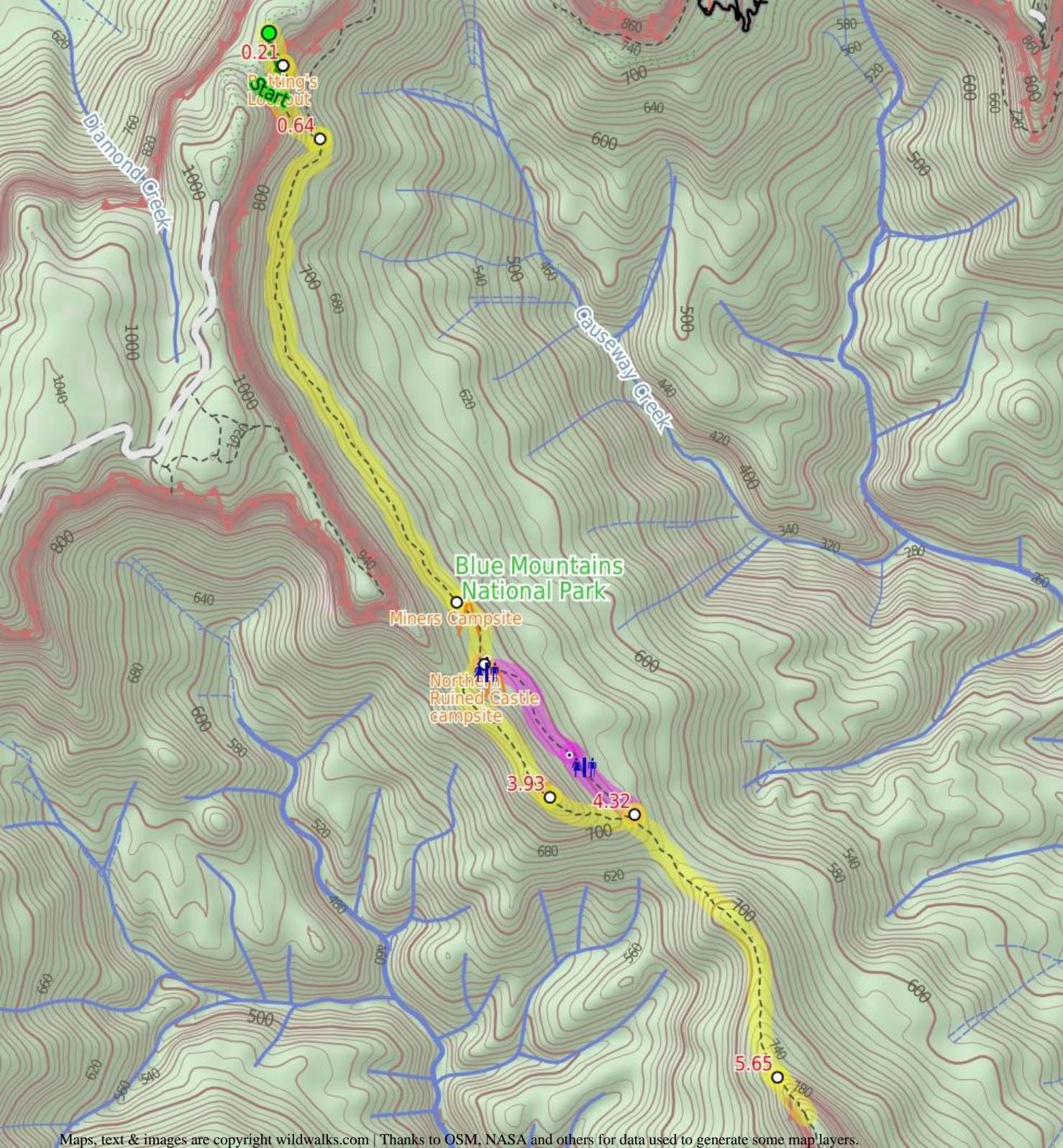


Golden Staircase to Mt Solitary via Ruined Castle



8 hrs 45 mins

Experienced only

5

11.7 km Return

1048m

With quite significant hills, this is a great walk for the day-walker looking for something more challenging than the average Katoomba cliff top walk. With fantastic views at Botting's Lookout, from the top of the Ruined Castle, and especially good views from Mt Solitary, this walk is well worth the time invested.

956m

650m

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 walk 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. **Experianced walkers only: This walk passes through very remote areas and sections have no visible track. At least one person in your group should have training and experience in off track walking and navigation. Even with these notes and a GPS these extra skills and equipment are required.**

Getting there Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Golden Stairs Track carpark (gps: -33.7343, 150.2824). Car: There is free parking available.

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

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

0 | Golden Stairs Track carpark

(210 m 8 mins) From the Golden Stairs car park and information sign on Glenraphael Dr, the walk follows the 'Golden Stairs / To Federal Pass' sign along the narrow track. The track leads gently downhill past the black and yellow 'Warning - Sections of the Golden Stairs are unfenced and can be slippery when wet' sign, with the occasional glimpse out to Malaita Point and towards the Three Sisters. The walk soon heads down a few steep eroded sections of track and passes through a couple of switchbacks. The track then leads to a fenced rock platform signposted as 'Botting's L.O.'

0.21 | Botting's Lookout

Botting's Lookout offers great views over the Jamison Valley and the cliff line, including the Landslide, Malaita Point and the Golden Stairs. A plaque at the lookout states that the lookout was named after Walter Botting (1887-1985), a pioneer trail-maker of the Katoomba District. [More info.](#)

0.21 | Bottings Lookout

(430 m 19 mins) Turn right: From the lower side of Botting's Lookout, this walk heads downhill along the eroded track. The walk follows the steps through a narrow gully then turns right to flatten out and head under a small overhang between the cliff and fence (passing a 'Caution Rockfall Hazard' sign). After about 100m of fence, the track turns right to cross a wide gully. On the other side of the gully, this walk climbs down a series of metal and stone staircases. The walk flattens again before heading down another series of stairs. Finally, the track winds down the wide spur to meet the signposted T-intersection with 'Federal Pass'.

0.64 | Bottom of Golden Staircase

(2.3 km 51 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Federal Pass - Ruined Castle' sign along the flat wide track, keeping the valley to your left. This track follows the old horse-drawn coal tram route. The track leads through a tall rainforest filled with fern trees and vines, with the occasional lyrebird. After about 1.3km the forest opens up, letting in more light and exposing some distant filtered views. After wandering through the more open forest for about 250m, the track passes a small campsite (on the right). This walk continues for another 700m along the main track through the bracken fern forest to find a larger campsite (just up to the right) with a short stone wall on one side).

2.9 | Miners Campsite

This flat campsite beside the Federal Pass walking track about 2.2km south

of the intersection at the bottom of the Golden Stairs. There is short constructed stone wall left over from when there area was habited by miners. The campsite is surrounded by a tall forest, bracken ferns and some nice fern trees. There is no water or facilities.

2.9 | Miners Campsite

(300 m 7 mins) Continue straight: From the miners campsite, this walk follows the clear track south-west, keeping the valley to your left. The mostly flat track narrows a bit as it leads past a large flat area (on your right) after about 140m, then past a smaller campsite a short distance later. The track then winds through the forest for another 100m to come to a clearing and signposted three-way intersection, where there is a 'Federal Pass - Katoomba' sign pointing back along the track. (There is a campsite a few metres further on and to the the left.)

3.2 | Northern Ruined Castle campsite

A short distance south east of the intersection with the Federal Pass and the northern access track to the Ruined Castle, is a fairly large basic campsite. There are two main flat areas for camping, both with fire scares. The area is surround with tall trees and ferns. There is no water nor any other facilities.

3.2 | Alternate Route Northern Ruined Castle campsite 0

(930 m 23 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Mount Solitary' sign past the campsite (on your left) and past the 'Warning - Remote area indistinct route steep terrain - Exposed climbing loose surfaces - No reliable water Carry plenty Sterilise any water found on route' sign. This walk continues along the mostly flat track, passing through a tall turpentine forest for about 450m where you come into view of a campsite (down to your left). The walk continues a short distance further, coming to an intersection where there is a fair amount of coal on the ground, a campsite down to your left and the entrance to an old small coal mine (behind a rock) on your right.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follow the main track south-east, initially keeping the campsite and valley to your left. The track initially heads down a short rocky section then flattens out to pass a large square boulder after about 100m. The track continues through ferny forest for just over 200m, then passes another campsite (down a steep hill to your left), and about 30m further on, comes to a signposted intersection where a 'Katoomba' arrow points back along the track. Now Continue straight to rejoin the main walk .

3.2 | Northern Ruined Castle campsite

(730 m 20 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Ruined Castle' sign uphill along the eroded track and soon passes the yellow 'Warning - Remote area indistinct route steep terrain - Exposed climbing loose surfaces - No reliable water Carry plenty Sterilise any water found on route' sign. The track winds up the wide valley getting steeper as it goes, climbing up onto the main ridgeline. Here the walk turns left (away from the view of Castle Head) and follows the rocky track more gently uphill for about 220m to pass under the side of a large boulder. The track continues along the narrow ridge for about 280m, with some filtered views past another large boulder to the base of the tall Ruined Castle summit. Here the walk heads gently down a bit (keeping the rock wall to your left), past a crevice, then follows the main track to the other (southern) side of the summit. The track then heads up again to find a number of rocky pinnacles.

3.93 | Ruined Castle

(390 m 12 mins) Continue straight: From near the summit of Ruined Castle, this walk heads south-east along the main ridgeline, initially keeping the rock wall to your left. The track follows the rocky ridgeline gently downhill and after about 70m the track starts to become much steeper. The track winds

down, flattening out for a short time before continuing steeply down to a sign posted three-way intersection just beyond the 'Ruined Castle to Mount Solitary' map. There is a 'Ruined Castle' arrow here, pointing back up the hill.

4.32 | Intersection South of Ruined Castle

(1.3 km 35 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Mount Solitary' sign gently downhill along the fairly narrow track, keeping the main valley to your left. After about 300m, the more eroded and rocky track begins to climb the ridge and after climbing for just shy of 300m, the track flattens out and passes a couple of small clearings - the second clearing is just past where the track leads downhill. Just after the second clearing (used as a campsite), the track begins to climb up the ridge again. This track climbs up a few rocky eroded section and soon comes to the base of a tall series of rockwalls - the Korrowall Knife-edge.

5.65 | Bottom of Korrowall Knife-edge

(200 m 12 mins) Continue straight: From the base of the rocks, this walk starts the arduous climb up the Korrowall Knife-edge. Ascending the Korrowall Knife-edge is a hard climb, vertical in places and much of the climbing will involve both hands - some people use ropes to help lift heavy packs. This walk initially heads around to the left of the first boulder to head up through the eroded steep valley between the rocks. The walk continues to scramble up the side of the rocks, then climbs vertically up a crack in the rock to a small flat area, offering the first distant view for this climb. The walk continues by climbing up a 3m rock wall, then up the eroded track before climbing up through the obvious gap in the next rock wall. At the top of this climb is another great view and a short distance further up, this faint track passes a rock with a hole/cave (on your right). From here, the walk follows the worn track up through a couple more rock gullies, still generally keeping the rock wall to your right (and passing a couple of arrows). This brings the walk to an exposed flat area, with red dirt and fantastic views. The walk continues by climbing up through the next eroded gully to the top of the Korrowall Knife-edge, where there is a large rock wall on your left.