

Wellington Park is located in south-eastern Tasmania on the doorstep of Hobart, Tasmania's capital city. Dramatic cliff faces, boulder fields, waterfalls, fern glades and amazing dolerite rock formations are just some of the things to be discovered. Take a leisurely stroll to check out the Octopus Tree and Sphinx Rock or test your fitness on a mountain bike. Drive to the summit and contemplate the magnificent views and alpine scenery. Wellington Park is a great chance to experience wilderness in your own backyard.

THE PARK

For many people the towering dolerite columns of the Organ Pipes and the 1270m summit provide the main focal point for Wellington Park. The Park, however, extends westward for almost 30 km, covering an area of over 18 250 ha. This means the Park is bigger than many of Tasmania's best-known national parks, and is governed by similar rules and regulations.

WEATHER AND BUSHFIRE WARNING

The alpine area is subject to rapid and extreme changes in weather. Severe conditions with snow, sleet and high winds can occur with startling suddenness, even in summer.

The Park is closed during periods of Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger, and at all times visitors should have a plan for exiting the Park and be adequately equipped for emergencies.

THINGS TO DO

Scenic opportunities abound throughout the Park. Highlights include the pinnacle observation decks, The Springs lookouts, Sphinx Rock, Wellington Falls and Cathedral Rock.

Picnicking facilities are available at The Springs, Lenah Valley, Fern Tree Park and Myrtle Forest.

Nature lovers will find rare dolerite boulder landscapes, alpine terrain and vegetation, rainforested gullies, waterfalls, birds, fungi and more.

Bush walking

There are myriad walking tracks on kunanyi / Mount Wellington itself, and several routes on the Wellington Range. Some kunanyi / Mount Wellington tracks date back to the early 1800s! From a leisurely stroll to a full day challenge, you can choose a walk or combination of walks to suit your needs. Most tracks are signed, but it can be easy to become disoriented. It is recommended that a map and compass/GPS be taken on all walks away from the main visitor areas.

The Bush Walking Information Sheet provides a map and guide for walks in the Fern Tree–The Springs–summit area. Most of the walks listed provide some

level of challenge, some tracks are rough and steep and all are subject to extreme weather conditions. Please ensure that all members of your walking party are prepared for changes in the weather, and carry warm clothing, snacks, water and navigation equipment.

For further information on all walking tracks in Wellington Park, we recommend the following publications, available from Service Tasmania and local map and outdoor shops:

- Wellington Park Recreation Map
- Mount Wellington Walks (2006), Jan Hardy and Bert Elson
- greaterhobarttrails.com.au

Dog walking

Dogs are permitted **on a lead** on tracks and trails in the Recreation Zone in the lower eastern foothills of kunanyi / Mount Wellington (the area below Pinnacle Rd from The Springs to Big Bend), on the trails immediately above Tolosa Park in Glenorchy and on Jefferys Track and White Timber Trail. Dogs must however be confined to a vehicle at the summit. Please refer to the Trust's Dog Walking Information Sheet on the website for further details.

Cycling

Bikes may be ridden in the Park on all open roads and fire trails, on 'shared use' tracks such as the Pipeline and North-South tracks, and in the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park. Go to wellingtonpark.org.au/bikes and greaterhobarttrails.com.au for information.

Camping

There are no formal camping facilities in Wellington Park, and generally camping is discouraged. Rough bush camping is allowed in certain areas of the Park, however you should contact the Trust for details.

Horse riding

Horse riding is permitted on certain fire trails in the more remote sections of the Park. Riders must obtain a permit prior to riding. Please contact the Parks and Wildlife Service for details (see below).

4WD

Four-wheel drive vehicles are allowed in the Park on nominated trails by permit only. Other motorised recreational and leisure vehicles (trail bikes, quad bikes etc.) are not permitted in the Park. Please contact the Parks and Wildlife Service for details (see below).

GETTING THERE

By Car

kunanyi / Mount Wellington is the main point of entry. Take Davey Street (A6) westwards out of Hobart towards Fern Tree. Keep in the right lane and do not turn left into the Southern Outlet. Continue straight ahead towards Fern Tree and kunanyi / Mount Wellington along Huon Rd (B64).

To reach kunanyi / Mount Wellington and The Springs, turn right into the C616 (Pillinger Drive) just before Fern Tree. The Springs is approximately 3.5km from Fern Tree and is 720m above sea level. The summit of kunanyi / Mount Wellington is a further 9km from The Springs. When there is snow on the Mountain, check the road is open before you leave: call the Pinnacle Road Information Line 6238 2711 or check the Hobart City Council website (hobartcity.com.au).

Parking is available at Fern Tree, The Springs, the summit, and at limited other points along Pinnacle Road.

Other access points around the Park boundary with car parking are:

- The end of Tolosa St, Glenorchy (also the entry for the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park)
- The end of Lenah Valley Rd, Lenah Valley
- The end of Myrtle Forest Rd, Collinsvale
- The end of Betts Rd, Leslie Vale
- Neika (corner of Huon Rd and Morphetts Rd)

Disabled access

Visitors requiring special needs access can experience some parts of Wellington Park. Disabled access and toilet facilities are available at the summit. You can access Sphinx Rock from The Springs along the Lenah Valley Track. The Pipeline Track and Silver Falls are accessible from Browns, Grays and Clegg Roads in Fern Tree. Assisted access is required at Fern Tree Park and Fern Tree Bower. Vehicle access to the Myrtle Forest picnic area is by permit, available from the Parks and Wildlife Service. Phone 03 6233 6560 for further information.

By Bus

Metro offers a regular service to Fern Tree, either via Huon Road (Route 448) or Strickland Avenue (Route 449). The bus services leave from Franklin Square in the centre of Hobart. For bus times call the Metro on 132 201 or go to metrotas.com.au

Several private bus tour companies offer return trips to the summit and other areas. Contact the Travel Centre on 03 6238 4222 for details.

By Bike

There are various entry points for bike riders. Please refer to our website and the Wellington Park Bike Map for access routes and trails within the Park. See below for further information on cycling.

By Foot

Fern Tree may be reached via the scenic Pipeline Track, which links a number of Hobart's bushland reserves. The Pipeline Track starts at Waterworks Reserve and continues on a mostly gentle to moderate gradient through Ridgeway Park and then arrives at Fern Tree Park within Wellington Park.

Other access routes in the Hobart area include the Hobart and New Town Rivulet Linear Parks, originating from South Hobart and Lenah Valley.

The Park can also be accessed from a number of other directions by a network of walking tracks and fire trails leading from Tolosa Park (Glenorchy), Huon Rd (Neika), Betts Rd (Leslie Vale) and Myrtle Forest (Collinsvale).

FIRES

Fires can do enormous damage to vegetation, and put lives and property at risk. For this reason, except in emergencies, campfires are not permitted anywhere in the Park. Fires may be lit in designated fireplaces in certain huts and picnic areas, and firewood is generally available at Fern Tree, The Springs, the Chalet, and Junction Cabin. It is illegal to collect firewood within the Park.

DRINKING WATER CATCHMENT AREAS

Wellington Park is an important source of drinking water for the greater Hobart area. Drinking water catchments are identified by special symbols on Park signs. Visitors to these areas should not toilet within the catchment; avoid direct contact with streams; not camp in the catchment; and not leave rubbish in the catchment or anywhere else in the Park. Domestic animals are not permitted within these areas. These precautions will not only help protect and maintain water quality, but preserve the local environment.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Wellington Park Management Trust: 03 6238 2176

info@wellingtonpark.org.au

wellingtonpark.org.au

Hobart City Council: 03 6238 2886

Glenorchy City Council: 03 6216 6800

Parks and Wildlife Service: 03 6107 9208

Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre: 03 6238 4222

Pinnacle Road Snow Conditions: 03 6238 2711

greaterhobarttrails.com.au