EBOR FALLS

A great stop-off between the coast and Armidale along Waterfall Way, Ebor Falls offers spectacular waterfall views, scenic lookouts and a tranquil picnic area.

The Gumbaynggirr people traditionally called Ebor Falls ‘Martiam’, which means ‘the great falls’.

Watch the Guy Fawkes River plunging 100m over two waterfalls near the beginning of its long journey north. Three lookout platforms along the edge of the gorge – upper falls, lower falls and valley view – give spectacular views out into the rugged gorge country of Guy Fawkes River National Park.

A walking track links the upper falls and lower falls lookout platforms via the escarpment edge and is an easy walk that’s suitable for children. You can also walk to the village of Ebor if you need to grab a coffee or pick up some picnic supplies.

You can explore more of this rugged wilderness park by turning off the Armidale-Grafton Road at Dundurrabin and continuing 34km to Chaelundi campground (gravel roads). The Escarpment walk leads to the spectacular Chaelundi Falls and Lucifers Thumb lookout, with remarkable 180-degree views out over the park and the Guy Fawkes River gorge.
GETTING THERE

The Waterfall Way, between Armidale and Dorrigo, provides access to some of the most spectacular national parks in NSW. Turn offs are well sign-posted to lookouts, campgrounds and picnic areas, on all-weather unsealed roads.

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

“Rather than Country belonging to us, we believe we belong to Country.”

The Dunghutti people belong to the area of the catchment of the Macleay River and the Anaiwan people belong to the tablelands beyond. In the north the Gumbaynggirr people include the Bellinger River valley in their area. These associations with the land go back many thousands of years and continue to this day. Today many Aboriginal women choose to continue this tradition and avoid the ‘Berarngutta’, and is considered a men-only place. Point Lookout and the Anaiwan people belong to the tablelands beyond. In the north the Gumbaynggirr people include the Bellinger River valley in their area. These associations with the land go back many thousands of years and continue to this day. Today many Aboriginal women choose to continue this tradition and avoid the ‘Berarngutta’, and is considered a men-only place.

“Where else can you have so much wilderness and natural area to explore all to yourself? A truly magical place to experience.”

CRAGS, CLIFFS AND CHASMS

Explore the parks along the Great Escarpment and Snowy Range, which dominate this region of New South Wales on the eastern edge of the New England Tableland. Stare into the centre of the ancient Ebor volcano. Watch cascading streams and waterfalls still shaping this dramatic mountainous landscape, as you travel along the Waterfall Way.

From the rugged beauty of Guy Fawkes River National Park and the huge granite tors of Cathedral Rock National Park to the breathtaking cliffs of Wollomombi Gorge in Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, you will find yourself surrounded by some of the most spectacular scenery on the east coast of Australia. Wilderness Areas have been declared over parts of all four parks, protecting the viewscapes and providing large areas of undisturbed land where genetic diversity and natural cycles can remain essentially unaltered by human activity.

To get a glimpse of what the planet was like millions of years ago, climb down to hidden worlds deep below the cliffs to see some of the unique vegetation of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage area.

This World Heritage site is a chain of fifty remnant ‘rainforest islands’ stretching from south east Queensland to Barrington Tops in New South Wales, forming the most extensive areas of diverse types of rainforest to be found anywhere on the globe. These rainforests protect thousands of special plants and animals in this most ancient of Australian ecosystems.

Camping fees are payable in most NSW national parks. Pay at the self-registration stations in these parks. Key to camping fees on this map: 1 - no camping fee 2 - adult $5, child $3, per night 3 - adult $10, child $5, per night

Cool temperate rainforest of Antarctic beech can be seen along walking tracks in New England National Park.
NEW ENGLAND NATIONAL PARK

WHY VISIT?

Just a one-hour scenic drive from Armidale or Dorrigo or two hours by car from Coffs Harbour, you’ll discover a place of spectacular beauty and pristine wilderness at New England National Park.

Few parks in NSW offer such a choice of activities in such glorious surrounds, which is why some people come back year after year to enjoy the many viewpoints, and diversity of habitat and wildlife found within the park’s 1400m altitudinal range.

Even in one day you can admire a magnificent 180 degree panorama over a wilderness of ranges, step down through the hushed and mossy mystery of a surviving pocket of Gondwana rainforest, scramble to the top of a craggy volcanic plug with flowering heathland and more breathtaking views, and picnic with crimson rosellas amongst silver-trunked snow gums.

But why not stay overnight and get up in the dark to catch the sunrise from Point Lookout, then discover more experiences that await you? You can walk upstream along a cascading, pristine mountain creek, or listen to lyrebird concerts echoing down the gullies, or capture colourful wildflowers on camera, or count how many of the 100 species of birds you encounter in the many habitats explored by the 22km of walking tracks.

POINT LOOKOUT

You’ll need your camera for the breathtaking views from Point Lookout, a 200m walk from the carpark on a wheelchair-friendly track. You can see all the way to the coast across a wilderness of forested peaks and valleys. Join the heroic early risers who arrive before dawn to see the sensational sunrises over mist-filled valleys.

“Watching the sun rise over the ocean, lighting up the cloud-covered valley below Point Lookout, is one of the most spectacular and memorable dawns I have ever experienced.”
While you’re at Point Lookout, why not venture off to discover the rainforest below on the many walking tracks that start here?

WALKING TRACKS

**EAGLES NEST TRACK**
Grade 4, 2.2km, 2hrs circuit

“It’s like going back in time when you walk through Gondwana rainforest, admiring ancient species that have looked this way for millions of years.”

Eagles Nest walking track takes you on a journey into the mysterious world below the cliff line and returns atop the plateau, with outstanding views along the way.

From Point Lookout step down into the ageless green world of Gondwana rainforest. Marvel at the huge Antarctic beech trees covered in moss and dotted with beech orchids. You’ll see water trickling from the rocks, or on winter days freezing and forming chandeliers of ice that glister in the winter light.

Climb back up to the escarpment near Banksia Point and return to Point lookout through snow gum woodland, carpeted with snowgrass tussocks and colourful wildflowers in the spring. Watch for shy swamp wallabies and friendly yellow robins.

**WRIGHTS LOOKOUT**
Grade 3, 4km, 2hrs return

From the carpark on Robinsons Knob Trail the walk to Wrights Lookout takes you through the lush world of ferns and mosses to a rocky plateau with spectacular panoramic views.

It’s a bit of a scramble to get to the top, but you’ll be rewarded at the end, standing on the top of a trachyte remnant of the ancient Ebor Volcano, looking down to Bellinger River in the valley below. The views from the top are beautiful all year round, but in spring the heathlands burst with colourful wildflowers. Birdwatchers will spot honeyeaters on the flowering shrubs.

**CASCADES WALK**
Grade 4 with rock-hopping, 5.7km, 3hr circuit

This gorgeous and tranquil walk takes viewers down along the beautiful valley below Wrights Lookout past cascades and waterfalls, alongside giant king ferns and mossy boulders. Five Day Creek, along Cascades walk, is one of the most beautiful rainforest streams in NSW.

**TEA TREE FALLS WALK**
Grade 3, 2km, 45 mins one-way

One of the easiest walks in the park, Tea Tree Falls walk links Thungutti campground with Banksia Point and other walks. Look out for hanging moss and spongy sphagnum moss.

**NEW ENGLAND WILDERNESS WALK**
Grade 5, 33km, 20 hrs (3 days) one way

This tough walk, which descends over 1000m from the New England Tableland to the headwaters of Bellinger River, invites experienced bush walkers on a journey through wilderness and diverse landscapes. Enjoy the changing scenery of the escarpment descent, followed by creek walking, river crossings, swimming spots and serene camping. Upon reaching the valley floor, easy walking over grassy river flats reveals historic farmhouses and stockyards - a reminder of the early farming heritage here.

Don’t go without your pocket guide, available from the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre and Armidale Outdoors.

**EAGLES NEST TRACK**
Grade 3, 5.5km, 3hrs circuit

From Banksia Point you can take the Lyrebird Walk for the full New England experience. Immerse yourself in the ancient Gondwana rainforests and discover secret dells where lyrebirds call. Explore an enchanting range of other environments too, including eucalypt forest, basalt cliffs, and colourful heath, and marvel at the constantly changing feast of expansive views.

Return via Treefern Valley for a shorter (one hour) walk.

**LYREBIRD WALK**
Grade 3, 5.5km, 3hrs circuit

**NEW ENGLAND WILDERNESS WALK**
Grade 5, 33km, 20 hrs (3 days) one way

**TEA TREE FALLS WALK**
Grade 3, 2km, 45 mins one-way

**CASCADES WALK**
Grade 4 with rock-hopping, 5.7km, 3hr circuit

**WRIGHTS LOOKOUT**
Grade 3, 4km, 2hrs return

**EAGLES NEST TRACK**
Grade 4, 2.2km, 2hrs circuit

**WRIGHTS LOOKOUT**
Grade 3, 4km, 2hrs return

**CASCADES WALK**
Grade 4 with rock-hopping, 5.7km, 3hr circuit
“When you get to Woolpack Rocks, you can really see how they got their name – they look like a huge pile of wool bales.”

WALKING TRACKS

CATHEDRAL ROCK
Grade 4, 5.8km, 2hrs 45mins circuit
Hike up Cathedral Rock to sit on a natural throne – perched on 200m of stacked boulders – and survey your kingdom. The nearby Round Mountain is the highest point of the New England Tablelands, although only by a royal whisker at 1584m.

The track is most easily accessed from Barokee campground. Follow the circuit clockwise on a gentle climb through sub-alpine woodland to the summit turnoff. Rock-hopping is the scientific term for what you’ll be doing for much of the next 400m as you clamber over boulders and straddle crevices. On the way back, keep following the circuit around through a protected valley of manna gums.

BAROKEE TO NATIVE DOG CREEK
Grade 3, 10.4km, 5hrs one way
Ideal for a first-time overnight hike or a long day walk, Barokee to Native Dog Creek track crosses the Snowy Range. It links the park’s two campgrounds and takes in Woolpack Rocks and Cathedral Rock. The grade is moderate apart from when you climb the rock features (which add 1.4km to the distance).

You will walk through subalpine woodland, open forest, heath and boulder fields. There is no better track for birdwatchers as woodland birds are plentiful here and you’re likely to see honeyeaters, pardalotes, robins, treecreepers, rosellas and lorikeets. Be sure to bring your binoculars and don’t forget to scan the skies for circling wedge-tailed eagles.

Depending on your group’s timetable and fitness, you might leave your vehicle at one end then camp the night at the other and retrace your steps the next day, car shuffle for a one-way day walk, or hike the return 20.8km in one go.

WOLLPACK ROCKS
Grade 3, 3.7km (one way), 1.5hrs each way
Woolpack Rocks shouldn’t be overlooked just because the national park wasn’t named after them. Easily accessible from Native Dog Creek campground, this feature is a geological wonder in its own right.

Woolpack Rocks are around 270 million years old and you can see how these ancient tors have been exposed through erosion and weathering. You can also see some of the volcanic dykes created at the same time when molten rock pushed into deep pockets within the earth’s crust.

The boulders are 1400m above sea level, yet clambering to the summit is even easier than at Cathedral Rock. So, you’re getting a great scenic view for the price of a prehistoric walk and an easy climb. Finding an array of wildflowers among the rocks is an extra surprise on your walk to the Woolpack Rocks.
This map gives you a basic overview of features and facilities. It does not provide detailed information on topography and landscape, and may not be suitable for some activities. We recommend that you buy a topographic map before you go exploring.

STAY OVERNIGHT

BAROKEE CAMPGROUND

Campsites at Barokee campground are tucked away amongst tall banksia and eucalyptus trees, giving a lovely sense of privacy. And because this is remote camping, you’re more than likely to have the place to yourself.

The campground is the closest starting point to Cathedral Rock itself, so you can enjoy the circuit and summit scramble, or the longer Barokee to Native Dog Creek walk.

You might also want to wander around the swampy valley at the head of Snowy Creek where a variety of alpine and sub-alpine plants and wildflowers thrive. Although many flower in spring, there is colour at any time of the year.

NATIVE DOG CREEK CAMPGROUND

Native Dog Creek campground is spacious, and ideal for relaxing. It’s mere minutes from the park’s northern entrance, so shortly after arriving at the park you’ll soon be lazing in the picnic area with a cup of tea in hand.

If you feel like heading out for some exercise, Warrigal track with its gigantic boulders is an easy circuit and Native Dog Creek is ideal for paddling. For a longer hike, carry on to Woolpack Rocks and, beyond that, Cathedral Rock.

Kangaroos and wallabies are used to campers and may pose for a photo right beside your tent, whilst wedge-tailed eagles are often sighted soaring above.
WOLLOMOMBI GORGE, OXLEY WILD RIVERS NATIONAL PARK

"We were mesmerised by Wollomombi Falls after the rains, even the kids were speechless. Either that, or we just couldn’t hear them over the roar of water."

WALKING TRACKS

**CHANDLER WALKING TRACK**
Grade 2, 2.5km 1hr 30min return

Those who enjoy ridge-walking with all-round views will like this short, easy walk in the middle of the awesome gorge country. From Wollomombi Lookout gaze across the deep ravine gouged by the convergence of the Chandler and Wollomombi Rivers. From here stroll through woodland of stringybarks and blackbutts, where honeyeaters and lorikeets squabble over blossom.

Don’t miss the brilliant view from Checks Lookout where you are surrounded by a maze of gorges and valleys. You might also see wedge-tailed eagles and peregrine falcons surfing the thermals rising off the steep cliffs. Although there is no track to the bottom of the gorge you can still look down upon a dramatic U-bend in the river from Chandler Lookout at the end of the ridge.

**WOLLOMOMBI WALKING TRACK**
Grade 2, 4km 3hrs return

If you’re up for a walk to the head of the gorge, take this track from the picnic area. It’s easy and you get to see the waterfalls and the dramatic landscape from quite a few different angles. Take a snack - you’ll find some great places to sit and enjoy the great outdoors.

When you cross over the Wollomombi River, stop a while to scan quietly for wildlife. There are platypus living here, and it’s also a favourite resting spot for eastern grey kangaroos.

Birdwatchers will also want to take it slow to check out the feathered life of the forest. Colourful spotted pardalotes have a call that sounds like ‘sleep maybe’, and you are also likely to hear the cheeky but melodius conversations of currawongs.

WHY VISIT?

WOLLOMOMBI GORGE AND FALLS PICNIC AREA

If you like being king of the castle, don’t miss the dramatic views from Wollomombi Lookout where the Wollomombi and Chandler Rivers plunge into an enormous ravine.

If there’s been heavy rain, you’ll soak up more than just the scenery as the thunderous waterfalls fill the gorge with mist and the occasional rainbow. It’s a great way to introduce the kids to the might of the natural elements and notch up a visit to one of the highest waterfalls in NSW.

When the force of nature gives way to hunger, unpack the picnic basket and barbecue up a feast under the shade of the red gum and yellow box. If you’re after action, there’s a range of walks that show off the rugged beauty of this spectacular area.

STAY OVERNIGHT

WOLLOMOMBI CAMPGROUND

Pull up in this peaceful campsite and you’ll suddenly be in the bush. It’s perfect for an overnight bush stop while exploring the falls country of New England by campervan. There’s the accessible Edgars lookout just a short stroll from camp.

DID YOU KNOW?

Brush-tailed rock-wallabies have an almost unbelievable ability to hop around on near-vertical cliffs, because they have special ‘suction pads’ on their feet. Even though there are many thousands of this endangered species in the rocky gorges of the Northern Tablelands, you’ll have to keep your eyes open to catch a glimpse of a dark bushy tail. Look for them jumping around rocky escarpments and granite outcrops or grazing on native grasses at dawn and dusk.
EXPLORE FURTHER

You might be tempted to spend a couple of days on the Waterfall Way to admire more of the spectacular gorges and waterfalls of Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. See the Waterfall Way map for these locations west of Wollomombi.

Part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage area, this park is renowned for its patches of rare dry rainforest, perched beneath dry ridges and surrounded by open forests. Dry rainforest sounds impossible, but in the gorge country there are pockets where deep moisture makes it possible for particular rainforest species such as red kamala, lacebark and stinging trees to make it through seasonal dry periods.

LONG POINT

Along a ridge, 17km south of Hillgrove on a gravel road, Long Point offers breathtaking views and relaxed family camping. Perfect for the kids, the Cassinia walk is a short (1.5km), easy track that takes in rare rainforests, gums, and grassy heathlands, making it excellent for wildlife and birdwatching. The longer Chandler View circuit walk (6km, 2hrs) follows gorge ridges dotted with yellow box and silvertop stringybark to Chandler lookout for spectacular views over the Chandler River.

GARA GORGE

Threlfall Walk: Grade 3, 5km 2.5hr circuit
At Gara Gorge, just 22km east of Armidale, the fascinating Threlfall Walk traces the gorge ridge and combines an historic walk with jaw-dropping views. It follows the route of the historic 1894 hydro-electric scheme to a lookout high above the Gara River, where you can gaze out across the rugged wilderness.

DANGARS GORGE

Just 22km south of Armidale on the Dangarsleigh Road, Dangars Falls makes a great walking or camping destination. After a downpour, the mighty falls are spectacular as Salisbury Waters plunges over the 120m ravine, filling it with mist and rainbows. You’ll find plenty of walks to do too.