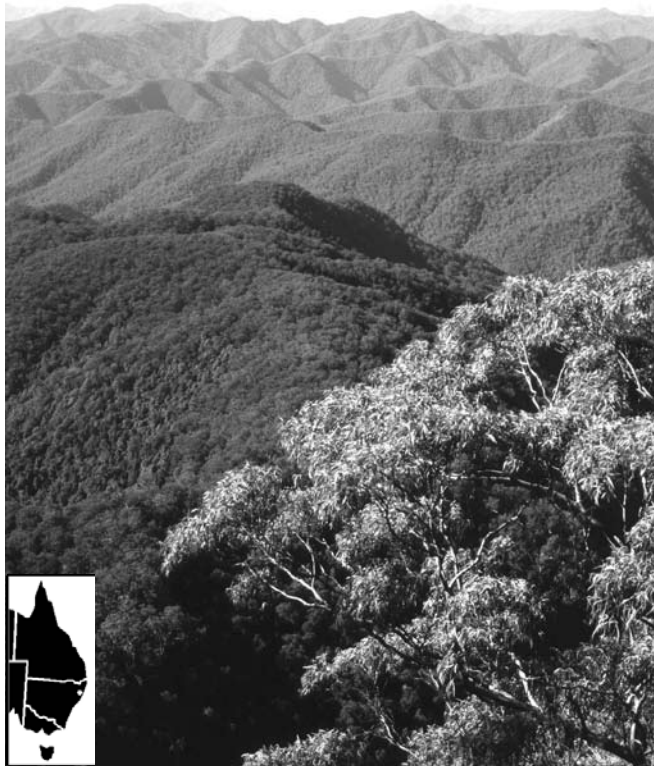




NSW National Parks  
and Wildlife Service

# New England NATIONAL PARK

*Gondwana Rainforests of  
Australia World Heritage Area*



View from Point Lookout



Department of **Environment & Climate Change** NSW



## Welcome to Country

New England National Park straddles the traditional boundaries of the Dunghutti, Anaiwan and Gumbaynggirr Peoples. In caring for these lands, we show our respect for Elders past and present, and their strong spiritual and cultural connection to this Country.

## A special place

The Great Escarpment is the significant landscape feature of this expansive and diverse park that links the New England Tablelands with the hinterland of the North Coast. Perched atop these dramatic basalt cliffs, Point Lookout provides breathtaking views over the Bellinger, Nambucca and Macleay river valleys.

In the late 1920s, local grazier Phillip Wright began a campaign to preserve this area as a national park. Nearly 17,000 hectares were declared a reserve in 1935 and officially opened by Governor General Lord Gowrie in 1937.

In 1986 New England National Park was inscribed on the World Heritage List in recognition of its outstanding natural heritage values. Much of the park's 72,241 hectares is a Wilderness Area, providing an undisturbed refuge for flora and fauna into the future.

## Getting there

The Point Lookout area of the park is 85 kilometres east of Armidale and is entered via Point Lookout Road off the Waterfall Way. Travelling west from the coast, the park is 75 kilometres from Dorrigo. The last 11 kilometres is a good gravel road.

The lookout at Killiekrankie Mountain is 50 kms south-west of Bellingen or 42 kms north-west of Bowraville along the unsealed Horseshoe Road.

Check road conditions for all other access roads.

## Looking after our parks

- Enjoy watching wild animals but don't interfere or offer food as it may make them sick or aggressive. All plants are protected.
- Firearms, chainsaws and domestic pets are not permitted and firewood may not be collected.
- Keep the park clean and safe for wildlife by taking your rubbish home to recycle.
- In camping and picnic areas, use only the fireplaces provided and observe all total fire bans.
- Please drive carefully and stay on formed roads. Off-road driving is not permitted.
- All vehicles must be registered and all drivers licenced.

**Please note:** Bookings cannot be made in advance for Thungutti Camping Area. Sites are available on a first in/first served basis.

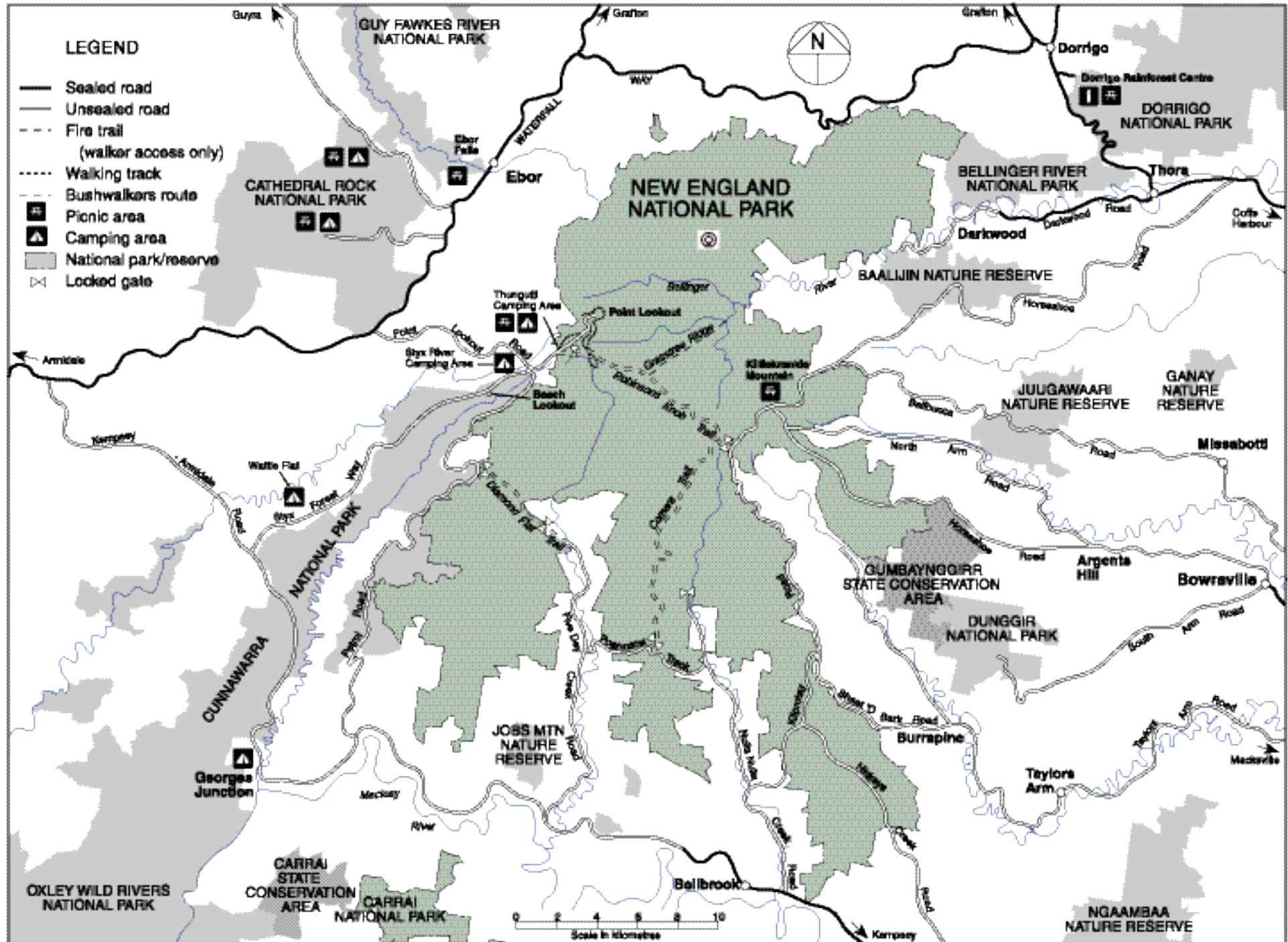
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# New England NATIONAL PARK - Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area



# New England NATIONAL PARK

## Things to see and do

### Point Lookout



At 1564 metres above sea level, Point Lookout provides spectacular views of the near vertical escarpment. Below are deep valleys clothed in forest. A magnificent panorama stretching to the north, east and south is framed by the Pacific Ocean 70 kilometres away. Wheelchair access to the first of two viewing platforms is along a 100 metre sealed path from the carpark. Accessible toilets are nearby.

Picnic areas are located at Berarngutta, just west of Point Lookout, and Banksia Point, one kilometre south. Both have picnic tables, wood barbecues, water and toilets.

### Thungutti Camping Area

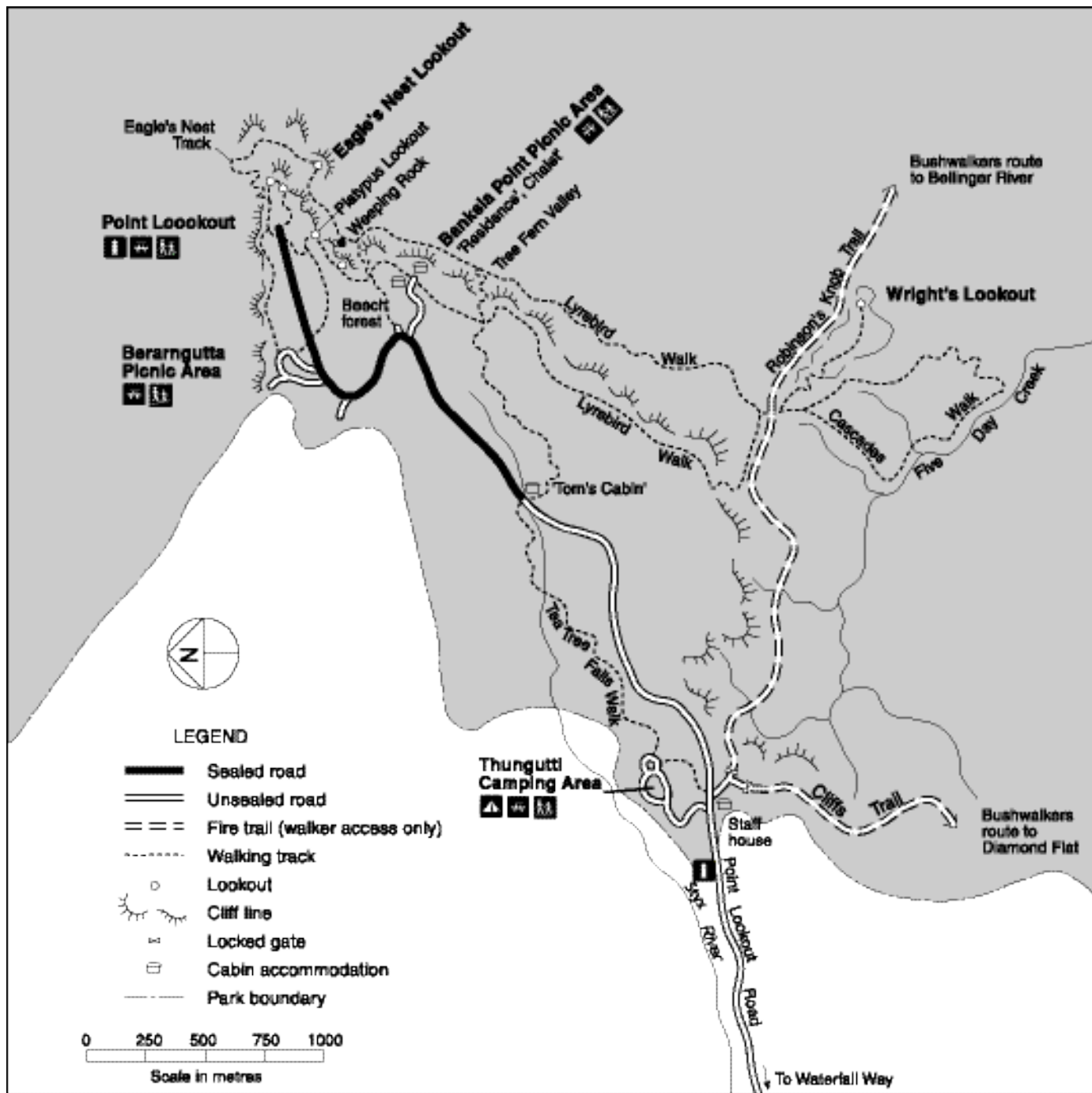


Located just inside the Park entrance on Point Lookout Road, this camping area has sites tucked away in small clearings close to carparks, and also secluded walk-in bush campsites. There is a large cooking shelter with gas barbecues. Drinking water, firewood and a cold shower are provided. Be prepared for cool weather at any time of year.

Overnight camping fees apply to all overnight visitors. Payment is by self-registration and there are no bookings required.



Caravans and camper trailers are better located at the Styx River Camping Area two kilometres outside the Park. Toilets and barbecues are available in a peaceful setting beside the Styx River. The closest caravan parks are at Armidale and Dorrigo.



Point Lookout visitor precinct, 25 kilometres from Ebor.



## Accommodation

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There are three self-contained cabins in the park ranging in style from a simple bushwalkers' cabin with solar lighting, to larger cabins with more facilities. Bookings for the Residence, the Chalet and Toms Cabin can be made up to six months in advance. For more information contact the NPWS Dorrigo Plateau Office on 02 6657 2309.

There is a hotel-motel in Ebor (20 mins drive) and a choice of privately-run cabins nearby.

## Walking Tracks

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From Point Lookout you can explore the nearby escarpment on walking tracks ranging from an easy stroll to longer and more challenging half-day or day walks. Map signs are provided at each track intersection, giving advice on distances and walking times.



**The Eagles Nest Track** is a popular 2.5km (1 hour 45 min) circuit that features lookouts, basalt cliffs, weeping rockfaces and mossy Antarctic Beech forest - there are some steep sections. Look for icicles on Weeping Rock on cold mornings!



Continue on the **Lyrebird Walk** for a further two kilometres via Tree Fern Valley (add one hour), or enjoy the Lyrebird Walk circuit from Banksia Point (seven kilometres - steep and slippery sections). Venture on to Wrights Lookout for a full day out.



Follow a fire trail from the park entrance to where the **Cascades Walk** enters Antarctic Beech forest near **Wright's Lookout**. Beech orchids flower here in spring. Explore the splashing cascades of Five Day Creek (six kilometres, three hours return from the park entrance). Medium difficulty - recommended for experienced walkers only.



**Tea Tree Falls Walk** is a delightful short walk from the Thungutti camping area which follows a clear cold creek through forest and eucalypt woodland to Tom's Cabin. An easy one hour return.

## Wilderness

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New England National Park contains a significant Wilderness Area of more than 52,000 hectares. Wilderness is a large area of natural land, where genetic diversity and natural cycles remain essentially unaltered.

Many interesting walking routes can be planned and guidebooks are available at the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre. The Minimal Impact Bushwalking code should be followed on all walks into wilderness areas.

Bushwalkers descending from the escarpment must be prepared for rough conditions and slow progress and take maps, compass, water, food and camping gear. Rivers and streams can rise rapidly after heavy rain in the upper catchments, so check weather reports. Notify friends of your timetable.

Maps covering the park include: Ebor, Hyatts Flat, Darkwood, Girralong, Five Day, Thumb Creek and Bellbrook 1:25,000 topographic maps.

## Geology and landform

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The precipitous cliffs of the plateau edge are the result of at least five basalt lava flows from the Ebor volcano, forming a rim over 300 metres thick. Active until about 18 million years ago, this massive volcano was centred around The Crescent, a semi-circular ridge in the Bellingier Valley, visible from Point Lookout.

Subsequent erosion has created the dramatic profile of the escarpment we see today. The Banksia Point circuit provides a close-up view of a basalt flow whilst you can see the layers of lava on prominent cliffs north from Point Lookout.

Below the basalt lie ancient folded metamorphic rocks, almost 500 million years old, which have been carved into a myriad of virtually inaccessible peaks and ridges and are now densely forested.

## Vegetation

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The Park is renowned for a rich flora of over 1000 species of plants in an interesting variety of plant communities.

A cold-tolerant open woodland of Snow Gum, Shining Gum and tussocky Snow Grass dominates the high altitude country around Point Lookout. Over the edge of the escarpment, cool temperate rainforests of Antarctic Beech stand draped in orchids and hanging moss.

If you could go back 80 million years and walk on the ancient supercontinent of Gondwana, it may have looked like this. The Antarctic beech tells an important chapter in the story of the development of flowering plants and the break up of Gondwana.

Further down the escarpment are warm temperate rainforests of Coachwood and Sassafras, and the sheltered valleys are occupied by subtropical rainforests of Booyong, Yellow Carabeen and Red Cedar. Eucalypt forests containing Sydney Blue Gum, Brushbox and Tallowwood grow on the ridgetops and spurs.

Areas of heath, swamp and mallee complete the diversity of vegetation within the park.

## Wildlife

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The richness and variety of animal life here reflects its wide range of habitats. Evening visitors may see kangaroos, wallabies, several species of gliders and possums and the inquisitive Spotted-tailed Quoll.

Over 100 species of birds have been recorded. Most commonly seen are the White-throated Tree Creeper, Crimson Rosella, Pied Currawong and Rufous Fantail in the open forests, whilst winter flowering banksias attract Lewins Honeyeaters and Eastern Spinebills. In the rainforests the Superb Lyrebird reigns supreme, its resonating call and impressive vocal mimicry echoing in the valleys.