

THE GREATER BLUE MOUNTAINS WORLD HERITAGE AREA

Your Handy Pocket Sized Guide





nationalparks.nsw.gov.au



Learning and Exploring with NSW National Parks

Join our award-winning team of NPWS Education Rangers, and find yourself immersed in the spectacular landscapes and significant heritage sites of the Blue Mountains National Park.

Our Rangers present environmental and cultural programs to a diverse audience, from young school students through to

academics and international delegates. Our programs are designed around the BOSTES education syllabus.

We have a vast range of specialised knowledge to share: Aboriginal culture, fire and park management, endangered species, mountain landscapes, nature-based games, geography, science and historical events.

For an exciting and memorable experience, visit nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/education-services or email BlueMtns.Education@environment.nsw.gov.au

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD



The Greater Blue Mountains has been selected by Tourism Australia as providing one of the nation's top 10 nature experiences.

It thus stands in august company, alongside such Australian international tourist icons such as the Great Barrier Reef, Uluru, Kakadu and The Kimberley. Even more significantly it has been selected by the United Nations as a World Heritage Site, having outstanding universal value for mankind. It thus stands along even more august company such as the pyramids of Egypt, the Taj Mahal and the Grand Canyon.

Some five million people visit this majestic area each year. It is readily accessible from the nearby Sydney metropolis.

This accessibility is a world-wide rarity for a mountainous wilderness area.


The visitor can enjoy the landscape and deep forested canyons from a large number of lookouts and an extensive network of well constructed walking tracks. Come and see what makes this area so special.

Bruce Leaver,
Chair of the GBMWA Advisory Committee

All photos:
Ian Brown, NSW NPWS

WELCOME TO OUR HERITAGE





The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is broken up into four sectors - each with its own distinct set of landscapes, plants and animals and recreational opportunities to explore.

To the north, the Mellong and Monundilla sectors stand alongside each other.

The central, best known part of the Blue Mountains is embraced by the Kedumba sector while the Colong

sector covers the ground to the south extending to the Southern Highlands.

The sector names derive from prominent Aboriginal named landscape features to reflect the ongoing Aboriginal association and kinship with the Greater Blue Mountains.

Read on to understand more about each sector and the amazing discoveries each has!

Photo: Pulpit Rock

KEDUMBA SECTOR

A person with a braid, wearing a blue t-shirt, is sitting on a dark, textured rock in the foreground. They are looking out over a vast, deep valley filled with dense green forest. In the distance, rolling hills and mountains are visible under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The scene is captured from a high vantage point, looking down into the valley.

The renowned central part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is named for the Kedumba Valley, which lies below Katoomba (another version of the same Gundunurra word). This area is known throughout Australia and internationally for its scenery.

From hundreds of lookouts and walking tracks, ochre cliffs and waterfalls plunge into deep valley forests and rainforest glens, while in Jenolan Caves you can glimpse the mysteries of the underworld.

Kedumba takes in the southern part of Wollemi National Park, the northern and central parts of Blue Mountains National Park, Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve and the northern section of Kanangra-Boyd National Park.

Entry fees apply at Glenbrook (Blue Mountains

National Park) and Kanangra-Boyd National Park, so have some money available.

Evans Crown Nature Reserve and Yellomundee Regional Park are nearby, as are the rural landscapes of Oberon. The Furance, Fire and Forge Heritage Trail links the fascinating industrial heritage sites of the Lithgow area.

A great way to begin your exploration of the Kedumba sector is to travel the Botanists Way touring route along the Bells Line Of Road between the Hawkesbury and Lithgow.

Part of the Greater Blue Mountains Drive, this journey opens up the rich botanical heritage of Greater Blue Mountains. A must see highlight along the way is a visit to the Botanists Way Discovery Centre at the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah.

Photo: Wollemi National Park





COLONG SECTOR



The southern part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is named for Mount Colong, a prominent basalt-capped mountain that is visible over much of the area.

Colong takes in all of the Kanangra-Boyd, Nattai and Thirlmere Lakes National Parks, Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve as well as the southern parts of Blue Mountains National Park.

Adjoining the World Heritage Area are Burragorang, Nattai, Bargo and Yerranderie State Conservation Areas, Joadja Nature Reserve and Wombeyan Karst Conservation Reserve. Abercrombie River National Park is nearby, as are the rural landscapes of the

Southern Highlands and Oberon.

The variety of reserves and landscape makes Colong perhaps the most diverse sector of the World Heritage Area. Centred on Sydney's most important water supply catchment, Colong includes the sandstone tablelands and escarpments typical of much of the region, plus the more varied terrain of older basement rocks and several areas of limestone caves.

Highlights include spacious wilderness views from Kanangra Walls and Burragorang Lookout, Jenolan and Wombeyan Caves and the serene and unusual Thirlmere Lakes.


Photo: Burragorang





MELLONG SECTOR





The north-east part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is named for the Mellong Range that divides the Colo River and Macdonald River catchments. The Putty Road follows part of the Mellong Range.

In Mellong you can explore wide forest vistas and colourful sandstone terrain. Dominating the horizon is the basalt peak of Mount Yengo - an important Aboriginal story place symbolic of the region's rich indigenous connections.

Mellong takes in Yengo National Park and the eastern part of Wollemi National Park, as well as Parr State Conservation Area outside the World Heritage Area. Dharug National Park is close by, and so are the parks

and other attractions of the Hunter Valley, Watagan Mountains and Hawkesbury.

Aboriginal people have connections with the area that go back to the beginning of time. Yengo is patterned with Aboriginal songlines and cultural routes of both highlands and coastal communities.

In Aboriginal lore, Mt Yengo is the stepping off point where the spirit Biamie departed after creating the landscape, its people, plants and animals in the dreamtime.

Yengo features many excellent examples of rock engravings depicting the Dreamtime stories and Aboriginal culture.

Photo: Outcrop behind Phipps Cutting





MONUNDILLA SECTOR



Travel to the dry 'outback' of the World Heritage Area. Against a backdrop of dramatic cliffed escarpments topped by high volcanic peaks, quiet roads lead through rural valley landscapes. See forest red gums on the Hunter Valley escarpments and scribbly gums on the western side.

Highlights in Monundilla include the Goulburn River. Highly varied valley and plateau scenery, lookouts, picnic areas, some short walking tracks, historic places, wineries and accommodation in Sandy Hollow and Merriwa are all part of the Goulburn River element of Monundilla.

Plus head to Mudgee where you can enjoy a drive through open farmland areas interspersed with forest. Visit Windamere Dam, the wineries, cafes and galleries of Mudgee, Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve and the

Bylong Valley.

Dunns / Capertree offers an outback 'big sky' atmosphere amongst weathered escarpments. Visit the old shale-mining town of Glen Davis. Swim, paddle the quiet backwaters and scramble along tracks through the 'pagoda' rocks at Ganguddy / Dunns Swamp.

Plus travel down the mighty, cliff-bound Wolgan Valley to historic Newnes industrial area of the Wolgan River. Colourful crags and 'pagoda' rocks on the edge of the Wollemi Wilderness. See Aboriginal art at Maiyinq Marraq (Blackfellows Hand Aboriginal Place) and camp on the grass at Newnes beneath towering cliffs.

Check out the Glow Worm Tunnel in Wollemi National Park - a dark, abandoned railway tunnel colonised by star-like glow worms.

Photo: Dunns Swamp





KEY

- Greater Blue Mountains State Lookout
- Greater Blue Mountains State Electricity Trail
- Greater Blue Mountains Walk
- Greater Blue Mountains Walk
- Gullies
- MPH speed zone
- Schedule 1 Carriageway
- Main road
- Gravel road
- Unsealed road
- Typical track (ignores 800s)
- Walking track
- Railway
- Locked gate
- Camping
- Lookout / scenic feature
- Fossil area
- Information Centre
- Other major information centre

Scale: 0 5 10 Kilometres / 0 5 10 Miles

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FIND
OUT
MORE

If you'd like to find out more information about the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, the Office of Environment and Heritage features extensive information on its website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/protectedareas/GreaterBlueMountainsWorldHeritageArea.htm. The website includes a link to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Strategic Plan.

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society's mission is to help conserve the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains and to increase awareness of the natural environment in general. For more information on the Society, visit their website at www.bluemountains.org.au.

The Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute has

since 2004 worked to support better conservation of the extraordinary natural and cultural wonders of the Greater Blue Mountains and its region. Their mission is to engage people and science in caring for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage area. Visit www.bmwhi.org.au.

For more information on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Experience, logon to www.worldheritage.org.au.

The Blue Mountains is full of amazing wildlife, but sometimes they can get in trouble. If you require assistance, call Wildlife Rescue on 1300 094 737 or visit www.wires.org.au.

Make sure you also visit www.greaterbluemountainsdrive.com.au before setting out.

Photo: Ferntree Gully Reserve



VISITOR INFO



Photo: Bushwalkers near Yengo

For up to date information on local road and trail conditions and also to find out more about local attractions, be sure to stop in at the accredited local visitor information centres along the drive. Contact numbers are as follows:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| • Blackheath: (02) 4787 8877 | • Katoomba: 1300 653 408 | • Picton: (02) 4677 3962 |
| • Camden: (02) 4658 1370 | • Lithgow: 1300 760 276 | • Scone: (02) 6545 1526 |
| • Campbelltown: (02) 4645 4921 | • Merriwa: (02) 6521 7046 | • Singleton: 1800 449 888 |
| • Denman: (02) 6547 2799 | • Miltagong: 1300 657 559 | • Penrith: 1300 736 836 |
| • Glenbrook: 1300 653 408 | • Mudgee: 1800 816 304 | NSW National Parks General Enquiries:
1300 072 757 or visit www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au . |
| • Goulburn: (02) 4823 4492 | • Muswellbrook: 1800 065 773 | |
| • Hawkesbury: 1300 362 874 | • Oberon: (02) 6329 8210 | |

PREPARE YOUR TRIP



Photo: Finchley Trig and Mt Yengo

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is a great experience for the entire family, but it's important to remember to prepare both your vehicle and yourself!

Make sure your vehicle is in a reliable roadworthy condition, and all tyre pressures, water levels etc have been checked.

A first aid kit is a must when it comes to packing.

Remember, young kids can't walk as far as adults and get


tired quickly. Don't over-estimate how far you'll be able to travel in a particular day or how many things you'll get to see.

Remember to pack snacks and plenty of water, especially during the summer when parts of the World Heritage Area can become extremely hot.

Before setting out, make sure you visit www.greaterbluemountainsdrive.com.au for a full checklist!



ADVENTURE IN THE MOUNTAINS



While the World Heritage Area of the Greater Blue Mountains is about the incredible nature around you, there's also time for adventure!

Penrith, at the base of the Blue Mountains, has emerged as one of the adventure capitals of New South Wales, with indoor skydiving, whitewater rafting, go-karting and so much more.

But one of the true highlights of the Blue Mountains is Scenic World at Katoomba.

Visiting Scenic World is a joy at any time of year, but in Summer this place really shines. The days are warm but the nights are cool. It's hot in the sun but perfect in the shade. In short, it's the ideal place to leave the

crowds behind and immerse yourself in nature.

So whether it's relaxing in the cool, quiet rainforest, enjoying the thrill of riding on the world's steepest passenger train or gliding between the clifftops on the famous Skyway, Scenic World has something for everyone. View www.scenicworld.com.au for more information.

Throughout the World Heritage Area, you'll find other great pockets of adventure too - talk to the local Visitor Information Centres if you're feeling like a bit of a thrill on your trip!

For more information visit nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

Blue Mountains Heritage Centre

Visit us for
expert advice on
Blue Mountains
National Park,
gifts and maps, an
interpretive display
and virtual canyon
experience.



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