

## Emerald Pool circuit from Ironbark Rd



4 hrs 15 mins

Hard track

10.8 km Circuit

▲ 344m

4

A great circuit walk in Popran National Park, to the beautiful Emerald Pool. This walk passes through a variety of vegetation and offers some great views along the way. Emerald Pool is a really beautiful spot and it is well worth spending some time exploring around the creek. The optional side trips along the 248 trail and to Mt Olive, add to the great views on the walk. If your car has reasonable ground clearance, you could drive to the Ironbark picnic area and start the walk from there.

130m

281m

Popran 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 Int of Ironbark Rd and Popran Pipeline Trail (gps: -33.3716, 151.1953). 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/epcfir>

### 0 | Int of Ironbark Rd and Popran Pipeline Trail

*(1.7 km 35 mins)* Starting from the car park at the end of the 'Pipeline Trail', the walk follows the gravel Ironbark Rd south, initially keeping the 'Pipeline Trail' gate to your left (not following the 'Pipeline Trail'). The gravel road passes between some houses with prominent 'private property' signs so stick to the road along here. The walk eventually comes to the car park and picnic area at the end of the road. Vehicles with reasonable ground clearance could be driven along this section, to the car park at the end of the road.

### 1.7 | Ironbark Rd Picnic area

This picnic area is located at the end of Ironbark Rd, on the edge of Popran National Park. While this is not a special spot for a picnic, there are good facilities if you are doing a walk in the area. There is a picnic table, pit toilet (with a small rainwater tank for handwashing), information signs and track arrows at this point. Some of the tracks starting from this point are also horse trails. A section of Ironbark Rd may not be suitable for 2WD vehicles so you may have to walk the last section of road.

### 1.7 | Ironbark Rd picnic area

*(310 m 6 mins)* Continue straight: From the car park, the walk passes around a gate and follows the management trail down the hill and soon arrives at the intersection marked with 'Mt Olive' and the '248 Trail'.

### 2.01 | Int of Mt Olive trail and 248 Trail

*(1.5 km 29 mins)* Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the '248 Trail' arrow along the management trail. The trail meanders for a while and descends gently before passing through the signposted 'Donovans Forest'. After climbing from 'Donovans Forest' and meandering a little further, the trail arrives at the signposted intersection of the 'Hominy Creek Trail' and the '248 Trail'.

### 3.54 | Optional sidetrip to End of 248 Trail

*(600 m 12 mins)* Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the '248 Trail' arrow along the overgrown management trail, going gently up the hill. The track ends at a large rocky outcrop which is interesting to explore and has some nice views. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn right.

### 3.54 | End of 248 Trail lookout

This informal lookout is located at the end of the 248 trail in Popran National Park. The lookout offers some nice views into the surrounding valleys. The rocky outcrops in the area have some nice shapes and textures. Be careful to avoid damaging some faint Aboriginal carvings on these rocks.

### 3.54 | Int of Hominy Creek Trail and 248 Trail

*(460 m 8 mins)* Veer left: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Hominy Creek Trail' arrow along the management trail until arriving at the 'No horses beyond this point' signpost, where the increasingly overgrown management trail becomes a bush track.

### 4 | No Horses signpost

*(1.2 km 24 mins)* Continue straight: From the signpost, the walk follows the bush track leaving the signpost behind and to the right. This section of the walk descends gently passing through more swampy ground before dropping more steeply to arrive at the intersection of the 'Hominy Creek Track' and the 'Emerald Pool' track, beside Hominy Creek.

### 5.24 | Hominy Creek crossing

*(110 m 2 mins)* Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Emerald Pool' arrow along the bush track, keeping the creek to the left. The walk soon arrives at the beautiful Emerald Pool.

### 5.35 | Emerald Pool

Emerald Pool is a beautiful spot on Hominy Creek in Popran National Park. This deep pool has crystal clear water with an emerald/green tinge. There is a nice little cascade falling into the pool and it is a great spot for lunch while doing one of the walks in the area.

### 5.35 | Emerald Pool

*(480 m 11 mins)* Turn around: From the Emerald Pool, the walk follows the bush track, keeping the creek to the right, for a short distance before arriving at an intersection with another bush track at a creek crossing.

Turn right: From the intersection, the walk crosses the creek and follows the 'Hominy Creek Track' arrow up the hill (from the opposite side of the creek to the Emerald Pool track). The walk climbs and meanders for a while before reaching the end of a management trail, signposted with 'Hominy Creek Track', 'No horses beyond this point' and others.

### 5.83 | End of Hominy Creek management trail

*(3 km 1 Hr)* Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the management trail up the hill and arrives at an intersection with the 'Mt Olive Trail'.

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Carpark 2.7km' arrow along the management trail, going up the hill. The walk climbs gently and meanders for some distance, offering nice views along the way, before arriving at an intersection with a bush track (signposted 'Mt Olive').

### 8.78 | Optional sidetrip to Top of Mt Olive

*(190 m 5 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Mt Olive' signpost along the bush track. The walk meanders for a

while before reaching an intersection with another bush track.

Turn left: From the intersection, the walk follows the bush track steeply up the hill and soon arrives at the top of Mt Olive. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn right.

### 8.78 | Mt Olive

Mt Olive is a low rising hill in Popran National Park. The views from the top, across the surrounding national park, in all directions, are very nice. The nice cliffs around the base of Mt Olive also add to the scenery. There are the remnants of a couple of old trig points at the top.

### 8.78 | Int of Mt Olive trail and Mt Olive bush track

*(2 km 41 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the management trail gently up the hill, leaving the 'Mt Olive' signpost on the right. After a very short distance the trail arrives at the intersection signposted with 'Mt Olive' and the '248 Trail'.

Turn right: From the intersection, the walk follows the management trail past the 'Way Out' signpost and immediately bends to the right. The walk soon passes around a gate and arrives at the car park.

Continue straight: From the car park, the walk follows the road, passing some 'private property' and eventually arrives at another car park at the end of the signposted 'Pipeline Track'.