

The Dutchman's Stern Walking Trail

FEW QUORN people realise Quorn is in the centre of so many walking/hiking/bushwalking/climbing trails. The Trail on The Dutchman's Stern has been called the most beautiful in all of South Australia's Parks.

Once walking was an everyday part of life. But today there are people who don't like to walk half a block in the middle of town.

The turn-off to The Dutchman's Stern Conservation Park is 6.5 km from the Swimming Pool corner along the Arden Vale Road. The car park is three km further from this.

There are leaflets about the Trail in a box near the car park, and the Trail is well sign-posted. There are four Checkpoints, and also poles every 200 metres marked with the distance you've walked and still have to walk.



Walkers returning from the Summit Viewpoint, at The Archway, two km from the car park.

The Trail is 10.6 km long. One km along it, it becomes a circuit, so if you walk around it you'll come back to where you started on it.

If you want only a two km short walk, go one km to where the trail crosses a road, then turn right and return down that road. When you're close to the car park, head across to it.

If you want spectacular views north and south, 2.5 km up the Trail is the Terrace Viewpoint. This makes a five km walk if you return the same way.

The highest point on the Trail is The Summit Viewpoint 4.2 km going anti-clockwise via Terrace Viewpoint. The views all

around are magnificent. Returning the same way makes this an 8.4 km walk.

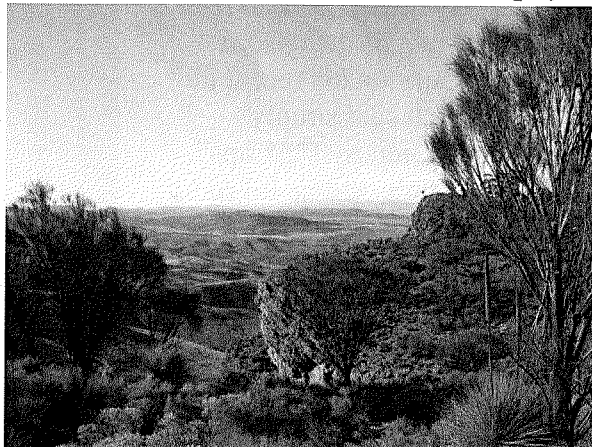
Continuing anti-clockwise takes you high up the side of the Stony Creek Gorge, and is 6.4 km back to the car park. Some people prefer doing the circuit clockwise, since the gradient is more gradual that way.



Children resting half-way up to the Summit Viewpoint, 2.1 km from the start. The view is to the Ragless Range, looking east from the Short Trail to the Summit,

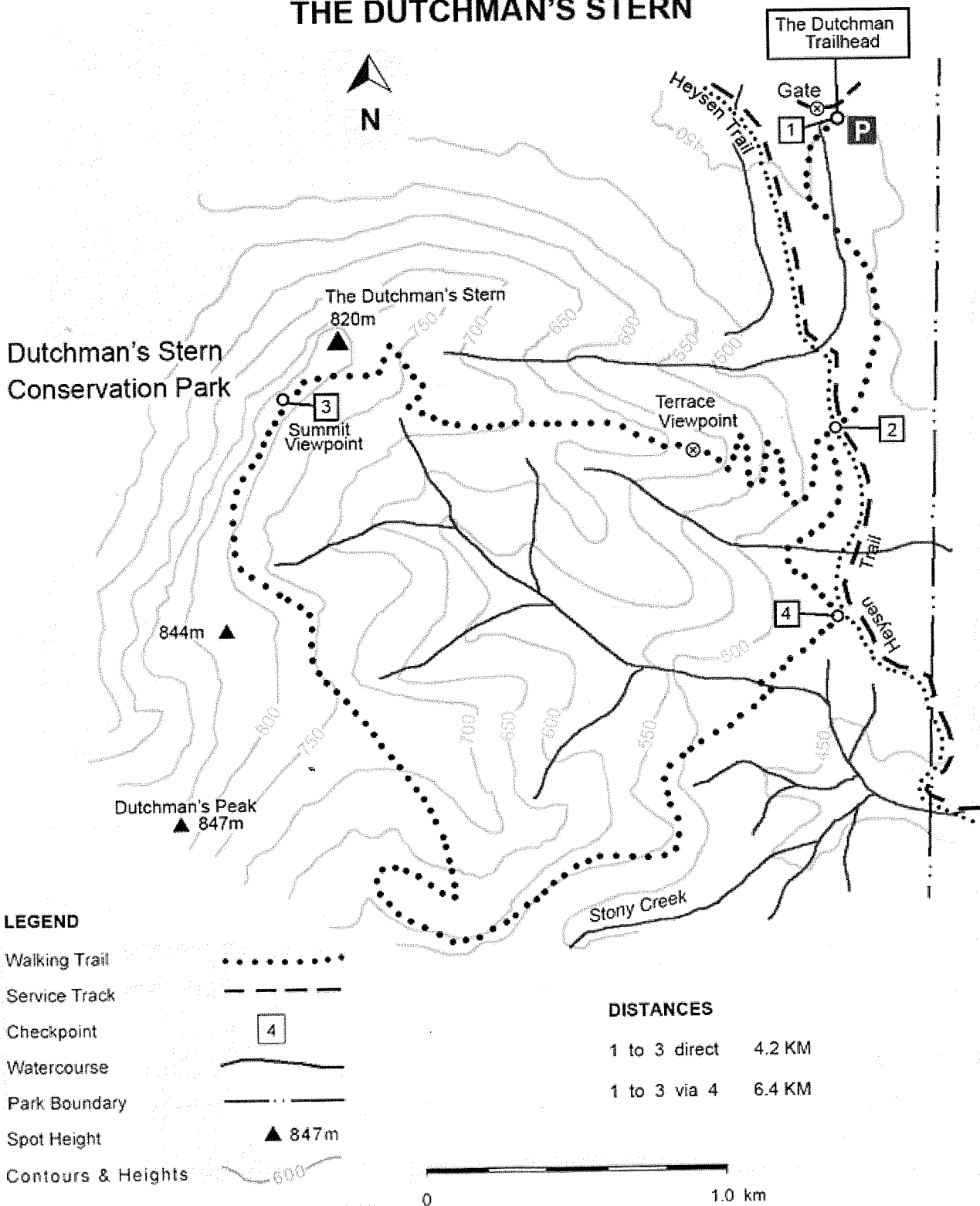
Five hours is recommended for average walkers for the complete 10.6 km circuit. Fit walkers can usually do it in three to 3½ hours. Of course, times depend on how long you rest.

Children should be introduced to hiking from three years old, when they can be let walk until tired, then carried for a while and then let walk again. For a child to grow up without ever having hiked like this is a pity.



View north to The Bluff, from the Summit Viewpoint. On the horizon is Wilpena Pound. You can see Mt Arden, Lake Torrens, Depot Creek, Pt Augusta, Devil's Peak, Mt Brown, Horseshoe Range, etc, from here. There is a topogram on top, with a compass, identifying the many features to be seen. The many international visitors are amazed at the superb views from the summit.

THE DUTCHMAN'S STERN



Notes:

The numbers along the contours give heights in metres above sea level. So, for example, the height of the Summit Viewpoint is around 800 metres, and of the car park at the Trailhead is 450 metres. So the height you will climb is 800 minus 450, which is 350 metres.

Maps of 15 walking trails from Mt Brown and north can be found, and printed, from the Walking Trails Support Group's website: <http://www.walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au/flindersindex.htm> Other information is available there, too. Leaflets for walking trails near Quorn, and advice about the trails can be obtained from the Quorn Visitors Centre in the Quorn Railway Station.