The Australian Alps aren’t as high or steep as mountains overseas, but strong winds, rain, snowfall, and extreme temperatures make our alpine and sub-alpine areas dangerous year-round.

Search and rescue operations occur in Kosciuszko National Park every year. Many of these are for visitors who underestimate conditions and overestimate their capabilities.

Safety is your responsibility.

---

**Get advice**

- Contact national parks visitor centres for conditions, closures, and for detailed maps.
  - Jindabyne: (02) 6450 5600 or Tumut: (02) 6947 7025
- If you’re advised not to go – don’t.

**Personal Locator Beacons**

- Even experienced travellers should carry a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB).
- You can loan a free PLB at Jindabyne, Perisher, Khancoban or Tumut visitor centres.
- **Only activate a PLB if you’re in danger or injured, and then stay where you are.**

**Plan your trip**

- Always travel with at least two people in a group. Make sure at least one person is experienced.
- Tell a reliable friend your travel plans, including:
  - the number in the group and experience level
  - planned route
  - equipment
  - when you plan to return.
- Fill in the trip intention form at the Jindabyne, Perisher or Tumut NPWS visitor centres. **It’s free.** A summary of your trip will be sent to your nominated emergency contact.
- Advise when you’re back or if you stay longer.

---

**Be prepared**

- Take extra water and food. Purify all stream water before drinking.
- Take layers of warm, waterproof clothing, even in summer and on day trips.
- Wear high factor sunscreen and sunglasses all year. UV is high and snow reflects the sun, even on overcast days.
- Take a topographic map and compass. Be sure you know how to use them. It’s a good idea to carry a Personal Locater Beacon (PLB).
- Understand risks when backcountry walking, skiing and snowboarding, including unstable and deep snow; steep icy slopes; cornices; avalanches; and extreme weather.
- Take a bivouac bag or space blanket for emergencies.
Don’t rely on technology

• Mobile phone coverage within the park is patchy and the cold can severely affect batteries.

• Global Positioning System (GPS) can be unreliable. Batteries are affected by cold so only use with a topographic map and compass.

• Technology won’t guarantee your safety. Conditions may restrict rescue efforts. Always be prepared - even on day trips.

If you get caught out

• Stay calm, assess your situation and consider your options.

• Stay where you are. You’ll be harder to find on the move and will use a lot of energy.

• Find a shelter, stay out of the wind.

• Leave something visible for searchers, like colourful clothing.

• If you’re above the tree-line, don’t drop down into the trees except for temporary shelter. Rescue helicopters won’t see you.

• If you can, dial Triple Zero (000) in an emergency. Download the Emergency+ app before you go. It helps emergency services locate you using your smartphone’s GPS.

• Don’t delay your call, it can seriously hamper rescue efforts.

• Know the signs of hypothermia, and how to treat it. Find out more at: nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/alpine-safety

General enquiries:
Snowy Region Visitor Centre, Jindabyne. Ph: (02) 6450 5600
Tumut Visitor Centre, Tumut. Ph: (02) 6947 7025
Khancoban Visitor Centre, Khancoban. Ph: (02) 6076 9373
Perisher Visitor Office, Perisher Valley. Ph: (02) 6457 4444
Yarrangobilly Caves Visitor Centre. Ph: (02) 6454 9597

Photography:

Published by:
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
Office of Environment and Heritage
59 Goulburn St, Sydney, NSW 2000