

Ngunnawal people
welcome you to
namadgi national park



A Brief Guide



Healthy Parks
Healthy People

The ACT's National Park

Named after the Aboriginal word for the ranges in the south-west of the ACT, Namadgi National Park was declared in 1984 and covers 106,095 ha. There are many reasons to visit Namadgi:

- the highest peaks in the ACT—Bimberi Peak, 1911 m;
- remote wilderness experiences;
- over twenty walking tracks;
- a wide range of natural environments;
- an abundance of native wildlife;
- Aboriginal and European cultural heritage sites; and
- it's all very close to Canberra.

The Namadgi Visitor Centre, park staff, facilities, brochures, displays and signage are all available to help visitors explore and enjoy the park.

The Australian Alps National Parks

Namadgi National Park is at the northern-most end of the Australian Alps. Alpine environments are rare in Australia, covering a tiny 0.15% of the continent. Park agencies in New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and the Commonwealth Government work together under the **Australian Alps National Parks** banner to manage 1.6 million hectares of the alpine region in recognition of its significance as a single biogeographical region. Website: www.australialps.environment.gov.au

Bimberi Wilderness

The Bimberi Wilderness comprises the western third of Namadgi National Park (28,900 ha) and an adjoining area in New South Wales. It includes some of the Alps' most beautiful scenery. You can easily view this rugged area from Hospital Hill Lookout on the Boboyan Road, Mt Ginini, the Mt Franklin Road or from the Yerrabi Walking Track. The Bimberi Wilderness can be accessed on foot from the Mt Ginini car park and the Orroral Valley. Camping permits apply.

Namadgi and People

Aboriginal Australians have had a long association with the area we now call Namadgi. As traditional custodians, the Ngunnawal people have obligations to both their ancestors and descendants to participate in the management of the park. Ngunnawal people welcome others onto their traditional lands and ask that visitors be aware of, respect and acknowledge Ngunnawal cultural traditions, laws and customs. There are many Aboriginal heritage sites in Namadgi including rock art, stone tools, quarry sites, stone arrangements and campsites—reminders of the traditional Aboriginal lifestyle that was practiced here and still retains meaning.

You will also discover numerous reminders of the European history including the pastoral era, ski clubs, forestry and even the space industry at the former space tracking sites at Honeysuckle and Orroral.

Wild Things

Habitats range from broad, grassy plains in the cold air drainage valleys, Alpine Ash forests on the slopes, to Snow Gum woodlands and subalpine meadows on the mountain peaks. Within a short walk, vegetation and wildlife can change dramatically. Namadgi also has a special type of wetland called a fen which consists mainly of sedges. Nursery Swamp is the most well-known fen in the park. The park also features unique sub-alpine Sphagnum bog ecosystems which can be seen on the Mt Gingera walk.

Mountains of Water

Catchments in Namadgi National Park supply up to 95% of Canberra's and Queanbeyan's water. Water that falls on the mountains is filtered and purified as it passes through Sphagnum Moss bogs, forests, woodlands and grasslands into our dams.

Picnicking

There are many picnic areas in and near the park. Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve also has picnic facilities. All picnic areas have tables and toilets. Please do not feed the wildlife and take your rubbish home.

Camping

Car-based tent camping in the park is permitted only at the three designated campgrounds—Orroral, Honeysuckle Creek and Mount Clear. You can also camp at Woods Reserve and Blue Range which are close to the park. Bookings are essential (except at Woods Reserve during the construction of the Enlarged Cotter Dam and subsequent closure of the Cotter campground). Book on line www.bookings.act.gov.au, phone the Namadgi Visitor Centre: **62072900** or Canberra Connect: **13 22 81**

Honeysuckle is the most developed campground in Namadgi and is suitable for small to larger groups and features spaces for campervans and trailers. Orroral campground is suitable for smaller groups. Mount Clear is the most remote campsite with very basic facilities and is accessed via an unsealed road. Camping is prohibited in the lower and middle portions of the Cotter Catchment; camping is by permit in the upper catchment. No permit is needed for pack-based camping outside the catchment.

Bushwalking

Much of Namadgi's beauty lies beyond its main roads and picnic areas and walking is the most popular recreational activity to explore the park. Information on the park's facilities and 169 km of marked walking tracks can be found in the **Namadgi Map and Guide** available at the Namadgi Visitor Centre.

Walking Off Marked Tracks

Well-prepared walkers who venture into remote parts of Namadgi reap some of the park's greatest rewards. All remote area parties should record the details of their trip in the bushwalking registers located in the park (see **Namadgi Map and Guide** for their locations). Walking off marked tracks requires expertise with a map and compass. Warm and waterproof clothing is always required as mountain weather can change unexpectedly at any time of year.

Mountain Biking

There are several hundred kilometres of scenic mountain trails to explore. Cycling is permitted on all formed management trails within the park except those in the Upper Cotter Catchment/ Bimberi Wilderness south of Mt Ginini car park and west of Orroral Valley. Bicycles are not permitted on walking tracks or off the formed trails.

Scenic Driving & Motorised Biking

Public roads within the park pass through majestic mountain country, providing access to nature for everyone. The unsealed roads are narrow and can be slippery when wet or frosty. Roads may be closed because of snow, floods and Total Fire Bans. Petrol is available in Canberra, Tharwa and Adaminaby but not in the park.

Registered trail bike riding is not allowed off public roads in the park or past locked gates.

Enjoying the Snow

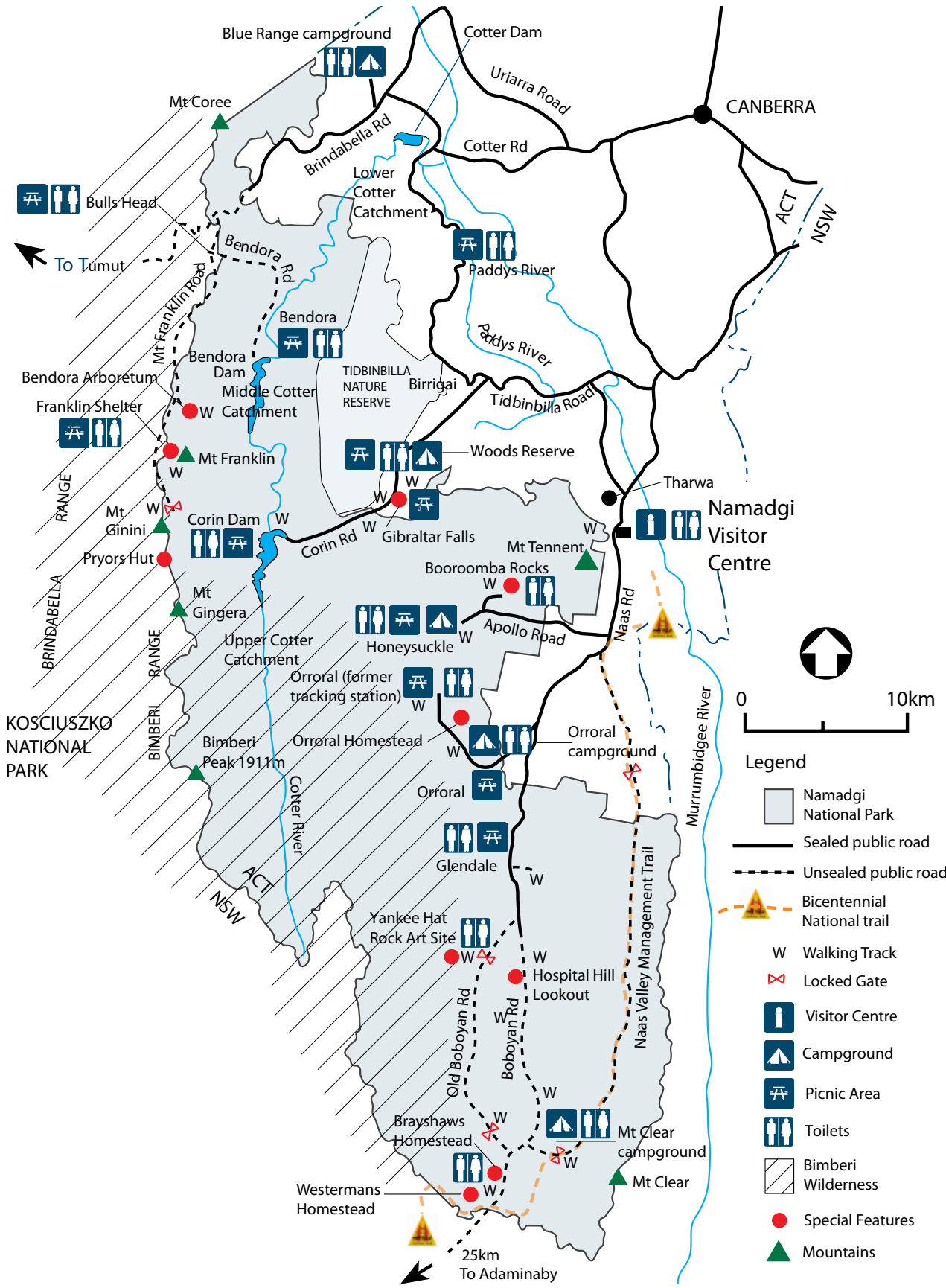
Snow can fall over any part of the park but is most common on the Bimberi and Brindabella Ranges. In winter, the Mt Franklin Road is open as long as snow conditions permit and, if accessible, the area beyond may be suitable for cross-country skiing. The Brindabella, Boboyan and Mt Franklin Roads can be hazardous in winter and care should be taken as help is not always available when cars run into trouble. Chains may be required. Contact the Namadgi Visitor Centre for information on road conditions.

Campgrounds and picnic areas										
	Flushing toilets	Composting or pit toilets	Showers (H=hot)	Shelter	Gas barbecues	Wood barbecues (BYO wood)	Water available (treat or boil)	Campervan sites (no electricity)	Tent sites—large groups	Tent sites—six or less people
Campgrounds										
Honeysuckle				•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Orroral						•	•			•
Mount Clear		•				•	•			•
Woods Reserve			H	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Blue Range		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Picnic areas										
Bulls Head		•		•		•	•			
Bendora Dam						•	•			
Corin Dam	•				•		•			
Former space tracking station (Orroral Valley)					•		•			
Orroral River	•					•	•			
Glendale	•					•	•			
Paddys River		•		•						
Gibraltar Falls		•			•					
Woods Reserve		•		•	•	•				

In Namadgi, car-based tent camping is permitted only at the three Namadgi campgrounds—Honeysuckle, Orroral and Mt Clear and a three night limit applies. Generators are not permitted at campgrounds. Dogs are allowed at Woods Reserve and Blue Range.

Advance bookings and fees apply to all campgrounds. Phone Namadgi Visitor Centre: (02) 6207 2900, Canberra Connect: 13 22 81 or book on line www.tams.act.gov.au No wood is supplied for fireplaces. Please bring your own wood.

= toilet is wheelchair accessible



Further Information

Namadji National Park Visitor Centre, Naas Road, Tharwa ACT 2620
 Phone (02) 6207 2900
 Email: namadginationalpark@act.gov.au
 Canberra Connect: 13 22 81
 Website: www.tams.act.gov.au
 Australian Alps National Parks website:
www.australialps.environment.gov.au

Namadji Visitor Centre

Visit the Namadji Visitor Centre to get expert advice and see displays, audiovisuals, maps, books and posters.

Open: 9 am–4:00 pm weekdays;
 9 am–4:30 pm weekends and
 public holidays (closed Christmas Day)

Where: 2 km south of Tharwa on the Naas Road.

Fishing

Pick up a copy of the **Recreational Fishing in the ACT** brochure from the Namadgi Visitor Centre. Fishing is prohibited in the Cotter River catchment upstream of the Bendora Dam wall, the Cotter River and reservoir up to the junction with Pierce's Creek, and the Orroral River upstream of the Honeysuckle to Orroral management trail. Fishing is allowed in all other streams (classified as trout waters) but is subject to a closed season from the long weekend in June to the beginning of the long weekend in October. Gear/bait restrictions and size/bag limits apply. Only artificial fly and lure fishing is allowed as live bait could lead to the introduction of alien species.

Horseriding

Horseriding is permitted on management trails east of and including the Old Boboyan Road. The National Bicentennial Trail passes through Namadgi National Park on the Naas Valley management trail. Before riding, contact the Namadgi Visitor Centre for information and to arrange access and use of yards and camping areas.

Safety in the Mountains

- The weather can change suddenly and dramatically. Be prepared for freezing conditions and a longer stay than planned.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you are expected back. Put your details in the walks register in the park and inform visitor centre staff if doing an extended overnight walk.
- Plan ahead. Be sure to have suitable equipment, carry water, cold and wet weather clothing, repair gear and a first aid kit.
- Road conditions can be hazardous. Drive carefully.

Fire

- Please protect Namadgi's sensitive environment by observing all fire regulations and obeying fire danger signs. All fires in the ACT, including campfires, are regulated by law.
- Fires are only permitted in officially constructed fireplaces located in campgrounds and picnic areas. Firewood is not provided so please bring your own firewood.
- **Total Fire Bans** prohibit all fires (wood or gas) including fuel stoves and gas barbecues. Fire danger signs indicate what fire restrictions are in place. Installed barbecues are turned off during total fire bans.
- Walkers and picnickers are encouraged to use fuel stoves instead of lighting a fire. Leave bush wood for habitat and to renew soil.
- Solid Fuel Bans may apply periodically. These ban the use of wood, briquettes, tablets and other solid fuels but allow gas and electric heating and cooking. Contact the Namadgi Visitor Centre for information.
- Supervise fires and extinguish them when you leave.

Leave no Trace



Leave Your Pets at Home. Domestic pets are prohibited as they disturb native animals and other park visitors.



Carry it in, Carry it Out. There are no bins so please take your rubbish home for disposal or recycling.



Leave animals, plants, rocks and wood where you find them—each has its place in the delicate balance of nature.



Use a Fuel Stove. No fires are allowed in the Cotter Catchment. However, fuel stoves may be used. Fires in constructed fireplaces only.



Got to Go? Carry a small trowel to dig a hole and bury waste. Choose a site at least 100 m from water. Where possible, use toilets in the park.



Respect Heritage. Do not collect, deface or damage Aboriginal or European cultural heritage artefacts or sites.



Stay on Track—even if it is boggy.