

THE GRADING SYSTEM

Walks are graded by experienced walkers, but a grading will always be somewhat subjective. The difficulty of a walk can be greatly affected by changes in the weather, vegetation and track conditions. Note that the harder walks are carried out faster, with shorter and fewer stops.

Walk descriptions include the approximate distance, total climb and notes on the terrain, and are the best guide to the degree of difficulty. These factors are scored in the grading system, and the total score is used to grade each walk – see the tables below. Regular walkers will learn to match their capabilities to them.

FACTORS					
Dist. (km)	Score	Total Climb (m)	Score	Terrain	Score
		900	6		
21	5	700-899	5	Mostly rough going	5
16-20	4	500-699	4	Moderately rough going	4
11-15	3	300-499	3	Some rough going	3
6-10	2	100-299	2	Mostly road, track or footpad, no rough going	2
0-5	1	0-99	1	All road, track or footpad, no rough going	1
<p>Note. Rough going includes medium or heavy scrub; rocky, loose or slippery ground; rock scrambling; and stony creek crossings.</p>					

GRADING		
Total Score	Grade	Comment
15-	Very Hard	Strenuous walking. Fit and experienced walkers only.
12-14	Hard	Demanding walking. Fit and experienced walkers only.
8-11	Medium	Moderate fitness and bushwalking experience is required. People who have not been on a full day's bushwalk before will find these quite difficult.
4-7	Easy	At the lower end (Grade 4), these are suitable for people with little or no bushwalking experience. The degree of difficulty increases with the grading score.
3	Very Easy	Distances up to 5 km; urban or nature park rambles; suitable for family groups, including young children needing to be carried.
<p>Note. Total scores are included with the grading in the walk descriptions, e.g. Medium (9)</p>		