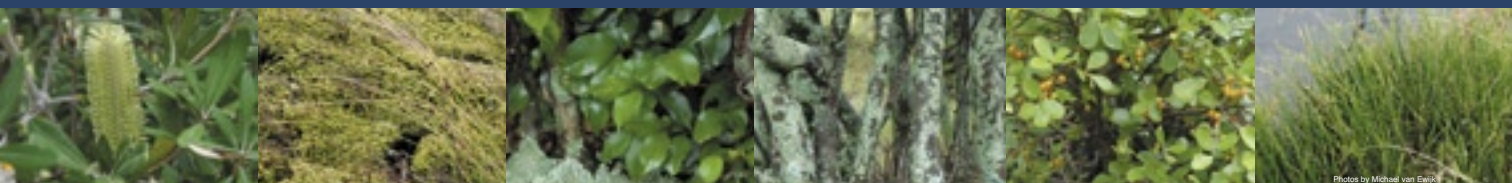




welcome to the

Kiama Coast Walk

Werri Lagoon to Loves Bay



This section of the Kiama Coast Walk takes a dramatic, coast-hugging route between Werri Lagoon and Kiama Heights. It is part of a walk that extends north to Minnamurra and south to Gerringong's Boat Harbour. The surroundings are rich in history and geological interest; other signs along the way unravel some of the area's mysteries.

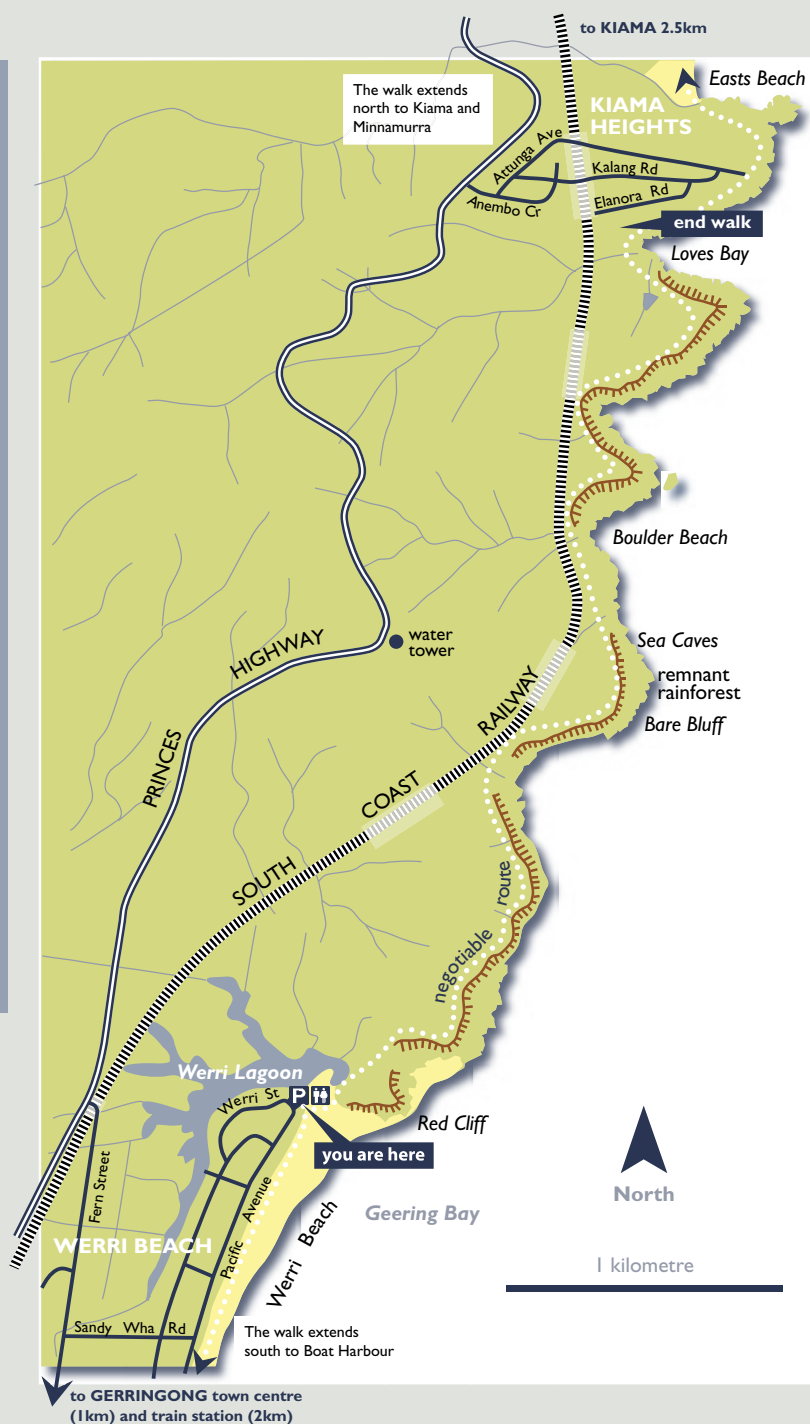
Route markers are located at approximately 1km intervals. However there is no formed track and visitors need to exercise extreme caution near steep slopes and cliff edges. Children should be supervised at all times. Please note that Werri Lagoon is sometimes open to the sea. At such times the walk will be closed at Werri Lagoon.

Werri Lagoon to Loves Bay

Distance: 12 km return
Time: 5 hr return
Grade: Moderate (Class 4)

Please wear sturdy shoes and a sun hat. Take plenty of water and food as the creek water is not suitable for drinking. There are no toilet facilities en route. Please note that this area is very exposed and subject to strong winds. Dogs must be kept on leash.

The land for this section of the Kiama Coast Track was acquired under the Coastal Lands Protection Scheme by the NSW Department of Planning. The walk was initiated by the Walking Tracks and Cycleways Committee of Kiama Council. The walk is managed by Kiama Council. These signs are proudly sponsored by Kiama Municipal Council and Southern Rivers CMA.



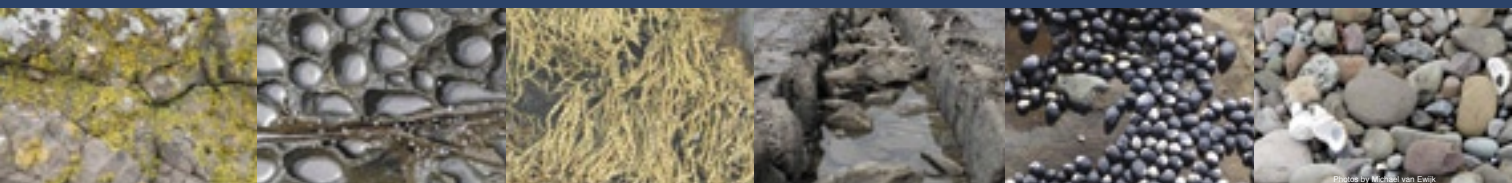
Please take care on the walk and never leave children unattended.



welcome to the

Kiama Coast Walk

Loves Bay to Werri Lagoon



This section of the Kiama Coast Walk takes a dramatic, coast-hugging route between Kiama Heights and Werri Lagoon. It is part of a walk that extends north to Minnamurra and south to Gerringong's Boat Harbour. The surroundings are rich in history and geological interest; other signs along the way unravel some of the area's mysteries.

Route markers are located at approximately 1km intervals. However there is no formed track and visitors need to exercise extreme caution near steep slopes and cliff edges. Children should be supervised at all times. Please note that Werri Lagoon is sometimes open to the sea. At such times walkers will have to return to Loves Bay.

Loves Bay to Werri Lagoon

Distance: 12 km return

Time: 5 hr return

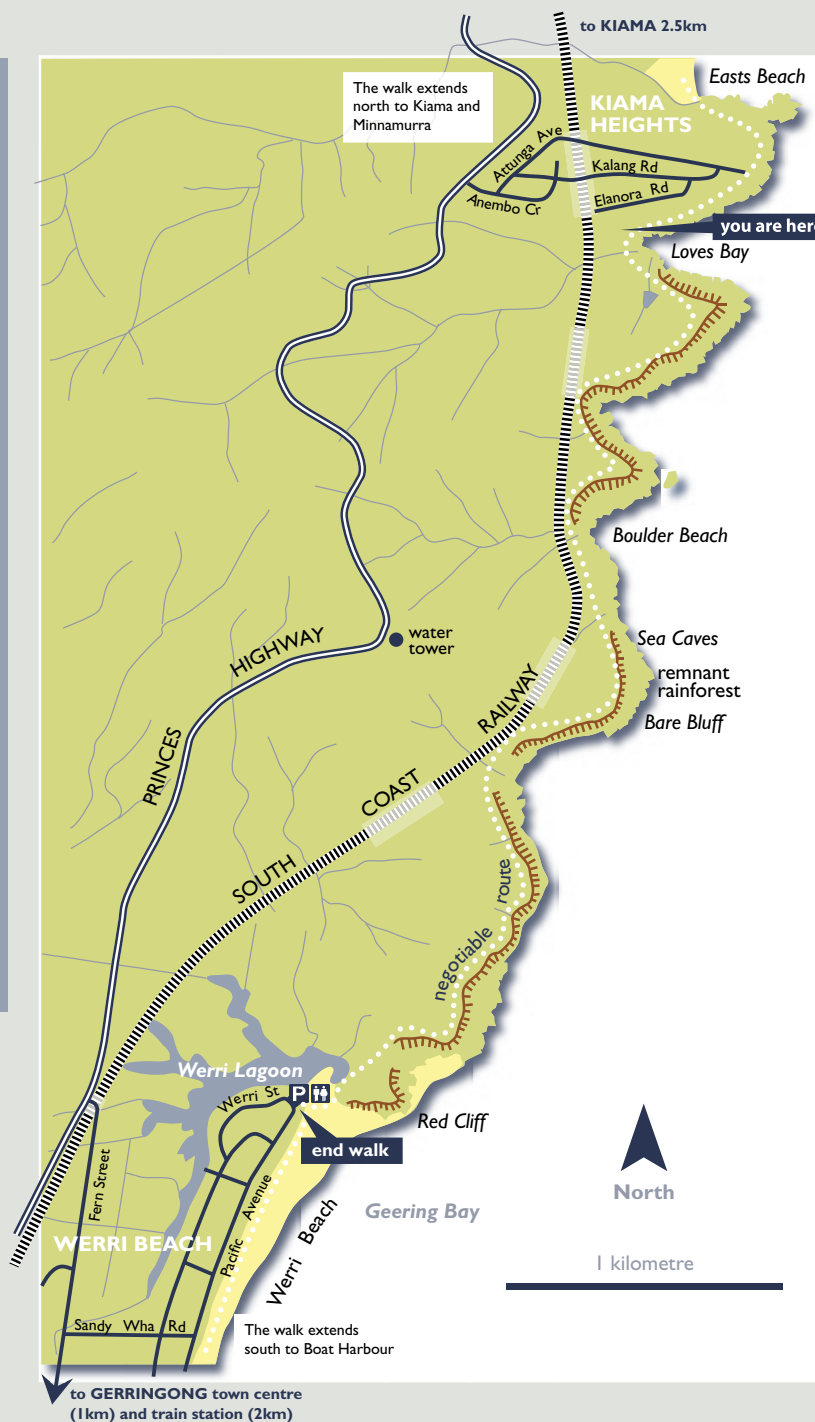
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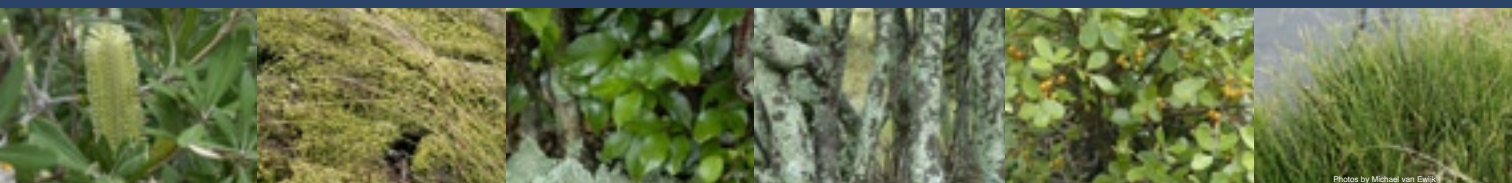
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clearing the coast

heritage lost and found



Photos by Michael van Emmerik

The Kiama area was once dominated by a vast rainforest known as the Long Brush. Around Werri Lagoon the rainforest gave way to large stands of swamp oak. It must have been an extraordinary place, with its impressive trees and abundant wildlife.

I found myself as it were ... in the midst of a scene of nature which surpassed all I had seen before in luxuriant beauty and wildness and the almost tropical novelty of the forms of the plants.

WILLIAM STANLEY JEVONS CIRCA 1854-59

By the time the cedar-getters arrived in the Kiama area in 1815, the local Aboriginal people would have been aware of the impending changes to their way of life. They had excellent communication networks with Aboriginal groups in Sydney and they had already encountered explorers and escaped convicts in the area. Strange and deadly diseases would have already arrived and the spread of the destruction of the bushland was certainly feared.

As land grants were taken up, the traditional owners were forced from their lands. Before long the magnificent forests were cleared to provide timber for the new colony, expose the volcanic soils for crops such as potatoes and wheat, and clear the way for dairy farms.

Along the walk you may be reminded of days past, or you may just enjoy the rolling hills, boulder beaches, sea caves, rock platforms and exposed cliffs that create the dramatic scenery. From May to June and September to November, the walk provides great vantage points for whale watching.



Photo courtesy of Alexander Harris

above: Cedar-getters in the Kiama area (date unknown)

... It was covered both along the mountainside and on the lowlands of the coast with the most dense woods met with in this country. The cedar-brushes are the most distinguishing feature. In one of them there are at this time about two-hundred pairs of whip-sawyers planking down the trees into great junks of from one hundred to a thousand feet. These fellows are just as wild a set as is anywhere to be met with among white men. Almost every pair has one or two bushrangers (i.e. runaway convict) working for them ...

from 'Religio Christi' by Alexander Harris, 1830

background: Aerial view of part of the Kiama Coast Walk

Photo by Coast Down

Please take care on the walk and never leave children unattended.

exposing the past

layers of time



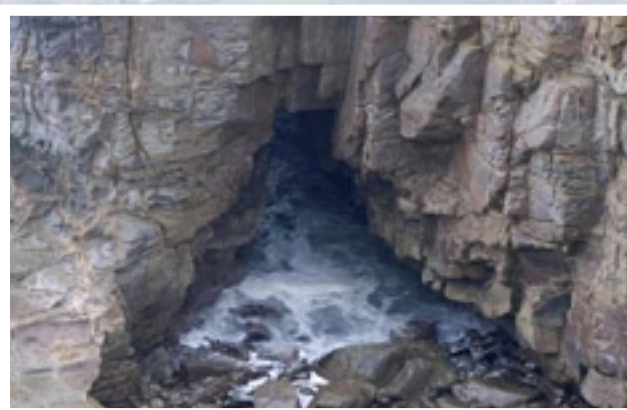
Photos by Michael van Ewijk

below: Eroded volcanic dyke on the sandstone rock platform



Photos by Michael van Ewijk

below: Sea cave underneath the remnant rainforest



Photos by Michael van Ewijk



Numerous layers of ancient volcanic rocks cover large areas in the Kiama area. It is like a huge cake with layers of ancient lava flows and sandstones known as the 'Gerringong Volcanics'. The lava layers consist of a type of rock known as latite.

The rocks that are exposed along the coast were laid down around 50 million years before dinosaurs roamed the earth. The end of this period (Permian) 225 million years ago, marks a time when there were mass extinctions of marine animals, some of which lay embedded as fossils in the rock platforms and cliffs.

'Westley Park Sandstone' forms the cliffs and rock platforms. Volcanic extrusions capped the sandstone and pushed through fissures in the rocks to form 'dykes'.

Sea caves in the cliffs and straight channels in the sandstone rock platforms were formed when the volcanic rock, that made up large and small dykes, eroded.

Photos by Grant Down