

KIAMA - GERROA

area 9 walks

[regional map](#)

Kiama is a small pretty coastal town about 26km south of Wollongong and has a range of fine accommodation.

Use 1:25,000 topographic maps, Kiama 9028-1-S and Gerroa 9028-2-N

1. Bombo beach - 1km return, easy grade. The car park is accessed from the Princes Highway just north of the turn off to Kiama at Bombo, drive under the rail line through the viaduct. The walk heads east along an old access track to the basalt quarry. Cathedral Rocks are ancient basalt columns. Remnant bushland and a small swamp are present around Bombo Sewerage Treatment Plant. Bombo beach is very popular with surfers. Birds include Red-whiskered Bulbul, Golden-headed Cisticola, Nankeen Kestrel and Superb Fairy-wren.

2. Spring Creek - 1.5km return, easy grade. Follow the Jamberoo Rd. west from Kiama and turn north onto Dido St, then Glenbrook Drive. The entrance to the park is from a small car park. Walk along the banks of Spring Creek to the lagoon through a variety of regenerating bushland. Numerous waterbirds and common bush birds that include, Golden-headed Cisticola, Black-fronted Dotterel, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and Mistletoebird.

3. Jerrara Creek Dam - 1.5km return, easy grade. Continue along Jamberoo Rd. from Kiama to Jerrara Rd. and follow the signs to the reserve, picnic grounds provided and an easy walk to the northern side of the reservoir. Good general birding with species such as Satin Bowerbird, Eastern Spinebill, Scarlet Honeyeater, Yellow-rumped Thornbill and Musk Duck.

4. Saddleback Mountain - 2km return, easy grade. Follow the Saddleback Mountain Rd. from Kiama to the summit. A picnic area is located at the car park and a fine lookout is a short stroll from here. Additionally head south west to a second lookout that provides views of Foxground. To the south of the picnic ground is a track that leads through rainforest down the southern slope of the summit to a road, return to the car park the way you came. Birds include Satin Bowerbird, Crimson Rosella, Bassian Thrush and Variegated Fairy-wren.

5. Hoddles Track - 7km return, moderate grades. Park your car at Saddleback Mountain, the track heads west and is well signed at the start with markers. The track follows the route forged by surveyor Robert Hoddle in the 1820's and passes through some fine rainforest with rock walls along its edge. After about 2.5 km the track deteriorates but is still obvious as it winds under Noorinan Mountain. At around 3km you come to a small creek, and here you need to look for markers to the southwest up through heath and woodland which leads to a lookout that provides majestic views south over Foxground and back to towards Saddleback. Birding here is excellent with a wide variety of species such as Cicadabird, Golden Whistler, Black-faced Monarch, Rufous Fantail, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, Logrunner, Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, Eastern Bristlebird, Green Catbird, Large-billed Scrubwren, Crimson Rosella and Silvereye.

6. Werri Lagoon - 1km return. A car park is situated at the northern end of Werri Beach, walk out to the lagoon entrance. Walk around Werri Rd. for 500m to a footbridge that crosses the lagoon and lead into a remnant swamp through glades of swamp oak. Numerous waterbirds including Latham's Snipe in summer.

7. Gerroa - Crooked River, 8km return, easy grade. Park in the picnic ground parking bay at Black Head, Gerroa. Head out to the point, admire the view and descend to the rock platform, make your way west along the rocky shore and then the northern side of Crookhaven River estuary until you reach a bridge going over the river. **(If it's high tide or rough seas**, drive your car back to Park Rd. next to the river and park at the picnic ground on the northern river shore). Walk west to the road bridge, cross the river and under the Gerroa - Shoalhaven Rd. via the tunnel walkway on the south side of the bridge. Continue towards the caravan park entrance on the west side of the road and note the

white timber foot bridge ahead across Blue Angle Creek. Cross the footbridge and walk west for several hundred metres through littoral rainforest and woodland, with several river access points. Cross the road leading to the sewerage treatment plant and follow the track west along the creek until you come to an intersection, turn right and follow to the end, about 500m, through bangalay forest (watch for Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater through late autumn and winter). Return to the intersection and continue south along the creek for 500m until you reach private property. Return to the caravan park the way you came and cross the road. Follow the access track to the beach (sign) and walk north to a footbridge over the river. Cross to the picnic ground and return to your car. Some great birdwatching can be experienced here with several different habitats. On the rock shelf Sooty Oystercatcher, Kelp Gull and Eastern Reef Egret may be found. There are usually a few albatross around in winter as well as numerous other seabirds during windy conditions. Along the river and estuary flats, Intermediate, Little and Great Egrets. Watch for Nankeen Night Heron and Black Bittern roosting in casuarinas along the river shore. Azure Kingfisher is regular along Blue Angle Creek. Bush birds can include Rainbow, Musk and Little Lorikeets, Brush Cuckoo, Shinning and Horsefield's Bronze-Cuckoos, Red-browed Finch, Variegated Fairy-wren, Lewin's, White-naped and Yellow-faced Honeyaeters, Brown Gerygone.

8. Seven Mile Beach National Park north, 4km return, easy grade. About 1.6km south of the bridge over Crooked River, look for the National Park sign on the east side of the road (just past the rubbish depot turnoff). Drive in and park in the parking bay near the camping registration sign (there is a small camp ground here). On the north side of the road is a low gate at the start of an access track. This track heads west then south through a superb example of littoral rainforest. After 2km you come to a large picnic ground. Return to your car the same way or via the beach. Good general birding with highlights being Emerald Dove, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Bassian Thrush, Brown Gerygone, Laughing Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Large-billed Scrubwren, Rose Robin, Eastern Whipbird.

9. Seven Mile Beach National Park central, 3.5km return, easy grade. About 3.8km south of the Crooked River bridge is a major cross road, turn left towards the beach. A short distance down the road you enter a large picnic ground. The track starts just to the south of the information board. Head south for about 1.6km till you meet a dirt access track. To get back to the picnic ground, either head east and follow the beach or head west and follow the access track that parallels the main road north. Here you are walking through tall forest dominated by Blackbutt *Eucalyptus pilularis* with an understorey of banksia and Burrawang cycads *Macrozamia spiralis*. Birds include New Holland Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Leaden Flycatcher, White-browed Scrubwren, Red Wattlebird, Fantailed Cuckoo and Sacred Kingfisher.