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HELLFIRE PASS INTERPRETIVE CENTRE AND MEMORIAL WALKWAY

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# VISITOR GUIDE

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*Please respect the history of this place*

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# Welcome

## Welcome to the Hellfire Pass Interpretive Centre

The Hellfire Pass Interpretive Centre, walkway and memorial honour all the prisoners of war of the Japanese and civilian Asian labourers (Romusha), who were forced to work to build a railway connecting Burma and Thailand during the Second World War. Subjected to starvation, disease and unthinkable brutality, many lost their lives.

More than 60,000 Allied prisoners worked on the railway. In 1946, the Allied War Graves Registration Unit concluded that approximately 12,500 lost their lives, including some 6300 British, 2800 Australian, 2500 Dutch and tens of thousands of Romusha.

This place is dedicated to their memory.

**For the families of those men and women who endured captivity, who toiled and died, and for those who survived the Burma–Thailand Railway, this is a significant and very special place.**

**This centre and the ground it occupies is a place of solemn commemoration and reflection.**

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*Please respect the right of all visitors to quiet contemplation and remembrance.*

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## **Beneath this centre is Hellfire Pass, also known as Konyu Cutting**

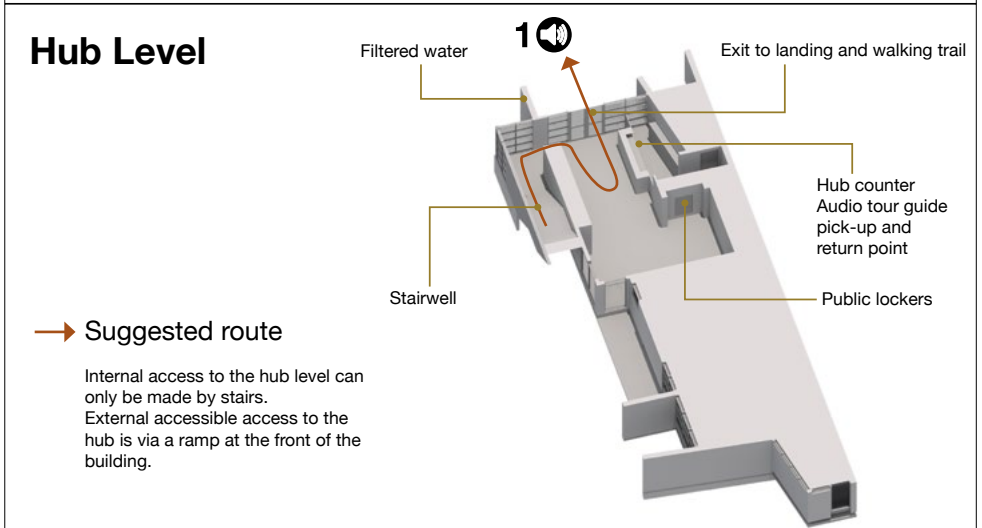
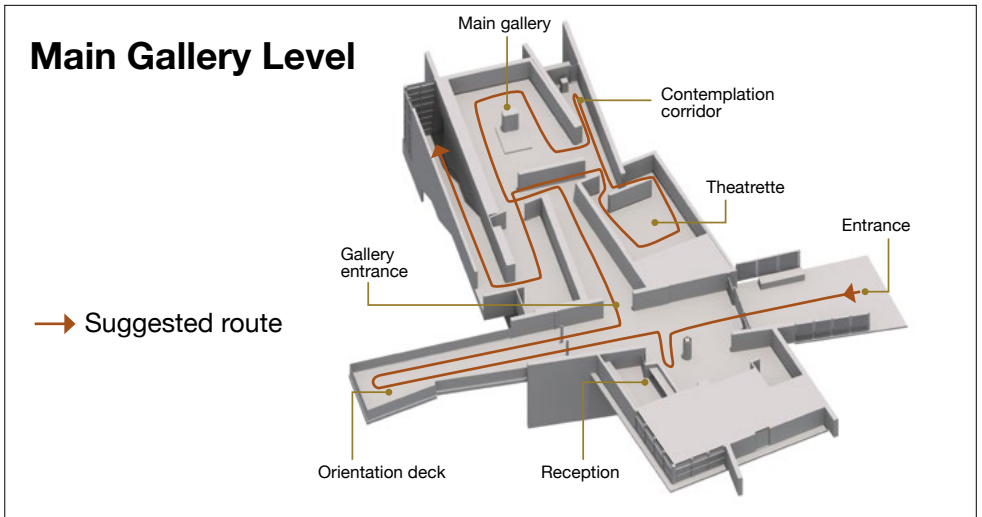
The name ‘Hellfire Pass’ came from the appalling working conditions at and around this site.

In mid-1943, when the Japanese introduced the ‘speedo’ period to meet tight deadlines for completing the railway, prisoners were forced to work long hours into the night. Their work site was lit by oil lamps and bamboo fires. This flickering light, the noise from the drilling of the rock and the shuffling of hundreds of poorly fed prisoners seemed the very image of hell.

# Explore

**The centre commemorates those who worked on the entire railway.  
The exhibition explores their stories.**

It is recommended that you visit the centre prior to walking down the stairs into Hellfire Pass and making your way along the walkway. To ensure you receive the full experience you should ask our staff about the free audio tour guides available at the downstairs hub counter. Centre staff will provide those visitors undertaking the longer walk with a two-way radio for safety purposes. Please do not undertake this walk without the radio.



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## The Department of Veterans' Affairs

On behalf of the Australian Government, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) acknowledges the ongoing commitment and support of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Royal Thai Armed Forces Development Command.

DVA manages this centre and is responsible for the Australian Government's Program of official commemoration. DVA also builds and maintains memorials and centres like this in a number of other locations around the world.

Staff of the Interpretive Centre can provide you with more information about DVA upon request.

## Donations to the Centre

DVA operates an account for the receipt of donations. Donations for maintaining the day to day operations, improvements and upgrades to the Hellfire Pass Interpretive Centre are gratefully received. You will find donation boxes located close to the entrance and downstairs in the visitor hub for your convenience.

## Centre Location and Contact Details

Hellfire Pass Interpretive Centre  
207 Moo 11 Thasao  
Sai yok District  
Kanchanburi 71150

**Grid Location:** 14°21'09.7"N 98°57'17.1"E

**Phone:** +66 (0) 34 919 605 (09:00 – 16:00 daily)

**DVA website:** [www.dva.gov.au/thailand](http://www.dva.gov.au/thailand)

**Thai website:** [www.hellfirepass.in.th](http://www.hellfirepass.in.th)

**Email:** [info@hellfirepass.in.th](mailto:info@hellfirepass.in.th)



## Australian Government

All information within this guide is correct at the time of printing. However, changes do occur at short notice. We advise you to check with centre staff regarding any details or questions you may have, especially regarding accessing the walkway.

# HELLFIRE PASS INTERPRETIVE CENTRE AUDIO WALKING TRAIL OPTIONS

## WALK 1 BLUE LINE

### INTERPRETIVE CENTRE TO THE MEMORIAL OBELISK IN KONYU CUTTING

Centre staff can assist you to access an audio guide that allows you to better understand the construction of the railway and the experiences of those who worked on it.

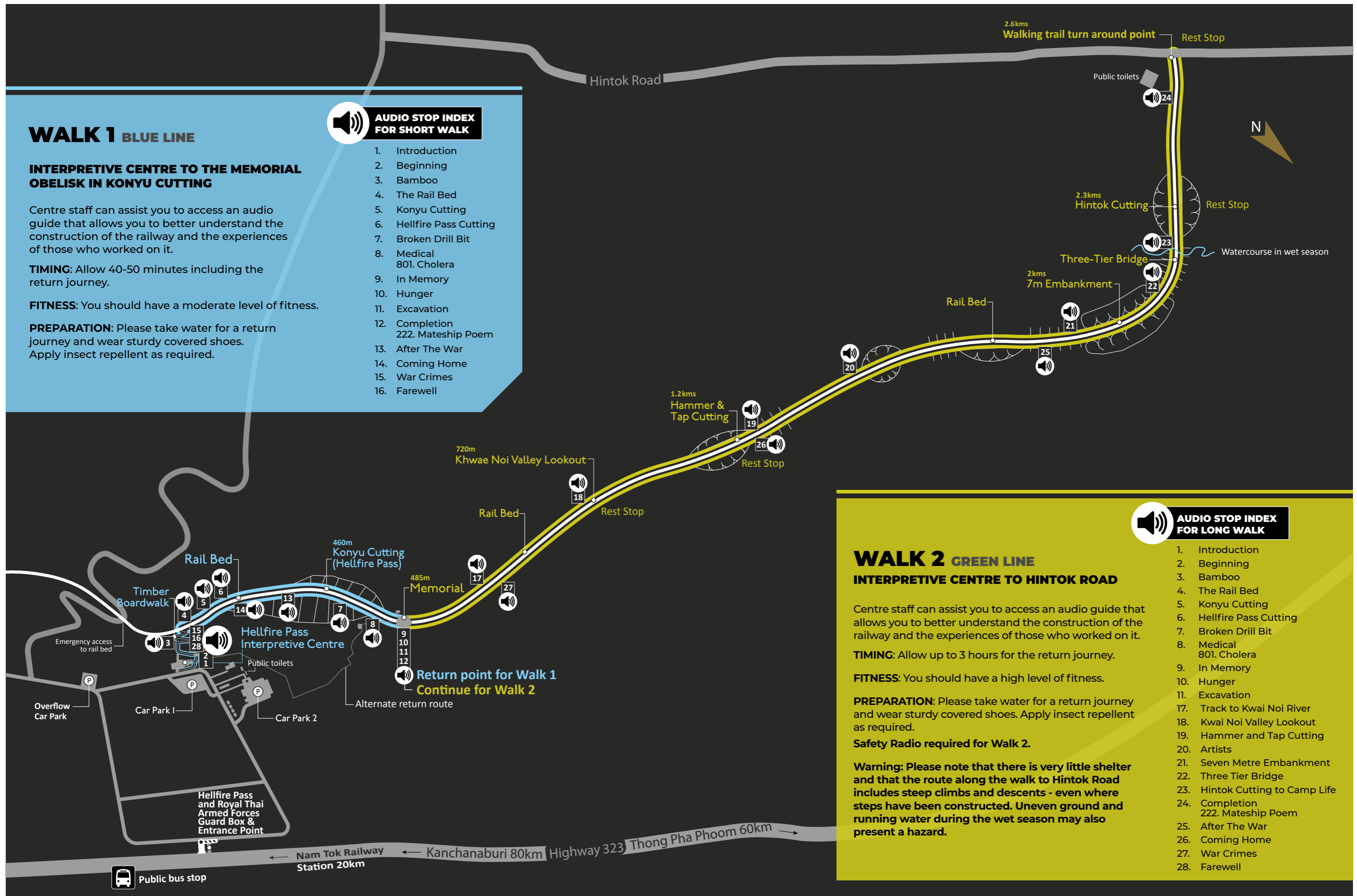
**TIMING:** Allow 40-50 minutes including the return journey.

**FITNESS:** You should have a moderate level of fitness.

**PREPARATION:** Please take water for a return journey and wear sturdy covered shoes. Apply insect repellent as required.

### AUDIO STOP INDEX FOR SHORT WALK

1. Introduction
2. Beginning
3. Bamboo
4. The Rail Bed
5. Konyu Cutting
6. Hellfire Pass Cutting
7. Broken Drill Bit
8. Medical 801. Cholera
9. In Memory
10. Hunger
11. Excavation
12. Completion 222. Mateship Poem
13. After The War
14. Coming Home
15. War Crimes
16. Farewell



## WALK 2 GREEN LINE

### INTERPRETIVE CENTRE TO HINTOK ROAD

Centre staff can assist you to access an audio guide that allows you to better understand the construction of the railway and the experiences of those who worked on it.

**TIMING:** Allow up to 3 hours for the return journey.

**FITNESS:** You should have a high level of fitness.

**PREPARATION:** Please take water for a return journey and wear sturdy covered shoes. Apply insect repellent as required.

**Safety Radio required for Walk 2.**

**Warning:** Please note that there is very little shelter and that the route along the walk to Hintok Road includes steep climbs and descents - even where steps have been constructed. Uneven ground and running water during the wet season may also present a hazard.

### AUDIO STOP INDEX FOR LONG WALK

1. Introduction
2. Beginning
3. Bamboo
4. The Rail Bed
5. Konyu Cutting
6. Hellfire Pass Cutting
7. Broken Drill Bit
8. Medical 801. Cholera
9. In Memory
10. Hunger
11. Excavation
17. Track to Kwai Noi River
18. Kwai Noi Valley Lookout
19. Hammer and Tap Cutting
20. Artists
21. Seven Metre Embankment
22. Three Tier Bridge
23. Hintok Cutting to Camp Life
24. Completion 222. Mateship Poem
25. After The War
26. Coming Home
27. War Crimes
28. Farewell