

**FOUR WHEEL DRIVE
ADVENTURES
ACROSS
AUSTRALIA**

A resource containing interesting destinations, sights, activities, four wheel driving tracks and camping information in Australia.

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INTRODUCTION

Four wheel driving and camping are fantastic ways to see Australia, particularly for those who are on a budget but still want to get the most out of each holiday, exploring every single part of Australia along the way.

There are numerous four wheel drive, camping and national parks books, magazines, pamphlets, brochures and internet sites available, providing varying details of information. To eliminate the difficulty of sorting through all this information, which is spread across a variety of mediums, this book has been compiled into a single resource providing references to some of these resources. As we personally have travelled to a lot of these locations, first hand knowledge, experience and more comprehensive information is provided on four wheel drive tracks, destinations, camping sites, and national and conservation parks.

This book was specifically developed for those who want fast, simple and practical information in the one resource to assist in planning a successful holiday within Australia. Information on where to go four wheel driving, camping, detailed track notes, complete maps, what sights to see at the destination and along the way, as well as suggested itineraries which can be extended or shortened according to individual preference, are all presented in this book.



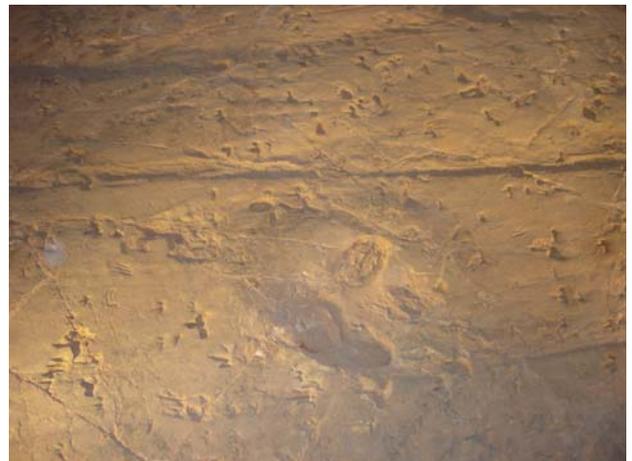
Aboriginal Paintings at Carnarvon Gorge



Blinman Pools, North Flinders Rangers



Wallaman Falls, highest in Australia



Dinosaur Footprints, Winston

PLANNING LEAVE

When planning leave ensure to make best use of any public holidays and rostered days off. By utilising these wisely a long weekend can be turned into a 10 day break by only using a few days recreational leave days. This will generally provide more leave per annum than the traditional four weeks.

Learn the rules with regard to long service leave and recreational leave and apply them wisely when planning leave. Some organisations permit employees to take half pay and extend long service leave from 3 months to six months, or to take leave without pay (if financially viable to individual's situation). If a rostered day off is taken after a weekend at the commencement of long services leave and prior to a weekend at the conclusion of long service leave, then the weekends will not count towards long service leave often increasing the long service leave time by four or more days depending if public holidays are attached to either of the weekends.

SAFETY

Safety is vital when undertaking independent travel or travelling to remote locations. At a minimum a well equipped first aid kit to cover for a variety of emergency situations should be carried in the vehicle at all times.

If you are unlucky enough to experience a vehicle breakdown, it is essential to remain with the vehicle at all times. In many instances people have perished because they had left their vehicle in search of help, only to get lost or emergency services were not able to locate them in time. Also, park so that you can be seen and conserve food and water as much as possible.

Avoid driving at dawn, dusk or at night. Wildlife tends to be most active in the morning and at dusk, increasing the risk of hitting an animal causing damage to the vehicle, or harm or even death to the occupants of the vehicle.

An Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) is an emergency transmitter that should be carried when travelling to remote locations or independently. Once activated (during an emergency only situation) it will enable emergency services to locate your exact position.

Use common sense and avoid putting your self and companions in a dangerous or emergency situation by being responsible and taking the necessary precautions to reduce such risks.

SURVIVAL TIPS

Before departing:

- Let someone know your destination and schedule;
- Carry extra water and food;
- Carry a signal device, such as a flare or mirror;
- Service the vehicle and have the tyres checked;
- Carry spare parts and tyres;
- Be competent in the use of your four wheel drive vehicle;
- Plan your route and take comprehensive maps;
- If plans change, contact someone; and
- Carry some type of communication equipment.

RECOVERY GEAR AND SPARES

Suggested four wheel drive recovery gear and spares that should be carried includes:

Exhaust jack	Winch Snatch Block	Max Tracks	Radiator Hose
Snatch strap	Drag Chain	Tyre Leaver	Fan Belt
Tree trunk protector	Axe	Tyre Tube	Alternator Belt
Winch extension strap	Chain Saw	Tyre Plug Kit	Radiator Coolant
Shackles	Shovel	Wheel Bearings	Engine and Diff Oils

VEHICLE MODIFICATIONS AND ACCESSORIES

Below is a detailed list of possible modifications and accessories for four wheel drive vehicles. When setting up your vehicle, do not try to install all the accessories at once, as it can get very expensive. It is recommended that accessories be obtained over a longer period of time and that way your hobby will become more affordable. Second hand accessories are often just as good as buying brand new ones without the price tag. Fantastic sources to find second hand accessories for your vehicle are the "Trading Post", which is available in newspaper and internet formats, local newspapers (e.g. The Advertiser) and the internet (e.g. e-Bay). Furthermore, if you have 'the know how' of installing these accessories yourself you can save significant amounts of money.

UHF / VHF / Satellite phone / Hand held UHF
Bull bar / Running boards
Suspension
Poly Air Bags
Body lift
Higher profile tyres
Snorkel
Portable air compressor
Tyre deflators
Tyre pressure gauge
Dual battery system
Winch
Long range fuel tank
Rear wheel carrier
Spare tyre(s)
Spare wheel cover(s)
Roof rack
Turbo kit / Turbo timer
3 inch exhaust (particularly for turbo diesel vehicles)
Diff-lockers front and rear
Free wheeling hubs
GPS / Navigational system
Laptop and Map software
Cargo barrier
Drawer system
Cruise control
Spotlights
Fridge
Roof top tent
Immobiliser
Side / rear awning
Vehicle alarm
Tow bar
Water tank
Bug shield
Water bladder
CD player
Tinted windows
Floor mats
Power inverter
Dash mat
Hot water shower
Seat covers

PACKING LIST

Below is a list providing suggestions on what items to pack for a holiday.

Toothbrush	Portable fridge, plug connections	Jocks	Portable toilet / toilet seat
Toothpaste	Esky	Socks	Salt, pepper, spices
Hairbrush	Sleeping bags, blankets and Pillows	Bathes	Salad dressing
Floss	Bennie and Gloves	Towels	Oil, oil spray
Face cream	Axe, Chainsaw, Fuel, Oil and tool	T-shirts	Toilet paper, tissues
Hand cream	Digital / Video Camera	Jumpers	Cordial, soft drinks
Shaver / Electric Shaver	Table	Shorts	Alcoholic drinks
Soap	Chairs	Hat	Water
Shampoo / Conditioner	Stand for gas cooker	Sunglasses	Milk, orange juice
Scrubbing brush	Gas cooker	Jackets	Cheese block
Nail scissors	Tyre pressure gauge and deflators	Toaster	Margarine
Medication	CD's	Kettle	Jam
Mosquito repellent	Magazines	Mosquito net	Cereal
Tampons	Picnic Rug	Mask / snorkel / fins	Tomato sauce
Panadol	Foam mats	Gas / Electric light	Onion
Sunscreen	Cutlery, egg flip, tongs, bottle opener	Gas bottle	Mustard
Aloe Vera	Pots, pans, frying pan	Recovery gear	Peanut butter
Rubbish bags	Wooden spoon, ladle, peeler	Tarp	Yogurt
Tent and Pegs	Thermos and thermos mugs	Torch	Potatoes
Spare Batteries	Plates, bowls, cups and mugs	Head lamp	Tomatoes, Capsicum, Cucumber
Mattress	Tea towel, Detergent and sponge	Spare batteries	Gherkins, pickled onion
Pump for Mattress	Washing up container / trough	Tools kit	Sugar
Portable shower	Lighter / Matches	GPS and Compass	milo, tea, coffee, hot chocolate
Insect spray	Jeans	First aid kit	Clothes line
Disposal wet wipes	Tracksuit, Leggings	Pen and paper	Maps, itinerary, travel brochures

MEALS

You don't have to limit yourself to eating meals from a can when camping. Below is a list that provides examples of nutritious meals that can be prepared effortlessly.

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Cereal	Ham baguette	Shashliks and fresh or frozen mixed vegetables
Muesli	Cheese roll	Steak and boiled potatoes
Boiled Eggs	Fritz sandwich	Sausages and mash potatoes
Bacon and Eggs	Tuna salad	BBQ and tossed salad
Scrambled Eggs	Chicken roll	Lamb chops and rice
French Toast	Kabana, tomatoes and cheese	Fish and fresh or canned potato salad
Omelette	Hot Dogs	Spaghetti bolognaise
Yogurt	Tossed salad	Rissoles and pasta
Toast	Mussels, carrot sticks and crackers	Schnitzel and salad
Muesli Bars	Frankfurts	Chicken breast and mixed vegetables
Breakfast Bars	Saveloys	Stir fry and noodles
Coffee, Tea, Milo, Hot Chocolate	Grilled canned ham sandwich	Chew mien
Orange Juice, Fruit Juices	Egg sandwich	Goulash
Breakfast Drink	Vienna sausage sizzle	Sweet and sour pork
	Kransky sausage sizzle	Fish fingers and mix vegetables
	Peanut butter sandwich	Nuggets and salad
	Sardines on toast	Ham steak and pasta
	Vegemite roll	Bake beans and sausages
	Sweet or savoury spread sandwiches	Tuna mornay
	Cold meats and salad	Steak sandwich
	Soup in a mug	Hamburger
	2 minute noodles / 3 minute rice	Fresh or canned stew / soup

SNACKS

Below is a list providing examples of snacks that can be consumed on your holiday.

Apples, pears, bananas, stone fruits
Carrot and celery sticks
Dried fruits
Mixed nuts
Dry crackers
Rice crackers
Muesli bars
Roll ups
Chewing gum
Jubes and mix lollies
Lolly pops
Hard boiled lollies
Chips
Shapes
Chocolate
Cheezels

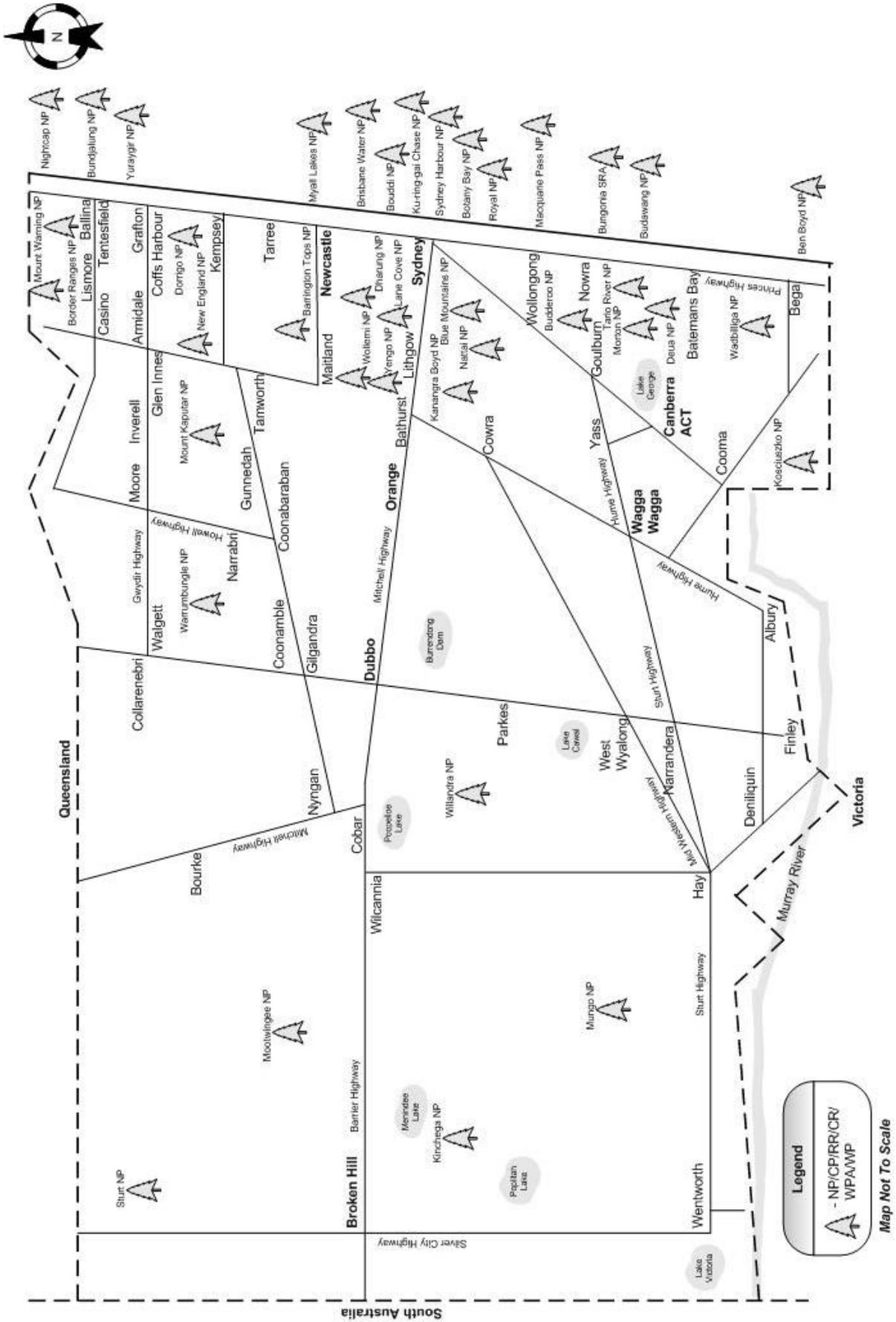
PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

Below is a list providing practical suggestions that can be implemented to assist in making your holiday more safe, enjoyable and stress free.

Carry boiled water in a thermos for hot drinks and cup a soup.
Carry a small quantity of water in easily accessible two litre containers for drinking and washing up.
Purchase hotplate and toaster for gas cooker.
Potato, pumpkin, carrots, onion and sweet potato will keep longer if individually wrapped in newspaper.
Tie down fridge, eskies, drawers, containers to reduce movement while four wheel driving.
Carry zip ties of all sizes for temporary fixes, tying items down or holding things together.
Tie up fishing rods with velcro on interior roof handles.
All recovery gear should be easily accessible for emergencies.
Use Amoral wipes on the interior to clean dust and dirt build up during the trip.
Carry bucket and sponge to wash down excess dust and dirt on vehicle, particularly for longer trips.
Carry small squeegee to clean bugs off windscreen.
Carry spare oils, coolant, belts, and wheel bearings for emergencies.
Purchase tyre plug kit for use in emergencies.
Carry frequently used tools under the driver's seat i.e. shifter, hammer, puncture repair kit.
Carry complete spare tool kit and store in an easily accessible spot for emergencies.
Carry a welding kit for emergency use in remote locations.
Reduce tyre pressures while travelling on four wheel drive tracks to aid in traction, preserve the track surface and make the trip a lot more comfortable.
Reducing tyre pressures even further may assist in retrieving a bogged vehicle.
Carry extra supplies of food, water and fuel when travelling in remote locations in case of emergencies.
Headlamps are convenient for use in the evenings and are hands free.
When crossing the state border ensure that fruits and vegetables can be carried otherwise they must be disposed of at appropriate fruit fly disposal stations.
Carry plenty of shopping bags to use to dispose of rubbish or for ad hoc storage.
Keep wet ones in the glove box for cleaning hands and wiping things up.
Wrap potatoes, pumpkin, carrots and other vegetables in alfoil and cook in the camp fire.
Carry newspaper, waterproof matches and fire lighters for starting camp fires with wet or damp wood.
Purchase or make a rear wheel rubbish bin bag for storing rubbish outside of the vehicle.
Carry a spare sleeping bag and use instead of a blanket during the cooler weather. It is much warmer and easier / lighter to carry.
Carry spare batteries for torches, video and digital cameras. Rechargeable batteries are a cheaper option.
Use a water bladder filled with air to fill empty space in the fridge. This will reduce breakages.
Purchase a foldable bucket for carrying and moving water.
Zip tie the dash mat to the dash board vents to reduce movement of the dash mat during four wheel driving.

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NEW SOUTH WALES

New South Wales is the oldest and most populated state in Australia. The state provides breathtaking natural scenery that is vast and varied. The cosmopolitan city of Sydney offers iconic symbols such as Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House, and is surrounded by world heritage areas, lush hinterland and acclaimed wine regions. The state landscape encompasses Alpine snow capped mountains with excellent skiing facilities in winter, untamed coastal country with hundreds of kilometres of long, sandy beaches and bays hosting the world famous Bondi Beach. As well as, desolate emptiness of the outback and sun scarred desert park and the wild terrain of natural parks, reserves and dense forests providing a kaleidoscope of wildflowers in spring and summer.



Snowy River National Park



Kosciuszko National Park



Brindabella National Park



Darling River During Drought



Waterlily Filled Inlet Off The Murray River

ABERCROMBIE RIVER NATIONAL PARK

Abercrombie River National Park is located 270 kilometres south-west of Sydney. The main access to the park is from Black Springs via Arkstone Road and Oberon Goulburn Road, or from Black Springs via Felled Timber and Brass Walls Road (four wheel drive dry weather only), or from Bummaroo Ford via Abercrombie Road (Oberon Goulburn Road).

The park is the largest remaining intact patch of low open forest in the south-west central tablelands and features extensive gully systems, prominent ridges and spurs, deep waterholes, Retreat River and Abercrombie River.

Found in the park are over 60 species of birds including the peregrine falcon, and many mammals such as wallaroos, red necked wallabies, swamp wallabies eastern grey kangaroos, wombats, echidnas, greater gliders, sugar gliders, brush tailed possums, ring tailed possums and platypus.

The park provides opportunities for four wheel driving, bushwalking, swimming, picnicking, camping, canoeing (when not in drought conditions) and trout fishing (trout season is from the October long weekend to the June long weekend).

Best Time To Travel

The best time to travel to Abercrombie River National Park is between October and March. Winter is generally wet and cold with occasional snowfall.

Camping

Camping sites with basic facilities are available at Bummaroo Ford (caravan facilities), Silent Creek, The Sink and The Beach. No camping fees apply for these sites.

The Bummaroo Ford camping sites are reached by two wheel drive. The Sink, The Beach and Silent Creek camping sites are accessible by four wheel drive only.

Further Information

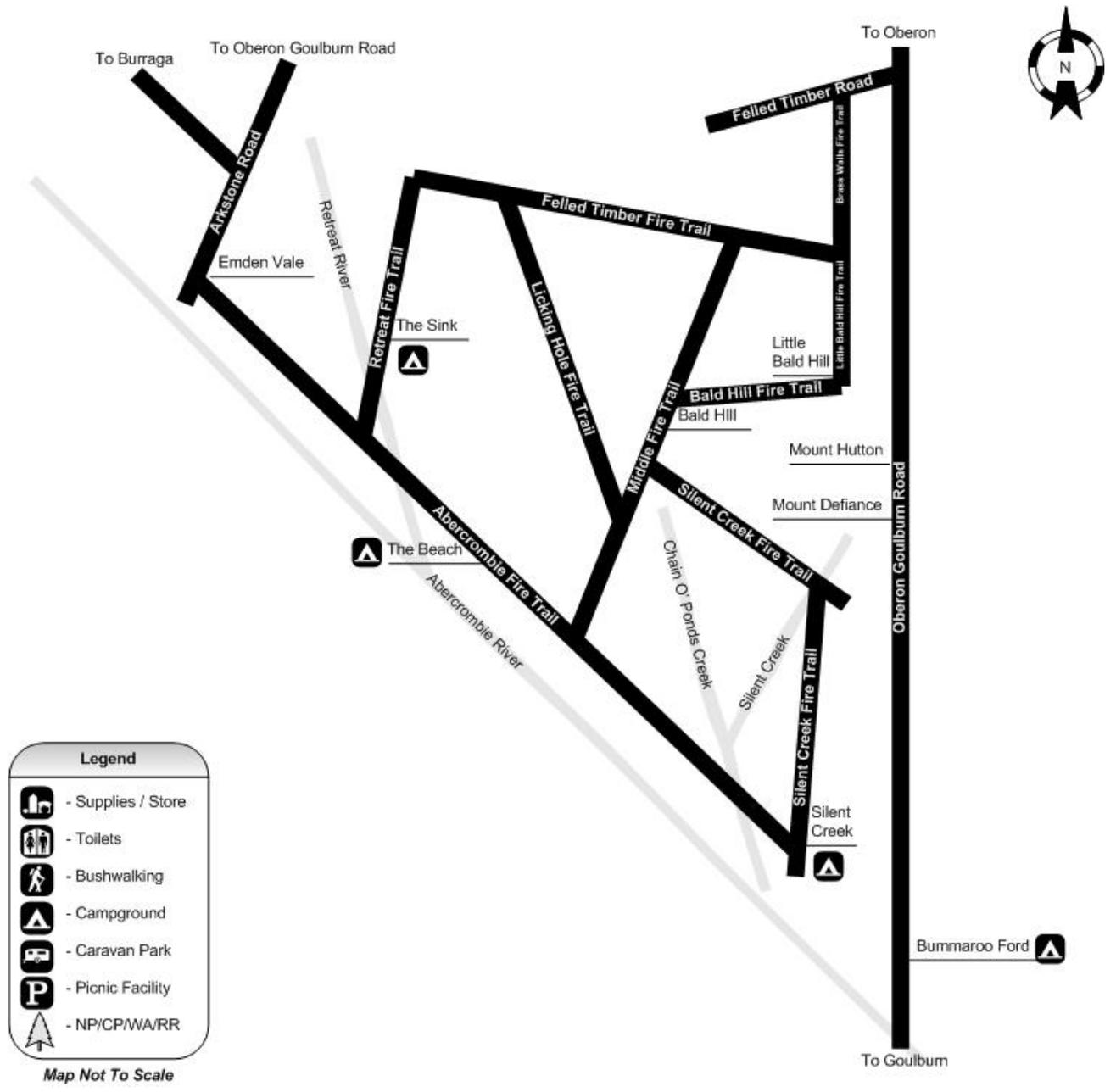
For further information contact the Oberon Park Office, 38 Ross Street, Oberon, New South Wales 2787 / PO Box 330, Oberon, New South Wales 2787, telephone: (61 2) 6336 1972, facsimile: (61 2) 6336 2122.

A fishing license is required for recreational fishing in New South Wales and is available from the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries, telephone: 1300 369 365, website: www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/recreational/Fishing-Fee.

Itinerary

DESTINATION	SIGHTS	DISTANCE	# OF DAYS
Sydney – Abercrombie River NP	Campbelltown Heritage Highway Museum, Sculpture Garden, Bargo Dingo Sanctuary.	270 kms	0.5
Abercrombie River NP	4WD, swimming, trout fishing, canoeing, walking, scenic driving, Abercrombie River, Historical sites of Stock yards, tin hut at Licking Hole, Two huts, Retreat River Hut, Wattle Hut, Daub Hut, mine workings & tunnel, remains of miners dwellings & Licking Hole.	50 kms	1
Abercrombie River NP – Sydney	Robertson Carrington Falls.	270 kms	0.5
TOTAL		590 kms	2 days

Notes



BARRINGTON TOPS NATIONAL PARK

Barrington Tops National Park is located 300 kilometres north of Sydney. Access to the park is via the Barrington Tops Forest Road between Gloucester and Scone. The rugged park rises from sea level to over 1500 metres high and features an ancient volcano, low valleys, world heritage listed subtropical rainforests, plateaus, subalpine woodland, Gloucester River, Williams River, Burruga Swamp and Polblue Swamp. It is home to a wide range of native plants and wildlife, protecting more than 50 rare or threatened species, and is renowned for bushwalking.

Activities in the park include bushwalking, mountain biking, scenic driving, four wheel driving, trial bike riding, fishing, swimming and picnicking.

Two wheel drive access is available to most major facilities and attractions in the park including to all areas along the Barrington Tops Forest Road, Tubrabucca Road, Pheasant Creek Road, Gloucester River, Gloucester Tops, Williams River area and Jerusalem Creek area.

The Barrington Trail is a four wheel drive track traversing from Barrington Tops Forest Road to Mount Barrington. It is seasonally closed between 1 June and 30 September. This and other tracks may be closed at other times of the year as a result of weather conditions such as high rainfall or snow. Snow chains must be carried during winter otherwise access will not be permitted on the higher roads.

Best Time To Travel

The best time to travel to Barrington Tops National Park is all year round. Winter is particularly wet, cold, windy and snow is not uncommon on the plateau.

Camping

Free camping sites with basic facilities are located in the park at Devils Hole, Junction Pools, Horse Swamp, Gummi Falls, Little Murray and Wombat Creek.

Camping sites with basic facilities and provision for caravans are available at Gloucester River and Polblue. Camping fees apply.

A variety of accommodation is available in nearby towns of Gloucester and Scone.

Further Information

For further information contact the Gloucester Park Office, 59 Church Street, Gloucester, New South Wales 2422 / PO Box 236, Gloucester, New South Wales 2422, telephone: (61 2) 6538 5300, facsimile: (61 2) 6558 2476.

Additional information is available from the Nelson Bay Park Office, Level 1, 12 Teramby Road, Nelson Bay, New South Wales 2315 / Locked Mail Bag 99, Nelson Bay, New South Wales 2315, telephone: (61 2) 4984 8200, facsimile: (61 2) 4981 5913.

More information can be obtained from the Scone Park Office, 137 Kelly Street, Scone, New South Wales 2337, telephone: (61 2) 6540 2300 / facsimile: (61 2) 6545 9475.

Itinerary

DESTINATION	SIGHTS	DISTANCE	# OF DAYS
Sydney – Barrington Tops NP	Newcastle township, Booti Booti NP, Gan Gan Lookout, Nelson Bay Heritage Walk, Tomteland Leisure Park. Raymond Terrace township, Hunter Botanic Gardens, Tomago House, Fort William, Sketchley Pioneer Cottage Museum, Grahamstown Lake.	300 kms	0.5
Barrington Tops NP	Careys Peak, Thunderbolts, Devils Hole, Mount Barrington, Jerusalem Creek, Gloucester Falls, Careys Peak, Andrew Laurie Lookout, Eremeran Lookout, Mount Royal NP, The Glen NR, Woko NP, Barrington Tops SF, Chichester SF, Devils Hole Lookout, Barrington Tops Plateau, Farm Gate Trail, whitewater rafting, 4WD Dungog & Gloucester.	150 kms	2
Barrington Tops NP – Sydney	Gosford township, Cockrane Lagoon, Captain Cook Lookout, Rumbalara Reserve, Fragrant Gardens, Gallery 460 & Sculpture Park 88 (Australia's largest commercial sculpture park), Wyrabalalong NP, Brisbane Waters NP, Muirs Lookout, Tuggerah Lakes, Watagan SF, Bouddi NP, Watagan Mountains.	300 kms	0.5
TOTAL		750 kms	3 days

Notes

