



NPAQ Activities Grading Guide

The Activities Grading Guide indicates what to expect on a particular activity:



Very easy (white/clear circle)

Description: Likely to be a path or fire road or wide track with a gentle gradient, smooth surface and free of obstacles. Frequent encounters are likely with other walkers, cyclists, runners or horse riders.

Suitable for: Beginners, small children, parents with prams, elderly, novice cyclists.

Fitness level: Most people in good health.

Track type: At least two people can travel side by side (Australian Walking Track Grade 1).

Track surface and obstacles: Hardened, with no challenging features.

Track gradient: Shallow climbs or descents.



Easy (green/solid circle)

Description: Likely to be a combination of fire road or single path or open terrain with gentle gradient, smooth surface and relatively free from unavoidable obstacles. Short sections may exceed these criteria. Frequent encounters are likely with other walkers, cyclists, runners or horse riders.

Suitable for: Beginners, young children, slower walkers, cyclists with off-road skills and sturdy bikes.

Fitness level: Most people in good health. Ability to walk for up to 2 hours without a long break.

Track type: Shoulder width or greater. Any off-track sections will be in keeping with general description (Australian Walking Track Grade 2).

Track surface and obstacles: Mostly firm and stable. Track may have obstacles such as logs, roots, and rocks. In general there will be no or minimal scrub.

Track gradient: Climbs and descents are mostly shallow, but track may include some moderately steep sections.



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Intermediate (blue/solid square)

Description: Likely to be single width track with moderate gradients for extended distances, with variable surface and obstacles.

Suitable for: Experienced bushwalkers or mountain bikers with good skills. Not suitable for most beginners.

Fitness level: A good standard of fitness. Ability to complete prolonged climbs without rest.

Track type: At least shoulder width, possible sections with steep drop off the track. Any off-track sections will be in keeping with general description (Australian Walking Track Grade 3).

Track surface and obstacles: Possible sections of rocky or loose tread. Track will have obstacles such as logs, roots, and large rocks may necessitate some scrambling. Track may involve minor scrub, scunge or rainforest.

Track gradient: Mostly moderate gradients but some steep sections.



Difficult (single black diamond)

Description: Likely to be challenging single width track or undefined, with steep gradients, variable surface and many obstacles.

Suitable for: Experienced walkers or mountain bikers with very good skills. Walkers need good equipment and cyclists need quality machines. Participants should be known and accepted by the leader.

Fitness level: High level of fitness and endurance.

Track type: Significant sections narrow, steep or undefined (Australian Walking Track Grade 4).

Track surface and obstacles: Variable and challenging. Unavoidable obstacles such as logs, roots, rocks, drop offs, exposure, and expect scrambling.

Track gradient: Contains steep to very steep descents and climbs.



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Extreme (double black diamond)

Description: Extremely difficult trails will incorporate very steep gradients, highly variable surface and unavoidable severe obstacles. Bushwalking will require some ropes.

Suitable for: Highly experienced walkers or mountain bikers with excellent skills and high quality equipment. Team must have walked or ridden with each other previously.

Fitness level: Higher level of fitness and excellent stamina.

Track type: Large sections narrow, steep or undefined (Australian Walking Track Grade 5).

Track surface and obstacles: Widely variable and unpredictable. Expect large, committing and unavoidable obstacles.

Track gradient: Expect prolonged steep loose and rocky descents and climbs.

Australian Walking Track Grading System

The *Australian Walking Track Grading System* is the standard classification scheme applied to most walking tracks in national parks and other catchment areas.

The system consists of 5 track grades, each with its own symbol, which you will often see when approaching a walking track. These symbols include:

Track Grade	Symbol
Australian Walking Track Grade 1	
Australian Walking Track Grade 2	
Australian Walking Track Grade 3	
Australian Walking Track Grade 4	
Australian Walking Track Grade 5	