





## Lady Carrington Drive to Palona Cave

2 hrs
Hard track

**5.1 km Return** ↑ 178m

4


Following the historic Lady Carrington Drive much of the way, this walk heads north until turning off the wide trail. Here the heads along a narrow track to a beautiful limestone cave. In typical sandstone country, Palona Cave's different geology makes it well worth the visit. There is a beautiful cascading waterfall just near the cave to add even more variety. Just a bit north of the turnoff this walk describes a side trip to an old picnic area, a nice cool and shaded spot to rest.

16m
79m

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 walks 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 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.

This is a return, so you will finish back at the start.

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

### **0 | Int of Lady Carrington Drive and Sir Bertam Steven**

(650 m 12 mins) From the car park on Sir Bertram Stevens Drive (500m north of the intersection with McKell Ave), this walk follows the Lady Carrington Drive trail through the National Park gate and down the long gentle hill. The track heads through the forest until coming to the signposted intersection with the 'Walumarra Track'.

### **0.65 | Int of Lady Carrington Drive and Walumarra Bushtra**

(70 m 1 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the dirt road to the north, through the forest for a short distance before bending to the right and coming down to the signposted intersection with 'The Forest Path' at the Bola Creek picnic area.

### **0.73 | 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.

### **0.73 | Bola Picnic Area**

(1 km 22 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Audley 9km' arrow down the short gentle slope and across Bola Creek, following the dirt road as it bends around to the left and continues up and along beside the creek. The road heads through the forest for a long while before coming to the hidden, signposted intersection with the faint 'Limestone Cave' bush track (the timber sign is not obvious, it is behind a large tree on the left, just before the signposted 'Palona Brook').

### **1.77 | Optional sidetrip to Palona Brook Picnic Area**

(110 m 2 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads downhill along the management trail as it bends to the right.

The trail soon crosses the signposted 'Palona Brook' and comes to a picnic area on the right-hand side. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn left.

### **1.77 | 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.

### **1.77 | Int Palona Cave Trk and Lady Carrington Drive**

(780 m 19 mins) Turn right: 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.

### **2.55 | 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.

### **2.55 | Palona Brook Falls**

The waterfalls on Palona Brook are just beyond Palona Cave. The brook is ephemeral (not permanently running), but when it is running, the waterfalls are a cool place to explore on warm days. The waterfall is made of up two main cascades, with a short landing in between. The water falls into a reasonably small rocky pool.

