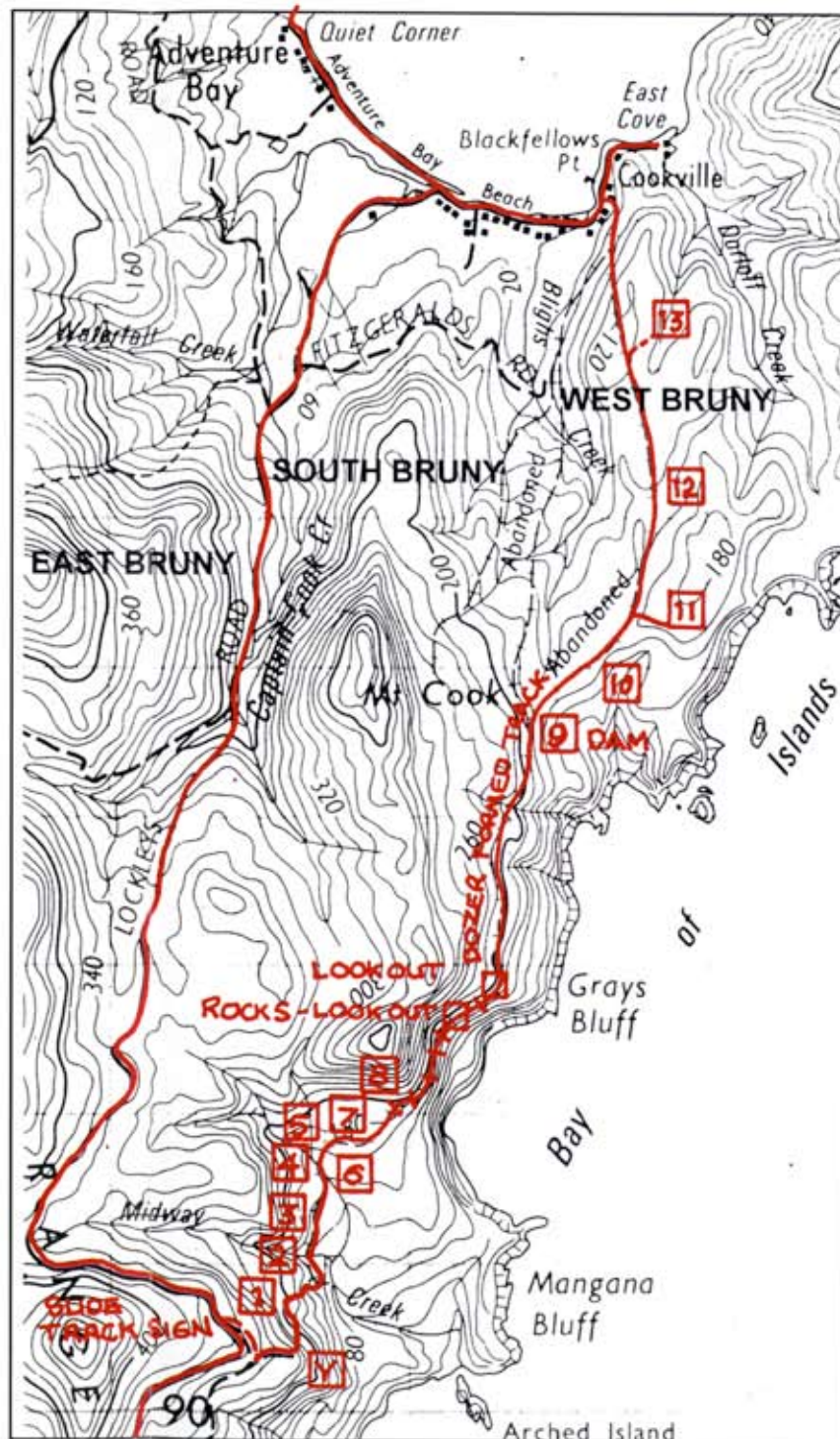




Leg Log Bridge

Chock Log Bridge



THE SLIDE TRACK BUSH WALK

Location

Maintained by Forestry Tasmania, the track follows an abandoned timber-getting tramway, traversing inland of the South eastern coastline of South Bruny Island for 13 kilometres (approx 3.5 - 4 hours walking time) one-way through medium forest with dense, low vegetation. This bush walking track is named after the section of tramway which was constructed by hand in the mid-1940's, at an altitude of 200 metres, across a steep, unstable scree slope, falling away to sea level and very prone to rock slides.

Profile

Most of the tramway crossed steep, hilly country which required many viaducts and bridges, one of which was known as the 'leg log' bridge and another, toward the Arched Island end, over Midway Creek, as the 'chock log' bridge. Landing stages may still be seen, with large stumps used to anchor the steam log hauler.

This tramway has been hailed as a remarkable engineering feat, although it was built by bush men, without engineering qualifications; they knew what was required for these conditions. A well-worn horse track followed the gully beside the tramway, as it was too difficult for the horses to walk on the actual tramway. When there was no alternative, as on the slide section, the tramway was decked to accommodate them.

The horses were used to pull the wire out into the bush from the hauler to the felled logs.

Recommendations

To get the best advantage of this walk, it is recommended as a full-day excursion with a car shuttle, leaving car/s at the entrance to the track above Blighs Creek, while the party is transferred to the Lockleys Road entrance well marked, 10 km from the Adventure Bay turn off. This takes advantage of the gradient of the track towards Adventure Bay (graded in bush walking terms as medium-medium). Alternative Route: Commencing at the Adventure Bay end, follow the map, significant site numbers and times in reverse order, to Lockleys Road and return/or keep walking via Lockleys Road to Adventure Bay (10km).

"Visitors are reminded that this track traverses rocky and undulating terrain through wet forest with slippery, uneven surfaces and "Leeches". You may encounter inclement weather, requiring robust footwear, warm clothing and wet weather gear. Include in your pack food drinks and insect repellent, a small first aid kit and don't forget your camera".

N.B. (1) denotes number attached to a tree at each significant site. All times are based on a comfortable walking pace between sites, commencing at The Locklys Road entrance.

15 Minutes

(1) Remains of the 'Y' section where the rail was manually operated to change from one line to the other to allow the logs to negotiate steep slopes. When this section was operating, one log at a time was collected from the bush and taken to the landing (3). This was reloaded on to the bogie on return with the next log: then both were taken to the mill. It was only possible to fit in one trip with two logs, and one trip with one log, each day. Later when two tractors were operating, two trips to the mill with two logs were made each day.