

# Lady Carrington Drive



**3 hrs 45 mins**

**Moderate track**

**3**

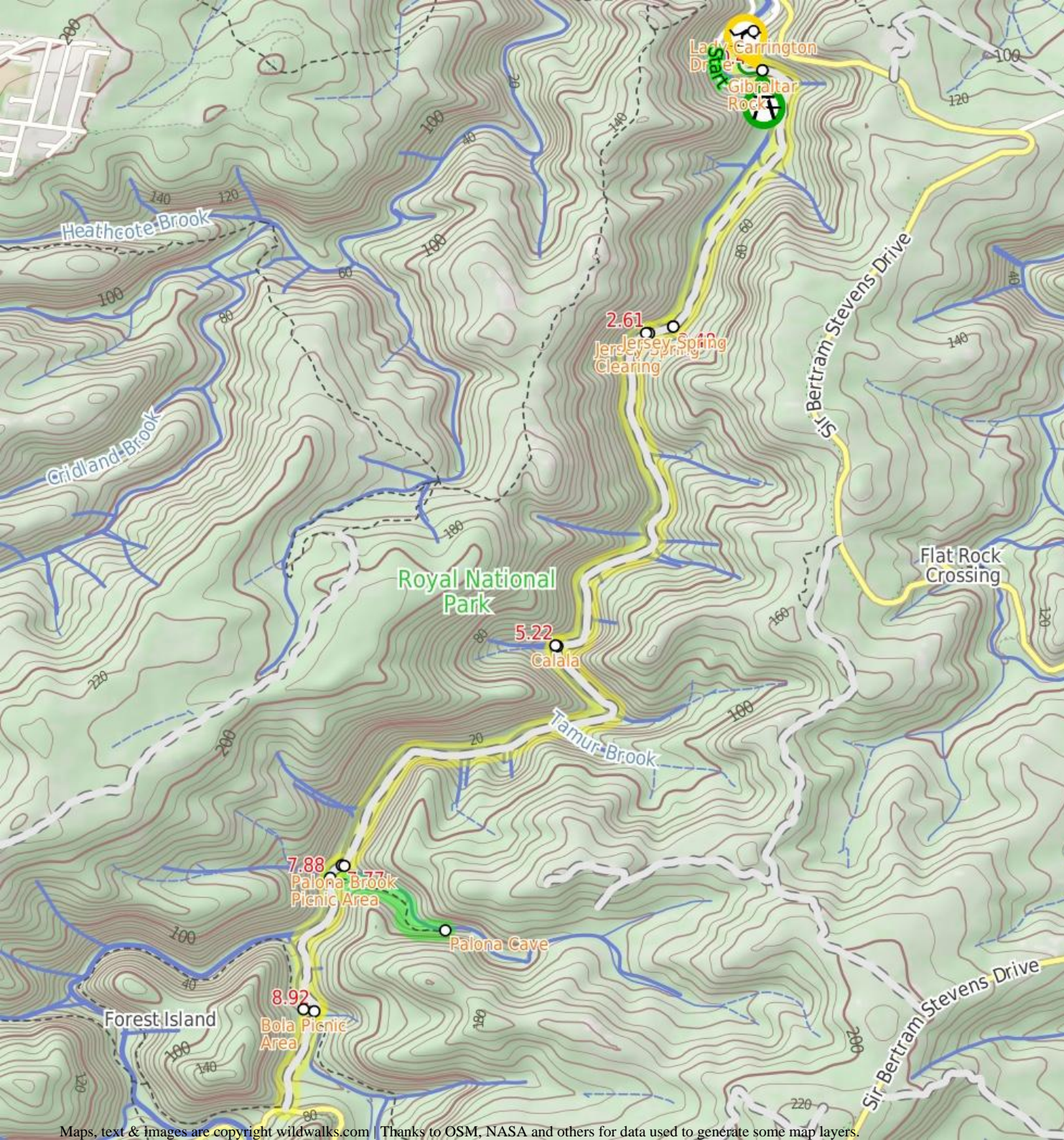
**9.7 km One way**

**↑ 315m**

This walk follows the historic Lady Carrington Drive along the Hacking River. The road has been closed to traffic for some time now and provides a great way for walkers (and mountain bikers) to explore the rich area of Royal National Park. The side of the management trail is dotted with fantastic natural sandstone formations, historic features, picnic areas and grand native and introduced trees.

58m

Royal National Park



### Are you ready to have fun?

Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. Check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating before setting out. Optional side trips and alternate routes noted are not included in this walk overall grade, length or time estimate. Please allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing this information but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury you may experience. Please take care, have fun - Happy Walking.

**Getting there** Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Lady Carrington Drive gate (Willow Tree) (gps: -34.0793, 151.0552). Car: Parking fees apply in the area.

Traveling by car is the only practical way to get back from Int of Lady Carrington Drive and Sir Bertam Stevens Drive (gps: -34.1488, 151.0303). Car: A park entry fee is required for driving into the park.

Find up to date and more information including; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at <http://wild.tl/lcd>

### 0 | Lady Carrington Drive

Opened in 1886 by Lady Carrington, this road was formally named 'Lady Carrington Road' (later changed to 'drive'), and started on the southern side of the then newly constructed Audley weir. The road became popular among people exploring the region. The road follows the Hacking River's east bank and then Bola Creek to Sir Bertram Stevens Drive. Much history has been preserved, with several drinking troughs still filling with water and many sandstone retaining walls still standing. The brooks that the old road crosses have been named using the traditional names of birds, the following is a list with the English name in brackets. Mullion (Eagle), Wurrul (Bee Eater), Burowa (Bustard), Karonga (White Crane), Gorra Worra (Laughing Jackass), Buralga (Native Companion), Kobardo (Parrot), Birumba (Plover), Dirijiri (Wagtail), Murrindum (Quail), Dumbal (Crow), Tamur (Bronze winged Pigeon), Burunda (Swan), Karani (Duck), Palona (Hawk) Brooks.

### 0 | Lady Carrington Drive gate (Willow Tree)

(430 m 8 mins) From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Lady Carrington Drive' sign around the locked gate and along the management trail (keeping the picnic area and river to the right). This walk winds along the trail gently uphill for about 400m to step over a potential trip hazard with the sandstone paving below the overhanging Gibraltar Rocks.

### 0.43 | Gibraltar Rock

Gibraltar Rock, Royal National Park, is a sandstone overhang found near the northern end of Lady Carrington Drive. The old road passes under the rocks and is home to a small section of sandstone cobblestone. At this point, the old road offers great views of the Hacking River and across to Wattle Forest picnic area. These and many other sandstone formations, together with the history, make this old road quite interesting to explore. There is a picnic table under the overhang.

### 0.43 | Gibraltar Rock

(2.1 km 39 mins) Continue straight: From Gibraltar Rock, this walk follows the old road, keeping the river to the right. After 100m, the trail passes over an old sandstone culvert and past a few small palms. The trail then continues winding along the side of the hill for a while until coming to a wooden bench seat and the 'Jersey Spring'.

### 2.48 | Jersey Spring

The Jersey Spring is beside the old Lady Carrington Drive in the Royal National Park. The permanent spring feeds into two sandstone troughs, built in 1892 to provide water for horses and people traveling along the road. The

troughs are still fed by the same spring (although it has moved overtime and the water is no longer suitable for drinking). The springs are named after Rt. Hon. Victor George (Earl of Jersey), the 17th governor of NSW. [More info.](#)

### 2.48 | Jersey Spring

(130 m 3 mins) Continue straight: From Jersey Spring, this walk follows the Lady Carrington Drive past the 'Jersey Spring' information sign keeping the river to the right. The trail winds down the hill to come to a large clearing, the unignposted Jersey Spring clearing.

### 2.61 | Jersey Spring Clearing

The Jersey Spring Clearing is an open grassy area between the old Lady Carrington Drive and the Hacking River. The clearing is not formally named but is just south of the Jersey Spring. This is a great area to stop, rest and enjoy the journey along the old road.

### 2.61 | Jersey Spring clearing

(2.6 km 51 mins) Continue straight: From the Jersey Spring clearing, this walk heads along the old road, keeping the clearing and river to the right. The walk passes some lovely rock formations on the left and heads through some palm groves. The trail passes over three main creeks before coming to the unignposted Kobardo Brook. In the gully of Kobardo Brook (on the left) is a small sandstone water trough. Over the next 1km, the trail crosses three more creeks before coming to 'Calala', a signposted clearing and picnic area.

### 5.22 | Calala

The signposted 'Calala' clearing lies between the old Lady Carrington Drive and the Hacking River. The large clearing has a picnic table and plenty of shade from the surrounding trees. There is access to a small sandy beach on the Hacking River, making this a lovely spot to rest on a warm day.

### 5.22 | Calala

(2.5 km 53 mins) Continue straight: From Calala, this walk follows the old road, keeping the river to the right. The trail winds through the bush for a while, crossing a couple of creeks and passing a large log on the right, before coming to the signposted 'Burunda Brook'. The about 400m after Burunda Brook, the trail leads to a plaque reminding of the tragic loss of Alan Rendell, who died whilst fighting bushfires in 1988. Beyond the plaque, the trail continues for about 1km until coming to the 'Palona Brook' sign and the picnic area on the left.

### 7.77 | Palona Brook Picnic Area

Palona Brook Picnic Area is found on the north side of Palona Brook along the old Lady Carrington Drive. The picnic area is home to a couple of wooden picnic tables and is next to the steep gully and culvert that Palona Brook flows through. A great spot to rest when visiting the nearby sandstone cove or walking the old road.

### 7.77 | Palona Brook Picnic Area

(110 m 2 mins) Continue straight: From the picnic area, this walk crosses Palona Brook, keeping the Hacking River to the right. The trail soon bends left and comes to a large tree and a wooden 'Limestone Cave 1.6km' signpost.

### 7.88 | Optional sidetrip to Palona Cave and Waterfall

(780 m 19 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Limestone Cave 1.6km' arrow along the track, heading up the hill and away from the road. The walk continues up a long hill, winding through dense forest for a short while before flattening out and continuing along the side of the hill. The walk winds through the bush and passes several rock overhangs and outcrops either side of the track, as the walk make its way along to the Palona Caves at the end of the track. At the end of this side trip, retrace your

steps back to the main walk then Turn left.

### 7.88 | Palona Cave

Palona Cave is off Lady Carrington Drive, north of Bola Picnic Area, in the Royal National Park. Palona Cave is a large limestone overhang with a few cave decorations such as columns and stalactites. Being open to the environment, the cave has some green moss and is not reminiscent of other pristine white limestone caves. The cave is a unique feature for the area and is well worth allowing time to explore.

### 7.88 | Int Palona Cave Trk and Lady Carrington Drive

(1 km 22 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the dirt road, keeping the river to the right. The trail winds along the forest floor for a long while before dropping down a gentle hill and bending around to the right, crossing Bola Creek and continuing up the other side to the intersection of 'The Forest Path' and the 'Bola Creek rest area'.

### 8.92 | Bola Picnic Area

Bola Picnic Area, in the Royal National Park, is at the intersection of Lady Carrington Drive and Forest Island Track. The picnic clearing is in a gorgeous rainforest setting, with tall trees and ferns surrounding the area. There is no car access to the picnic area. One picnic table and bench seat are provided, with no other facilities.

### 8.92 | Bola Picnic Area

(730 m 13 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Carpark 700m' arrow along the dirt road, heading up the gentle slope and bending around to the left, continuing along to the signposted intersection with the 'Walumarra Track'.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads south along the management trail, winding along the side of the hill, keeping the uphill to the right of the track as it undulates gently up the long, gentle hill. In time, this walk passes through a National Park gate and comes to the intersection with Sir Bertram Stevens Drive (500m north of the intersection with McKell Ave).