

The Great South Coast Walk

Australia's next iconic walking experience



Imagine walking for 660 km along some of the most beautiful coast line in Australia - on pale golden sand as the waves of the blue Pacific crash in, across rocky headlands and alongside sheer sandstone cliffs, through pristine coastal forest and around tranquil inlets and lakes, traversing national park and coastal village.

You have imagined The Great South Coast Walk.





What is The Great South Coast Walk?

The Great South Coast Walk is not a trail in itself. It is the linking of numerous tracks along the coast to form one superb walking experience. More than that it is a challenge that will keep hikers coming back and reward them, not only with an appreciation of the magnificent coastal landscapes, but with a sense of satisfaction at having completed one of the world's great walks.

Why do we need it?

Unlike other states, New South Wales does not have an iconic walk. The Great South Coast Walk will become one of Australia's iconic long-distance walks and a focus for the South Coast region. With its proximity to Sydney, our largest city and international point of entry, the walk will attract people from interstate and overseas in a way that no individual track can.

Where is it?

The walk starts in Bundeena, on the southern outskirts of Sydney, and continues for 660 km southwards along the South Coast of New South Wales to finish at Mallacoota, just over the border in Victoria.

On its way, it passes through 12 National Parks and a further six Nature Reserves or Conservation Areas. It visits aboriginal cultural sites and places of historic significance. With many beaches, from several kilometre-long stretches of sand to secluded tree-fringed coves, coastal lakes and rivers, sea cliffs, native forest, heathland and abundant wildlife, this walk will showcase the beauty, diversity and heritage of the South Coast region.





How can it be experienced?

The Great South Coast Walk can be walked as one continuous end-to-end walk (attracting the adventurous) or it can be walked in a series of stages over time (attracting groups and families).

With a string of coastal villages and towns served by a national highway, as well as pristine bushland and beaches, the Great South Coast Walk is more accessible than most long-distance walks.

A full range of accommodation is available to suit all requirements – from camping in one of the many commercial or national park campgrounds, to cabins, hotels or B&Bs for those seeking higher levels of comfort.

Most of the infrastructure is already present – it can be walked in its entirety now by the experienced hiker and for the most part by any fit person. With a few improvements, it would be fully accessible to all.

It is one of my favorite trips of all time. The birds were abundant, noisy, and not shy. We had the best whale viewing of our lives. We had many five-star campsites. The coastal scenery was beautiful and interesting and diverse.”

Long-distance hiker from the USA

“..... a time to walk, a time to reflect and a time to rejuvenate” Recent retiree on completing the walk



What are the benefits of The Great South Coast Walk for the region?

Walking tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors in the tourist market. NSW currently has no iconic walks – other states either have them or are developing projects in walking tourism. This would be the first long-distance coastal walk in Australia.

The Great South Coast Walk ticks the triple bottom line by providing:-

- economic benefits to local communities (as well as boosting visitor accommodation and expenditure, the walk would generate new tourism opportunities such as guided or self-guided walks along sections, centre-based walking, walker and luggage transport, plus linked activities such as river or lake kayaking and aboriginal heritage tours).
- social benefits (walking promotes a healthy life style, both physical and mental, while this particular walk can educate about aboriginal and European heritage)
- environmental benefits (showcases the national parks of New South Wales and educates people on their value for landscape conservation).

An iconic walk attracts international and interstate visitors and disperses tourism into the regions. Moreover, the walk can be done at any time and would help spread the seasonal load along the South Coast away from summer and school holidays. Walkers stay longer in the area and make return visits as people complete stages. They are also likely to return later to spend time in favourite spots.

The concept of a Great South Coast Walk is supported by local government agencies, community bodies, business organisations and bushwalking clubs.

Website: <http://greatsouthcoastwalk.net>

**For more information contact the
Great South Coast Walk Steering Committee at
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