## THE GREATER **BLUE MOUNTAINS** WORLD HERITAGE

AREA Your Handy Pocket Sized Guide







## 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

## WHATA WONDERFUL WORLD

The Greater Blue Mountains has been selected by Tourism Australia as providing one of the nations

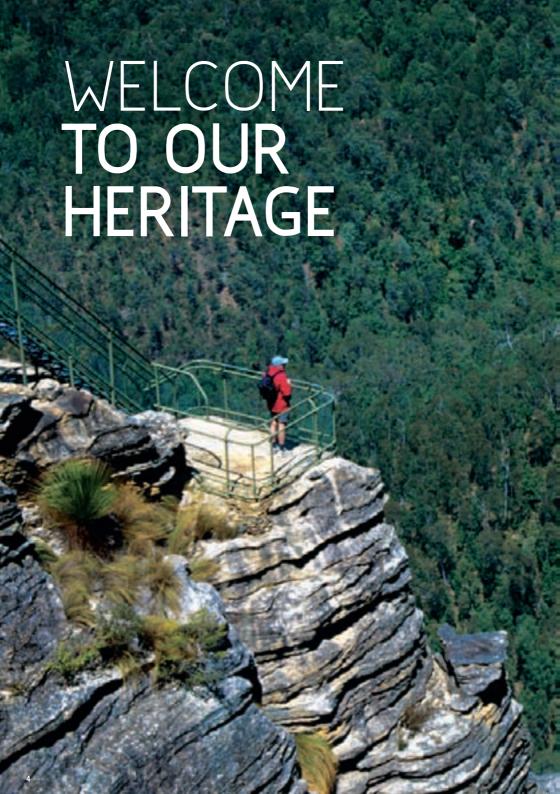
It thus stands in august company, alongside such Australian international tourist icons such as the Great Barrier Reef, Uluru, Kakadu and The Kimberley. Even more significantly it has been selected top 16 nature experiences. by the United Nations as a World Heritage Site, having outstanding universal value for mankind. It thus stands along even more august company such as the pyramids of Egypt, the Taj Mahal and the Grand

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

Chair of the GBMWHA Advisory Committee Bruce Leaver.



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!





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 Gundungurra word). This area is known throughout Australia and internationally for its sceneru.

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.

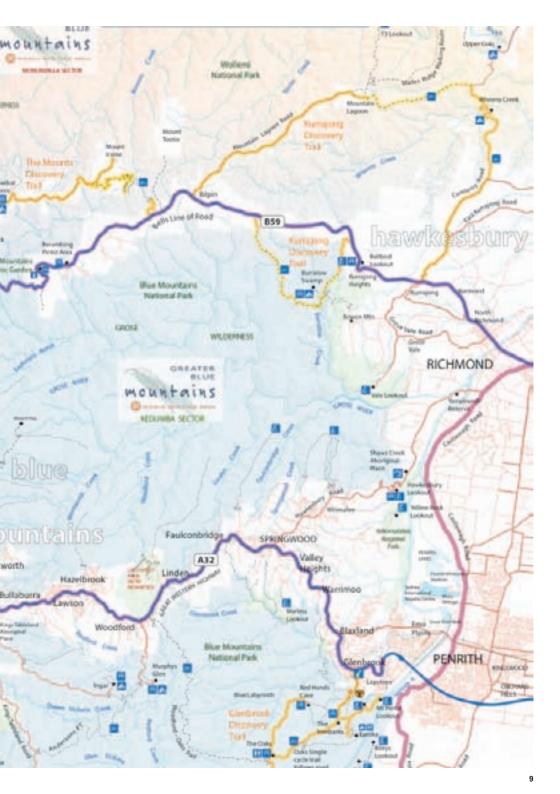
Evans Crown Nature Reserve and Yellomundee Regional Park are nearby, as are the rural landscapes of Oberon. The Furance, Fire and Forge Heritage Trail links the fascinating industrial heritage sites of the Lithgow area.

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.











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 tytpical 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

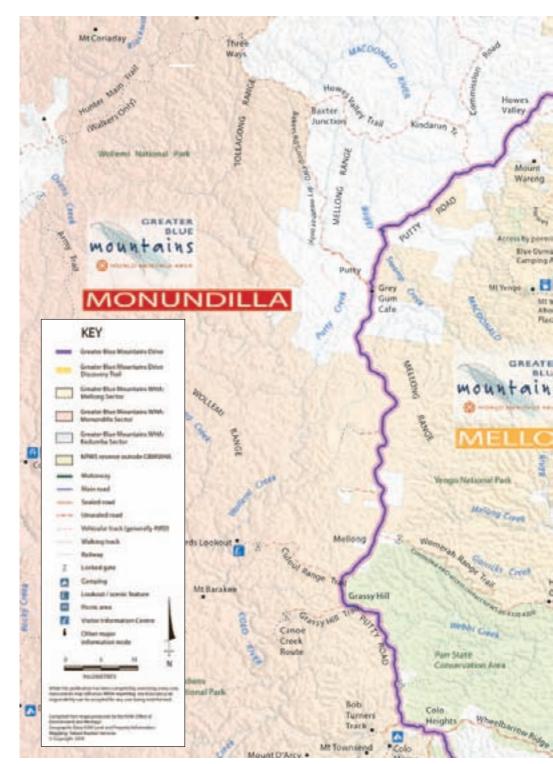
















Travel to the dry 'outback' of the World Heritage Area. Against a backdrop of dramatic cliffed escarpments topped by high volcanic peaks, quiet roads lead through rural valley landscapes. See forest red gums on the Hunter Valley escarpments and scribbly gums on the western side.

Highlights in Monundilla include the Goulburn River. Highly varied valley and plateau scenery, lookouts, picnic areas, some short walking tracks, historic places, wineries and accomodation 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.

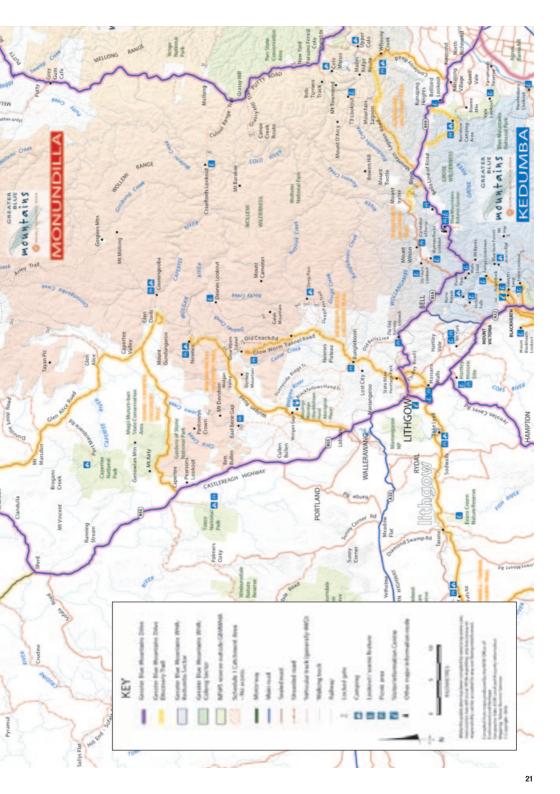
Dunns / Capertree offers an outback 'big sky' atmosphere amongst weathered escarpments. Visit the old shale-mining town of Glen Davis. Swim. paddle the quiet backwaters and scramble along tracks through the 'pagoda' rocks at Ganguddy / Dunns Swamp.

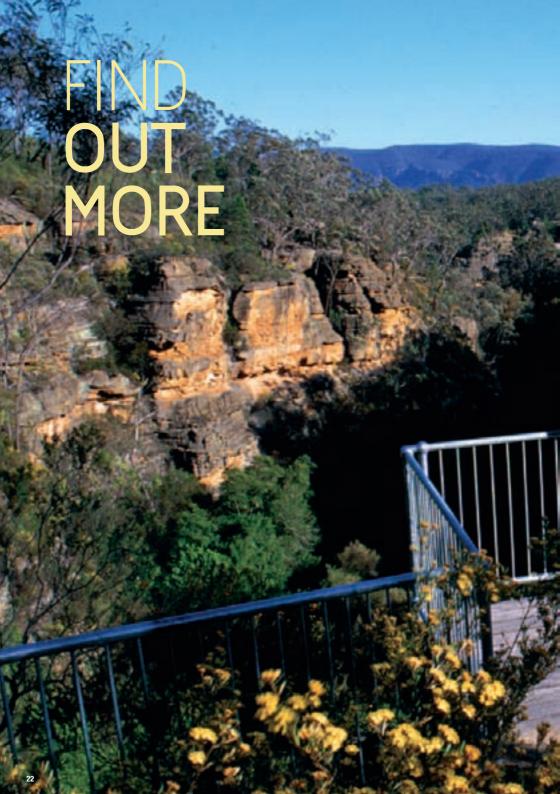
Plus travel down the mighty, cliff-bound Wolgan Valley to historic Newnes industrial area of the Wolgan River. Colourful crags and 'pagoda' rocks on the edge of the Wollemi Wilderness. See Aboriginal art at Maiyingu Marragu (Blackfellows Hand Aboriginal Place) and camp on the grass at Newnes beneath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

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









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.

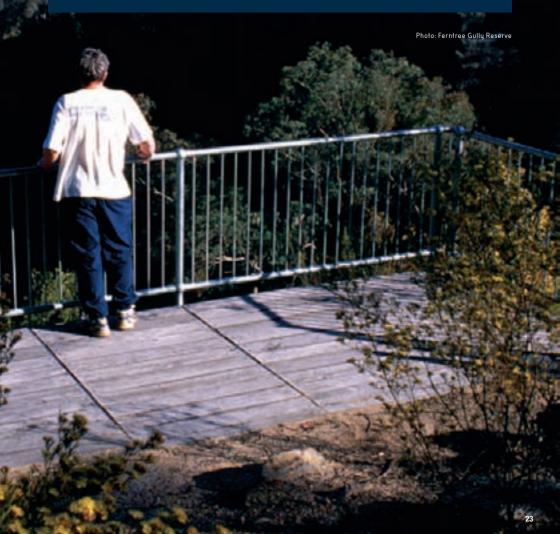
The Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute has

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.





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
Camden: (02) 4658 1370

• Campbelltown: (02) 4645 4921

Denman: (02) 6547 2799Glenbrook: 1300 653 408

• Goulburn: (02) 4823 4492

• Hawkesbury: 1300 362 874

Katoomba: 1300 653 408Lithgow: 1300 760 276

Merriwa: (02) 6521 7046Mittagong: 1300 657 559

Mittagong: 1300 657 559
 Mudgee: 1800 816 304

Muswellbrook: 1800 065 773Oberon: (02) 6329 8210

• Picton: (02) 4677 3962

• Scone: (02) 6545 1526 • Singleton: 1800 449 888

• Penrith: 1300 736 836 NSW National Parks General Enquiries:

1300 072 757 or visit www.nationalparks.

nsw.qov.au.



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.

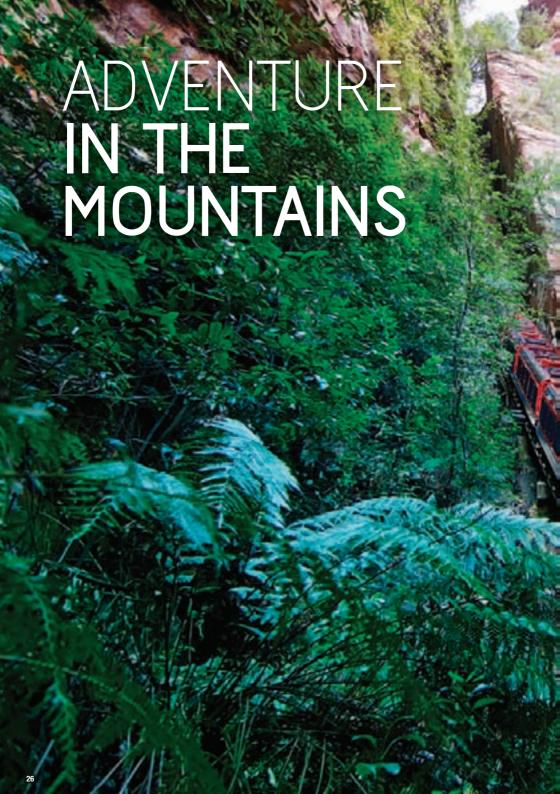
A first aid kit is a must when it comes to packing.

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

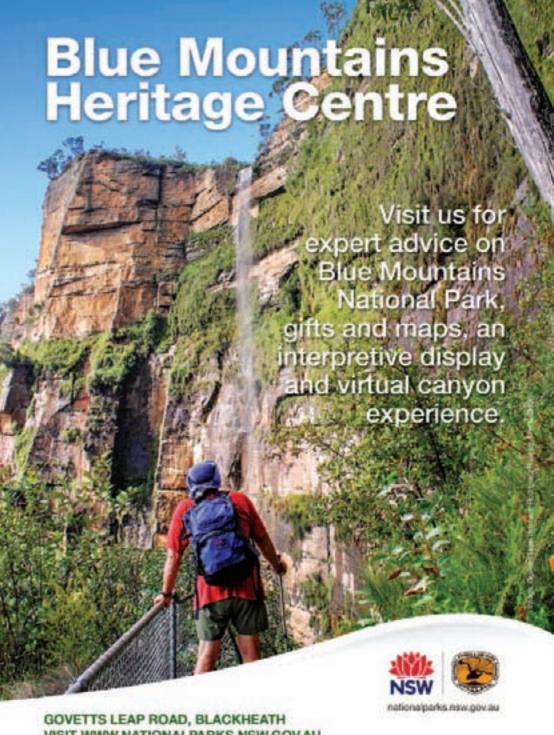
tired quickly. Don't over-estimate how far you'll be able to travel in a particular day or how many things you'll get to see.

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!







GOVETTS LEAP ROAD, BLACKHEATH VISIT WWW.NATIONALPARKS.NSW.GOV.AU OR CALL 02 4787 8877