

Walking the Lake

Kilaben Klimb

Correct as at 12th February, 2019

Overview and Track Information

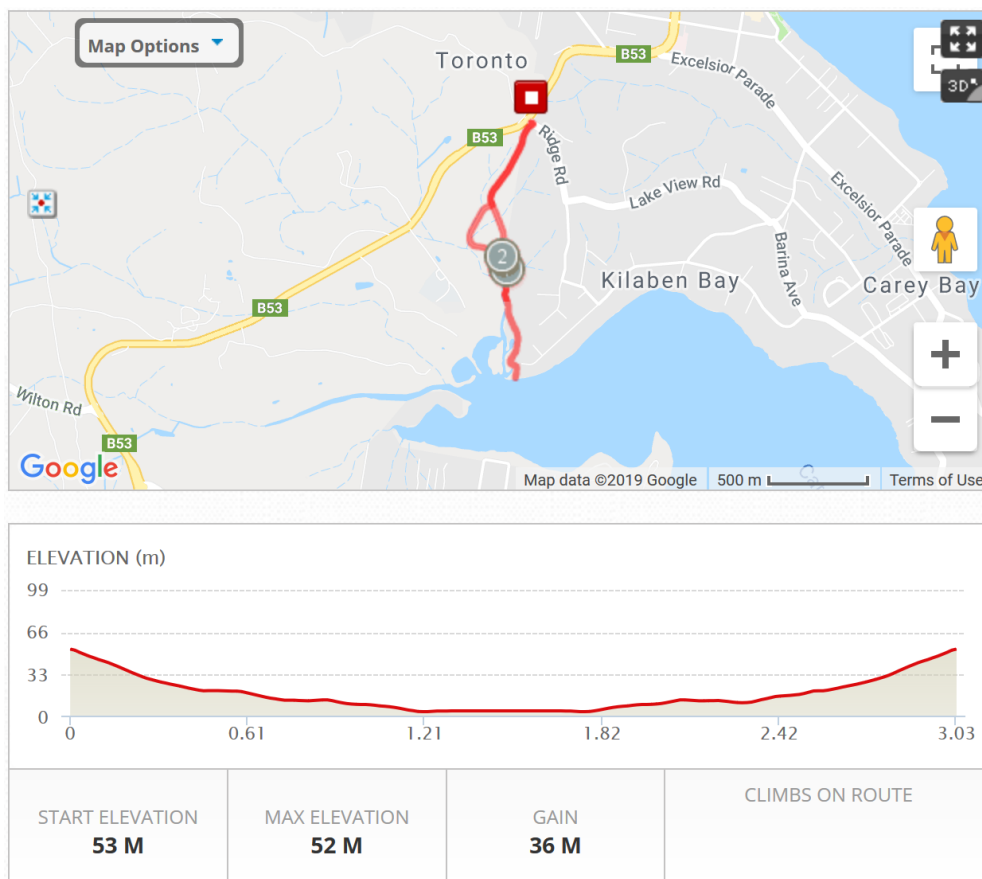
This easy 3km out-and-back walk comes from the Lake Macquarie City walking trails guide. It follows a fire trail from the Toronto Fire Station down to a lovely groomed walk along Kilaben Creek to Kilaben Bay. The surface is gravel road or well-defined foot trails all the way and purportedly features five separate vegetation communities and over 100 different bird species, plus at least one goanna I saw on my reconnaissance walk.

Meeting Point & Getting There

The meeting point is the hard standing on the roadside in front of the Toronto Fire Station, which is on the corner of Wangi Road and Ridge Road, Toronto. There's limited parking space here, but the Westlakes Baptist Church, 6 Ridge Road, has generously agreed to let us use its car park. There are public toilets at the mid-point of this walk.

Map and Elevation Profile

The walk begins and ends at the meeting point, which is the red square on the map.



Background Information

The creek draws its name from Kilaben Bay. That name is derived from the Awabakal word 'killibinbin' meaning bright or shining.¹

The Kilaben Bay Landcare group acquired Federal Government Envirofund Grants in 2004 and 2006 to rehabilitate Kilaben Creek. In just 18 months the group, built and installed the beautiful elevated boardwalk, removed weeds, and planted 2,000 native plants & trees over a one-kilometre stretch of the Kilaben Creek bank.²

¹ <https://history.lakemac.com.au/page-local-history.aspx?pid=1085&vid=20&tmpt=narrative&narid=51>

² <https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/kilaben/>

Track notes

From meeting point cross Ridge Road and drop down onto the fire trail. Follow the fire trail past the locked gate and down the steep hill. After about 400m the track forks at a sign that says, "Kilaben Loop Fire Trail".

Take the left hand fork. The track continues with the back of houses on the left with their gates opening onto the track and bushland on the right. After a couple of hundred metres the track swings right and then there is a junction with an obvious foot track on the left. Turn left there.

Follow that track downhill towards the creek. Soon you come to a fork; take the left hand fork. The track runs along the side of the creek and in a little while comes to two benches overlooking the creek and then a wooden bridge with a handrail. This is the one kilometre mark.

In another 30-40 meters, after crossing two boardwalks, there is a fork in the track. Take the right hand fork*.

The track crosses three more boardwalks and after about 50m comes to two more benches overlooking the creek and a pipe crossing the creek.

In another 200m, after crossing three more boardwalks, the track breaks out of the trees and travels along behind some houses. Continue past a sign that says FORESHORE in the direction you're walking and WALKING TRAIL back the way you've come. In another 120m you arrive at a bench on the foreshore of Kilaben Bay.

Directly across the bay is Rathmines. The more open water to your left is Catalina Bay.

Retrace your route along Kilaben Creek, taking care to stay close to the creek when you come to fork*. The wooden bridge with the handrail is also the two kilometre mark.

About 100m after the wooden bridge you come to a fork in the track; you arrived at this point via the right fork before. This time, take the left hand fork. In about 40m you come to an intersection with the fire trail. Turn left.

The track drops through a small gully then begins to climb steadily. After about 75m there is a track junction with a very overgrown track on your left. Keep going on the main track.

In another 75m you are back at the junction with the sign that says, "Kilaben Loop Fire Trail". Keep going straight up the hill and return to the cars.