walk. There are several gravel carparks at the end of Kanangra Walls Road. From the carpark, there's a 520m walk to the lookout platform along a gravel track.

Kalang Falls walk

Grade 3

1.6km one way

30min – 1hr 15min

Starting from the Kanangra Walls carpark, you can start this walk by diverting from the lookout walk. The Kalang Falls walk is a great way to see the highlights of the park with great views of Kanangra Deep, Kanangra Walls and Thurat Spires. Track has steep stairs and chain guided downhill slope sections.

MOUNT CANOBOLAS STATE CONSERVATION AREA

1hr 10min northeast of Bathurst



Just south of Orange, Mount Canobolas State Conservation Area hosts 6 stunning walking tracks with options for all levels of fitness and experience. It offers birdwatching, walking, scenic views, pretty picnic areas and a great campground. Visit nationalparks.nsw.gov.au for more information

Federal Falls Walk	Grade 3, 4km loop, 1-2hrs (challenging walk); waterfall views at the end
Nature Walking Track	Grade 3, 2km loop, 30min – 1.5hrs
Spring Glade Walking Track	Grade 3, 3km return, 45min – 1.5hrs
Mount Towac Walking Track	Grade 3, 1.7km return, 15-30min
Snowgum Walking Track	Grade 3, 0.9kms one way, 15-30min (short and easy)
Summits Walking Track	Grade 3, 2.1km return, 45min-1hr 15min

WAMBOOL NATURE RESERVE

26km east of Bathurst



Wambool Nature Reserve hosts 2 management trails, the Wambool Trail and Geebung Trail. Both trails are easily completed by most people. Each takes 30 minutes one way or can be looped together via the Link Trail. This loop will take approximately 1 hour.

WATTLE FLAT HERITAGE LANDS

30 min north of Bathurst



The Wattle Flat Heritage Lands are a great spot to stop off for a bushwalk, bike ride or some time out camping in nature. The Heritage Lands are spread across three areas, the Heritage Lands Northern Reserve, Heritage Lands Southern Reserve and Thomson Street Reserve.

Buurree Walking Trail Grade 1 1-2hr return	Named after the Wiradjuri word for wattle, the Buurree Walking Trail is situated in the Wattle Flat Heritage Lands North, accessed via Thomson Street. Following yellow triangles from tree to tree, the circular track goes uphill to a ridgeline with lovely views towards Sofala and the Turon Valley.
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WOMBEGAN KARST CONSERVATION RESERVE

2hrs 20min south of Bathurst, towards Goulburn.



Another area known for its extensive cave system, the Wombegyan Karst Conservation Reserve is the first site in Australia that was reserved for the protection of caves in 1865. Visitors to the reserve can find cave tours, birdwatching and of course bushwalking, with 3 signed walking tracks for visitors to explore.

Mares Fores Creek Walking Track	Grade 4, 3.2km return, 1hr-1.5hrs
Victoria Arch Walking Track	Grade 1, 0.6km return, 10-20min
Wombegyan Waterfall Walking Track	Grade 4, 4km loop, 2-3hrs

State Forest Walking

There are some truly unique walking experiences to be found in the State Forests of Bathurst and the surrounding regions. State Forests are run by the Forestry Corporation and allow public access to areas that are not being used for timber production, mining, or other agricultural activities. This means you can go walking, camping, horse riding, mushroom foraging and much more in most of the State Forests in the Central West. While some have designated walking tracks and trails and recreation areas, there are still plenty of opportunities to explore independently in State Forests through fire trails and management trails.

Sunny Corner State Forest

30 minutes from Bathurst on the Great Western Highway towards Lithgow, Sunny Corner State Forest is a large State Forest used for pine timber production. While there are no established walking trails, there are plenty of fire trails and off-road paths to explore. Sunny Corner State Forest has a recreation reserve which provides a spot to camp, with fire pits and toilets available.

Vittoria State Forest

30 minutes from Bathurst on the Mitchell Highway towards Orange, Vittoria State Forest has a great camping area called Macquarie Woods. Equipped with fire pits, picnic areas and toilets, this can make a great base for anyone looking to get away and explore the State Forest by foot. The State Forest was originally designed as a display of sustainable timber production and is a mix of areas populated by pine trees and others designated for native eucalypt species.

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Opening Hours Monday – Friday 9.30am – 4.30pm
Saturday – Sunday and P/H 10am – 3pm



Scan the QR code to view the 'digital' Bushwalking in the Bathurst Region guide

