

The Great North Walk with Auswalk self-guided "inn-to-inn" walking...

During this holiday, you will walk from place to place along the Great North Walk staying in comfortable accommodation along the way. You only need to carry a light day pack each day as the rest of your luggage will be moved ahead of you by vehicle whilst you are out walking. You will walk independently, without a guide, following our detailed walking notes. Auswalk's INN-to-INN walking holidays are the culmination of numerous special arrangements made just for you (eg. detailed walking notes, luggage transfers, picnic lunches, meals in remote locations, local transport etc.)

On an Auswalk, it is very easy to find your way. We will supply you with a very detailed set of walking notes that are easy-to-follow, as well as maps with the route highlighted. Auswalk's unique Walk Notes will guide you from point to point along the way and provide lots of interesting and valuable information to enhance your walking. As well as describing the walking route, the notes include information about the natural environment you are passing through, average walking times, optional side-trips and many interesting things en route. Our walking notes have been tried and tested over many years!

In addition to the walking notes you'll receive a comprehensive kit of documents packed with information on the area. We provide a marked map showing the walking route and location of each accommodation. There are informative booklets on the flora, fauna, geology, history etc. of the area you walk through and information on public transport and other places of interest.

Self-guided walking offers great flexibility. You can discover an area at your own pace, stopping and starting as you wish. You walk with your own companions (a minimum of two people is required). Most importantly, you choose your own starting date. Once confirmed, we won't cancel the booking, so you can book in the sure knowledge that your walking holiday will operate.

8 day trip itinerary guide...

Day 1: Starts in Sydney (CBD) any time after 2pm - no walking scheduled today. Accommodation: Sydney.

Day 2: Take the harbour ferry from Circular Quay to Woolwich. Hike the first section of the Great North Walk through Lane Cove Valley. The terrain here features steep sided valleys that are characteristic of the sandstone that Sydney is built on.

Walking summary: 13.8km, approximately 3.5-4.5hrs walking, plus an optional 1.8km walking.

Mostly easy, some undulating track with rough surfaces.

Accommodation: Lindfield.

Day 3: The track continues along the historic Benowie section, criss crossing pretty streams as it winds its way closer and closer to join the Hawkesbury. You'll feel like you're many miles away from the hustle and bustle of the nearby towns. Walking summary: 20.2km, approximately 6-7hrs walking, undulating terrain with some rough sections underfoot. It is possible to shorten this day down to about 13.5km.

Accommodation: Thornleigh

Day 4: From Thornleigh, continue along the Great North Walk. Galston Gorge is a major highlight today.

Today's walking finishes with a transfer from Crosslands Reserve to the idyllically located Berowra Waters.

You'll cross the river by ferry and experience a touch of river life as most of the accommodations and

restaurants here are only accessible by boat – just call for a pick up! Walking summary: 14.3km, approximately 4.5-5hrs walking, undulating terrain with some steep and rough sections underfoot.

Accommodation: Berowra Waters

Day 5: A day based in Berowra Waters. You have the option of doing a walk to a nearby lookout or all the way to Crosslands where you finished walking yesterday. You can also explore the river by small boat, or just relax

on the verandah of your waterfront accommodation. Walking summary if you walk all the way to Crosslands and back: 14km, approximately 5-6hrs walking, undulating terrain with some steep and rough sections underfoot.

Accommodation: Berowra Waters.

Day 6: Climb over the high ridge in the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park via a series of delightful streams and waterfalls. Finish at Cowan Railway station and catch a train to Brooklyn. You should arrive with plenty of time to explore this delightful area and then enjoy some relaxation time at your waterfront apartment. Walking summary: 10km, approximately 3.5 - 4hrs walking, undulating terrain with rough sections underfoot.

Accommodation: Brooklyn on the banks of the Hawkesbury River

Day 7: Catch the train back up to Cowan Railway station then descend to the mighty Hawkesbury River itself. The highlight today is stunning Jerusalem Bay. Your walk finishes at sleepy Brooklyn, home for retirees, fishermen and probably a few hermits as well.

Walking summary: 15.7km, 5-5.5hrs walking, undulating terrain with rough sections underfoot.

Accommodation: Brooklyn on the banks of the Hawkesbury River

Day 8: The trip finishes after breakfast. Catch a train back to Sydney.

how hard is the walking?...

6 day itinerary: 40% easy, 35% moderate, 25% more challenging. 20-22km (6-8 hours) walking each day. The days are long but the walking is moderate. Some sections are easy underfoot as the track meanders alongside rivers. There are also some rougher, rocky sections and quite a few climbs. The walking will be mostly on narrow, well-defined and well-marked foot tracks with short sections of roads to reach your accommodation.

NOTE: If you want to walk the same route at a more relaxed pace, we highly recommend you do the 8 day itinerary. The walking distance is the same - it is just spread out over a couple of extra days.

Each day you will walk independently, without a guide. You'll walk without the constraints of group travel, free to stop and start when you choose, and to walk at your own convenient pace. For many people, the walking distances on this holiday are more than you are likely to do at home and you may be quite weary by the end of each day. The best preparation is a program of regular walking. We suggest at least one hour of walking each day, preferably in an area with lots of ups and downs. Plus a full day of walking each week. Do this for at least three weeks before the start of your holiday. Alternatively take up an active sport like aerobics, tennis or swimming. A bit of sweat now will make your walking holiday much more enjoyable.

what's included..

6 day itinerary: 5 nights accommodation, 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, luggage transfers, most transport required during the holiday, National Park fees, information booklets, insulated lunch bag, map case, walking notes, maps & a pack of information about the area.

8 day itinerary: 7 nights accommodation, 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, luggage transfers, most transport required during the holiday, National Park fees, information booklets, insulated lunch bag, map case, walking notes, maps & a pack of information about the area.

Dinners are not included on this trip as there are many excellent restaurants and eateries nearby. The region is noted for its international cuisine with restaurants attracting some of the best chefs in the country. Accompany with award winning wines from the nearby Hunter Valley winery district.