



The route followed by today's Alum Cliffs Track has long been a coastal path used by local people. In 1988 it was formally developed as part of Australia's Bicentennial celebrations. In more recent years, Council has upgraded the southern section of the track, which climbs from Tyndall Beach through coastal blue gum forest with tall silver banksias. The track then winds up through silver peppermint bushland, dips into a glorious fern-filled gully, before rising again onto headlands for commanding views over Storm Bay and the Derwent Estuary. In 2016 Council completed the extension of the track from the historic Shot Tower to Wandella Avenue which then links in to the Tarooma Foreshore Tracks if you wish to do a more extended walk.

The Alum Cliffs are so named because alum – a compound used in dyeing, tanning and medicinal products – is found in the cliffs.

Browns River Probation Station

The Brickfields Track links the Alum Cliffs track to the Channel Highway. The walk passes through the historic remains of the brick-making area, part of the nearby, short-lived 1840s convict probation station. The station's living quarters are now largely hidden in private properties along Taronga Road. At its peak, the station housed about 370 prisoners, whose major task was to construct a road for horse and bullock-drawn vehicles between Hobart and Browns River (now Kingston) – the road we know today as Channel Highway. After that feat had been accomplished the number of convicts quickly dwindled and the station was closed in 1851. The handsome three-storey sandstone house ("Acton") on Channel Highway, just north of the Taronga Road turn-off, was believed to have been the Superintendent's House. About 30 years later, Joseph Moir, who built the Shot Tower across the valley, used the sandstone from the abandoned probation station, to build the Tower Factory (now gift shop/cafe).



Above: alum

Top right: Convict station at Brown's River, 27 August 1841

Right: The Shot Tower, Brown's River, 1880s



3 hours return

8 km return

Ample parking at Tyndall Beach. Limited parking at top of Wootten Drive and the Shot Tower.

Narrow bush track. Multiple steps on Brickfields Track. Metro Bus 427 goes through Kingston Beach and along Channel Highway to Tarooma and the city if you only wish to walk one way.

Do not approach cliff edges. Closely supervise children.

Note: Can be combined with Boronia Beach Track (9) by walking to the southern end of Kingston Beach

