

EXPLORE

Self-Guided Walks

Explore the city and surrounds



Tidbinbilla



Canberra Nature Park



Googong Foreshores



Namadgi National Park



Murrumbidgee River Corridor

The Explore Program is growing with the addition of a Feature Walk. Each Feature Walk will profile one of our great self-guided walks, which allow you to explore different parts of Canberra's parks and natural heritage at your leisure.

Name of Activity: Black Mountain Nature Reserve Forest Trail

Length: 2 km return (see blue trail on map)

Approximate Time: 1 Hour

Grade: Moderate. The track has some uneven ground with some exposed sections. It generally follows the contours so there are no steep sections. There are stiles to cross making some section of this walk moderate grade.

The Walk: This Forest Trail walk starts and finishes at the parking area half way along the road to the summit. The parking area is on the right hand side as you are driving up Black Mountain. Walk across the road to the start of the track.

Services: The closest toilets are at the Telstra Tower on the summit.

What will I discover?

Fantastic views appear through the trees as you walk around Black Mountain. You may surprise reptiles sunning themselves on the path. Black Mountain is the most diverse of Canberra's nature parks with 100 species of birds, 500 species of plants and 5000 species of insects.

What will I learn?

Vegetation changes as the environmental conditions change due to slope, aspect and soil types. The cooler, eastern side consists of scribbly gum and red stringybark forest. Scribbly gum also tolerates drier conditions on the western and northern slopes.

Most of the plants will have finished their flowering but you may find seed pods. A shrub that flowers in summer is Australian blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*. *Bursaria* from Latin, *bursa*, meaning a purse, referring to the purse-like seed capsules, and *spinosa* from Latin *spinosa*, meaning spiny or thorny, which refers to the spiny branches). Its dense foliage and prickly branches provide protection for small native birds while nectar from the flowers attracts butterflies.



What do I need to take?

Ensure you wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Dogs are not allowed.

Other walks/activities links

For further information go to: http://www.tams.act.gov.au/parks-recreation/parks_and_reserves/urban_parks

Why not explore Little Black Mountain immediately to the north east of Black Mountain.

For Further information on Canberra's native bird life go to: <http://canberrabirds.org.au/>

How to get there

The summit road is off Barry Drive. You can also access the reserve through the Botanic Gardens (summit trail) and also from an enlarged car park off Belconnen Way.

