

MACQUARIE PASS NATIONAL PARK

7 walks

[regional Satellite map](#)

Use Robertson 1:25,000 topographic map (9028-4-N)

Nearest towns: Robertson, Albion Park.

There are seven (7) walks in Macquarie Pass NP worth undertaking, one around a picnic area, two on graded walking tracks, three along powerline easement access tracks, the seventh on an unofficial trail.

It should be noted that NPWS policy is to advise walkers to remain on constructed walkways.

Macquarie Pass National Park (1,064 ha) was declared in 1970 and protects a range of moist eucalypt forests and rainforest. The pass is part of the Illawarra Highway and was opened in 1898. It has been a major route into and out of the Illawarra coastal plain ever since. The National Park is bisected by the Illawarra Highway and there is also a major powerline easement running east-west through the reserve. There is plenty of scope for walking, birdwatching, photography and nocturnal spotlighting in this reserve. There are no camping provisions, but picnic facilities are provided at the two sites described below at the bottom of the pass.

1. Macquarie Rivulet picnic area. 4km return, easy to medium grade. Delightful [picnic setting](#) adjacent to the Rivulet on the south side of the road at the bottom of the pass. Park on the north side of the road in the car park, then cross highway. Follow the dirt track for 30m to a parking bay, there is a small picnic area and access to the rivulet which is very pretty. Return to the dirt road and follow it for another 200m before it crosses a concrete ford into private property, there is a small car park bay. An old track continues on along the north side of the rivulet which is flat for several hundred metres, then becomes steeper before dropping back on to the rivulet by a large rock. No formal walking track continues but you can rock hop along the waterway, and continue for another kilometre or so with care to a series of cascades. This is a great place track for birds especially during summer, highlights include Dollarbird, Azure Kingfisher, Sacred Kingfisher, Golden Whistler, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, Black-faced Monarch and Rufous Fantail.

2. Cascade Falls walk, 2km return, easy grade. Walk along Cascade Creek at the base of [Macquarie Pass](#) to a [small waterfall](#). Car park at start, on north side of road. Good general birds through moist rainforest and turpentine forest. Highlights include Green Catbird, Rose Robin, Red-browed Finch, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, Brown Gerygone, Lewin's Honeyeater, Crimson Rosella. After rain, this walk can produce some spectacular fungi displays.

3. Clover Hill Rd., 7 km return, easy grade. Walk along a maintained access track to Macquarie Rivulet with access several waterfalls and a huge balancing rock. [Car park at start](#), on south side 2.5km from bottom Macquarie Pass. This walk is easy to follow for about 3 km when you come to an old parking bay. The track then deteriorates, but you should look for it on your left after crossing a small cleared area. If you enter the Turpentine grove, you've gone too far. Follow the track for a few minutes and you come to an old dilapidated concrete causeway over the rivulet. Cross this if the water level is not high and the track to Rainbow Falls and the balancing rock is immediately on your right. The rock is about 50m up this obscure track and the waterfall is behind it. It's well worth the effort. Highlights include White-throated Treecreeper, Large-billed Gerygone, Bassian Thrush, Topknot Pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Wonga Pigeon, King Parrot, Grey Goshawk, Lewin's Honeyeater, and nocturnal spotlighting may produce Powerful Owl, Sooty Owl.

4. "Glenview" walk, 4 km return, easy grade. Park on north (east) roadside 3.5km from bottom of pass (1 or 2 cars only) in front of gate. Walk through tall forest to powerline easement and walk east, through tall forest. This walk ceases at Park boundary. Great variety of birdlife including; Variegated Fairy-wren, Brush Cuckoo, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Crested Shrike-tit, Golden Bronze-cuckoo

5. Upper Cascade Creek walk. 4 km return. A continuation of walk 2, grade short steep section then moderate. Proceed as per Walk 2 above. Just before the waterfall there is a second, often dry, waterway on your left. An obscure foot track follows this for a short distance then crosses and climbs up the rise adjacent to the waterfall for 30m. You come out next to a series of cascade pools along the waterfall creek and follow the foot track north adjacent to the creek until you intersect the Glenview track described above (3). You can then travel east or west along Glenview track and return to the car park the way you came. This track can be slippery so be prepared. Birdlife is varied and usually plentiful.

6. Brown Barrel walk. 1km return, easy to moderate grade. Parking for several cars a few hundred metres up the pass from "Nurrewin" on the north side of the pass in a road maintenance bay. An informal short walk over the gate to the powerline easement and subsequent exploration along the old track through rainforest and moist eucalypt forest dominated by Brown Barrel *Eucalyptus fastigata*. Great place to an hour or so exploring. Watch for Superb Lyrebird, Pilotbird, Cicadabird, Logrunner, Rose Robin, Golden Whistler, King Parrot, Topknot Pigeon.

7. Mount Murray Rd., two parts, 3km and 1km return, easy grade. (i) After driving up the pass you drive through a double switch-back to emerge on Illawarra Range. Approximately 500m after the second switch-back is a dirt road on the north side of the road, this is [Mount Murray Rd.](#) You can park your car at this intersection and walk north east along the road for about 700m, then follow the powerline easement track for an 800m loop back onto the main road and return to your car. Good general birding and spectacular views from the escarpment edge. (ii) Once back at the car, drive on until you cross the railway line about 1.4km from where you turned off Macquarie Pass (Illawarra Highway). Park the car and walk along Mt. Murray Rd. for 500m through tall moist forest with thick treefern understorey. This is one of the best spots for Red-browed Treecreeper in the region. Look for them on smooth-barked eucalypts. Good general birding with Satin Flycatcher, Black-faced Monarch and Rufous Fantails in late spring to autumn months.