

- Rules Point 1:25 000

- Peppercorn 1:25 000

Topographic maps

and Barbers caves.

Be prepared for several creek crossings. You'll need a permit to access all caves except Cooleman, Murray

for an overnight stay.

Walk along remote tracks to caves and gorges, and discover an amazing landscape of towering limestone cliffs and crystal-clear streams. Follow Cave Creek along Clarke Gorge and Nichols Gorge walking tracks, or visit the historic high country huts in the Northern Plains and Wilderness areas. On the way, you'll find conveniently positioned campgrounds that are perfect

## Blue Waterholes walks

Many places in the High Plains are closed during winter, between June and October long weekends.

Contact the Tumut Visitor Centre for more information.

You'll need to take a map to make sure you follow the correct route, as horse pads often resemble walking tracks. Times for all tracks are based on estimated walking times.

To experience the High Plains in true pioneer style, spend the night at historic Currango Homestead, open from October to May. Or if you'd prefer to sleep under the stars, you can pitch your tent at one of the many campgrounds in the area.

Take in the stunning sight of rolling plains and twisted snow gums as you walk, ride or cycle along one of the scenic trails. Anglers can try their luck fishing in the headwaters of the Murrumbidgee River or Tantangara Dam.

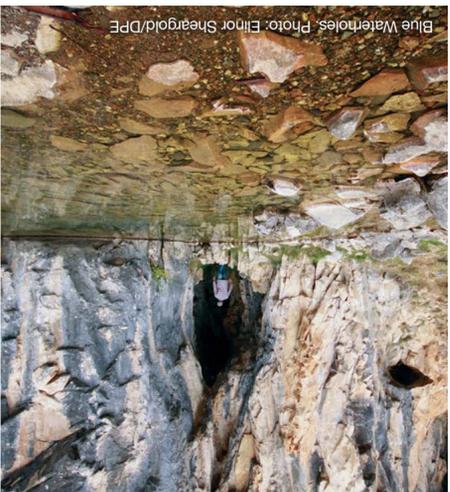
Tumut and Cooma, and discover the High Plains area, a wild corner of Kosciuszko National Park. As you explore, you'll be spoilt with summer walks, horse rides and bike trails that lead you to hidden huts, homesteads and gorges.

Venture off the Snowy Mountains Highway between

From the lookout at Blue Waterholes, follow the creek downstream before crossing to the other side of Cave Creek. After 300m you'll enter Clarke Gorge, named after Rev Clarke, a geologist who studied the area in the 1850s. Continue through the gorge past several small cave entrances in the gorge walls. Follow Cave Creek downstream to the waterfall. This marks the end of the walk. Return the same way.

Hike through the narrow gorge cut by Cave Creek with spectacular limestone cliffs and cave formations on either side. You'll never imagine that Clarke Gorge walking track could get any better but it does, finishing at the top of stunning Cooleman Falls. As well as the beauty of the rock features, some of which were formed more than 400 million years ago, the landscape is dotted with snow gums. Keep your eyes peeled for grey kangaroos bounding in the distance and wedge-tailed eagles circling overhead.

### 1 Clarke Gorge walking track



Blue Waterholes. Photo: Elinor Sheargold/DPE



5km return, 3.5–4.5 hours



Clark Gorge. Photo: Robert Mulia/DPE



5km return, 3.5–4.5 hours

### 2 Nichols Gorge walking track

From the carpark at Blue Waterholes, follow Blue Waterholes walking track past the lookout, turn right and continue upstream along Cave Creek onto Nichols Gorge walking track. The gorge is named after Horatio Nichols who assisted Rev Clarke.

Walk for 200m to Cooleman Cave, which you can explore several times before reaching the keyhole entrance to Murray Cave. You can explore this cave for 200m, it's recommended you take at least 2 torches in case batteries run flat.

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## Caring for your park

- Vehicles, all bikes and horse riding are not permitted in Clarke Gorge, Nichols Gorge, or in wilderness areas.
- Mountain biking and horse riding are permitted on all public roads and most management trails in the High Plains area.
- Bike riders please slow down. Give way to walkers and horses. Wear a helmet.
- Please stay on formed trails.
- Take water to the horse – hard hooves destroy stream banks.
- Use only weed-free feed.
- Small groups, 4–8 horses, is best.
- Observe all fire restrictions and never leave fires unattended. Consider using gas stoves instead of solid fuel for cooking.
- Bury toilet waste well away from water courses and public areas.
- All plants and animals in the national park are protected. Damage to or removal of any plants or animals is an offence.
- Domestic pets, firearms and chainsaws are not permitted in the national park.

## Staying safe

Many parts of Kosciuszko National Park are remote and rugged places. Be aware of the risks and take responsibility for your own safety and the safety of any children in your care.

Remember to plan ahead. Choose walks and activities to match your stamina and fitness level. Travel with others and tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back. Check the weather before leaving and change your plans if bad weather is approaching.

Think about filling in a trip intention form and hiring a Personal Locator Beacon from one of our visitor centres. Phone coverage in the park is patchy and cold can affect batteries.

Visit: [nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/alpine-safety](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/alpine-safety)



The walk then climbs out of the gorge to the left of Murray Cave and emerges onto the open plain. From here you'll see several dolines or depressions. The first is a solitary doline, formed by the gradual dissolving and removal of limestone by rainwater. The next is a collapsed doline or sinkhole. Continue to follow the track markers back to Cave Creek.

The creek disappears underground into Cave Creek, re-emerging at Blue Waterholes. Only after heavy rain will the creek flow past this point. Continue, passing several small dolines until you reach Blue Waterholes Road. Turn right and return to the carpark.



Circuits trail. Photo: Murray Vanderveer/DPE

## Accommodation

Outside winter, you can stay overnight at Currango Homestead, The Pines Cottage, and Daffodil Cottage with your horse.

- Maximum 10 horses are permitted at the Currango precinct at any time. There's a horse yard (3 paddocks) a short drive from the accommodation.
- You'll need to provide feed and water. There's a limit of 1 horse per guest, subject to availability.
- Horses must be registered at the time of booking. A nominal fee applies.

Year-round accommodation is available at Yarrangobilly Caves.

For more information or to book, call 1300 072 757 or visit: [nswparks.info/staykosci](http://nswparks.info/staykosci)

Follow the trail across the Eucumbene River, through sub-alpine frost hollows on the Kianadra Plain. You'll pass historic Six Mile Gold Diggings, circa 1864, and the headwaters of Goandra Creek, before reaching the intersection with the footpad to Goandra Homestead.

This day walk, or moderate ride, begins at the Goandra trail head, on Snowy Mountains Highway, around 6km north of Kianadra. Please note there may be Snowy 2.0 works at the trail head.

Enjoy great views across the plains as you ride through snow gum woodlands. This mostly flat to moderate trail, with a few rolling hills, is also a suitable Grade 4 walk.

Starting at Ghost Gully campground, park your car at the designated horse camping area, 4.5km east of Long Plain Road on Fort Phillip trail. From here, head north along Mosquito Creek trail. Hainsworth Hut is 3.5km on the right. Continue for around 6.5km then veer right onto Old Currango trail. The Old Currango Homestead: 12.1km one-way, 4–5 hours

Hainsworth Hut: 3.5km one-way, 1–2 hours

Ghost Gully campground to: 34km return (all huts), 10 hours

Bill Jones Hut: 15km one-way, 5–6 hours

Old Currango Homestead: 12.1km one-way, 4–5 hours

Goandra was built in 1913. Around 12,000 sheep were held on this lease, along with a woolshed and yards. The area's pioneering history goes back to the Kianadra gold rush, and you can still see the remnants of a miner's hut built in 1864, about 20m away. This structure is believed to be the oldest in Kosciuszko National Park.



Long Plain Hut. Photo: Robert Mulia/DPE

## 6 Gavels and Brayshaws Hut loop

27km loop, 9 hours (all huts)

Snowy Mountains Highway to: Gavels Hut: 5.5km one-way, 2 hours  
Brayshaws Hut: 16km one-way via Gavels Hut trail

Start at Boundary trail, off the Snowy Mountains Highway, near the park entrance. Gavels Hut is 5.5km north of the highway. Turn left at the junction onto Gavels Hut trail.

There are some narrow tracks with steep climbs and descents along this ride, or Grade 4 walk. In the southern part you'll head through snow gums, mountain gum and alpine ash forests that open onto the expansive Nungar Plain.

After reaching Gavels Hut you can choose to return the way you came. Or the more adventurous can continue north on the trail that skirts the grassy plain, until you reach Circuits trail. Turn left towards Brayshaws Hut, which is 3.7km along the trail. Keep an eye out for red-necked wallabies, flame robins, and grey shrike-thrush, which are often seen in this area.

If you're equipped for an overnight walk, you can head directly back to Snowy Mountains Highway via Circuits shortcut trail, which is 10.8km from Brayshaws Hut.



Currango Homestead. Photo: Murray Vanderveer/DPE

### 3 Goandra Homestead walk and ride

9.4km return, 3.5 hours

• Ravine 1:25 000

• Denison 1:25 000

• Rendezvous Creek 1:25 000

• Rules Point 1:25 000

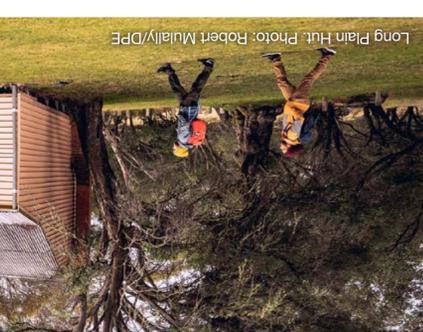
• Tantangara 1:25 000

Topographic maps

or snowshoe in this area.

Journey through mountain woodlands to high country huts and immerse yourself in high country pioneering heritage. In summer, explore the network of trails on foot, by bike or by horse. In winter, you can cross-country ski

Goandra was built in 1913. Around 12,000 sheep were held on this lease, along with a woolshed and yards. The area's pioneering history goes back to the Kianadra gold rush, and you can still see the remnants of a miner's hut built in 1864, about 20m away. This structure is believed to be the oldest in Kosciuszko National Park.



Gavels Hut: Built 1931, this quaint timber and corrugated iron-clad hut looks over the Nungar Plain. James T. Gavel leased the area in the 1930s as summer pasture for 4000 sheep.

Brayshaws Hut: Built in the 1950s, this tiny 2m x 3m weatherboard hut was originally a washroom and laundry for the Venables family of Adaminyab.

## Camping with horses

You can vehicle-base camp with your horse at designated campgrounds in this area, including:

- Ghost Gully campground
- Old Snowy campground
- Long Plain Hut campground
- Cooinbil Hut campground
- Bullocks Hill campground
- Wares Yards campground
- Rocky Plain campground

These campgrounds may also have facilities such as loading ramps and horse yards.

For more information or to book, call 1300 072 757 or visit: [nswparks.info/campkosci](http://nswparks.info/campkosci)



## Experience High Plains area walks and rides

Kosciuszko National Park

Kosciuszko National Park

[nswparks.info/highplains](http://nswparks.info/highplains)



**For more information visit [nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au) or call 1300 072 757 (13000 PARKS)**

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- |                     |  |   |                            |                                       |
|---------------------|--|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| High Plains area    | Unsealed road - may not be accessible in wet weather | Featured walking track or mountain bike trail | Campground                 | Historic hut                          |
| NPWS reserves       | 4WD trail - may not be accessible in wet weather     | Road closed                                   | Campground (no facilities) | Campground with facilities for horses |
| Other reserves      | Management trail - no public vehicular access        | Visitor information                           | Picnic area (day use only) | Walking track                         |
| Highway/Sealed road | Walking track/Shared use track                       | Toilets                                       | Caves                      | Mountain bike trail                   |
|                     |  | Accommodation                                 |                            |                                       |

Mosquito Creek trail that heads to the hut along the tree-line. Return the way you came.

Extra sections: For a longer ride, continue to either Blue Waterholes, Harris Hut ruins or Pockets Hut, which becomes the Pocket ride.

For Blue Waterholes, head east across the plain for 2.3km, then turn left onto Blue Waterholes trail. Continue for about 3km. At Blue Waterholes, all riders must remain on the Blue Waterholes trail.

For Pockets Hut, head east across the plain for 2.3km, then turn right on Blue Waterholes trail for 4.8km. Organise a car shuffle from the locked gate at Gurrangoramba Creek, on Pockets Saddle Road. Ghost Gully to Pockets Hut is part of the Australian Alps walking track.

Hainsworth Hut: This simple corrugated iron structure with a wrap-around chimney was built around 1951. It sits in a sheltered valley with a pretty creek.

Old Currango Homestead: Constructed of hand split timbers around 1873, it's the oldest building in the park. The homestead has spectacular views overlooking Currango Plains towards Mount Bimberri.

Bill Jones Hut: The corrugated iron hut is in a sheltered spot amongst the snow gums. Built in the 1950s, it's one of the last-built grazing era huts.

### 5 Pocket ride

13km return (all huts), 8 hours **Grade 4**

**Gurrangoramba Creek to:**  
 Oldfields Hut: 3.1km one-way, 1-2 hours  
 Pockets Hut: 5km one-way, 2-3 hours

This easy ride, also a suitable Grade 4 walk, starts from the locked gate at the northern end of Pockets Saddle Road, at Gurrangoramba Creek. Oldfields Hut is 3.1km from here or Pockets Hut is 5km.

To reach Oldfields Hut, ride along Pockets Saddle Road and turn right onto Murray Gap trail. The trail winds up a steep hill and down to the hut. Return to your start point, or take Blue Waterholes trail then Pockets Hut trail.

Pockets Hut is 5km from Gurrangoramba Creek. Travel along Pockets Saddle Road and turn left onto Blue Waterholes trail, then right onto Pockets Hut trail to reach the hut.

Extra sections: From Pockets Hut, you can return the way you came or connect with Mosquito Creek trail. Alternatively, continue on to Blue Waterholes, which lengthens the route by approximately 14km return. At Blue Waterholes, all riders must remain on the Blue Waterholes trail.

Oldfields Hut: Built in 1925, this picturesque timber slab hut has great views across a secluded valley to Mount Bimberri.

Pockets Hut: Built in the early 1930s as part of Currango Station, this weatherboard hut has 4 rooms with a large fireplace. Camping is permitted in the open area beside the hut.

### 6 Nungar walk and ride

23km return, 8 hours **Grade 3**

Start at Nungar Creek trail, which is 8km along Tantangara Road from Snowy Mountains Highway. Witses Hut is 11.5km along the trail.

There are some narrow tracks with steep climbs on this undulating ride, or Grade 3 walk. The southern part of the ride travels and descends alongside the winding Nungar Creek to the Tantangara Dam trail intersection.

### Walking grades

**Grade 3 walk**  
 Gentle hills, formed track with some obstacles, sign posted with occasional steps. Some bushwalking experience recommended.

**Grade 4 walk**  
 Short steep hills. Sign posted rough track with occasional steps and many obstacles. Recommended for experienced bushwalkers.

**Grade 5 walk**  
 Short steep hills. Rough unformed track with occasional steps and limited signage. Recommended for experienced bushwalkers.



Old Currango Hut Photo: Murray Vanderveer/DPE

Keep an eye out for red-necked wallabies and wedge-tailed eagles. You'll pass through sub-alpine woodland and plains and see evidence of the 2003 and 2007 wildfires as you approach Witses Hut. Return the same way.

Extra sections: From Witses Hut you can create a through trip by continuing south-west along Nungar Creek trail for an extra 11.5km, to the Snowy Mountains Highway at Kiandra. You may get wet feet crossing the Eucumbene River near the highway.

Witses Hut: This vertical slab hut was built around 1952, on what was once Tantangara Station using timber from Tantangara Homestead (circa 1880s).

### 7 Murrumbidgee ride

20km return (all huts), 8 hours **Grade 4**

**Murrumbidgee bridge crossing to:**  
 Townsend Hut: 4km one-way, 1-2 hours  
 Pedens Hut: 6km one-way, 2-3 hours  
 Love Nest in the Sallees: 8.5km one-way, 3-4 hours

This moderate ride, or Grade 4 walk, includes several river crossings and becomes more challenging the further you go. Start on Tantangara Road at the Murrumbidgee bridge crossing, 20km from the Snowy Mountains Highway. Pockets Saddle Road is beyond the bridge.

Walk or ride your bike up Circuits trail - a real heart-starter. Continue to Circuits Hut (total of 3.2km) or turn left onto Pedens trail, and cross Gulf Plain for the other huts. Turn left onto Townsend trail for Townsend Hut (sign posted).

Ride back to Pedens trail and continue until you reach the track leading to Pedens Hut. Return to Pedens trail, then after a while turn left onto Murrumbidgee trail. Love Nest in the Sallees Hut is located off Murrumbidgee trail (not marked), 200m north of the Clear Ridge and Murrumbidgee trail intersection.

Alternative routes: For a shorter trip, Circuits Hut is 3.2km one-way from the Murrumbidgee bridge, along Circuits trail.

For a downhill start to the ride, start at the intersection of Pockets Saddle Road and Murrumbidgee trail. Head past Love Nest in the Sallees, Pedens, Townsend, and Circuits huts and back out to the bridge across the



Murrumbidgee River on the Pockets Saddle Road Photo: Murray Vanderveer/DPE

Murrumbidgee River at the start of Pockets Saddle Road.

For a longer ride, Circuits trail connects with Schofields trail, which meets Tantangara Road near Wares Yards campground and becomes the Plains ride. Organise a car shuffle back to your start point.

Townsend Hut: Constructed around 1940, the corrugated iron hut has lovely views down the valley. It's a great spot to go fishing in the river (licence required). Listen out for lyrebirds.

Pedens Hut: Built in 1929, this corrugated iron and timber slab hut uses materials from an 1890s slab hut.

Love Nest in the Sallees Hut: This vertical slab hut is nestled amongst black sallees above Paytens Creek. Don't forget to duck as you enter Kosciuszko's only 'humpy'.

### 8 Plains ride

21km return, 7 hours **Grade 4**

**Schofields trail head to:**  
 Schofields Hut: 6km one-way, 2 hours  
 Circuits Hut: 10.5km one-way, 3.5 hours

This easy to moderate ride, or Grade 4 walk, starts at the Schofields trail head on Tantangara Road. Schofields Hut is 6km along Schofields trail, crossing Nungar Creek. Circuits Hut is 10.5km from Tantangara Road, following Schofields then Circuits trails.

For a longer ride, continue along Circuits trail to the intersection of Pedens trail. From here you can start the moderately difficult Murrumbidgee ride or ride down to the intersection with Tantangara Road and organise a car shuffle.

Schofields Hut: The simple hut is best known for its 16-pane window.

Circuits Hut: Built in 1938, this pretty weatherboard hut is more like a house, with 4 rooms and a verandah. It sits among mature black sallees overlooking the Gulf Plain. Circuits Hut was part of only 3 freehold grazing properties in what is now Kosciuszko National Park.