

Weddin Mountains National Park

View along Hervey's Range
(Photo: Ian Brown NPWS)



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CULTURAL HERITAGE

Weddin Mountains appear to have been named after an Aboriginal word meaning to stop or remain. The park lies within the territory of the Wiradjuri people and signs of long occupation can be found. Carved trees and other archaeological evidence and fragments of oral history suggest the Weddin Mountains was a place of great significance to Aboriginal people.

European settlement began in 1828 and pastoral settlement followed on the alluvial flats below the Weddin Mountains. Many new towns were established in the surrounding area and by 1847, grazing runs were well established on the fertile plains. Seatons Farm in the north west of the park is an important relic of the local pastoral heritage. The property was purchased by the Seatons at the height of the Great Depression in 1936.

The farm they built is a remarkable example of vernacular architecture. Constructed from readily available local materials it was built from secondhand iron,

mill off-cuts, mud and hand-cut timber.

Weddin Mountains National Park is steeped in bushranger heritage of Ben Hall. In the 1860s the Weddin Mountains was a favoured haven for bushrangers due to its altitude and clever hiding places. Locals were sympathetic – the lads avoided robbing adjacent farming communities.

EXPLORING THE PARK

It's an ideal place for a scenic drive or cycling adventure. The sight of Weddin Mountain rising above the landscape is a delight as it gradually looms closer.

Exploring around the base of the mountain en route to the major visitor destinations such as Holy Camp or Ben Halls campground in the northwest of the park is another treat for visitors. Enjoy a picnic with free barbecue facilities or camp overnight.

Walkers will enjoy exploring Ben Hall's Cave walking track. The adventure begins by heading up the hill behind the campground.

You can imagine bushrangers heading their horses up the mountain range, searching for hiding places and watching

out for troopers approaching across the plains. Up the rugged hillside you'll find a small cave that would have made a perfect shelter for Ben Hall and his ilk.

For an easier stroll head to Seatons Farm where a series of interpretive signs highlight various points of interest.

Other park highlights include the walk up to the Peregrine and Eualdrie lookouts that can also be accessed from Holy Camp on the north eastern edge of the park.

Fuzzy box (*Eucalyptus conica*) is a listed endangered ecological community found in this area and visitors are invited to share in its conservation by enjoying the camping and picnic area while carefully minimising their impact on the community.



Basin Gully (Photo: Ian Brown NPWS)

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Legend

- Weddin Mountains National Park
- State forest
- Highway
- Minor road
- Management trail (closed to vehicles)
- Walking track
- Camping area
- Picnic area
- Lookout
- Information
- Walking track
- Toilets
- Disabled access
- Gas barbecue
- Historic area
- Wood barbecue
- Caravan site
- Walk ID number
- Locked Gate

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KILOMETRES



WALKING TRACKS

Ben Halls Cave track

Grade 4
1.5km loop
30 mins

Head up the hill behind the campground and you'll come to a large rock overhang where bushrangers once stashed their loot and watched for troopers. Continue on to a small cave that infamous bushranger, Ben Hall, used as shelter.

Lynchs loop walk

Grade 4
2.5km return
1-2 hrs

A steady graded climb through open woodland to the edge of the western escarpment and a vast view over the plains.

Berthas Gully

Grade 4
3km return
2.5 hrs

A scenic ramble with abundant, noisy birdlife – visit in spring to see the wildflowers at their finest.

Weddin Gap –Black Spring loop track

Grade 4
20km loop
8 hrs

Start out early in the morning and challenge yourself on this long loop walk. It can also be completed over two days if you're prepared for a night of remote camping under the stars.

Eualdrie walking track

Grade 4
4.8 km return
2.5 hrs

Follow an old logging trail from Holy Camp to a steep climb to Peregrine lookout for wonderful views and abundant wildlife.

Basin Gully to Eualdrie lookout track

Grade 5
9km return
6-7 hrs

This is a challenging walk bringing breathtaking views of the Weddin Mountains. Keep an eye out for delightful birds such as wrens, robins and warblers in the treetops.

CAMPGROUNDS

These are remote campgrounds, so please arrive well-prepared.

Facilities available:

- non-flush toilets
- picnic tables
- wood barbecues and fire rings

It's a good idea to bring your own firewood.

Water is not available, so you'll need to bring your own supply for drinking and cooking.

Rubbish bins are not available, so please take your rubbish with you when leaving.

Ben Halls campground and picnic area

One of the most picturesque settings you could wish for. With the escarpment areas of Basin Gully as a backdrop, the open woodland environment provides a welcoming atmosphere here on the edge of the park. Join in the adventure of conserving the threatened fuzzy box community by following on-site guidelines regarding minimal impact camping.

Holy Camp

Drive past the remnant vegetation dotting the roadside reserves and enjoy the view of the mountain on your drive into Holy Camp. Nestled under the shade of mugga ironbarks and

black pines, Holy Camp provides the ideal setting for a quiet picnic or bush camp.

PLACES TO VISIT

Seatons Farm

What use could you make of a few scrap sheets of metal and odd strands of wire? Any budding handyman or woman can but wonder at the ingenuity shown by Jim and Bertha Seaton in constructing this farm out of not very much. The farm provided them with a self sufficient operation to complement Jim's work as a farm labourer. Interpretive signs on site help tell their story.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT THE PARK

Weddin Mountains National Park consists of a 19km long crescent-shaped range rising sharply above the surrounding plains. This range is broken mid-way along its length by the 'Weddin Gap'. Escarpments dominate the northern and eastern side of the range, while the gentler slopes to the south and west are dissected by many steep gullies.

The park protects a range of vegetation types typical of the rugged escarpment areas of the central west. These include woodlands dominated by trees such as mugga ironbark, tumbledown gum, kurrajong and cypress pine.

These communities differ markedly from the white box woodlands which once flourished over the alluvial flats now largely cleared for agricultural purposes. Fortunately some remnant vegetation links remain across the plains country to allow wildlife to move between major reserves such as Weddin Mountains and its adjacent parks.

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Park is remarkably rich in birdlife and supports a known 151 bird species, although the true numbers are likely to be far greater.

Large flocks of the threatened superb parrot have been seen in both the Weddin Mountains and adjacent agricultural land.

Keep your eye out for the peregrine falcon which is often seen circling the camping area protecting its young nesting in cliff edges and ledges. The eerie wailing of the bush stone-curlew (which sounds like a baby crying) may keep you up at night. Australia's largest bird of prey – the wedge tailed eagle – is also often seen in the area.

STAYING SAFE IN PARKS

Many NSW parks are remote and rugged places, weather can change quickly and conditions in the bush may be unpredictable.

When visiting a national park, be aware of the risks, remember to plan ahead, choose your walks and activities to match your stamina and fitness level, and tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back.

Before setting off, check the NPWS website for any closures due to fires, floods or other conditions.

© 2017 Office of Environment and Heritage

Published by:

Office of Environment and Heritage
59 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au

ISBN 978 1 76039 762 3 OEH 2017/0812

April 2017

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

13000 PARKS (13000 72757)
BATHURST OFFICE 02 6332 7640
FORBES OFFICE 02 6851 4429

