

Free  
2011 Guide

# Visitor Guide

## NSW National Parks



[nswnationalparks.com.au](http://nswnationalparks.com.au)

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Go there to immerse yourself in World Heritage parks where magnificent subtropical rainforests meet mountains forged from ancient volcanoes ... a bushwalker and scenery lover's paradise, this is a land where beaches sparkle, waterfalls plunge, and trees reach out to the sun.



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Sydney – city surrounded by national parks, aquatic reserves and unexpected wildlife. The city surprises with spectacular bushland walks, many overlooking our world-famous harbour. Wild and rugged, the World Heritage wilderness of the Blue Mountains is on the city's doorstep, great for sightseeing, bushwalking and adventure activities.



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National parks hug the coastline protecting diverse habitats including marine parks and the state's largest undisturbed wilderness at Wadbilliga. Head out and discover amazing natural attractions ... pristine beaches, colourful birdlife, marine creatures, forests and islands.



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You really are on the roof of Australia. Mt Kosciuszko, our highest peak, looks down on sub-alpine snowgum woodlands and tall forests of alpine ash and mountain gum – snow sports dominate in winter; the warmer months bring wonderful walks, colourful wildflowers and grand touring routes.



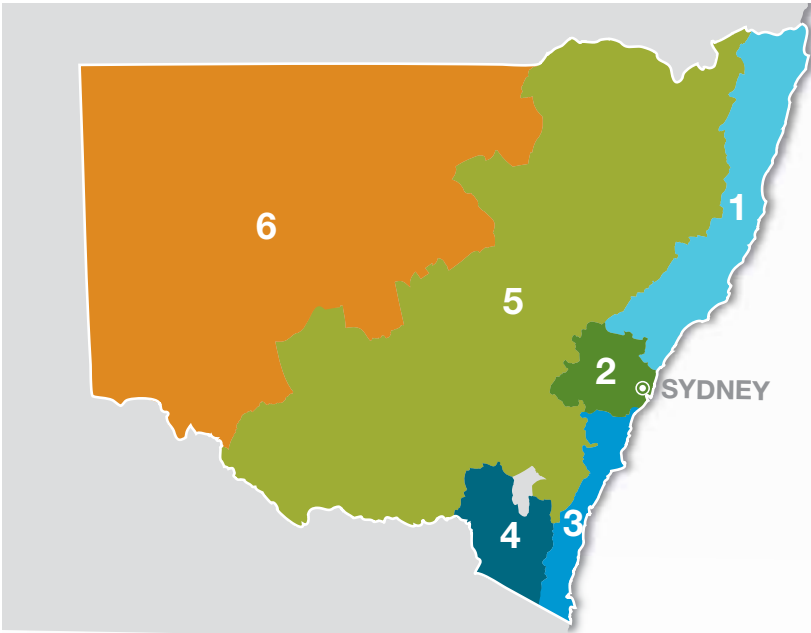
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Mt Kaputar, Oxley Wild Rivers, Cathedral Rock, and the iconic Warrumbungle National Park are just a few of Heart of Country's must-see places. You're invited to explore diverse natural and cultural heritage while enjoying the warm country hospitality of this charming region.



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A dramatic yet fragile environment of blazing sunsets, wide open spaces, distant horizons and abundant wildlife creates an experience you'll never forget. It embraces World Heritage Lake Mungo National Park; and ancient Aboriginal artworks in Mutawintji National Park reflect thousands of years of human habitation.



Front cover image: Blue Mountains National Park, Photography: D. Finnegan / DECCW

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## TYPE OF PARKS

AA	Aboriginal area	MP	Marine park
AR	Aquatic reserve	NP	National park
CL	Conservation Lands	NR	Nature Reserve
HS	Historic site	RP	Regional park
KCR	Karst conservation reserve	SCA	State conservation area

## SYMBOLS

	Aboriginal site		Kiosk
	Accommodation		Lighthouse
	Barbeque		Lookout
	Boat ramp		Picnic area
	Camping area		Public transport
	Canoeing		Showers
	Caravan site		Swimming
	Cycling		Toilets
	Diving/ Snorkelling		Vehicle entry fee
	Dogs on a leash allowed		Walking tracks
	Fishing		Whale watching
	Historic site		Wheelchair access
	Horse riding		World heritage

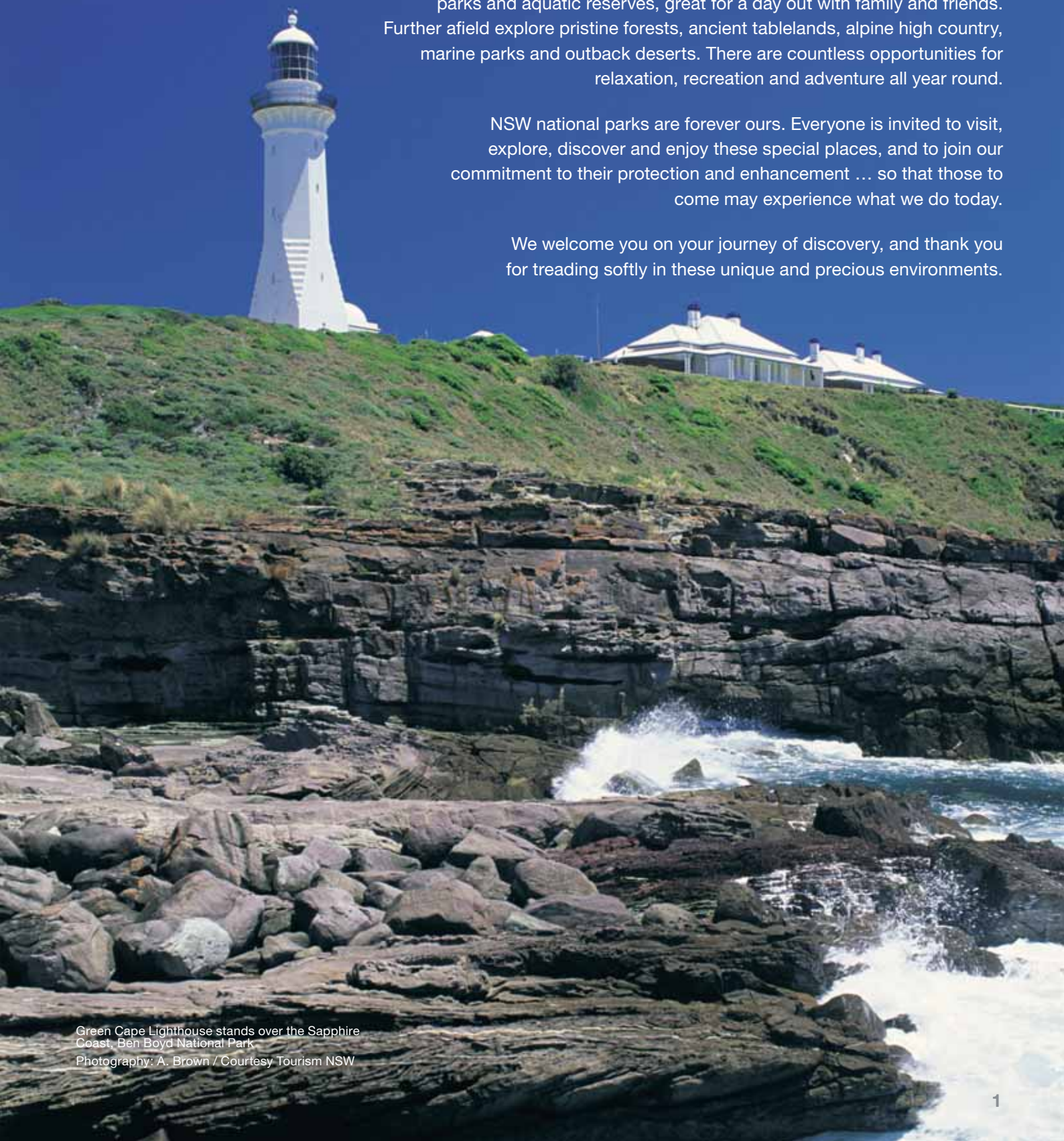
# Welcome to the 2011 Guide to NSW National Parks

Lush rainforests, beaches of golden sand, granite gorges, stark sand dunes, sparkling clear sea, ever-plunging waterfalls ... NSW national parks and reserves comprise the most stunning diversity of landscapes and habitats.

NSW now includes more than 820 protected areas. Minutes from the centre of Sydney you'll find harbour-side native bushland parks and aquatic reserves, great for a day out with family and friends. Further afield explore pristine forests, ancient tablelands, alpine high country, marine parks and outback deserts. There are countless opportunities for relaxation, recreation and adventure all year round.

NSW national parks are forever ours. Everyone is invited to visit, explore, discover and enjoy these special places, and to join our commitment to their protection and enhancement ... so that those to come may experience what we do today.

We welcome you on your journey of discovery, and thank you for treading softly in these unique and precious environments.





Delicate yellow thornbill in New England National Park

## FOUNDATION FOR NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE

The Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife is a not-for-profit organisation with the mission to care for Australia's native plants, animals and cultural heritage through environmental education and conservation projects.

Through donations from supporters, the Foundation purchases land for conservation and funds threatened species recovery actions. Over one million dollars are raised every year to support research, habitat regeneration, land acquisition for habitat, pest eradication and other long term projects.

Your donation of money or property, or considering the Foundation in your will, can protect a piece of Australia forever or save a species from extinction.

For more information: [www.fnpw.org.au](http://www.fnpw.org.au)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE



Ranger at Mutawintji National Park

We respectfully acknowledge the Aboriginal People of NSW and pay our respects to the Elders past and present.

When visiting a park or reserve, please take a minute to recognise Aboriginal people's relationship with the land, acknowledge the ongoing connection of Aboriginal people to their Country, and recognise your own responsibility to travel thoughtfully.

We ask you to respect Aboriginal beliefs associated with Country and Culture. As a visitor, please respect the wishes of your hosts and any restrictions you have been asked to observe.



Wattle (acacia pycnantha)

# We really saw the benefits of an annual pass



On the Yuraygir Coastal Walk, Yuraygir National Park

## YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO CONSERVATION – BECOME AN ANNUAL PASS MEMBER

Vehicle entry fees to national parks help fund conservation projects and contribute to building and maintaining facilities in parks and reserves. Fees apply to only around 50 of the more than 800 national parks and reserves in NSW.

Purchasing a NSW National Parks Annual Pass is a great way to get involved in conservation. Members not only receive great value for money, but they also provide funds for vital conservation projects, with all proceeds going towards managing and enhancing these precious resources. By purchasing an annual pass you also have the option of receiving our quarterly e-newsletter, Naturescapes, which provides excellent information on great parks to visit and exciting things to do.

Select the annual pass that suits you best from the table below.

You can upgrade at any time (conditions and an administration fee apply).

A few key points:

- Annual passes are valid for privately used vehicles of up to 8 seats.
- They don't cover parks and facilities managed by other agencies or community groups, such as Worimi Conservation Lands and Booderee National Park at Jervis Bay, or parks in the ACT.
- Fees not covered include camping fees, entry to museums, Discovery tours and boat landing fees.

If you don't have an annual pass, you may still visit parks requiring a vehicle entry fee – make sure you bring a small amount of change for the ticket machine, buy a ticket, and clearly display your ticket on your vehicle.

TYPE OF PASS	1 YEAR (NSW SENIORS)	2 YEARS (NSW SENIORS)	BENEFITS
Single Country Park Pass	\$22 (\$17)	\$40 (\$30)	Vehicle entry to any ONE designated national park in country* NSW except Kosciuszko
Country Parks Pass	\$45 (\$35)	\$75 (\$60)	Vehicle entry to national parks in country* NSW except Kosciuszko
Multi Parks Pass	\$65 (\$50)	\$115 (\$90)	Vehicle entry to national parks in NSW except Kosciuszko
All Parks Pass	\$190 (\$152)	\$335 (\$268)	Vehicle entry to ALL parks in NSW, including Kosciuszko
2nd household All Parks Pass	\$95	\$167.50	For additional vehicles registered at the same address (conditions apply)

## APPLYING FOR A PASS

To apply for an annual pass, pick up a brochure or application form from any major NPWS office (see back cover), or visit our website at [www.nswnationalparks.com.au](http://www.nswnationalparks.com.au)

For further information including concessions and exemptions, contact the DECCW National Parks Call Centre:

Phone 02 9585 6068 Fax 02 9585 6831  
Mail PO Box 1967  
Hurstville NSW 1481  
Email [annual.passes@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:annual.passes@environment.nsw.gov.au)



Single Country Park Pass



Country Parks Pass



Multi Parks Pass



All Parks Pass



Sunrise at Cocoparra National Park

\* See [www.nswnationalparks.com.au](http://www.nswnationalparks.com.au) for a listing of Country Pass parks. Fees and locations subject to change.



The Blue Mountains National Park has over 140 km of walking tracks – a bushwalker's paradise  
Photography: D. Finnegan / DECCW

## GREAT THINGS TO DO IN YOUR NATIONAL PARKS

Naturally, the greatest national park experience is simply to be there – to immerse yourself in a pristine environment, revive and rejuvenate, to breathe fresh air.

Whether you're looking to be active – or just find a place to relax – the network of more than 820 NSW national parks and reserves has plenty to offer.

**Check out [www.wildwildworld.com.au](http://www.wildwildworld.com.au) and [www.wildaboutwhales.com.au](http://www.wildaboutwhales.com.au) for great ideas on what to do in parks.**

Of course, you can head out on your own outdoor adventure, or let someone else do the planning for you on a guided tour with one of the many fantastic recreation and tour operators offering nature experiences in parks across the state. You'll find some of them on these pages, for more operators go to [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nationalparks/touroperators.aspx](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nationalparks/touroperators.aspx)

## GET MOVING

From easy, flat cruises to more challenging mountain trails, you'll find a wealth of cycling experiences on national park roads, fire trails and designated tracks. Many national parks also provide opportunities for vehicle touring, both for conventional cars and 4-wheel drives. Australian Wild Escapes offers guided vehicle touring along with guided bushwalks and activities in parks across the state.

**Contact them on 1300 792 213, [www.australianwildescapes.com](http://www.australianwildescapes.com).**

For a real horse riding adventure, head to the high country of Kosciuszko National Park, where there are trails with camping areas where horses can be kept. There's total adventure to be had: whitewater rafting, caving, canyoning... your experience can be as active or as gentle as you like. Once you've chosen your activity, check with local park offices for park suitability and conditions. For adventure activities on the South Coast, Southbound Adventures offers a range including abseiling and cycling.

**Contact them on 4257 4888, [www.southbound.com.au](http://www.southbound.com.au)**



Enjoy an exhilarating ride

## TAKE THE FAMILY

Anywhere in New South Wales, you don't have to go far to find a family-friendly national park. A place for swimming, picnicking, camping or walking with the kids under a canopy of trees with a challenge to spot the greatest number of birds, a shy wallaby or an echidna.

You can try Nielsen Park in Sydney Harbour National Park for spectacular views, the historic Royal National Park down south, or Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park for camping at The Basin. Elsewhere, just check the guide to find the best picnic spots, swimming, fishing and bushwalking options for the whole family. Or, how about a family eco-cruise in the Royal National Park?

**Contact Cronulla Cruises on 9544 1400 [www.cronullacruises.com.au](http://www.cronullacruises.com.au)**



Take a tour of Mungo National Park

## GO FOR A GREAT WALK

Whether you're out for a short nature stroll or a five-day hike, walking tracks provide all kinds of opportunities to explore the parks and reserves of NSW. Discover a range of different environments, from eucalypt forests to heathlands or rainforests to mallee. And take in a diversity of sites and activities on the way, from lookouts and swimming to wildflowers, Aboriginal sites and more. Some tracks are wheelchair or assisted wheelchair accessible, look for the access symbol in this guide.

For ideas and information on great walks, visit [www.wildwalks.com.au](http://www.wildwalks.com.au)

If you are interested in a guided walk, Tread Lightly Eco Tours operates in the Blue Mountains parks, contact them on 4788 1229, [www.treadlightly.com.au](http://www.treadlightly.com.au)

Camp Somerset Outdoor Learning Centre offers bushwalking, camping and educational activities in the Blue Mountains, they're on 4575 5292 or [www.campsomerset.com.au](http://www.campsomerset.com.au)

If you want to discover our Outback parks, Sunraysia Discovery Tours offers coach tours that include short walks. They're on 03 5023 5937 [www.sunraysiadiscoverytours.com.au](http://www.sunraysiadiscoverytours.com.au)

## DISCOVER HISTORY AND CULTURE

Along with protection of native plants and animals, many parks and reserves protect Aboriginal cultural landscapes and NSW post settlement history.

Cultural and spiritual ties to the landscape remain strong for today's Aboriginal people and work is being done to conserve places of significance. You can join an Aboriginal Discovery ranger on a walk, talk or tour to learn more about Aboriginal culture in a number of parks. You can also visit historic European settlement sites throughout the state, such as the convict-built Old Great North Road or the 1860s gold rush town of Hill End. So choose your experience – and remember, local park offices and NPWS visitor centres are a great place to get advice and information.



Join our Aboriginal Discovery rangers for a great park experience



You'll find many unspoiled beaches in NSW National Parks



### CAST A LINE

That perfect fishing spot ... once you find it you'll probably want to keep it to yourself. Throughout the guide you'll find the fishing symbol, indicating parks – including marine parks – open for recreational fishing. You need to carry a NSW fishing licence; contact Industry & Investment NSW on 1300 550 474, [www.licence.nsw.gov.au](http://www.licence.nsw.gov.au) or local fishing shops to apply.

### TRY A KAYAK

Kayaking is a brilliant, low impact way to explore our waterways. Bundeena Kayaking will get you started in the Royal National Park, contact them on 9544 5294, [www.bundeenakayaks.com.au](http://www.bundeenakayaks.com.au), or go with Action Learning Activities in Kosciuszko or Ben Boyd National Park, they're on 02 6457 2788, [www.action-learning.com.au](http://www.action-learning.com.au), and they offer other adventure activities including cross-country skiing, camping and bushwalking.

### VISIT A LIGHTHOUSE

Mysterious and isolated, NSW's historic lighthouses are regional icons, perched on rugged headlands often surrounded by spectacular national parks. Many welcome visitors, some are still functioning and several offer tours and accommodation. Look for the lighthouse symbol in this guide.

### WHALES! WHALES! WHALES!

NSW has adopted whale watching as a major seasonal activity. The great thing about our whales is that they're easily seen from land, and our coastal parks abound with whale watching vantage points. Look for the whale symbol in this guide.

### TAKE SOMETHING AWAY...

Photographers are always welcome in our national parks, photos are one thing we encourage you to take. Late afternoon light through the trees, sunrise and sunset, birds, flowers, wildlife – how could you ever run out of subjects? It's also a great idea to bring a sketchbook or even an easel and paints, to bring out the artist in you. Tri State Safaris can take you on a photographic journey, they're on 08 8088 2389, [www.tristate.com.au](http://www.tristate.com.au)

### A TASTE OF CAVING ADVENTURE

Some of Australia's finest caves systems are within NSW national parks. There are many opportunities for adventure; join a guided tour, go on self-guided tours or contact local caving clubs. Jenolan Caves offers regular adventure caving tours including the Mammoth and Aladdin caves.

## DISCOVERY WALKS, TALKS AND TOURS

It's a simple fact – the more you discover on your park visit, the more you'll enjoy yourself, and the sooner you'll want to come back to explore even more.

You can gain an even greater insight through the Discovery program of walks, talks and tours, developed and led by specialist rangers and designed to help you – and your family – learn more about nature in a fun way. Whether you're five or 95, you can be an explorer, discovering the secrets and unexpected delights of the landscape and its inhabitants.

There are plenty of experiences to choose from, such as tours of Montague Island, the Cape Byron Sustainability Walk and learning about nature's supermarket in Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens. Learn about bush tucker and bush medicine, and how to minimise your impact on the fragile environment. All while enjoying breathtaking scenery and encountering amazing wildlife.

Discovery tours run more frequently over school holidays, however there are many that you can enjoy all year round. Kamay Botany Bay National Park offers the Bare Island Heritage Tour, or you can investigate the Green Gape lightstation at Ben Boyd National Park. Cape Byron and Barrenjoey lighthouses also feature regular Discovery tours, or inspect the Jillabenan and Jersey Caves at Yarrangobilly in Kosciuszko National Park.

Spotlight walks uncover the hidden world of nocturnal wildlife, relaxing canoe tours explore estuaries and freshwater environments, night-time poetry and spooky stories bring historic sites to life.

Along the coast you can learn about fragile sand dunes and the inhabitants of rockpools, or snorkel through marine parks exploring the secrets of underwater life.

There are geological and botanical tours, tag along four-wheel drive tours, and unique opportunities to learn about the culture and traditional lands of Aboriginal communities.

Through the Aboriginal Discovery program, Aboriginal people conduct guided tours in



Discovery tours are great for the kids

parcs and reserves around the state, in areas including the Blue Mountains, Jervis Bay, Sydney's southern outskirts, and western NSW. The guides interpret their cultural heritage, celebrating the close connections between Aboriginal people and their traditional lands.

Discovery walks, talks and tours run throughout the year and there are lots of activities for families and kids during the school holidays. Tours and activities can be tailored to suit the needs of particular

individuals or groups, such as schools, social clubs and conferences.

**For information and booking details, contact individual park offices or check out [www.wildwildworld.com.au](http://www.wildwildworld.com.au)**



## ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

This symbol next to a park description in this guide indicates that certain areas of the park are wheelchair-accessible, to assist people with reduced mobility or sight impaired. Contact individual park offices for more details.

Examples are Dorrigo National Park to the north, Royal National Park in Sydney, Minnamurra Rainforest Centre to the south, and the Warrumbungle National Park out west.

A person with a disability may be accompanied by a trained assistance animal except where areas are closed to the public.

**For more information call local park offices or visit [www.nswnationalparks.com.au](http://www.nswnationalparks.com.au)**



Many parks are accessible to people with disabilities

## RECREATION AND TOUR OPERATORS

Recreation and tour operators play an invaluable role to promote our parks and encourage visitors to appreciate, understand and enjoy them.

Licensed operators offer a wide variety of activities, including coach and bus tours, cultural tours, outdoor education activities, bushwalking, camping, four-wheel driving, rock climbing and abseiling, cross-country skiing, orienteering, wildlife observation, horse riding, fitness training and surfing.

**If you would like to find out more about guided tourism and recreation activities in our national parks and reserves, visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nationalparks/touropoperators.aspx](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nationalparks/touropoperators.aspx)**



Wollumbin Mt. Warning creates a splendid panorama

## CAMPING AND VEHICLE ENTRY FEES

### CAMPING

Wake up to a crisp morning, breakfast cooking in the open air. No traffic and the chorus of birds the only noise – just sit back and let the morning unfold.

Then a walk or perhaps a swim before lunch, a lazy afternoon in the shade and dinner under the stars. That's camping in a NSW national park.

You'll find excellent facilities for camping and caravanning in parks across the state. So many, in fact, that you're sure to find a place to pitch your tent far from neighbours – unless you count inquisitive wildlife such as cheeky possums and lorikeets.

- Park camp grounds range from remote bushland clearings to sites with full vehicle access, flush toilets, hot showers and gas barbecues.
- In the guide, camping is divided into sites that are accessible to caravans or campervans; car-based camping where you can pitch a tent next to your car; and backpack camping, where you'll need to carry your gear in and out, and you'll find minimal or no facilities.
- Camping fees reflect the quality and facilities of the site; check with local park offices for details.



Pitch a tent and immerse yourself in nature

NORTH COAST NSW		
PARK	Camping Fee Levels	Vehicle Entry Fee per Day
Arakoon SCA	Special	
Barrington Tops NP/SCA	1, 2, 3	
Booti Booti NP	4	\$7
Border Ranges NP	2	\$7
Bouddi NP	3, 4	\$7
Brisbane Waters NP		\$7 at Somersby Falls and Girrakool picnic areas
Bundjalung NP	3, 4	\$7
Cape Byron SCA/MP		\$7 (\$2 motorbikes) at Lighthouse precinct
Crowdy Bay NP	2, 3	\$7
Dharug NP	1	
Goolawah NP/RP	2, 3	
Hat Head NP	2	\$7 at Hungry Gate and Smoky Beach
Lake Macquarie SCA	3	
Limeburners Creek NP	3	\$7
Mebbin NP	2	\$7
Mount Royal NP	1	
Munmorah SCA	3	\$7
Myall Lakes NP	3	\$7
New England NP	2	
Nymboi-Binderay NP	2	
Richmond Range NP	2	
Toonumbar NP	2	
Wallingat NP	2	
Tyagarah NR		\$7
Victoria Park NR		\$7
Watagans NP	1	
Werrikimbe NP	1	
Whian Whian SCA	3	
Woko NP	3	
Yuraygir NP	1, 3	\$7

SYDNEY AND SURROUNDS		
PARK	Camping Fee Levels	Vehicle Entry Fee per Day
Abercrombie River NP	1	
Bents Basin SCA	4	\$7
Berowra Valley RP	3	
Blue Mountains NP	1, 3	\$7 at Glenbrook
Cattai NP	3	\$7
Garigal NP		\$7 at Davidson Park
Georges River NP		\$7
Heathcote NP	2	
Kamay Botany Bay NP		\$7
Kanangra-Boyd NP	1	\$7
Ku-ring-gai Chase NP	4	\$11
Lane Cove NP	Special	\$7
Marramarra NP	1	
Nattai NP	1	
Parr SCA	1	
Royal NP	2, 4	\$11
Sydney Harbour NP		Fees apply at most locations
Turon NP	1	
Wollemi NP	1, 2	
Yengo NP	2, 3, 4	

CAMPING FEE LEVELS PER NIGHT	Adult	Child
1	free	free
2	\$5	\$3
3	\$10	\$5
4	\$14	\$7

Perhaps a swim before lunch,  
a lazy afternoon in the shade  
and dinner under the stars...



Access Woody Head from the camping ground in Bundjalung National Park

Whatever you choose, you can look forward to cosy nights and sweet dreams in nature's wonderland.

These are just some of the parks that offer excellent camping options:

#### NORTH COAST

Barrington NP/SCA – Polblue camping area, Yuraygir NP, Myall Lakes NP, Bundjalung NP – Woody Head camping area

#### SYDNEY AND SURROUNDS

Cattai NP, Kanangra Boyd NP, Boudi NP, Ku-ring-gai Chase NP – The Basin camping area

#### SOUTH COAST

Mimosa Rocks NP, Morton NP, Deua NP, Hobart Beach camping area in Bournda NP, Eurobodalla NP – Congo campground

#### SNOWY MOUNTAINS

Kosciuszko NP – Blue Waterholes and Bullocks Hill

#### HEART OF COUNTRY

Coolah Tops NP, Warrumbungle NP

#### OUTBACK NSW

Mungo NP, Mutawintji NP, Paroo-Darling NP – Coach and Horses campground at nearby Wilga State Forest

SOUTH COAST		
PARK	Camping Fee Levels	Vehicle Entry Fee per Day
Ben Boyd NP	3	
Bournda NP	3	\$7
Budderoo NP		\$11 at Minnamurra
Deua NP	1, 2	
Eurobodalla NP	1, 3	
Mimosa Rocks NP	3	
Morton NP	1, 3	\$3 at Fitzroy Falls, \$7 at Bundanoon
Murramarang NP	3, 4	\$7
Nattai NP	1	
South East Forest NP	1	
Wadbilliga NP	1	

SNOWY MOUNTAINS		
PARK	Camping Fee Levels	Vehicle Entry Fee per Day
Kosciuszko NP	1	\$27 – winter season \$16 – outside winter season

OUTBACK		
PARK	Camping Fee Levels	Vehicle Entry Fee per Day
Culgoa NP	1	
Gundabooka NP	2	
Kinchega NP	2	\$7
Mungo NP	2	\$7
Mutawintji NP	2	
Paroo-Darling NP/SCA	2	
Sturt NP	2	\$7

HEART OF COUNTRY		
PARK	Camping Fee Levels	Vehicle Entry Fee per Day
Abercrombie KCR	Special	
Bald Rock NP	3	\$7
Boonoo Boonoo NP	3	\$7
Brindabella NP	1	
Bungonia SCA	3	\$7
Cathedral Rock NP	2	
Cocoparra NP	1	
Conimbla NP	1	
Coolah Tops NP	1	
Gibraltar Range NP	1, 2, 3	\$7
Goobang NP	1	
Goulburn River NP	1	
Guy Fawkes River NP	2	
Hill End HS	2, 3	
Koreelah NP	2	
Kwiambal NP	2	
Mann River NR	1	
Mount Canobolas	1	
Mount Kaputar	2	
Nangar NP	1	
Oxley Wild Rivers NP	1, 2, 3	
Torrington SCA	2	
Towarri NP	3	
Warrabah NP	1, 2	
Warrumbungle NP	1, 2, 3	\$7
Washpool NP	1, 2	\$7
Weddin Mountains NP	1	
Willandra NP	2	\$7
Woomargama NR	1	
Wombeyan KCR	Special	
Yanga NP	1	

## AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL LANDSCAPES

Australia's National Landscapes are the best of our country's natural, cultural and spiritual wonders – including, of course, our national parks. They are our experiencescapes.

National landscapes encourage conservation partnerships that go beyond traditional park and state boundaries. The initiative

also helps promote co-operation in tourism infrastructure and marketing, ensuring that visitors from Australia and around the world can access these world class landscapes – so distinctive to Australia, and so valuable to the world. The following National Landscapes are located in NSW:

### GREATER BLUE MOUNTAINS

The awe-inspiring Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area comprises one million hectares of dramatic cliffs, forested valleys, deep canyons, waterfalls and pristine bushland. The limestone Jenolan Caves are the oldest discovered in the world, and the cave and karst system support a fascinating ecosystem. Six Aboriginal language groups have connection to this land.

### AUSTRALIA'S GREEN CAULDRON

This vast caldera is the remnant of an ancient shield volcano, which stretches from Byron Bay to the Gold Coast, and west towards the Great Dividing Range. It includes several World Heritage listed parks like Wollumbin/Mount Warning, which has special meaning for Indigenous communities, as well as other magnificent parks and reserves featuring a huge diversity of rare flora and fauna, subtropical rainforests and a breathtaking rim of mountain ranges.

### AUSTRALIA'S COASTAL WILDERNESS

Australia's Coastal Wilderness is where tall forests, lakes and beaches meet. It's a land of whales, seabirds, fresh ocean breezes and precious ecosystems protected in parks such as Ben Boyd, Mimosa Rocks and Bournda. It's a place to indulge your senses with fresh wine and seafood – oysters, prawns and salmon are local specialities. You'll discover fascinating Aboriginal and European history all along this region, including middens at Merimbula and the whaling history of Eden – where these magnificent creatures are now welcome visitors.

### THE AUSTRALIAN ALPS

Sixteen national parks and reserves in the Australian Alps – including Mount Kosciuszko and Brindabella – are part of the Australian Alps National Landscape.

Spanning one territory, two states and around 5 million hectares, the Australian Alps offer breathtaking vistas and year-round opportunities for outdoor adventure, including skiing, mountain biking, rafting, four wheel driving, horse riding and hiking, or taking in the wildflower-covered plains.

The Alps feature diverse landscapes; from low foothills to rolling summits, 20 plant species found nowhere else in the world, and unique animals like the corroboree frog.

For more information on Australia's National Landscapes visit:  
[www.australia.com/campaigns/nationallandscapes/index.htm](http://www.australia.com/campaigns/nationallandscapes/index.htm)



View from Boyds Tower Lookout, Ben Boyd National Park - Australia's Coastal Wilderness National Landscape

### RIVER RED GUM FORESTS OF THE RIVERINA

The forests of the Riverina are exceptional places. They have an abundance of plants, animals and birds, are significant to Aboriginal people and are important to the local and regional communities that surround them.

There are almost 66,000 ha of new national parks, over 15,000 ha of new regional parks and 21,500 ha of Indigenous protected areas. Together with existing parks in Victoria, they now form the world's largest area of protected river red gums in conservation reserves in the world.

You can enjoy these magnificent forests today, knowing they are protected for the future. Activities you can do in the parks include camping, boating, fishing, walking and bird watching.

For information on these parks visit [www.riverredgums.nsw.gov.au](http://www.riverredgums.nsw.gov.au)



Majestic river red gums on the Murray river

*Future generations  
rely on us to keep  
these sites pristine  
and protected*



Protestors Falls in Nightcap National Park  
- part of the Gondwana Rainforests of  
Australia World Heritage Area

## GREAT EASTERN RANGES

The Great Eastern Ranges stretch from the Australian Alps in NSW and Victoria to the Atherton Tablelands in Queensland, and beyond, forming one of Australia's largest conservation corridors. It comprises the Great Dividing Range and the Great Escarpment, mountainous ranges and escarpments that separate Australia's eastern coastal fringe from the plains and the interior. They are the backyard to our cities; places we visit for recreation and to restore our spirits.

They are home to many of Australia's treasures of World Heritage listed national parks, alpine areas, forests, woodlands and rainforests. They store carbon in their vast forests, breathing out oxygen we breathe in, and contribute to our prosperity by sustaining agriculture, tourism and industry. They are a refuge for our richest biodiversity, containing 66% of the threatened species in New South Wales, and are the source of our clean water, catching and filtering the rain that feeds into our rivers and dams, providing drinking water for our cities.

The Great Eastern Ranges Initiative co-ordinates the activities of six parties – Bush Heritage Australia, Greening Australia, National Parks Association of NSW, Nature Conservation Trust of NSW, DECCW and OzGREEN. Together, they'll work to maintain and improve long-term connectivity conservation of mountain ecosystems running the length of eastern Australia. **For more information, visit [www.greasternranges.org.au](http://www.greasternranges.org.au)**

## WORLD HERITAGE AREAS IN NSW

World Heritage Areas are listed for the outstanding universal value of their natural and/or cultural heritage.

Protected by international convention, the World Heritage areas within NSW National Parks provide many opportunities for visitors to explore and discover the exceptional heritage values of these sites, including The Old Great North Road (part of the newly-inscribed Australian Convict sites), the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia, the Greater Blue Mountains, Lord Howe Island Group and the Willandra Lakes Region.

The convict-built Old Great North Road is one of NSW's Australian Convict Sites (along with the Cockatoo Island convict site, Hyde Park Barracks and Old Government House and Domain in the Greater Sydney area). Today, 43 km of the original Great North Road remain relatively intact. The Road runs through and alongside Dharug and Yengo National Parks, from Wisemans Ferry north to Mount Manning near Bucketty and features the oldest surviving stone bridges in mainland Australia. The Devines Hill and Finches Line sections (7.5 km) in Dharug National Park are included in the World Heritage site and show spectacular and beautifully prepared examples of stonework including buttresses and high retaining walls. The road is open to explore on foot or bicycle but closed to motor vehicles and makes a great bushwalk over two or three days or an exhilarating day's cycle.

The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1986 (and extended in 1994 under the former name of the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves). This World Heritage Area comprises some 42 reserves and includes the most extensive areas of subtropical rainforest in the world, large areas of warm temperate rainforest and nearly all remaining Antarctic beech cool temperate rainforest. Few places on earth contain so many plants and animals relatively unchanged from their fossil ancestors.

High waterfalls crashing into steep gorges, abundant bird life and the stillness of a rainforest unchanged over the eons are just some of the experiences on offer. Exploring these rainforests is easy with many reserves accessible by road from major towns.

Stretching into south-east Queensland, a section of the Gondwana Rainforests is within Australia's Green Cauldron National Landscape. These National Landscapes are inspirational locations which capture the essence of Australia and provide world-class visitor experiences.

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000, the Greater Blue Mountains Area consists of 1.03 million ha of sandstone plateaux, escarpments and gorges dominated by temperate eucalypt forest. The site, comprising eight protected areas, was listed for its representation of the evolutionary adaptation and diversification of the eucalypts in Australia's post-Gondwana isolation. More than 100 different eucalypt species are found within the Greater Blue Mountains Area, some 13% of the world's eucalypt variety.

Six Aboriginal language groups have connection to the Country of the Area, which is scattered with Dreaming and rock art sites; over 600,000 hectares are declared as wilderness. This ancient area of extraordinary geodiversity conserves whole ecosystems of unique biodiversity.

The Greater Blue Mountains Area is also a National Landscape, promoting Australia's nature and culture to the world.

The Lord Howe Island Group (LHIG) features oceanic islands and mountains of volcanic origin, dramatic rock formations and a rich biodiversity featuring some of the most spectacular landscapes on Earth. The surrounding waters are home to an unusual mix of temperate and tropical organisms and support the world's southernmost true coral reef system. The LHIG protects cloud forests, diverse low-lying rainforests, palm forests and coastal plant communities. There are over 241 species of native plants, including many that are endemic or listed as endangered. It is an important seabird site, supporting large colonies of nesting seabirds as well as endemic land birds such as the Woodhen.

The LHIG was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1982 and is managed by the Lord Howe Island Board, a NSW Statutory Authority, to help conserve and care for the values for which it was inscribed.

The Willandra Lakes Region, which includes parts of Mungo National Park, is listed for both natural and cultural values as it provides outstanding examples of evolutionary history, ongoing geological processes and an exceptional testimony to a past civilisation.

It covers an extensive area that contains a system of ancient lakes formed over the last 2 million years, most of which are fringed by a crescent shaped dune or lunette. The remains of a large number of animals have been found in the region.

Aboriginal people have lived on the shores of the lakes for at least 50,000 years. In 1968, excavations uncovered Mungo Lady in the dunes of Lake Mungo. At 40,000 years old, this is believed to be the world's oldest site of ritual cremation. Mungo Man was also uncovered nearby and dated the same period. More recent discoveries have included the fossilised footprints left by Aboriginal people some 23,000 years ago as they walked in the wet clay of the lake system.

**For more information on Australia's World Heritage Areas visit:  
[www.environment.gov.au/heritage](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage)**



Eagle Rock in Royal National Park

## DOGS AND OTHER PETS IN PARKS

It can be hard leaving the family pet at home sometimes, but when it comes to national parks, it's for a good cause.

National parks and reserves are refuges for native animals, who see dogs as predators. One reason dogs and other domestic pets are not allowed in national parks is that the lasting scent they leave can scare small animals and birds away from their homes, often causing them to leave their young unprotected.

In regional parks however, you're welcome to walk your dog on a leash. These parks, like Western Sydney Regional Park, are pleasant open spaces where the environment has changed or been modified over time, and where certain recreational activities that may not be permitted in national parks – like dog walking – can be enjoyed. Please remember to take a plastic bag to clean up after your dog.

A person with a disability may be accompanied by a trained assistance animal (guide dogs, hearing dogs, etc) in a park, other than in areas closed to the public.

**For more details phone 1300 361 967 or see the detailed regional parks listing on our website.**

**For information on walking your dog in state forests, phone Forests NSW on 9871 3377.**

## THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW), comprising the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, is the NSW government agency primarily responsible for working with the community to protect and conserve our environment.

Other agencies within the Environment, Climate change and Water Agency cluster include Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust, Lord Howe Island Board, Sydney Catchment Authority, Taronga Conservation Society Australia and WSN Environmental Solutions.

DECCW has a major role in managing national parks and reserves, which cover more than 8% of NSW. This includes World Heritage areas, rainforests, beaches, culturally significant places and alpine areas. Our parks and reserves play an important role in improving the wellbeing and health of the community; with this in mind we encourage people to visit and enjoy the parks in a way that does not harm the natural and cultural environment.

**For more information on the environment and the work of the department, visit [www.environment.nsw.com.au](http://www.environment.nsw.com.au)**

Photography: TOP: B. Sullivan / DECCW; BOTTOM: H. Lund / Courtesy Tourism NSW



Rangers can give advice on protecting our parks

## HELP US CONTROL PESTS!

Introduced species such as lantana and foxes pose a huge threat to our native flora and fauna. With help from volunteers, DECCW undertakes many pest animal control and bush regeneration programs.

Here are some ways you can help:

- Don't dump unwanted animals, such as kittens, or garden waste in the bush.
- De-sex and microchip your pet cat or dog.
- Keep cats and dogs inside at night, especially at dusk when many native animals are active.
- Look out for new pest invasions in your area, eg cane toads, fire ants. Report to 1300 361 967.
- Keep to walking tracks in parks.
- Join a landcare or bush regeneration group.

Your local nursery or council can advise you on the most suitable plants for your garden, helping you avoid plants that may become weed problems. Booklets such as Grow Me Instead ([www.sydneyweeds.org.au/docs/Grow-Me-Instead.pdf](http://www.sydneyweeds.org.au/docs/Grow-Me-Instead.pdf)) can help you choose the best options.



A show of Darling Pea Flowers after rain in Paroo Darling National Park

## TREAD SOFTLY

National parks are special areas and it's up to us to treat them with care while bushwalking, camping or vehicle touring.

Here's how to keep your impact to a minimum.

### WHEN WALKING

- Stay on the track. Walking on track edges and cutting corners on zigzagging tracks increases erosion.
- Avoid walking on sensitive vegetation by staying on rocks and hard ground wherever possible.
- Tread softly, wearing running shoes or lightweight walking boots.

### WHEN CAMPING

- Use designated fireplaces in camping areas and observe fire bans. Off the beaten track, use a fuel stove rather than wood (dead wood provides habitat for native animals).
- Use rubbish bins or, better still, take rubbish with you when you leave. Please don't bury it as animals dig it up.
- If you must use detergents, toothpaste or soap, stay at least 50 metres from waterways. In areas without toilets, dig a hole 15cm deep at least 100 metres from waterways to bury human waste.
- Don't feed native animals – it can damage their health and make them dependent on camping areas for food.
- Wherever possible leave everything as you find it.
- Leave pets, firearms, spearguns, generators and chainsaws at home.

For more details on camping, see page 8, and for more information on minimising impact when walking or camping visit our website.

### WHEN VEHICLE TOURING

- Keep your vehicle in good working order – for safety and to prevent oil and fuel spills.
- Use designated park entrances so you don't disturb park neighbours. Also check that there are no weeds caught in your tyres or under your car.
- Follow existing routes and tracks. Avoid driving on the edges so you don't widen them, but be alert for oncoming traffic.
- Avoid dazzling wildlife with high beam, spotlights or powerful driving lights.
- Cross creeks only at designated crossings, and approach at 90° to avoid damaging the banks.
- If you're with a group, keep the number of vehicles to a minimum.

Please note that in line with the NSW Government commitment to reducing the amount of rubbish going to landfill, new waste and recycling facilities have been installed in several reserves. Several reserves no longer have rubbish facilities, and visitors are asked to take their rubbish and sort recyclables at home for disposal.



Enjoy gentle relaxation near Sydney Harbour

*Working together to care for these precious parks and reserves brings joy to us all*