

Going Up the Mountain

Kosciuszko National Park

Location

Kosciuszko National Park straddles the highest part of the Great Dividing Range and protects tableland, montane, sub alpine and alpine ecosystems, glacial landforms, limestone caves, the headwaters of major rivers, most of the NSW snow country and Australia's highest peak, Mt Kosciuszko. The park is home to rare, endangered and endemic plants and animals including the Mountain pygmy possum and Corroboree frog and is important for recreation especially the snow sports.

About this program

The students observe, record and compare the geology, soil, weather, flora, fauna and human use of the montane, sub-alpine and alpine ecosystems. The impact of grazing, ski resorts and park management strategies are also addressed. Consider combining this program with the *Kosciuszko – a special place* power point presentation, *Strategic Planning Meeting* role play activity or *Above the Treeline* guided alpine walk.

Objectives

Students will:

- identify the key features of the montane, sub alpine and alpine ecosystems through direct observation and recording phenomena
- understand the spatial and ecological dimensions of the alpine area of NSW
- explore the geographical processes that form and transform environments
- acknowledge the vulnerability of ecosystems to natural and human induced stress
- accept the importance of ecosystem management and protection.
- describe how the alpine environment is changing in response to climatic variations
- describe the geographical processes that form and transform the alpine environment
- explain how current management strategies are contributing to the sustainable use of the sub alpine and alpine area
- label a line sketch

Program outline

Meet at Kosciuszko Education Centre Sawpit Creek

Welcome, introductions, safety briefing	15 mins
Sawpit Creek - montane ecosystem	60 mins
Morning tea	15 mins
Drive to Dainers Gap - a legacy of grazing	45 mins
Drive to Smiggin Holes - snow gum dieback	45 mins
Drive to Perisher - Lunch (shelter & toilets available)	45 mins
Perisher - a ski resort	30 mins
Drive to Spencers Ck - a sub-alpine community	45 mins
Drive to Charlottes Pass - an alpine community	60 mins
Return to Kosciuszko Education Centre	30 mins

Resources

The teacher will be provided with worksheet masters before the visit. These should be reproduced for their students.

Additional references

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/bioregions/AustralianAlpsBioregion.htm
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkHome.aspx?id=N0018
www.australianalps.environment.gov.au/learn/index.html

Program

Levels:

Stage 6

Key learning areas:

Geography - Ecosystems at Risk
- Biophysical Interactions

Key outcomes:

- H2 Students explain the factors which place ecosystems at risk and the reasons for their protection
- H5 Students evaluate environmental management strategies in term of ecological sustainability
- H6 Students evaluate the impacts of, and responses to, environmental change
- P2 describe the interactions between the four components which define the biophysical environment
- P3 describe how a specific environment functions in terms of biophysical factors
- P9 uses maps, graphs and statistics, photographs and fieldwork to conduct geographical inquiries

Location:

Fieldwork sites include Sawpit Creek, Dainers Gap, Smiggin Holes, Perisher, Spencers Creek and Charlotte Pass. Students must have transport available for the duration of the program.

Duration:

6.5 hours including lunch break
10am to 4.30pm

Availability:

Week days / November to May

Cost:

\$8.50 per student (minimum fee \$170.00)

Equipment provided:

Worksheet masters, plant identification and all field equipment.

Additional needs:

Students should bring a clipboard, worksheets and pens and transport.

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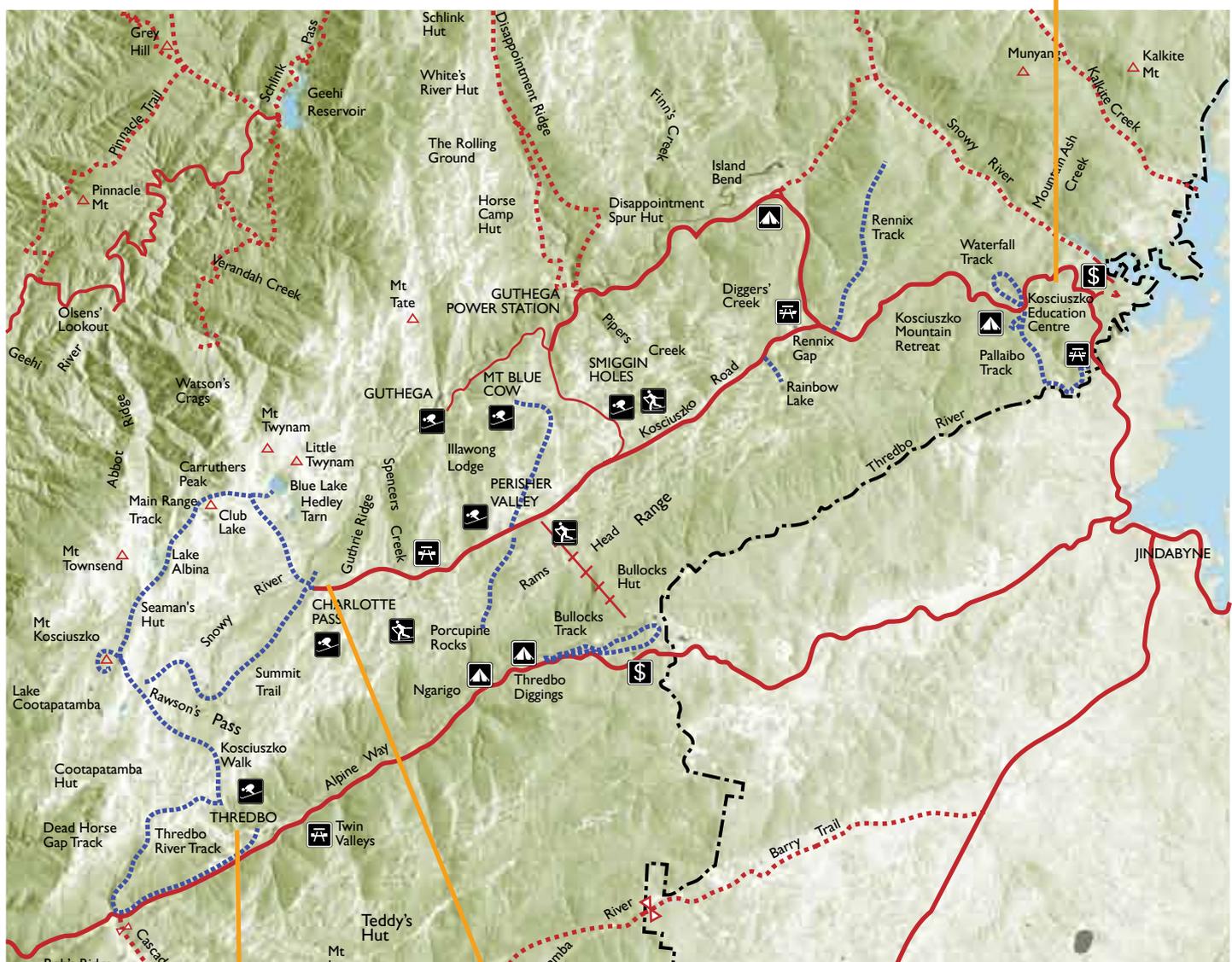
Kosciuszko National Park

Location map

Kosciuszko Education Centre...

Located on Kosciuszko Road at Sawpit Creek 14 km from Jindabyne towards Perisher. The centre is immersed in a mature montane forest, delivers quality educational experiences that help meet school syllabus learning outcomes. Kosciuszko Education Centre has interactive displays, coach and car parking, toilets, lecture room and picnic tables.

Kosciuszko Education Centre



Thredbo Village

Charlotte Pass

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Level of difficulty

Easy - Short walk in terrain with uneven surfaces.

Access

Wheelchair accessible car park, picnic area, displays and toilets but please let us know in advance if you are bringing someone with special needs so that we can plan accordingly.

Cost

The fee is \$8.50 per student including park use fee while you are with a Discovery Ranger. The minimum fee is \$170.00 (based on 20 students). A tax invoice will be forwarded to your school or excursion organiser after your visit. Teachers and parents free of charge.

Park facilities

All fieldwork locations have coach parking for at least 3 coaches. Toilets, picnic tables and tea making facilities (for teacher and coach captains) are available at Kosciuszko Education Centre and Perisher Valley. Kosciuszko Education Centre holds displays relevant to senior secondary students.

What to bring and wear

Everyone should wear long pants, closed comfortable shoes and bring a sun hat, beanie, sun cream, jumper, raincoat with hood, adequate food and water, necessary medications, a clip board and pens.

Supervision

Discovery Rangers will guide and encourage students as they participate in activities. The control and supervision of students remains the responsibility of the teacher. It is the responsibility of the school to ensure an adequate number of adult supervisors are present.

Excursion planner



Sub-Alpine fen and frost hollow near Spencers Creek

National Park code of behaviour

- All features in the park are protected and nothing may be damaged or removed
- Stay on the walking tracks
- Light fires only in the fireplaces provided
- No pets are allowed
- Respect the rights of others and keep noise to a minimum
- Please take all litter home



Going Up the Mountain is an engaging and active day in the national park

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Safety information

This document provides background information to assist teachers in their risk management planning. Please make your own risk assessment based on the information provided.

Activity description - Discovery Ranger guided activities in forest, village and alpine areas.

Pre activity briefing - Participants will be briefed on expected conditions, potential hazards, appropriate behaviour, recommended clothing and emergency procedures at the start of the activity / day.

Safety equipment - Discovery Rangers carry radios and first aid kits, hold current first aid certificates and are aware of emergency procedures.

Potential risks	Suggested control strategies
Pre-existing medical conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers will notify Discovery Coordinator of pre-existing medical / mobility conditions at least 24 hours before the visit ie return the "Pre-existing medical Information" form. Students susceptible to asthma, allergies or other conditions to carry personal medication and the teacher will be aware of their individual health plan. High risk students to be identified and monitored by teachers and carers.
Exposure to heat or cold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information re appropriate protective clothes forwarded to schools prior to visit. Ensure participants have adequate drinking water, food and shelter.
Severe weather conditions including strong winds, snow, hail, lightning strikes, very high bushfire risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check weather forecasts prior to the activity, monitor throughout the visit and adjust activity according to weather conditions eg stay indoors
Bites and stings (insects, spiders, snakes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students briefed on appropriate behaviour at start of activity/day
Allergic reactions eg ants, nuts, plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High risk students to be identified and monitored by teachers/carers. Students at risk of anaphylactic shock to have access to own EpiPen or other medication according to individual health plan.
Students lost or separated from group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief teachers on route and procedure for waiting at all track intersections. Bushwalking group management practices eg buddy system, regular head counts and 'Tail end Charley' with regular stops are adopted
Variations in track surfaces (trip hazards)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discovery Ranger is familiar with activity site. Continue to assess for hazards eg ice on tracks and discourage running
Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discovery Rangers will meet and greet students as they arrive and instruct them to wait in a safe location. Avoid crossing roads but if this is necessary then ensure everyone crosses the road under direction of teachers or NPWS staff.
Sticks, rocks & stones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief students to leave sticks & stones on ground at all times and to avoid climbing on rock boulders or large logs.

Safety information

Location:

Kosciuszko Education Centre to
Charlotte Pass
Kosciuszko Rd
Kosciuszko National Park

Staff Accreditation:

Discovery Rangers have current Senior First Aid accreditation. They are competent in the activity they are leading, experienced working with groups of students in the natural environment and have excellent knowledge of the specific areas they are visiting including being aware of the potential hazards of the location.

Discovery Rangers have been screened for child-related employment and have completed a Prohibited Employment Declaration

Emergencies:

Discovery Rangers are trained to deal with emergencies and emergency procedures are in place. Discovery Rangers have been instructed to call an ambulance whenever there is any doubt as to the continued well-being of a student or other visitor. Ongoing supervision of a student following first aid treatment will be the responsibility of the visiting school.

Contact details:

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