



Faulconbridge to Springwood via Sassafras Gully



3 hrs

Hard track

6.1 km One way

▲ 338m



This is an enjoyable walk through the valleys joining Faulconbridge and Springwood. Using the Victory and Sassafras Gully tracks, the walk stays close to water as it descends into the valley, returning up through the changing vegetation.

450m

206m

Blue Mountains 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 You can get to Faulconbridge Station (gps: -33.6966, 150.5349) by car, train or bus. Car: There is free parking available. You can get back from Springwood Station (gps: -33.6991, 150.5638) by car or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

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

0 | Faulconbridge

Faulconbridge, in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales, was named after the maiden name of Sir Henry Parkes' mother. Faulconbridge sits on the Great Western Highway and is surrounded by valleys of lush bushland. This picturesque town was a home, and final resting place, for Sir Henry Parkes', heralded as the 'Father of Federation'. Faulconbridge was originally explored by non-indigenous Australians in 1813, by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson who were searching for a route over the Blue Mountains .

0 | Faulconbridge Station

(410 m 8 mins) From the top of Faulconbridge Station, the walk heads off the station overpass to the bushland side of the station (if you come to a car park, you have gone to the wrong side of the station). The walk then keeps the rail line on the left as it follows the footpath down to the road. After a while, the walk comes to an intersection with Sir Henrys Pde, opposite house number 10.

0.41 | Victory Track

The Victory Track is more formally know as the 'Sir Henry Parkes Victory Track' and is called the 'Victoria Track' in many guide books. The track starts near Sir Henry Parkes' grave in Faulconbridge and leads to Sassafras Gully Creek. Sir Henry Parks (1815-1896) was a politician and journalist, born in England. He is considered to be the 'Father of Federation' for Australia, although he died of natural causes 5 years before Australia's federation. Parkes was the premier of New South Wales five times. The town Parkes was named in his honour. Parkes would sometime write under the pseudonym 'Faulconbridge' (his mothers maiden name) for the Sydney Morning Herald and other papers and Faulconbridge (the township) was named after his mother when Parkes purchased 600 acres in 1877. [More info.](#)

0.41 | No. 10 Sir Henrys Pde

(1.3 km 38 mins) Turn right: From 10 Sir Henrys Pde (bushland side), the walk follows the 'Victory Track' sign down into the bush. The walk passes under a few rock overhangs and then crosses a

creek. Passing a smaller track (on the left, which leads to the top of the falls), the walk soon comes down to a 'Clarinda Falls' sign.

1.74 | Optional sidetrip to Clarinda Falls

(30 m 1 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, the track follows the 'Clarinda Falls' sign towards the log fallen on the rock. The track tends left around the hillside, coming to Clarinda Falls. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Continue straight.

1.74 | Clarinda Falls

Clarinda Falls is a charming waterfall on Sassafras Creek. The water cascades over a near-vertical wall, into a sandy pool below. The falls are signposted from the main track and provide a nice cool detour, especially on warmer days. The falls are named for the first wife of Sir Henry Parkes, 'Father of Australian Federation'.

1.74 | Int. Victory Trk and Clarinda Falls

(630 m 18 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Sassafras Gully' sign down the hill. The track keeps the creek on the left as it continues down the gully then crosses a creek junction. The walk meanders down the hillside and soon crosses a larger creek junction, before entering a campground clearing (beneath power lines).

2.37 | Victory Track camping area

Victory Track camping area is a fairly large, informal camping place at the junction of Sassafras and Numantia Creeks. The clearing is in a moist section of forest with plenty of shade. Water from the creek should be treated before use.

2.37 | Victory Trk camping area

(880 m 24 mins) Continue straight: From the campground clearing, the walk follows the creek, keeping it to the left. The track winds up the hill and back down to the creek a few times and soon comes to an intersection with a faint track on the left (which leads to a pool in the creek).

3.24 | Victory Track pool

The Victory Track pool is an unofficially-named pond in Sassafras Creek. The pond is deep in parts but not adequate for a swim. It does, however, offer a chance to rest and gaze over the water. There is a small sandy beach, some moss-covered rocks and a lovely grove of Sassafras trees around the pool. This is a nice spot to stop, catch your breath and soak up your surroundings.

3.24 | Victory Trk pool

(1.7 km 39 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk heads down the valley, keeping the creek on the left. The walk soon turns left, crosses the creek and continues down the valley, with the creek now on the right. Leading down the valley, the track then crosses a gully to arrive at a blue 'Faulconbridge Station' sign (pointing back the way you came).

Turn left: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Sassafras Gully Rd' sign up the stairs. The walk crosses a large creek junction

and continues up the gully, passing under numerous rock overhangs. Moving away from the creek and its rocky outcrops, the walk steeply climbs the hillside. The walk comes below a rocky outcrop, which it follows around to the right, keeping the outcrop on the right (ignoring the track which leads up the outcrop). The walk comes to an unignosted intersection with another track.

Turn right: From the intersection, the walk heads up the hill, keeping the rock outcrop to the right. The track tends left towards a house fenceline (house No. 18), which it follows to the end of Sassafras Gully Rd.

4.92 | No. 18 Sassafras Gully Rd

(1.2 km 23 mins) Veer right: From the end of Sassafras Gully Rd, the walk heads to the top of the road and turns right onto Valley Rd. The walk follows the footpath on Valley Rd, passing Bee Farm Rd before turning left onto Homedale St. The walk continues along Homedale St then turns right onto Macquarie Rd. Macquarie Rd is followed to the train station, where the walk crosses the road using the pedestrian crossing.

6.11 | Springwood

Springwood, along the Great Western Highway, is the second largest town in the Blue Mountains. Springwood also takes the title for the oldest railway station in the Blue Mountains. There are a variety of shops in Springwood, with quite a few cafes, bakeries and two historic hotels. Springwood was named by Governor Macquarie, when his wife and he stopped for water from a deep glen spring, in 1815. It seems aptly named, with many springs and creeks leading away from the ridge at Springwood, including Sassafras Gully, Magdala Creek and Glenbrook Creek. [More info.](#)