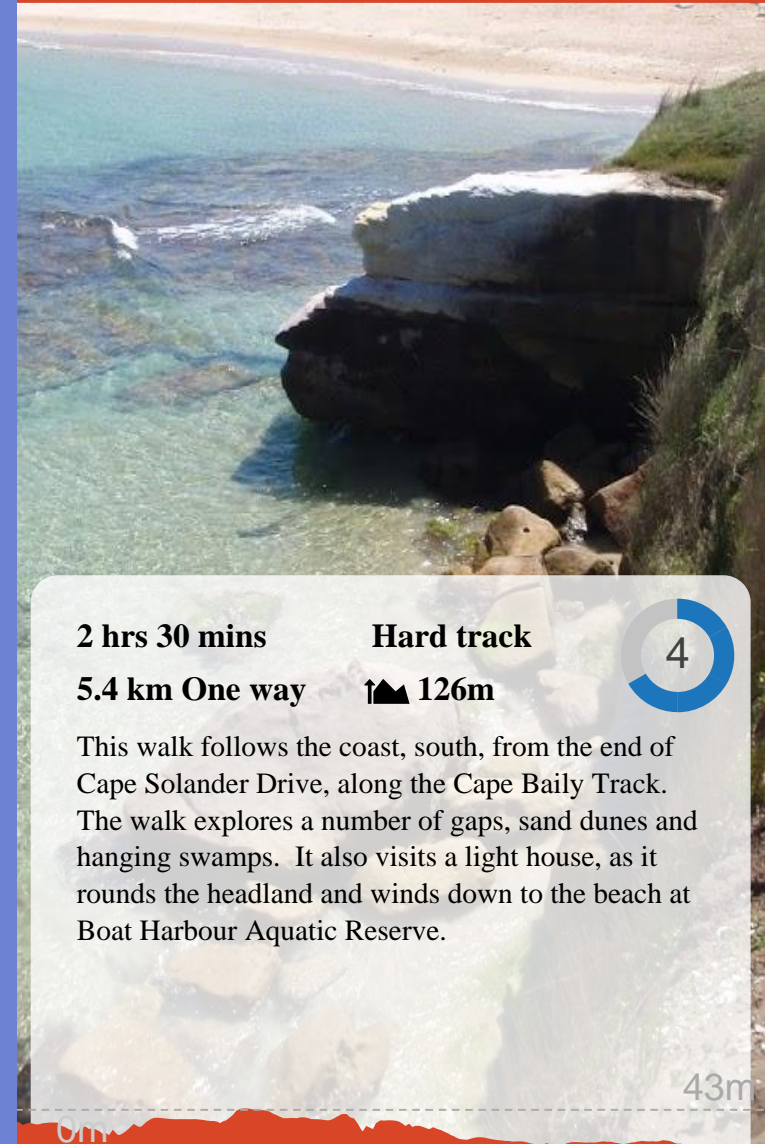
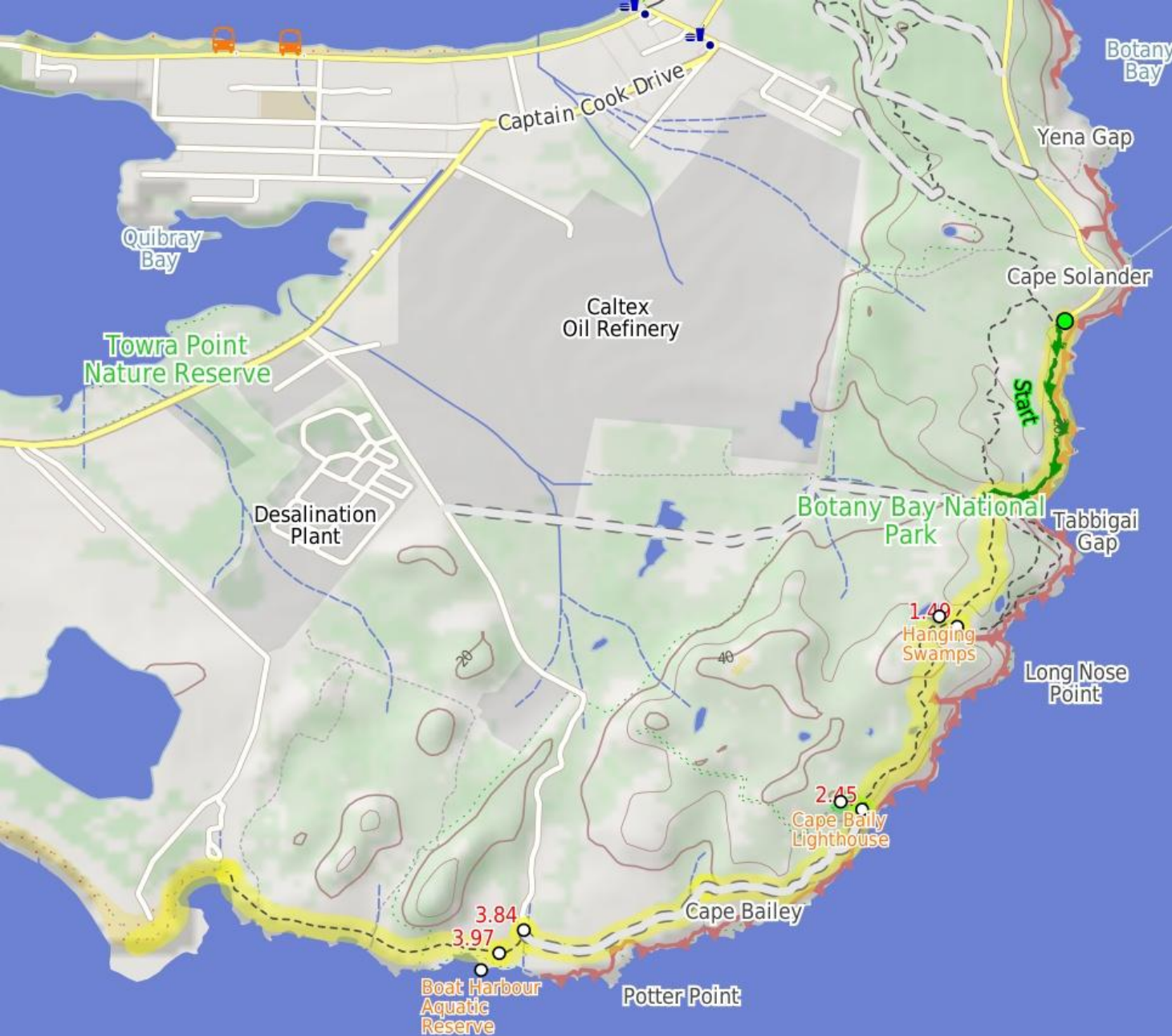


## Cape Baily Coastal Walk Return



2 hrs 30 mins

Hard track

5.4 km One way

▲ 126m

4

This walk follows the coast, south, from the end of Cape Solander Drive, along the Cape Baily Track. The walk explores a number of gaps, sand dunes and hanging swamps. It also visits a light house, as it rounds the headland and winds down to the beach at Boat Harbour Aquatic Reserve.

43m

Botany Bay 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 End of Cape Solander Drive (gps: -34.0179, 151.2296). Car: Parking fees apply in the area.

Traveling by car is the only practical way to get back from Pimelwi Rocks (gps: -34.0403, 151.1988). Car: A park entry fee is required for driving into the park.

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

### 0 | End of Cape Solander Drive

*(950 m 21 mins)* From the end of Cape Solander Drive, this walk starts at the big signpost just to the left of the toilet building. The track heads south along the cliff line (ocean on the left) following the green poles until they stop, then the track continues along the top of the cliff line (staying safely back from the very fragile cliff edge). This section is mostly on sandstone and occasionally through low heath. As the track approaches Tabbigai Gap, it joins onto Cape Baily Track where the track turns left and continues south for 50m until the apex of Tabbigai Gap and the management trail.

### 0.95 | Tabbigai Gap Track Int

*(550 m 9 mins)* Veer left: From the Tabbigai Gap, this walk follows the clear, sandy track east (with the Tabbigai Gap on the left) up a short hill until it turns right at the small clearing. The track stays away from the ocean and soon comes to a large sand dune clearing. From the other end of the clearing, the walk follows the track south (ocean on the left) through the thick scrub, winding along until it rises up a hill to a long sand dune clearing. From the far end of this clearing, the walk follows the overgrown track through the thick scrub, until it widens out a little and continues south for a short distance, to the intersection in the pit of a sand dune, with a large hanging swamp on the right.

### 1.49 | Hanging Swamps

There are a number of hanging swamps that can be found along the Cape Bailey walk. They are home to a number of different plants and animals like reeds and frogs. Hanging swamps are

formed on high ground when rainfall seeps out of surrounding hills and accumulates in a slight depression, over time forming a swamp. Interestingly, they are sometimes difficult to see from far away as the thick build up of reeds and other plant life often cover the water.

### 1.49 | Sand dune int

*(950 m 18 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the narrow bush track that heads west to the top of the dunes. (From the top of the dune there are some great views of the hanging swamp straight ahead). The track then turns left and drops off the top of the sand dune, keeping the swamp on the right. The track then climbs a sandy hill to some more views before turning left and heading along a sandy track, through several more large sand dunes. After these dunes, the track starts to flatten out and widen, to head along to an intersection with a bush track (which heads to the lighthouse).

### 2.45 | Optional sidetrip to Cape Bailey Lighthouse

*(80 m 2 mins)* Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the sandy bush track, heading up and away from the ocean. The track is relatively defined for most of the way, however in the last 20m the track becomes quite overgrown and a little less defined (the lighthouse is always visible). Once at the lighthouse, there are good views inland, however the views to the east are largely blocked by the high scrub. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn right.

### 2.45 | Cape Baily Lighthouse

Established in 1950, the lighthouse was required so north-bound shipping could hug the coast and avoid the strong southerly currents further out to sea. This lighthouse can be found a stone's-throw from the Cape Baily coastal walk, about 1.5 kilometres north from the Joseph Banks Drive car park. [More info.](#)

### 2.45 | Int of Cape Bailey lighthouse track

*(1.4 km 28 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the management trail south, along the coastline (keeping the ocean on the left). The trail winds down through tall heath for approximately 300m to the open rock platform. The walk bends right and continues south, down the hill and along the edge of the scrub for approximately 380m more. Here, the walk comes to the start of a track that leads back into the scrub. Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the management trail as it heads south-west off the rock platform (keeping the ocean on the left) and down the grassy hill, passing a few small tracks, coming to the end of the clear management trail. From here, the walk follows the coast (ocean on the left), cutting across the mouth of the sand dunes and bending around to the right and up the gentle hill to the Sir Joseph Banks Drive car park.

### 3.84 | Sir Joseph Banks Drive Carpark

*(130 m 2 mins)* Turn around: From the car park, this walk heads south-west along the bush track, initially heading towards the ocean, and tending right onto a long rock platform, keeping the ocean to the left, until coming to the 'Boat Harbour Aquatic Reserve' signpost.

### 3.97 | Boat Harbour Aquatic Reserve

The Boat Harbour Aquatic Reserve was established in 2001 by NSW Fisheries, incorporating the whole of Merries Reef and Pimelwi Rocks, and continuing 100m out to sea. Fishing is restricted in the area, and the collection of any invertebrates (dead or alive) is prohibited. [More info.](#)

### 3.97 | Boat Harbour Aquatic Reserve

*(1.4 km 25 mins)* Continue straight: From the 'Boat Harbour Aquatic Reserve' sign, this walk heads west along the coast, keeping the ocean on the left as it winds around to a small shelly beach. From the beach, the walk heads north up the grassy hill, following the bush track as it winds along the coast. The track cuts across the mouth of some sand dunes and follows an old disused pipeline around the coast, as it bends around to the north and winds in towards the bay. The walk follows the track down a thin concrete path that drops down to the beach.

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the beach west around the bay, keeping the ocean on the left as it winds around to the point at the other side of the bay (where the beach bends to the right), noticeable by the rocks that extend out into the ocean.