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This Guide has been produced by:



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Yamba Lighthouse on Pilot Hill

Yamba Historical Walks

Hill Walk

A pleasurable 3 km walk to discover the historical sites on **Yamba Hill** this is a medium grade walk takes approximately 2 hours to complete

This walk starts and finishes at the...

Yamba Museum



Open:
 Tuesday, Wednesday,
 Thursday: 10am to 4.30pm.
 Saturday & Sunday:
 2pm to 4.30pm

River Street (next to Golf Course) Phone: 6646 1399

www.pyhsmuseum.org.au

1. Walk down River Street towards the **FERRY WHARF**, where ferries depart regularly for Iluka. Opposite the museum is **NORFOLK PARK**, named in 1999 after Matthew Flinder's sloop. Situated in the park is a portion of a **BRIDGE SPAN** from Palmers Channel Bridge on Yamba Road. This is one of the last of its style in NSW. This **FLAGSTAFF** was used along Yamba's shores to display signal flags to vessels to control their movement in and out of the river to ensure safe passage.



The **POLE** upon which a kerosene lamp was suspended served as Yamba's first lighthouse located on Pilot Hill.

2. Turning right along the Clarence River Walk, passing the **CALYPSO CARAVAN PARK**. The park site was reclaimed by filling in the large bay which was called Billy Blacks Bay. Billy's father Walter built the town's first hotel. The Wooli Hotel, which operated from 1862 until 1910.

3. Continue following the concrete path to Whiting Beach. Opposite the beach is an information plan illustrating the construction history of the breakwall.

4. The path will lead you to **TURNERS BEACH** and to the car park beneath the lighthouse. This area was quarried for the construction of the **GANTRY WALL**, from 1862-1903. It was named after the PWD Wharf where a huge gantry lifted rocks and concrete blocks from barges onto a train for the construction of the South Breakwater. The wall stretches from the **MARINA** to the ocean. When quarrying ceased, a rock swimming pool occupied this site from 1953 to 1968. This site is also where the first famous "**TIM THE BREAM**" fishing competition was held in 1958.



5. Take the Rotary Steps up to Pilot Hill to the **BOATMEN'S COTTAGES** dating from 1904 and **PILOT STATION** first built in 1862. The **YAMBA LIGHTHOUSE** was built in 1955. Nearby is the Matthew Flinder's Memorial Plaque unveiled by the Governor of NSW in 1999. Next to the reservoir is an incomplete replica of Yamba's first lighthouse built in 1879, it now houses the Community Radio Station 2TLCFM.



6. Walk along Pilot St to the **PACIFIC HOTEL**, built in 1934 and is a good example of the then popular Art Deco style architecture. It was nearly destroyed by a landslide after a cyclone in 1950.

7. Across the road from the roundabout in Clarence St is a cluster of restaurants where Fred Phillip's Kiosk and Saxby's General Store was the leading shops in town during 1930's and 1940's. Opposite is the **STAR OF THE SEA CONVENT** that was built in 1970. The Sisters of Mercy purchased cottages here for a convent and primary school when they moved from the site in Ocean St in 1909.

8. At the southern side of the hotel continue down the Zigzag path to **MAIN BEACH**. Prior to the 1930's it was known as Grahams Beach after Mrs Graham's Ocean View Boarding House which was situated just north from the Pacific Hotel. Walk down to the **YAMBA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB**, the oldest continuous country surf club in Australia, beginning in 1908.



The **BEACH SWIMMING POOL** was built in the late 1960's.

9. Take the wooden steps or paved road to Queen St to the town's **CENOTAPH**, which was originally erected in 1923 on the flat off Wooli and Yamba Sts, then moved to its present site in 1946. Opposite are Craigmore and The Cove Units and Yamba Beach Motel, the sites of two famous guest houses of the 1930's and 1940's era, **CRAIGMORE** and **THE RITZ**. The Ritz burnt down in 1950 and Craigmore was replaced by the present block of units in 1968.

10. Walk up to Clarence St, on the corner stands tennis courts, built in 1931. **FLINDERS PARK**, named in 1930, was once used for camping until 1961 when the Calypso Caravan Park was established.



11. Turn left and left again into Ritz St and right into Ocean St. Below is **CONVENT BEACH**, formally McKittricks Beach. The Sisters of Mercy purchased JT McKittrick's cottage here for a convent in 1900, but in 1910 encroaching sands forced its abandonment. At the southern end of Ocean St is **LOVERS POINT**, a favourite place for young day trippers coming to Yamba on the riverboats from Grafton between the late 1800's to the 1940's.



12. Enter **AGER PARK** named after William Ager, the man who saved Yamba from being engulfed by destabilised sand hills in the 1920's. His story with dramatic photos can be viewed at the museum. In 1989 the Port of Yamba Historical Society buried a Time Capsule here to celebrate the Bicentenary.

13. Turn left into Pacific Parade and along the grass strip above **PIPPIE BEACH** to **DOLPHIN PARK** to a viewing platform. Sandmining between 1934 and 1972 at Pippie Beach for rutile and titanium left its sands white and further destabilised the area. The rocky outcrop at the south (Point Barri), commonly known as **FLAT ROCK**, was once used as a fish trap by the Aborigines. Continue on Pacific Parade; turn right into River St. to the west and south beyond the Ngaru Aboriginal Village and partly on the golf course lies the old **YAMBA CEMETERY** used from 1863 until 1927. It is now completely buried by sand. Return to the **YAMBA MUSEUM** for more information, historical photographs and displays.

Also available is the
Yamba Historical Walks
Flat Walk