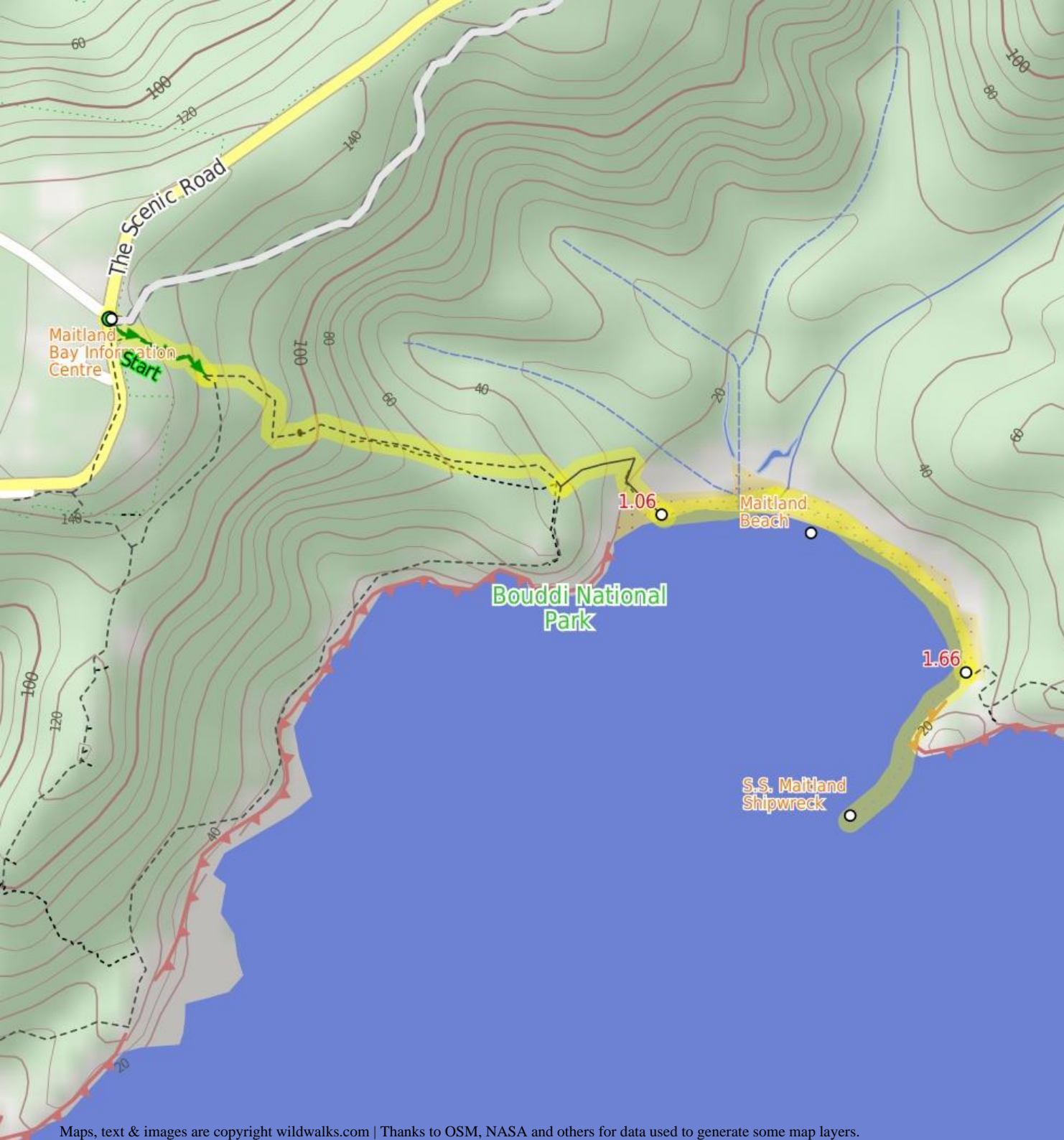


## Maitland Bay Shipwreck Track



**1 hr 30 mins**

**Hard track**

**3.9 km Return**

**195m**



From the Maitland Bay Information Centre, this walk heads straight down the hill to Maitland Beach and the shipwreck of the S.S. Maitland. On the way down, the track passes many rock landings providing great views of Maitland Bay and the bush of the surrounding gullies. Perched on the edge of the rock shelf, in the water east of the beach, are the remains of the S.S. Maitland. The walk down to the shipwreck is magnificent and it is well worth spending some extra time to enjoy the beach.

154m

1m

Bouddi 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 walks 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** Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Maitland Bay Information Centre (gps: -33.5201, 151.3827). 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/mbtxx>

#### 0 | Maitland Bay Information Centre

Maitland Bay Information Centre, was once the old Maitland Store and residence. The store was a influential piece of infrastructure as it acted as a meeting place for Trustees and a hub for early tourism. Today the store is still a hub for tourism but as an Information Centre open on weekends and public holidays. As well as information on the area there is also parking, a public phone and drinking water.

#### 0 | Maitland Bay Information Centre

*(1.1 km 24 mins)* From the information centre, the walk passes the information sign to the start of the car park. From the car park, the walk follows the Maitland Bay sign left, down the hill. The walk then heads down the staircase for some time to a signposted intersection.

**Veer left:** From the intersection, the walk follows the bush track down the staircase. The walk winds through the forest, passing a rock platform with nice views over Maitland Bay. The track continues down the hill from the rock platform, keeping the rock face to the right and an overhang to the left, continuing for some time before crossing over a wooden bridge and going down more steps to a signposted intersection.

**Turn left:** From the intersection, the walk follows the footpath down the hill, descending some steps, towards the beach that can be heard. The walk heads down to Maitland Beach with the final stretch winding down through open scrub to the sandy beach.

#### 1.06 | Maitland Beach West End

*(600 m 10 mins)* **Veer left:** From the intersection, this walk heads towards the centre of the beach keeping the ocean on the right. The walk leads to an area where a creek has cut through the sand.

**Continue straight:** From the creek, this walk heads along the beach, keeping the ocean on the right. The track intersection is before the headland cliff line and after the beach's cliff line, in an area of low scrub. The intersection is marked by a small wooden sign with an arrow pointing up the hill.

#### 1.66 | Maitland Beach

Maitland Beach, Bouddi National Park, is a 500m-long sandy beach sitting north west of Putty Beach. The beach's south-westerly aspect provides views over the South Pacific Ocean to Barrenjoey and Avalon headlands at the mouth of the Hawkesbury River. A creek breaks the centre of the beach, and the wreck of S.S. Maitland (after which the beach and bay are named) is found on the eastern rock point.

#### 1.66 | Eastern corner of Maitland Beach

*(310 m 7 mins)* **Veer right:** From the intersection, this walk follows the cliff line out towards the sea, beneath the rocky headland. The walk heads over rocks and boulders, to the rock flats at the point. Here lies the S.S.Maitland shipwreck.

#### 1.97 | S.S. Maitland Shipwreck

The S.S. Maitland was a paddle steamer brought to Australia from Glasgow, Scotland, to transport people and cargo between the Hunter and the Hawkesbury Rivers. There was no rail line from Newcastle to Sydney in the 1800's. The Maitland was on its route out of the Barrenjoey Headlands when it was overwhelmed by the aptly-named 'Maitland Gale'. The storm which wrecked the Maitland also took numerous other ships on May 6, 1898. Of the 36 passengers aboard the Maitland, 24 lost their lives. Many of the survivors were commended for their heroism. Wreckage of the Maitland can still be seen today, with parts of the boiler and a section of the iron hull strewn across the rock flats of the point. The bay was previously known as Boat Harbour, then renamed Maitland Bay after the disaster in 1898. [More info.](#)

