

Castle Rock Track

This track starts opposite the Ranger's residence. Most of this track is easy walking and only the approaches to Castle Rock are more than a steady incline. The walk along an exposed rocky slope close to the top of Castle Rock can be a little exhausting, but from the top of the rock a 360° view of the park makes the effort well worthwhile. The top of Castle rock is 1112m above sea level. Distance 5.2km — 2½hrs. return.

The Sphinx and Turtle Rock Track

The Sphinx and Turtle Rock track is a continuation of the track to Castle Rock. The section of track between Castle Rock and Sphinx and Turtle Rock is easy walking. Some good wildflower areas can be seen during late spring in heath patches along the ridge which the track follows. The Sphinx is a huge granite pinnacle with a large granite tor balancing on top. Turtle Rock is a very large granite monolith, resembling a turtle's back. It is possible to gain access to the top of Turtle Rock, but it requires experience and confidence on exposed rock surfaces. Please do not attempt this climb unless you have these qualifications. It is necessary to retrace one's footsteps on this track to return to park headquarters. It would also be advisable to take drinking water. Distance 7.4km — 4hrs. return.

Doctor Roberts' Waterhole

The right-hand turnoff, 4km east along the road past the Ranger's residence, takes you to a locked gate. Continuing on foot, through the fence and along the old disused vehicle track for approximately 0.5km, you will reach Dr. Roberts' waterhole on Bald Rock Creek. On the way to this waterhole, there are excellent areas for examining ground orchids, which are prominent during the spring months. Roberts was a doctor who had a practice in Stanthorpe in the 1920's and 30's and who considerably influenced the Queensland Government in acquiring the existing national park. Distance (walking to Dr. Roberts' waterhole from gate) — 600m — 35mins. return.

Mt Norman and the Eye of the Needle.

The Mt Norman Track branches off the Castle Rock Track. You will have to continue only 85m after the division of the Castle Rock and Sphinx and Turtle Rock Tracks before you see the Mt Norman Track exit on the right hand side. On the way to Mt Norman you will pass through open forest, heathland, and open rock areas to arrive at last at the highest point in the park. To reach the summit it is necessary to take a route up the southern side, part of which requires some chimneying. Do not attempt to climb on your own or without rock climbing experience. There are many features, such as the Eye of the Needle at the northern end of the mountain, which can be seen without making the climb to the summit. It would be advisable to take drinking water for this walk. Mt Norman can also be reached from Wallangarra. This route is by car, over the road which passes through the Army base. Past the Army base and the water treatment works, the road turns to the right and becomes fairly rough. Three and a half kilometres further on there is a car parking area on the right near a national park sign. The walking track starts from here, and joins the walking track from park headquarters at the start of the climb to the summit.

Distance from camping ground 10.4km — 6hr return.

Distance to the Mt Norman parking area (driving) approx. 46km return.

Distance (walking from Mt Norman parking area to Mt Norman) 4km — 2hrs return.

Walking at Girraween National Park



Granite Arch

Girraween National Park,
Wyberba,
via Ballandean, 4382
Telephone (076) 84-5157

National Parks and Wildlife Service
PO Box 190
North Quay, Qld. 4000

Girraween Walking Tracks

0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500

Scale in metres

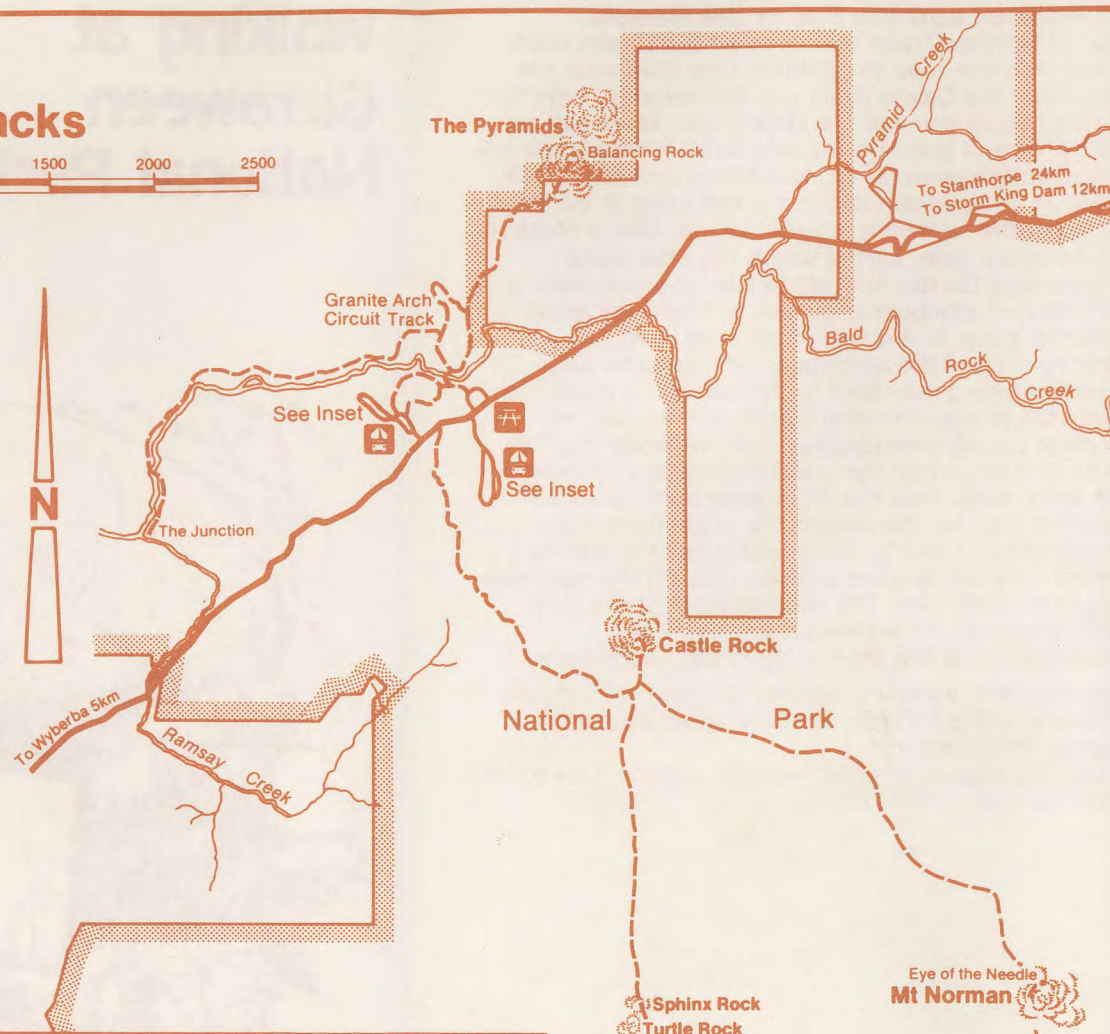
Drawn by J. Lennie

----- National Park boundary

—— Roads

- - - - - Walking track

-  Camping
-  Male & female toilets
-  Showers
-  Access for the disabled
-  Picnic area
-  Cooking place
-  Drinking water
-  Ranger station



Bald Rock Creek Camping Area

Not to scale



Castle Rock Camping Area

Not to scale



The Link Circuit

The Link Circuit track connects the picnic ground to the camping area. From the camping ground, the lower or northern arm of the track takes you beside Bald Rock Creek for a short distance, then around a swamp, through eucalypt woodland and finally through heathy patches broken by flat, rocky outcrops near the picnic ground. The upper or southern section of the track passes through open eucalypt forest and areas ringbarked by previous landholders before the declaration of the national park. This part of the Link Circuit joins the lower arm near the picnic ground. Distance 900m — 25min. return.

Granite Arch Track

The Granite Arch track branches off 340m along the Junction track. It joins the Pyramid Track, 475m before the picnic ground. The track derives its name from the natural stone archway of granite straddling the path. This track is an ideal quiet walk along which birds, during the day, and brush-tailed possums, at night, can be observed feeding amongst the leaves of the eucalypts. Distance 1.0 km — 35mins. return.

The Junction Track

The Junction Track starts from either the picnic ground or the camping area and provides an easy walk along the northern bank of Bald Rock Creek. During spring this track offers some of the best wildflower displays within easy walking distance of park headquarters. At the Junction, Bald Rock Creek is joined by the smaller Ramsay Creek which flows from the southern section of the park. Here a large outcrop of granite forms the creek bed.

Distance from picnic ground — 5km — 2½hrs. return.

Distance from camping area — 4km — 2hrs. return.

Pyramid Track

The Pyramid Track leaves from the picnic ground. You will find the walk to the base of the Pyramid quite easy, but the actual ascent may be a little tiring for some. Nevertheless, if you take your time, you should be able to reach the top of the Pyramid without too much trouble. Here the views are excellent and well worth the effort. At the top of the first Pyramid on the northern side is a very large balancing rock — this makes an excellent photograph. There is no track to the Bald Pyramid, which is north of the first Pyramid. Considerable rock-climbing experience is required to climb it. Distance 3km — 2hrs. return.