

Blaxland Station Florabella Pass Loop



This is a great circuit walk, exploring a section of the Glenbrook Gorge from above, with an optional side trip down to the creek below. The walk has some very scenic areas and passes many interesting rock formations. Easily accessible by car or public transport, this is a great walk to start your weekend in the mountains. The local cafe or bakery makes a great fuel stop at the beginning or end of this walk.

Blue Mountains National Park

Length: 4.3 km

Time: 2 hrs 30 mins

Climb: 249 m
Style: Circuit

Rating: Track: Hard

Where: 1.1 km NE of Blaxland

Transport: train bus car

Visit <u>www.wildwalks.com</u> for more info



Side trips and Alternate routes mentioned in these notes are not included in the tracks overall rating, distance or time estimate. The notes only describe the side trips and Alternate routes in one direction. Allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing these notes but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury sustained by using these notes or maps. Please take care and share your experience through the website. Please check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating just before leaving for your walk. Walk maybe closed during Total Fire Ban. GPS for start and end of this walk:-33.7438,150.6099





Wildwalks

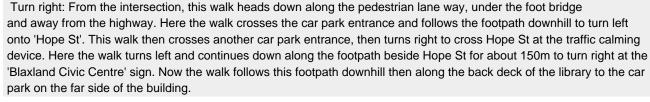
Download the free Bushwalk Australia eMag

The eMagazine is produces by the community at <u>bushwalk.com</u> and the Wildwalks team <u>Bushwalk.com</u> Australia's most active bushwalking forum - Check it out. Happy Reading. Matt :)



Blaxland Station to Blaxland Library Carpark 0.5km 10 mins

(From S) From the station, this walk heads up to the pedestrian bridge and turns right, crossing over the Great Western Highway. The walk then uses the stairs or ramp to descend to the footpath below.





Blaxland Library Carpark to Int of Pipas Pass and Bates Ave tracks 0.4km 5 mins

(From 0.53 km) Turn right: From the Blaxland Library car park, this walk heads to the lower left corner of the car park to find a 'Bushcare site' information sign. Here the walk follows the track towards the houses for a few meters to then turn right and heading down the narrower track and timber steps. This track winds downhill for about 80m to pass a grafittied sandstone overhang. Here the track continues along the side of the hill for another 15m to a smaller overhang where the track bends right and downhill for about 50m to come to a T-intersection in the heath. Here the walk turns right to almost immediately cross over a sandstone rock platform and small creek then after another 30m the track passes another grafittied sandstone overhang (on your right). From this overhang this walk continues to wind gently downhill for another 40m to cross a small often dry creek then after another 70m the track leads across a sandstone platform and larger creek to come to a T-intersection with another track on the opposite bank.



Int of Pipas Pass and Bates Ave tracks to Int. Ross Cres Trk East and Pippas Pass 0.8km 15 mins

(From 0.88 km) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the track gently downhill initially keeping the creek to your right. The heath soon becomes thicker (and the creek is not visible for a while), after about 60m the track leads down through a cleft in the rock. The track leads down through a rocky section then leads along through a pleasant and shaded valley for about 200m where the track passes along the base of a few natural sandstone walls before leading down to cross the usually small and pleasant creek.



The track then bends left to begin a gently climb out of the valley by undulating along the side of the hill. Soon the valley on your left becomes quiet steep then track leads down a short set of sandstone steps then past a a shallow sandstone overhang. Here the track winds along the side of the hill for another 100m

to head up a small hill and come to a T-intersection just before a rock face. Here there is a 'Pippas Pass' sign pointing back where you came from (about 2m up a tree on your right).





Blaxland Station Florabella Pass Loop



















Int. Ross Cres Trk East and Pippas Pass to Int. Beneath rock Trk and Ross Cres Trk 0.2km 10 mins Optional Side

(From 1.65 km) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the stone steps uphill. The steps zig zag a couple of times for about 30m before passing between two boulders, where the track flattens out and comes to a Y-intersection (with more steps on the right, and a flatter track on the left).

Veer right: From the intersection, this walk heads up the stone steps. The track winds fairly steeply uphill at first, then leads a little more gently for just over 100m to come to an intersection at the base of a few rock walls. Here this walk ignores the stone step track (on the left) and veers right following the other stone steps up between the two rock walls. This track winds up the stone steps then bends left to flatten out at the top of the hill at an intersection with a wider track. Here there is a large unfenced rock platform (on your left).

Ross Cres rock outcrop

This rocky outcrop below Ross Crescent, stands like a number of large sandstone foundations in the side of the hill. They are worth an explore, with a numerous views over the bush and little cracks and overhangs to look through.

Int. Ross Cres Trk East and Pippas Pass to Int. Florabella Pass and Pippas Pass Trks 0.1km 4 mins (From 1.65 km) Turn left: From the intersection, the walk heads right, around a boulder, and soon meets a set of stairs, with arrows and place names scratched into the rock either side.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows 'Florabella Pass' arrow engraved in rock face along the mostly flat track around the side of the hill, keeping the valley to your left. The track soon comes to another intersection with a set of stone steps (on the right).

Int. Florabella Pass and Pippas Pass Trks to Boulder pool 0.3km 5 mins Optional Side Trip:

(From 1.72 km) Turn sharp left: From the intersection, this walk heads steeply down the stone steps and eroded track, winding steeply, in some sections over steep rocky surfaces. The track continues downhill until coming to an intersection where the track meets a large boulder which stretches towards the creek.

Turn left: From the intersection, the track keeps the creek on the right, as it heads down stream. The track winds to a creek junction where the track crosses a log to the right. From here the track meanders along the creek bed to a pool with a large boulder in it.

(Retrace your steps back to the main track, then turn left to continue along this walk.)

Boulder Pool, unofficially named, is a nice pool along the Glenbrook Creek with a boulder sitting in it. The pool is a great place to cool your feet, and sit on the sandy banks and grab a bite as you take in your surroundings.

Int. Florabella Pass and Pippas Pass Trks to Int. Florabella Pass Trk and Plateau Pde Trk 0.4km 15 mins (From 1.72 km) Continue straight: From the intersection the track heads north around the rocky hillside to tend left, into a creek on the left. The track winds steeply up throguh rocky outcrops to a sign posted intersection next to a large orange rock overhang.

Florabella Pass overhang

This large and well coloured sandstone overhang is a feature of Florabella Pass. The overbearing nature of this overhang makes it a grand sight along the track. The steps and clearing below it also make for a good place to rest and grab a bite to eat.

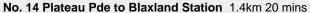
Int. Florabella Pass Trk and Plateau Pde Trk to No. 14 Plateau Pde 0.7km 25 mins

(From 2.16 km) Turn right: From the intersection the track heads up the steps to head under the orange rock overhang. The track winds beneath a few rocky outcrops to turn left up some stairs to turn right sharply along the rocky surface. The track continues to wind up a few more rocky steps before zig zagging up the hill to a sign '300m to Plateau Parade'. The track turns right at the sign to contour along the hillside for a short time. The track turns left up steps beneath a rocky outcrop to turn right and continue up the hill to the road behind houses. At the road the track then turns right, with the houses on the left. The road soon turns left to continue up to Plateau Pde.



Blaxland Station Florabella Pass Loop





(From 2.89 km) Continue straight: From the intersection the walk heads up Plateau Pde, keeping the powerline above on the right. The walk continues up to the intersection with Bridge Rd where it turns right. Then continues up Bridge Rd to come to the intersection with Glen St.



Continue straight: From the intersection the walkk heads up Bridge Rd passing No's 14, 12, 8. Then continues up Bridge Rd to soon pass Bourke St on the right before coming to the intersection with the Great Western Highway.

Turn sharp right: From Bridge St the walk heads down the Great Western Highway, keeping the houses on the right of the footpath. The walk continues down the hill passing Taringha St then View St as it then heads past the shops. The walk continues to the stairs, and ramp, leading up to the pedestrian bridge.

Turn sharp right: From the footpath, the walk uses the stairs or ramp to climb onto the pedestrian bridge. The walk then crosses the bridge over the Great Western Highway and then heads down onto Blaxland Station.



A list of paper topographical maps that cover this walk

Springwood 1:25 000 Map Series

Penrith 1:100 000 Map Series



Nearby outdoor and camping stores

Summit Gear 11 Ross St Glenbrook (02) 4739 4373

Boots Great Outdoors Shop 25 Home Centre Wolseley St Penrith (02) 4733 5744

Kangaroo Tent City Cnr Mulgoa & Blaikie Rds Penrith (02) 4733 4111

Getaway Disposals 549 High St Penrith (02) 4732 2285

Mitchell Adventure 24 Henry St Penrith (02) 4731 8482



