

# Mount Kaputar National Park



[nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

## Overview

With camping, cycling, walking, horse riding and bird watching waiting for you on this scenic mountain range, Mount Kaputar is a fantastic wilderness escape in NSW.

Be awed by towering forests, breathtaking rock formations and stunning scenery at Mount Kaputar National Park. Roughly 1 hour's drive from Narrabri in northern NSW, Mount Kaputar is an explorer's paradise.

Take in the views from the park's lookouts, have a relaxing picnic or barbecue, or stay overnight in a picturesque campground or cabin accommodation. Bring your binoculars to enjoy bird watching, or to search for possums and greater gliders after dark. Or for a more adventurous trip; walk one of the park's many tracks, or go for a mountain bike or horse ride through the spectacular landscape.

## Local alerts

For the latest updates on fires, closures and other alerts in this area, see <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/mount-kaputar-national-park/local-alerts>

## Contact

 in the [Country NSW](#) region

 Mount Kaputar National Park is always open but may have to close at times due to poor weather or fire danger.

 Narrabri office  
02 6792 7300

Contact hours: Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.30pm.

Level 1, 100 Maitland Street, Narrabri NSW 2390. Accessible via Dewhurst Street.

Email: [npws.barwon@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:npws.barwon@environment.nsw.gov.au)

## Visitor info

All the practical information you need to know about Mount Kaputar National Park.

## Getting there and parking

For Kaputar Plateau:

- Drive south along the Old Gunnedah Road from Narrabri, then turn left onto Kaputar Road
- The park entrance is a further 27km
- From here the road up to the plateau is steep and winding, with sections of gravel road
- No caravans are permitted beyond this point

For Sawn Rocks:

- Travel north along the Newell Highway from Narrabri for about 3km
- Turn right onto Bingara Road (Killarney Gap Road)
- After about 35km you'll see the turn-off to Sawn Rocks on the right

For Waa Gorge from Narrabri:

- Travel north on the Newell Highway for 3km
- Turn right onto Killarney Gap Rd (Bingara Road)
- Head along this road for about 21km and turn left at the turn-off to Terry Hie Hie (Melburra Road SR3)
- After approximately 30km you'll reach a T junction. Turn right on Allambie Rd to Waa Gorge.
- The last 8km is dry weather access only and passes through private property. Please respect landholders by leaving gates as you find them, slowing for stock and staying off wet roads.
- Travel 6.5km to the park entrance, making sure to close the gate. The Waa Gorge car park and picnic area is a further 1.5km.

From Moree:

- Travel east on Gwydir Highway towards Warialda
- After 6.2km, turn right towards Terry Hie Hie and continue south through the village of Terry Hie Hie.
- At the cross roads near Berrygill Creek tennis courts, take the left fork on the gravel road. Continue through Berrygill Aboriginal Area past Clifton property.
- Turn left on Allambie Road to Waa Gorge. The last 8km is dry weather access only and passes through private property. Please respect landholders by leaving gates as you find them, slowing for stock and staying off wet roads.
- Travel 6.5km to the park entrance, ensuring you close the gate. The Waa Gorge carpark and picnic area is a further 1.5km.

## Park entry points

- Kaputar Road access
- Killarney Gap access
- Sawn Rocks access
- Upper Bullawa Creek access
- Waa Gorge access

## Parking

- Dawsons Spring campground
- Doug Sky lookout
- Green Camp
- Mount Kaputar Summit lookout
- Sawn Rocks picnic area
- Upper Bullawa Creek picnic area
- Waa Gorge picnic area
- West Kaputar lookout

## By bike

Check out the [Bicycle information for NSW website](#) for more information.

## Best times to visit

There are lots of great things waiting for you in Mount Kaputar National Park. Here are some of the highlights.

### Autumn

This is one of the best times of year to visit the park, with ideal temperatures for bush walking, cycling and camping.

### Spring

A beautiful time of year to enjoy the abundant wildflowers and birds.

### Summer

Escape the heat of the plains by heading up into the park. The mountains can be up to 10°C cooler than the surrounding towns and provide a relaxing refuge from the heat. Bring a book and relax under the shade of a towering snow gum.

### Winter

Experience the mist surrounding the high plateau area and enjoy the beauty of the occasional blanketing of snow. The clear, sunny winter days are a great time to explore Sawn Rocks and Waa Gorge.

## Facilities

### Amenities

[Bark Hut picnic area and campground](#)

[Dawsons Spring campground](#)

[Sawn Rocks picnic area](#)

### Toilets

- [Bark Hut picnic area and campground](#)
- [Dawsons Spring cabins](#)
- [Dawsons Spring campground](#)
- [Sawn Rocks picnic area](#)
- [Waa Gorge picnic area](#)

### Picnic tables

- [Bark Hut picnic area and campground](#)
- [Dawsons Spring campground](#)
- [Green Camp](#)
- [Mount Kaputar Summit lookout](#)
- [Sawn Rocks picnic area](#)
- [Upper Bullawa Creek picnic area](#)
- [Waa Gorge picnic area](#)

### Barbecue facilities

- [Bark Hut picnic area and campground](#)
  - [Dawsons Spring campground](#)
  - [Sawn Rocks picnic area](#)
  - [Upper Bullawa Creek picnic area](#)
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## Drinking water

Water that needs to be treated or boiled before drinking is available at:

- [Bark Hut campground and picnic area](#)
- [Dawsons Spring campground](#)
- [Sawn Rocks picnic area](#)
- [John Perry picnic area](#)
- [Dawsons Spring cabins](#)

## Showers

[Bark Hut picnic area and campground](#)

[Dawsons Spring cabins](#)

[Dawsons Spring campground](#)

## Electric power

- [Dawsons Spring cabins](#)

## Maps and downloads

 [Mount Kaputar National Park factsheet](#)

## Safety messages

However you discover NSW national parks and reserves, we want you to have a safe and enjoyable experience. Our park and reserve systems contrast greatly so you need to be aware of the risks and take responsibility for your own safety and the safety of those in your care.

### Water

Untreated water is provided at Dawsons Spring, at Bark Hut, Sawn Rocks and John Perry picnic areas.

None of the watercourses in the park provide reliable year-round water - you must take your own with you when walking.

### Weather

Weather in Mount Kaputar National Park can deteriorate quickly.

- Do not use walking tracks during high winds
- If severe weather is predicted it is advised that you leave the park
- If caught in severe weather move into open areas
- Be prepared that temperatures on the plateau can be about 10 degrees cooler than in the nearby town of Narrabri

## Bushwalking safety

If you're keen to head out on a longer walk or a backpack camp, always be prepared. Read these [bushwalking safety tips](#) before you set off on a walking adventure in national parks.

## Mobile safety

Dial Triple Zero (000) in an emergency. Download the [Emergency+](#) app before you visit, it helps emergency services locate you using your smartphone's GPS. Please note there is limited mobile phone reception in this park and you'll need mobile reception to call Triple Zero (000).

## Prohibited



### Pets

Pets and domestic animals (other than certified assistance animals) are not permitted. Find out which [regional parks allow dog walking](#) and see the [pets in parks policy](#) for more information.



### Smoking

NSW national parks are [no smoking areas](#).

## Nearby towns

### Narrabri (31 km)

Explore Pilliga Forest to see salt caves, native flora and fauna, and bore baths, or enjoy camping and bushwalking in Mt Kaputar National Park. Mt Kaputar's summit offers magnificent panoramic views, and there's excellent [cabin accommodation](#) within the park.

[www.visitnsw.com](http://www.visitnsw.com)

### Moree (85 km)

Join a [Heritage and Art Deco Guided Walk](#) to uncover Moree's outstanding collection of period architecture. Wander along the main street of Moree which showcases heritage-listed buildings influenced by American, Egyptian, Greek and Spanish design practices.

[www.visitnsw.com](http://www.visitnsw.com)

### Barraba (126 km)

Barraba is a birdwatcher's paradise - spot the rare Regent Honeyeater on one of the region's 14 bird routes, which have fine tree cover and good public access. There are plenty of great spots for bushwalking, such as through remnant rainforest in Mount Kaputar National Park.

[www.visitnsw.com](http://www.visitnsw.com)

## Learn more

Mount Kaputar National Park is a special place. Here are just some of the reasons why:

### Over 20 million years in the making



Two volcanos pushed Mount Kaputar high above the plains, and millions of years of erosion have carved a dramatic landscape of narrow valleys and steep ridges. Many of the mountains are ancient lava terraces. Experience ancient history for yourself by standing on Lindsay Rock Tops - an excellent example of a lava terrace. Or visit Sawn Rocks to see one of Australia's best examples of a spectacular rock formation called organ-piping - it really does look like a wall of giant organ pipes.

 **Bundabulla circuit walking track** Bundabulla circuit walking track connects several walking tracks together. It offers a terrific bushwalking experience with places to picnic along the way and views of Mount Kaputar and surrounds.

 **Dawsons Spring nature trail** Dawsons Spring nature trail is an easy walk from Dawsons Spring campground in Mount Kaputar National Park, near Narrabri. Great for families, you'll enjoy seasonal waterfalls, wildflowers and wildlife spotting.

 **Doug Sky lookout** Doug Sky lookout in Mount Kaputar National Park offers scenic views over north-west NSW and Warrumbungles.

 **Governor lookout walking track** Enjoy scenic mountain views over Grattai wilderness area from Governor lookout walking track.

 **Kaputar scenic drive** Kaputar scenic drive is a 20km driving route through dramatic landscapes, with access to lookouts, picnic spots and walking tracks.

## Action or relaxation



Mount Kaputar National Park is packed with walks, cycling and 4WD trails, plus plenty of scenic spots for camping and picnicking. Test your mountain bike legs up the steep Mount Kaputar Road to the Kaputar Plateau, or the challenging Barraba track. Enjoy a bite to eat at a serene picnic area before walking it off as you take in the stunning scenery. Don't miss the incredible Sawn Rocks formation. There's so much to see, why not book a cabin or set up camp for a few days to make the most of your country getaway.

 **Sawn Rocks picnic area** Sawn Rocks picnic area is located at the start of Sawn Rocks walking track in Mount Kaputar National Park. It's ideal for barbecues and picnics with scenic views of North West NSW.

 **Waa Gorge picnic area** Waa Gorge is one of Mount Kaputar National Park's most stunning attractions, and this picnic area offers enough sights to enjoy the show over a long lunch.

## Colourful locals



Mount Kaputar is famous for a very unusual, colourful local - a bright pink slug. It can be seen after rain on rocks, trees and amongst the leaf litter. With birds from both the east and west meeting together at Mount Kaputar, the park is also a wonderful place to go bird watching. More than 185 bird species live in the park, so don't forget your binoculars. A torch will also come in handy for seeing some of the other locals that come out at night, including possums and greater gliders. And watch out for the many kangaroos and wallabies, too.



**Dawsons Spring nature trail** Dawsons Spring nature trail is an easy walk from Dawsons Spring campground in Mount Kaputar National Park, near Narrabri. Great for families, you'll enjoy seasonal waterfalls, wildflowers and wildlife spotting.



**Euglah Rock walking track** Ideal for walking with kids, Euglah Rock walking track in Mount Kaputar National Park leads to a lookout offering stunning scenic views of Euglah Rock and beyond.

## An ancient heritage



Mount Kaputar National Park is the traditional Country of the Gamilaroi Aboriginal people. The park provided a rich resource for food, medicines, shelter and weapons and the landscape is part of Dreaming stories. Reminders of the Gamilaroi's connection to this ancient landscape are evident in Aboriginal rock carvings, campsites, marks on trees and axe grinding grooves throughout the park.

## A harsh lifestyle



Several pioneering families lived in the Mount Kaputar area in extremely harsh conditions. Stockmen looked after sheep and cattle on the Kaputar Plateau, often going for months without seeing another person. Enjoy a walk to the historic Scutts Hut to experience the pioneers' harsh lifestyle. The Scutt family lived in the hut in the 1940s and 50s, and it has been carefully restored to its original condition. Most of the materials to build the hut and furniture were brought in by horse - even the rainwater tank.

## Plants and animals you may see

### Animals



#### **Southern boobook** (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*)

The southern boobook, also known as the mopoke, is the smallest and most common native owl in Australia. With a musical 'boo-book' call that echoes through forests and woodlands, the southern boobook is a great one to look out for while bird watching.



#### **Wedge-tailed eagle** (*Aquila audax*)

With a wingspan of up to 2.5m, the wedge-tailed eagle is Australia's largest bird of prey. These Australian animals are found in woodlands across NSW, and have the ability to soar to heights of over 2km. If you're bird watching, look out for the distinctive diamond-shaped tail of the eagle.



#### **Kookaburra** (*Dacelo novaeguineae*)

Of the 2 species of kookaburra found in Australia, the laughing kookaburra is the best-known and the largest of the native kingfishers. With its distinctive riotous call, the laughing kookaburra is commonly heard in open woodlands and forests throughout NSW national parks, making these ideal spots for bird watching.

### Plants



#### **Wonga wonga vine** (*Pandorea pandorana*)

The wonga wonga vine is a widespread vigorous climber usually found along eastern Australia. A variation of the plant occurs in the central desert, where it resembles a sprawling shrub. One of the more common Australian native plants, the wonga wonga vine produces bell-shaped white or yellow flowers in the spring, followed by a large oblong-shaped seed pod.



### **Grass tree (*Xanthorrea spp.*)**

An iconic part of the Australian landscape, the grass tree is widespread across eastern NSW. These Australian native plants have a thick fire-blackened trunk and long spiky leaves. They are found in heath and open forests across eastern NSW. The grass tree grows 1-5m in height and produces striking white-flowered spikes which grow up to 1m long.

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## **Environments in this park**



Eucalypt forest environments

## **Education resources (1)**



What is a national park?, Stage 2 (Years 3-4), HSIE

## **What we're doing**

Mount Kaputar National Park has management strategies in place to protect and conserve the values of this park. Visit the OEH website for [detailed park and fire management documents](#). Here is just some of the work we're doing to conserve these values:

## **Managing weeds, pest animals and other threats**

Pests and weeds have a significant impact to ecosystems within Mount Kaputar National Park. Pest reduction of threats, such as goats, pigs and foxes, as well as ongoing risk assessments for new and emerging weeds, is an important part of the work NPWS does to protect the biodiversity values of this park.

### **Conservation program**

#### **Feral Animal Aerial Shooting Team (FAAST) training**

The NSW government has an obligation to control feral animal populations in NSW national parks. One of the most effective and humane techniques for achieving this is aerial shooting, carried out by experts who have been accredited by the Feral Animal Aerial Shooting Team (FAAST) training program.

## **Managing fire**

NSW is one of the most bushfire prone areas in the world as a result of our climate, weather systems, vegetation and the rugged terrain. NPWS is committed to maintaining natural and cultural heritage values and minimising the likelihood and impact of bushfires via a strategic program of fire research, fire planning, hazard reduction, highly trained rapid response firefighting crews and community alerts.

### **Conservation program**

#### **Planning for fire**

Bushfires are inevitable across fire-prone vegetation types within NSW national parks. NPWS prepares for wildfires by working with other fire agencies, reserve neighbours and the community to ensure protection of life, property and biodiversity. Every park has its own fire management strategy, devised in consultation with partner fire authorities and the community to plan and prioritise fire management.