

YURAYGIR TRAIL GUIDE

4 Day North to South Walk Plan

NEED TO KNOW

This is an essential guide to Yuraygir coastal walk. We recommend the [NPWS foldout map and guide](#) as well for basic mapping info. We provide accommodation and transport support services for both small and large group bookings but no on track guidance.

YA EGL/GUMBAYNGIRR COUNTRY - You are walking on the traditional lands of Yaegl people in the northern, and Gumbayngirr people in the southern parts of the walk.

WALKING RESPONSIBLY - Walk in accord with the 7 [Leave No Trace Principles](#). Stay on formed tracks, respect wildlife (keep distance, no feeding), leave shells, rocks and artefacts and do not trample vegetation. Take out anything you bring in.

GRADE - NPWS rates this a [Grade 4 Walk](#). Consider taking a rest day if unsure of ability to walk 4 days consecutively.

RIVER CROSSINGS – there are 3 boat crossings to pre-arrange: Sandon (Day 2), Wooli (Day 4) and Red Rock (Day 4 – currently no service). You also need to wade across Station Creek at a lower tide (Day 4).

WATER IS LIMITED - Carry adequate water each day (min 1.5L).

FIRST AID GEAR – bring a kit suited to bushwalking, including a compression bandage for snake bite and tick treatment ([Freeze it. Don't squeeze it](#)).

PHONE SIGNAL IS LIMITED – Between towns signal can be patchy. Optus works best north and south of Minnie Water. Telstra works best most other places.



Source: National Parks and Wildlife Service

EMERGENCY + SMARTPHONE APP - Install on smartphone to make network assisted emergency calls with GPS coordinates to give call operator. Complimentary to, but not a substitute for, a Personal Locator Beacon.

KEY CONTACTS

- Yuraygir Walk – 0458887724
- Yamba Police – 66030199
- Grafton Police - 6642222
- Coffs Harbor Police - 66910799
- National Parks Service – 66411500

RIVER CROSSINGS (price varies)

- Sandon – 0407362118
- Wooli – 0439409909
- Red Rock – **no current service**

WATER TOP-UPS

Brooms village, Sandon, Minnie camps, Minnie & Wooli village

FOOD/SUPPLIES

- Brooms Snack Shack – 6646 7222
- Minnie Store – 6649 7586
- Wooli Shop – 6649 7546
- Red Rock Shop – 6649 1552

DISCLAIMER

This info has been prepared by Yuraygir Coastal Walks to assist walkers planning and doing Yuraygir Coastal Walks. It is offered in good faith, but we take no responsibility for any mishaps or injury that might arise as a result of its use. **It is not a substitute for a guide.**

Possible Itinerary	Location	Distance	Times	Cumulative Distance	Gradient	Path Quality	Bushwalking Experience Required	Walking Track Grade
Day one	Angourie to Shelley Headland	6.0 km	2.5 hrs	6.0	Undulating	Generally track surface		Level 2
	Shelley Headland Camping Area to Lake Arragan Camping Area	7.0 km	2.5 hrs	13.0	Flat	Generally track surface		Level 2
	Lake Arragan to Brooms Head	5.0 km	1.5 hrs	18.0	Flat	Beach		Level 3
Day two	Brooms Head to Sandon	8.0 km	3.5 hrs	26.0	Flat	Beach		Level 3
	Sandon River crossing	0.05 km		26.05		Water		
	Sandon to Illaroo Camping Area	10.0 km	4.0 hrs	36.05	Flat	Track and beach		Level 3
Day three	Illaroo Camping Area to Minnie Water	1.0 km	0.5 hr	37.05	Undulating	Track		Level 2
	Minnie Water to Boorkoom Camping Area	6.5 km	2.0 hrs	43.55	Undulating	Track, beach & rock platform		Level 4
	Boorkoom to Wooli	6.5 km	2.5 hrs	50.05	Flat	Track and beach		Level 3
Day four	Wooli Wooli River Crossing	3.0 km		53.05		Water		
	Wooli to Pebbly Beach Camping Area	6.5 km	3.0 hrs	59.55	Undulating	Rock platform and track		Level 4
	Pebble Beach Camping Area to	5.4 km	2.0 hrs	64.95	Flat	Beach		Level 3

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Day 1: Mara Creek to Brooms Head (17 km)

Angourie Lookout or Mara Creek in northern Yuraygir National Park is where the adventure begins. The trail passes through numerous coastal plant communities, including wet and dry heath with spectacular views of sandstone rocky platforms and sweeping coastline to the north. At Dirragan headland, walkers can learn about Yaegl people's connection to this beautiful, bountiful landscape. This section also provides great opportunities for whale watching during the northern (May-June) and southern (Aug-Oct) migration periods.

A short stroll along the empty and wild Shelley Beach gets you to a perfect shady campground to have a morning tea break. Then ascend the headland to hug the coastline for several kilometers, with great views of the coffee rock sand cliff to the south. Wander through sheltered pockets of old paperbarks and tuckeroos behind the dunes.

Emerge onto the beach north of Plumbago headland and cross the small beach creek. Choose to continue along the beach. If the tide is good or return to the hind dune track to continue on to Lake Arragan. The campground alongside this lovely freshwater Lake is the perfect place to lunch and rest along side mobs of Eastern Grey Kangaroos. Also a great spot for an ocean swim with a rinse off in fresh tannin coloured lake.

The trail then passes south across the coloured clays of Grey Cliff and Red Cliff headlands, through a small patch of restored littoral rainforest before dropping back onto the beach for an easy stroll to the Norfolk Pines of sleepy Brooms Head.

Day 2: Brooms Head to Minnie Water (19 km)

Beach walking day! Climb the stairs to the grassy Brooms Headland for sweeping views of the coastline south. Watch for soaring raptors, turtles, whales and dolphins as you descend to the deserted curved beach for an easy 8km to Sandon River. The riverside campground is a relaxing morning tea spot. Explore Plover Island at low tide (a place of cultural significance for Yaegl people). Sandon River also marks the northern point of Solitary Islands Marine Park which extends south to Coffs Harbour.

After crossing the narrow river channel, stroll through the small settlement of Sandon. There are two main routes to Minnie Water depending on tides, weather and interests. The longer Sandon backtrack traverses various heathland communities and coastal cypress thickets, stunning during winter-spring flowering with lots of nectar feeding birds. The more direct route is the 10km stretch of Sandon beach (best on lower tides), with swimming and dolphin spotting opportunities, and sandy beach solitude (but listen out for vehicles). Pick a lunch spot about half way down among the shady coffee rock extrusions.

At the southern end, climb the last stairs off the beach to Illaroo Picnic area to look for a coastal camp site. Or, take the short, peaceful Angophora walking track (named after the beautiful trees that line it) south to 'civilisation' where you can swim, rinse off near the surf club, and grab a cold drink or coffee at Minnie Water store before getting to your accommodation.

Day 3: Minnie Water to Wooli (14 km)

Enjoy things at a more leisurely pace today. Stroll the track from Melaleuca Park around Minnie Water village through littoral rainforest patches. Take in the rocky shoreline and wild heath flowers, before descending onto 'Back Beach' for an easy hours walk to Diggers Camp. Explore the rocky shoreline if the tide is right, or this delightful off-grid hamlet. Swim in the lagoon to the south, or continue to the stairs up to Boorkoom camp area for morning tea, looking back over the morning's walk.

From here is an easy grade grassy and forested track following beautiful and rugged coastal cliffs and bays to Wilson's headland. There are many opportunities for whale watching and turtle spotting, with grassy headlands a feature, often with Eastern Grey Kangaroos browsing them. Look out for small but beautiful headland flowers, including paper daisies.

At Wilsons Headland you'll see Wooli township in the distance. The water tower marks the southern part of town. Take the direct beach route, looking for coastal walk signs marking exit points. Or head instead along a short section of board walk through littoral rainforest to the Wilson's picnic area and carpark. Then take a 2km road hike get to a gated NPWS management trail on the south (left) of the road. Follow this through a large expanse of low heath (can be wet) and old growth Eucalypt woodland. Pass an old quarry, head west through some wetland areas to reach another trail near Wooli Road heading south under the powerlines. Traverse wet heath to see seasonal Christmas Bells (from late Spring to Autumn) and carnivorous sundews. Follow the powerlines south to the outskirts of Wooli from where you can navigate to the pub, your accommodation, transport pick up, or find the river and continue alongside it as far as you like...

Day 4: Wooli to Red Rock (16 km)

Begin with a pre-organised boat ride down the Wooli River to Jones Point on the south side. (**Note:** When you book Wooli Boat Hire (0439 409 909) ask about your starting location). From here to Pebbly Beach is the most remote section of the walk, with boat access only for much of it. Avoid high tides on the first 5km of this walk and be aware of the swell and weather conditions.

Stroll south along Jones beach and prepare for some sometimes challenging rock scrambling sections between short stretches of pebbly bays, for about 5 km. Watch your footing. The route varies depending on tide and swell but the beauty and remoteness of this area makes it very worthwhile. Morning tea can be enjoyed under one of many groves of Pandanus along this section.

Continuing south, you will eventually find a marker to the Freshwater walking track which overlooks the gorgeous Pebbly Beach bay. Walking through the campground you may hear yellow tailed black cockatoos feeding in the casuarinas along the shore, or see lace monitors looking for an easy meal. Lunch at a protected spot at the southern corner of this beach is a must. And a swim.

Ditch shoes, pull on swimmers and pick up the track across the little headland to Station Creek estuary. Wade across at a low point ideally at low tide. As you dry off on the south side, note that this is an important protected breeding location for several threatened shorebirds.

Re-confirm your final boat booking now for one hour ahead (currently no service) and be sure you have some cash ready. The next hour is the home stretch, along the Station Creek Beach. Wade over the wide sand flats at the estuary before catching a quick lift across the beautiful Red Rock River, the finish line of the 65km Yuraygir Coastal adventure.