



GRIFFINS FIRE TRAIL – Morton National Park

Immerse yourself in tall forest and abundant bird life, cool off in pristine creeks and get a sense of pioneer farming life from long ago

JACKS CORNER ROAD TO GRIFFIN FARM RUINS AND CRANKEYS CREEK

Grade: Medium to hard. Mostly gently undulating fire trail with a 1.5km steep climb out of Yarrunga Creek on the return walk. Reasonable level of physical fitness required.

Yarrunga Creek and Griffin Farm Ruins

Length: 11.6km return

Time: 5 hour walk

Crankeys Creek

Length: 14.6km return

Time: 6 hour walk



Natural rock garden

OVERVIEW

Griffins Fire Trail, in Morton National Park, starts at the end of Jacks Corner Road in the western part of Kangaroo Valley. The trail passes through tall forest and descends through magical rock gardens to the pristine waters of Yarrunga Creek. After crossing Yarrunga Creek you start to see evidence of old stone walls and a gate post as well as the ruins of an old homestead. A lovely clearing by the creek makes a great lunch spot. Crankeys Creek is a further 1.5k on and another pleasant spot for a break. This is also the turnaround point. For a longer walk or bike ride you can continue on to Meryla Pass (11k from start). This is a steep climb up from Crankeys Creek and is either a return walk of 22k or involves a lengthy car shuffle (See Old Meryla Road map for directions to Meryla Pass).

USEFUL INFORMATION

Do not attempt to cross Yarrunga Creek after heavy rain. Crossing creeks in flood can be life threatening.

Although there is plenty of shade, this walk is best done in spring, autumn or winter. If walking in summer avoid the hottest part of the day. The turnaround point is at Griffin Farm or Crankeys Creek where there is fresh water for cooling off. Please boil or sterilize water before drinking. If walking in spring or summer keep an eye out for snakes basking in the heat. All snakes should be treated with caution and left alone. Let someone know where you are going and when you are due back. Dogs are not allowed in the park. There is no mobile phone reception once you leave the village, at the car park or on the walk. Walk-in camping permitted at Gales Flat and Griffin Farm.

HOW TO GET THERE

Griffin Fire Trail starts about 13km from the Kangaroo Valley post office. From the post office cross Hampden Bridge and take the first left into Bendeela Road. At 6.3km you will pass the Kangaroo Valley Pump and Power Station. After this the road name changes to Jacks Corner Road. The last 1.3km is unsealed. Park your car where you see a Morton National Park sign (13.1km), where the road swings to the left.

TAKE WITH YOU

Take plenty of water (reusable water bottles and drinking water available in the village), a small towel to dry your feet, sun protection, comfy walking shoes and a first aid kit. Warm and wet weather gear should be included in your pack as weather can change very suddenly. Take snacks or lunch for this half to full day walk. A map or sat nav is a useful addition. Wildflower and bird field guides for enthusiasts.

FLORA

Wet and Dry Sclerophyll Forest: Narrow-leaved Paperbark, Grey Gum, Red Bloodwood, White Stringy-bark, Blue-leaved Stringybark, Rough-barked Apple, Turpentine, Large-fruited Red Mahogany, Scribbly Gum, Black She-oak, Geebung, Banksia, Burrawang, Mountain Devil, Lemon-scented Tea-tree. Along Yarrunga Creek: Sydney Blue Gum, Water Gum, Willow paper-bark, River Oak, Black Wattle, Tree Fern, Sandpaper Fig.

FAUNA

Wombat, swamp wallaby, echidna, eastern grey kangaroo, yellow bellied glider, powerful owl, wedge-tailed eagle, yellow-tailed black cockatoo, eastern spinebill, new holland honeyeater, lewin's honeyeater, wattlebird, azure kingfisher, lyrebird, goanna.



RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

Kangaroo Valley is an international award winning responsible tourism destination, help us keep it beautiful for now and future generations.
www.visitkangaroovalley.com.au

Waste – Don't throw rubbish out of your car. When walking don't drop litter or tissues on the trails - carry out whatever you carry in. Dispose of litter in the bins provided in the village or at your accommodation place.

Fire – Avoid lighting fires especially in the bush fire season, usually September to April.

Toilet Etiquette – There are public toilets in the village at Hampden Bridge car park, near the ambulance station and Osborne Park. If away from public toilets bury all waste at least 100m away from water courses. Do not leave disposable nappies etc as litter.

GRIFFINS FIRE TRAIL



↑
To Nowra
Road &
Fitzroy Falls

MERYLA ROAD

Meryla Pass
11km from start

GRIFFINS
FIRE TRAIL

Griffins Farm - 5.8km from start.

A grassy path off to the left leads to the remains of the old homestead then down onto a large clear grassed area perfect for lunch. The creek is a short walk through the trees. Boil or sterilize water before drinking.

Gales Flat
9.8km from start

The track continues along the creek. It is a further 1.5km to Crankeys Creek. Note the different vegetation growing in this moist environment compared to the vegetation of the drier forest.

Old Meryla Road
8.5km from start

Crankeys Creek - 7.3km from start.

Turnaround Point. A concrete causeway crosses the creek. A good place to stay a while before starting the return walk. Boil or sterilize water before drinking.

Huge rocks line the trail and are scattered up the slopes. An understorey of Burrawangs completes these naturally landscaped gardens.

Yarrunga Creek - 5km from start

Boil or sterilize water before drinking. A pristine creek to cool off in or just to enjoy. To cross, remove your shoes and paddle over the narrowest part of the creek. You will see a small track that leads you back to the main trail where you turn left. An open area covered in bracken fern hints of old cleared paddocks long overgrown. Evidence of old stone walls and a rotted gate post give a sense that people made this their home.

YARRUNGA CREEK

Locked Gate 3.5km from start

From here the track descends steeply to a small creek then on to Yarrunga Creek. Views of the far escarpment and Wombat Hill.

Don't take side track but stay on main trail

MORTON NATIONAL PARK

These wonderful old trees provide nesting hollows and food for birds, gliders and possums. Walk quietly and listen to the many bird calls. You may be lucky enough to spot a Lyrebird strutting its stuff and mimicking other birds.

First 3km of the trail is gently undulating. Majestic tall mixed forest dominated by Grey Gums, Bloodwoods, Turpentines and huge Paperbarks. The blackened trunks show the history of fire in this forest.

Ignore track to left and go straight ahead

GRIFFINS
FIRE TRAIL

JACKS CORNER ROAD

→
To Bendeela
Road &
Kangaroo Valley

START

Yarrunga Creek 5km
Griffin Farm 5.8km
Crankeys Creek 7.3km
Meryla Pass 11km

There are many Indigenous heritage sites and walking trails throughout Kangaroo Valley which date back thousands of years. The Valley was known as a meeting place for the inland Gundungurra people and the coastal Yuin people from the Dharawal and Dhurga language groups.

WARNING: Do not attempt to cross Yarrunga Creek after heavy rain. Crossing creeks in flood can be life threatening.

LEGEND

- Walking track
- Locked gate
- Cliff line
- National Park boundary
- Parking
- No pets
- Walk-in campsite

SCALE

0 0.5 1km



NORTH

OLD MERYLA ROAD

LAKE YARRUNGA