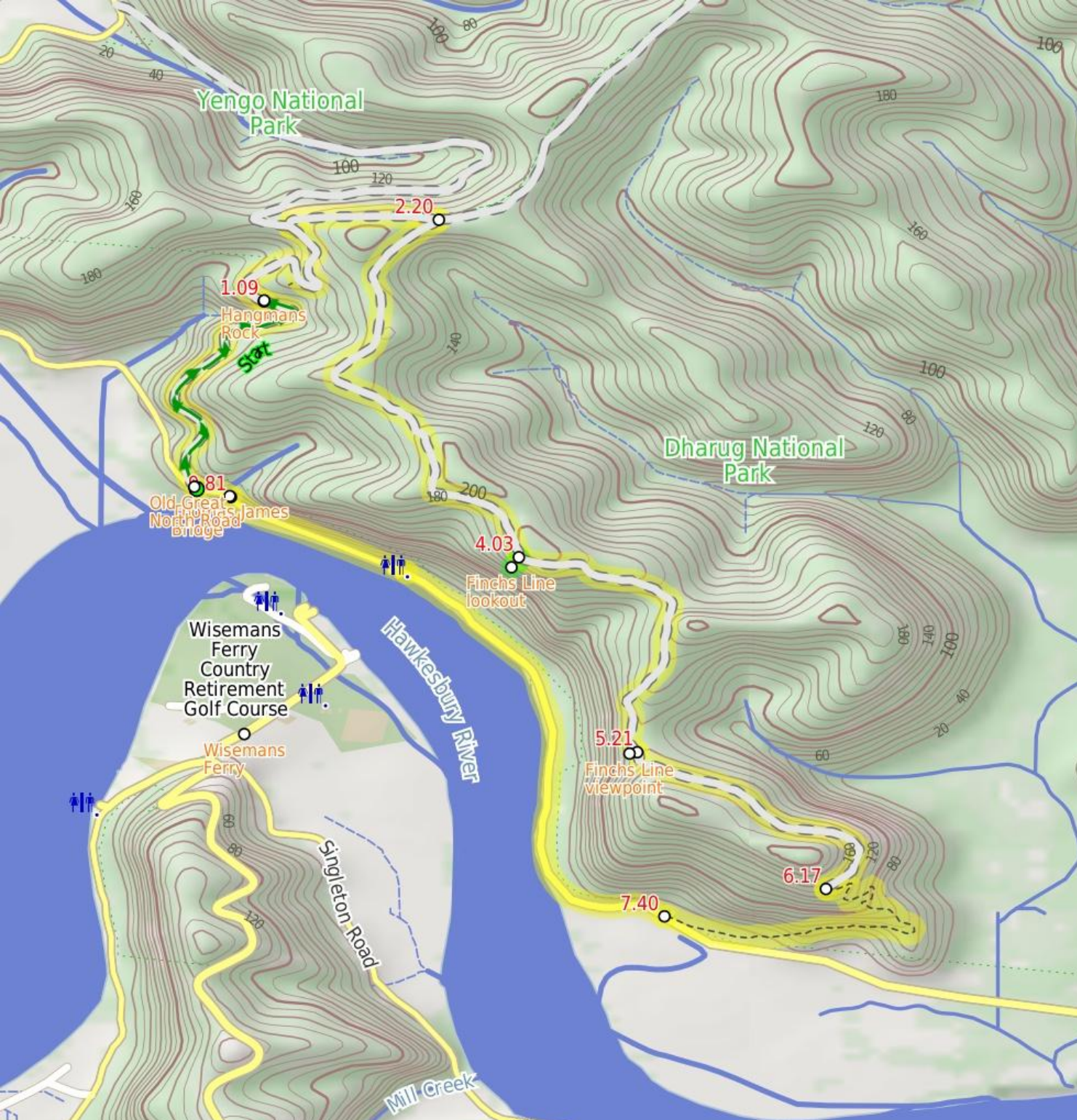


Devines Hill and Finchs Line circuit



4 hrs 30 mins
9.9 km Circuit

Moderate track
547m

3

A great walk with a mixture of historic remnants of the Old Great North Rd, and some beautiful views over the Hawkesbury river and other valleys. Most of this walk follows parts of the convict built road, and a number of information signs along the way give a good insight into the construction and history of the road, making the walk more interesting. The last section of the walk, along Wisemans Ferry Rd, has some great views of the cliffs above. The historic Thomas James bridge, just before the end of the walk, is the oldest in-use bridge on mainland Australia.

2m

Dharug 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. **Getting there** You can get to Int of Wisemans Ferry Rd and OGNR (gps: -33.3752, 150.9849) by car or bus. Bus: Wisemans Ferry Dialacar provides a taxi style mini-bus service based in Wisemans Ferry. The cost is typically about \$1 per km (ex Wisemans Ferry). They will pick-up and drop-off from Sydney or the Central Coast and will happily drop walkers off or pick them up from tracks in the area. The cost for a pick-up from Gosford and drop off near Wisemans Ferry would be approximately \$150 (please call for up-to-date pricing) and the minivan can carry up to 13 passengers. Phone: 0448 122 374 Car: There is free parking available.

This is a circuit, 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/dhafc>

0 | Wisemans Ferry

Wisemans Ferry village is on the banks of the Hawkesbury river, NSW. The town, and nearby car ferry, is named after Solomon Wiseman, a former convict who received a land grant in the area and established the ferry service. The town is a popular day trip and weekend destination from Sydney. There are several good spots to eat in town, including bistros at the Wisemans Ferry Inn and the Wisemans Ferry Bowling club, and takeaway food from Bush Bites cafe. The Riverbend Restaurant can be found in the 'Retreat at Wisemans' for finer dining. The area has some great walking and interesting history surrounding the convict built Old Great North Road. [More info.](#)

0 | Old Great North Road

The historic Great North Road was built using convict labour between 1826 and 1836 (this section south of Wollombi was completed in 1832). The road formed a link between Sydney and the Hunter Valley, including Newcastle. There are visible remnants of the original work in bridges, retaining walls and other structures along the way. The 'Convict Trail Project' has member groups involved in the conservation of historical remnants along the road. The Convict Trail Project and the NPWS have erected information signs at various points to illustrate the history. The Convict Trail Project has an excellent website for further reading. [More info.](#)

0 | Int of Wisemans Ferry Rd and OGNR

(1.1 km 31 mins) From the car park and intersection on Wisemans Ferry Rd (about 500m west of the car ferry), the walk passes around a gate, passes an information sign, and follows the 'Old Great North Road' up the hill. This section of the walk winds up the hill, passing numerous cuttings and retaining walls built with convict labour. There are several information signs on the way, making the walk more interesting. The walk then arrives at the signposted "Hangman's Rock".

1.09 | Hangmans Rock

Hangmans Rock is beside the historic Old Great North Road, near Wisemans Ferry, NSW. This beautiful sandstone cave/overhang has some steps and a bench seat cut into it and is part of the history of the convict

built OGNR. It is uncertain what purpose the spot served, but stories that convicts were hanged through the hole in the roof of the cave appear unlikely to be true, despite giving a name to the atmospheric spot. [More info.](#)

1.09 | Hangmans Rock

(1.1 km 27 mins) Continue straight: From Hangman's Rock, the walk follows the management trail gently up the hill. The trail bends back and forth as it gently climbs. Another information sign indicates the probable site of a stockade to hold the "more troublesome convicts". A little further along, the walk passes around a gate and reaches the intersection with "Shepherd's Gully Road". There is another information sign at this intersection.

Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Finchs Line 500m' arrow along the management trail, soon passing a culvert information display. The trail continues further up the gentle hill to reach the signposted intersection with the 'Finchs Line'.

2.2 | Int of OGNR and Finchs Line

(1.8 km 39 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Finchs Line' arrow along the management trail. This long meandering section is quite interesting with a nice variety of forest scenery and remnants of the road construction. There are also frequent glimpses of the Hawkesbury river and Wisemans Ferry township through the trees. The walk eventually comes to an unmarked intersection with a bush track (with the management trail bending to the left).

4.03 | Optional sidetrip to Finchs Line Lookout

(50 m 3 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the bush track gently down the hill a very short distance to arrive at an informal, unfenced lookout with stunning views across Wisemans Ferry and the Hawkesbury river. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn sharp right.

4.03 | Finchs Line lookout

This informal, unfenced (and unnamed) lookout is just off the walking track along the historic Finchs Line Road, near Wisemans Ferry, NSW. There are beautiful views down across the Hawkesbury river and Wisemans Ferry township from here.

4.03 | Finchs Line Lookout Int

(1.2 km 27 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, the walk follows the management trail steeply up the hill. This section of walk meanders for a while, passing an information sign about the 'Abandoned' works on the Finchs Line, before coming to a series of spots on the right with beautiful views down across the Hawkesbury river and Wisemans Ferry township. The walk continues along these viewing spots to the large rock outcrop, on the right, just as the trail bends to the left and heads away from the cliff line.

5.21 | Finchs Line viewpoint

This informal, unfenced (and unnamed) lookout is on the trail along the historic Finchs Line Rd near Wisemans Ferry, NSW. The viewpoint sits on a beautiful outcrop of boulders and provides stunning views down across the Hawkesbury river and Wisemans Ferry township.

5.21 | Finchs Line Sth viewpoint

(970 m 25 mins) Continue straight: From the rock outcrop, the walk follows the management trail away from the cliff line. The trail switches to the other side of the ridge and offers some beautiful views across the

valleys behind. The trail starts to drop reasonably steeply and arrives at a junction with a bush track, marked with a sign indicating bikes must be walked.

6.17 | Walk Bikes Signpost

(1.2 km 32 mins) Turn left: From the signpost, the walk follows the bush track as it zigzags down a steep hill, along the path of Finchs Line road. There are some beautiful views away from the track and a lot of ferns, grasses and vines surrounding the track. After winding down the hill for quite a while the walk arrives at the intersection with Wisemans Ferry Rd, signposted with 'Finchs Line Walking Track' (about 1.8km east of the car ferry).

7.4 | Int of Finchs Line and Wisemans Ferry Rd

(2.4 km 46 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection (about 1.8km east of the car ferry), the walk follows Wisemans Ferry Rd, immediately passing a noticeable sandstone gateway to the left. The road continues, with the Hawkesbury river to the left, and some great views of the cliffs to the right, for quite a while before reaching the northern end of the car ferry (Wisemans Ferry), signposted as the 'Gosford Approach'.

Continue straight: From the northern end (Gosford approach) of Wisemans Ferry, the walk follows Wisemans Ferry Rd, keeping the river to the left. The walk soon arrives at the historic Thomas James Bridge.

9.81 | Thomas James Bridge

The historic Thomas James Bridge is on Wisemans Ferry Rd, NSW. This is the oldest in-use bridge on mainland Australia (Tasmania has older bridges) and is one of several convict built bridges along the Old Great North Road. The bridge was built during 1830 (the timber deck is more recent) and was named after the overseer of 'Road Party 25' which built the bridge. [More info.](#)

9.81 | Thomas James Bridge

(100 m 3 mins) Continue straight: From the bridge, the walk follows Wisemans Ferry Rd gently up the hill for a very short distance and arrives at the car park and intersection with The Old Great North Road (about 500m west of Wisemans Ferry crossing).