

Welcome

to the 2011 Guide to Kosciuszko National Park

Kosciuszko National Park is the largest national park in NSW and one of the largest conservation reserves in Australia. The Park was declared in 1944 and is now a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. It contains continental Australia's highest mountains as well as a great variety of outstanding scenery, natural features and plant and animal communities.

Snow sports are the big attraction in winter, but in the warmer months you can admire the alpine wildflowers, visit historic homesteads or explore Yarrangobilly Caves. Many lower-altitude walks are worth taking throughout the year. There are also scenic drives through the park including the Alpine Way between Jindabyne and Khancoban.

If you feel like being more active, or want to try a new outdoor activity, there are experienced tour guides licensed to work within the park who will ensure that you venture into spectacular country safely.

There are so many ways to discover Kosciuszko whether it's by car, bike or on foot. In this guide, you'll find maps and details on what to see and do. You're sure to discover something truly memorable.

PARK ENTRY FEES

Ever wondered how your park entry fees are used? Many projects that help protect our natural and cultural heritage wouldn't be possible without your help. There are also new visitor facilities being constructed so you can keep finding new ways to enjoy all that Kosciuszko has to offer.

MT KOSCIUSZKO IN FULL VIEW

The newly constructed Mt Stilwell Track will take you to a new lookout with some of the most spectacular views of Mt Kosciuszko. See page 13 for walk details.

A GREAT RIDE FOR THE FAMILY

You and your family can already enjoy walking or riding on part of the new Thredbo Valley Track and there is more to come. The planned track will meander along the Thredbo Valley linking Skitube and Thredbo Village. See page 21 for

SAVING BIODIVERSITY FROM **ORANGE HAWKWEED INVASION**

Each December and February volunteers assist NPWS staff to find orange hawkweed while it is flowering. Orange hawkweed is highly invasive and easily transported and is a significant threat to the biodiversity of the Australian Alps.

If you see orange hawkweed (below), take notes or a GPS point or grid reference, draw a map and mark the site with something visible (so we can return to find the plant) then report it to the nearest NPWS office. Do not pick or disturb it.

It will take time, vigilance and support to remove orange hawkweed from the park. We couldn't do it without funding from park entry fees and without the help of our volunteers.

If you would like to become a volunteer please call the Khancoban office for details (02) 6076 9373.



RESTORATION AND RENEWAL

Kiandra's renewal is centred on the restoration of the 'Kiandra Courthouse and Chalet'. While restoration is about bricks and mortar, renewal is about putting people back in the picture at Kiandra.

Annual exhibitions and events are central to drawing people back to Kiandra. They offer Kiandra's descendants and researchers an opportunity to share their knowledge and connection while helping visitors appreciate Kiandra's history and social significance in order to build their own connections.

If you are interested in finding out more about Kiandra's upcoming events contact Tumut Region Visitor Centre (02) 6947 7025.

NORTHERN LOOKOUTS OFFER MORE THAN GREAT VIEWS

The new Black Perry Lookout on the Snowy Mountains Highway is just one of many new and spectacular lookouts in the north of Kosciuszko National Park built over the last

Why not drive the Northern Lookout Loop? This takes in some of the best views in the park at Black Perry Lookout, Landers Falls Lookout, Big Talbingo Lookout, Yarrangobilly Lookout, Wallaces Creek Lookout and Cabramurra Lookout.

See page 6-7 for our self-guided drive tours and look for 🛣 or contact Tumut Region Visitor Centre for details (02) 6947 7025.

We bought an annual pass so we can drive

straight to the snow - and we save money

TYPE OF PASS	NSW October to June long weekends NON-WINTER	weekenas	Includes winter surcharge ALL YEAR	BENEFITS
Vehicle day pass	\$16	\$27		24 hour park entry
Motorcycle day pass	\$6	\$11		24 hour park entry
Bus passenger (adult) [Bus has more than 8 seats]	\$6.60	\$11.45		24 hour park entry
Bus passenger (child) [Bus has more than 8 seats]	\$2.20	\$3.60		24 hour park entry
Short Breaks Pass	\$64	NA		5 days for the price of 4
Annual All Parks Pass	 	 		Vehicle entry to ALL parks in NSW, including Kosciuszko.
2nd household annual All Parks Pass	 	 	\$95	Half price vehicle entry to ALL parks in NSW, including Kosciuszko
2 year annual All Parks Pass	 			Save \$45 off vehicle entry to ALL parks in NSW, including Kosciuszko
2nd household 2 year annual All Parks Pass				Less than half price vehicle entry to ALL parks in NSW, including Kosciuszko
Replacement annual All Parks Pass—administration fee	 	 	\$6	



DETAILED PARK MAP 10-11 **WALKS IN**

CAMPING

WINTER IN

adventures.

KOSCIUSZKO

KOSCIUSZKO

ACCOMMODATION

COMMERCIAL TOURS

Snowsports are a big attraction in

Drive to places like no other-

winter and there are plenty of options.

DRIVES IN KOSCIUSZKO 6-9

Australia's highest mountains, diverse

cultural history. There are also unsealed roads for memorable four-wheel drive

landscapes and places with a rich

DISCOVERY AND

3

3

3

4-5

Kosciuszko National Park has lots of beautiful walks. Many can be walked year round but some are only revealed when the winter snow melts. In the lower areas there are charming river walks and spectacular caves to explore.

TRAILS IN **KOSCIUSZKO** 18-21

Beyond Kosciuszko's walking tracks are a network of management trails suitable for walking and mountain bike riding as well as horseriding.

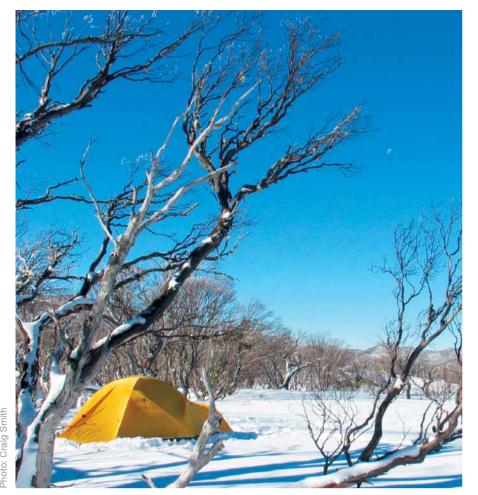
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LAST YEAR'S FRONT COVER **PHOTO APOLOGY**

We would like to apologise for incorrectly crediting one of last years front cover photos, Mountain biking at Lake Crackenback. It was attributed to Tourism Snowy Mountains but should have been attributed to photographer Lisa Hogben.

Photography: FRONT COVER Snowy River at Charlotte Pass, Murray Vanderveer.

THIS PAGE Murray Vanderveer; Orange Hawkweed, OEH; the newly restored Kiandra Courthouse and Chalet, OEH.



Camping

The stars will look brighter when you stay a night in Kosciuszko. The crystal clear air will refresh even the most tired spirits.

No campground fees apply but you will need to pay a general park use fee per vehicle. There are also a few things you will need to consider before you stretch out for the night.

- Camping areas with fireplaces and toilets are provided along major roads throughout the park. Car-based camping is permitted in these areas only.
- Walk-in camping is permitted in most areas except day-use (picnic) areas, resort areas, parts of the alpine area, Yarrangobilly Caves and within 200 metres of any public road.
- Timber is not provided at camping areas so bring your own. In alpine areas, you must only use a fuel stove all year

CAMPER TRAILERS

Some camping areas are suitable for access by camper trailers. Check with one of our visitor centres for details.

Some suggestions are the Blowering foreshore or Rock Flat in the north, Thredbo Diggings, Tom Groggin and Geehi along the Alpine Way in the south of the park.

Our commercial tour guide knew all the best spots in the park

NPWS licensed tour operators

Reynella Rides—(02) 6454 2386 www.reynellarides.com.au

Snowy Mountains Climbing School—(02) 6076 9101 www.snowymtns.com

Wilderness Sports Pty Ltd—(02) 6456 2966 www.wildernesssports.com.au

Wild Women on Top-0434 027 912 www.WildWomenOnTop.com

Snowy Monaro Fly Fishing (Paul Bourne) - (02) 6452 7650 www.snowymonaroflyfishing.com.au

This list provides an overview of what may be available during 2012. Some licences become due for renewal during 2012 and others operators not listed may become licensed. Operators reserve the right to change activities offered at any time. Contact one of our visitor centres for up-to-date information. AAT Kings-1300 556100 Action Learning Initiatives Pty Ltd-(02) 6457 2788 www.action-learning.com.au Adventure Tours Australia (Oz Experience)—(02) 8305 3403 www.adventuretours.com.au Andrew Matenson Fly Fishing-0403 053 566 Aurora People-0403 966 426 Australian Eco Adventures-(02) 9971 2402 Australian School of Mountaineering - (02) 5445 7625 www.asmguides.com Australian Wild Escapes - 9980 8799 Auswalk-03 5356 4971 www.auswalk.com.au Clearwater Flyfishing Guides-0417 240 797 Cochran Family Tradition Horse Treks—(02) 6454 2336 www.cochranhorsetreks.com.au Collaroy Centre (Salvation Army Eastern) - (02) 9982 9800 Flamin Galah Tours-(02) 9977 7890 Follow That Bird-(02) 9973 1865 Getabout 4WD Adventures-(02) 8822 5656 Great Divide Tours-(02) 9913 1395 www.4wd.net.au Higher Ground Pty Ltd-(07) 5463 2799 www.higherground.com.au interNATIONAL PARKtours-(07) 5533 3583 Jindabyne Sport & Recreation Centre-(02) 6450 0200 K7 Kosciuszko Adventures-(02) 6457 7404 www.k7adventures.com Kosciuszko Alpine Guided Walks-Novotel Lake Crackenback Resort-(02) 6451 3000 Kosciuszko Thredbo Outdoor Adventures—(02) 6459 4100 www.thredbo.com.au Land's Edge Coastal Interpretation—(02) 4234 3278 www.landsedge.com.au Match The Hatch Fly Fishing-0458 548 565 Misty Mountain 4WD Tours—(02) 4757 2278 www.4wdtours.net.au Mountain Adventure Centre (Paddy Pallin)—(02) 6456 2922 www.mountainadventurecentre.com.au Murray Vanderveer-0414 332 777 Nature Bound Australia Tours - 07 3254 1911 www.natureboundaustralia.co Outback Track Tours - (02) 9439 8236 Outdoor Insights- (02) 6162 1710 Outward Bound-(02) 6235 5700 www.outwardbound.org.au Park Trek-(03) 9877 9540 www.parktrek.com Rafting Australia-(02) 6077 1164

AUSTRALIAN ALPS CAMPING CODES

- Plan ahead. Think about weather, equipment and safety.
- Camp on a firm dry spot. In snow, camp well away from ski trails and resorts but within skiing distance of a toilet.
- Camp and wash well away from water at least 30 metres, 50 metres is best.
- Carry it in, carry it out—don't bury any rubbish in the snow.
- Got to 'go'? Use a toilet or take a walk—at least 100 metres from water and campsites. Dig 15cm deep into soil (below any snow) and cover well. In deep snow, consider carrying it out in suitable containers or go close to snow gums.
- Always take a suitable tent— huts are for emergencies only and maps may show huts that have burnt down.
- · Wear lightweight shoes around camp.
- Keep your group small—4–8 is best.
- Use a fuel stove. Quicker for you, better for the bush. A must above the treeline—no woodfires are permitted in the alpine area at any time of year.
- In snow covered areas, dig an 'ice kitchen' near your tent and cook there fill it in when you leave.
- Use only dead fallen wood (chainsaws prohibited) in fireplaces and make sure the fire is out before you leave. Better still, leave timber as habitat and bring your own wood.
- Feed yourself not the animals.
- Keep fires in hut fireplaces only.
- Tell someone who cares where you are going and for how long. Let them know when you return.
- Check the weather—don't go out with bad weather approaching.
- For your safety, avoid camping under overhanging trees.

ACCOMMODATION

Stay at Currango Homestead (page 15) or Yarrangobilly's Historic Caves House (page 17) in the north or Creel Lodge (page 12) near Jindabyne. You will need to book so you don't miss out. Call Tumut Region Visitor Centre (02) 6947 7025 for Currango and Caves House and Snowy Region Visitor Centre (02) 6450 5600 for Creel Lodge.

Commercial accommodation is also available within the park at Thredbo, Perisher, Smiggin Holes, Charlotte Pass, Guthega, Diggers Creek and Wilsons Valley. Some of this accommodation is available only during the winter months for individual bookings but available during summer for functions and group bookings. Sawpit Creek has a commercial camping and caravan park with cabins available year round.

DISCOVER MOUNTAINS, HISTORY AND CULTURE

Let one of our Discovery rangers guide you to a mountain peak—a great way to learn about alpine biodiversity. You can also learn about bush tucker from local Indigenous people or enjoy a cuppa in an historic hut. There is also the Kosciuszko Education Centre at Sawpit Creek to explore. It is open to the public for part of the NSW summer and autumn school holidays.

There are affordable discovery activities for everyone. Most run during holiday periods, but some activities run throughout the year. Discovery tours have limited numbers to ensure a great experience for everyone. This means that bookings are essential.

For more information go to www.nswnationalparks.com.au