

the Australian Alps

care for the alps - leave no trace



Driving

slow down, stay safe...

...on mountain roads. Stick to the vehicle tracks, don't damage plants, don't get stuck!

Are the roads open and what are the conditions like? Check before you leave.

Remember wheel chains in winter. Icy spin outs are no fun.



Pets in parks – forget it, no way!



Safety

your responsibility...

If you are experienced and organised, or go with those that are, you will have a great backcountry adventure.



You will need to:

- ✓ check out the weather forecast. Blizzards and whiteouts can be dangerous and are no fun
- ✓ tell someone reliable about your plans and remember to tell them when you get back
- ✓ have excellent map & compass skills and if available a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB)
- ✓ be equipped for all weather conditions – a sunny day can change within minutes to become cold, wet and windy
- ✓ be self-sufficient with food and first aid and for overnight trips a fuel stove, tent and sleeping bag
- ✓ always travel with others and if you get caught out stay calm, find shelter and make your location as visible as possible

For detailed Alps recreation codes: www.australialps.gov.au



AUSTRALIAN ALPS NATIONAL PARKS



Where and however you travel and camp

Visiting the Australian Alps is an unforgettable experience, whether you walk, ride a horse, ride a bike, paddle, drive, or ski. Enjoy spectacular scenery, wildlife, mountain air, peace, quiet and the sheer exhilaration of being in the mountains... but remember you and your group are a vital link in caring for the Alps... leave no trace.



Plan, plan, plan before you leave...

Do you know where you are going?

Are there suitable campsites there? What do you need?

Tell someone who cares, where you are going and for how long.

Less is best! Small groups (4-8) are more fun for all. Need to bring the whole football team? Then keep the noise down and leave no trace.

Go "off peak" and you'll have a great wilderness experience and less impact.



Got to 'go'?

Use a toilet or take a walk... at least 100 paces from water and campsites. Dig 15cm deep and cover well. A light weight trowel will make it easier to dig and easier on your nails.

And in the snow

Frozen surprises? No thanks. Bury your waste in the dirt below the snow. Preferably bag it up and carry it out. It's perfectly possible!

Collect water upstream of toilets, huts and campsite and boil or treat to avoid gastroenteritis and giardia.

No additives required in mountain streams. Camp and wash well away from the water (100m is good). Don't bust a gut or the stream banks, use a big container to collect a lot of water, less often.



Carry it in, carry it out

Ditch packaging before you leave home.

It saves carrying extra rubbish out with you. Whatever it is, don't burn, bury or leave anything. Most rubbish does not decompose, even if it is buried or burnt.

Rubbish creates an ugly eyesore or washes into watercourses and pollutes them. Animals may also try to eat it and harm themselves. Feed yourself not the animals.



Use a fuel stove

Cold and hungry? Use a stove for a quick and easy hot meal and reduce your use of firewood.

Ok so you must have a fire, then use only dead fallen wood in the fireplace, and really make sure it is out when you leave. No fires above the tree line in alpine areas.

And in the snow...

Fires in the snow? No go! Take a stove. Stoves in tents are a combustible combination. Dig an 'ice kitchen' and cook there, no refrigeration required. Don't break a leg! Fill in the 'kitchen' when you go.



Respect heritage

Heritage places are a link to memories of people and the past.

These may be Aboriginal rock paintings, scar trees, artefact scatters and axe grinding grooves; or historic huts, yards, mining equipment, arboreta and border markers. Leave all undisturbed for others to discover. No souvenirs please.



Stay on track

Even if it's muddy or dusty, don't widen tracks or take shortcuts.

Camping... find a firm dry spot away from Sphagnum bogs and wet herb fields. Meadow stompers not required, wear lightweight shoes around the camp.

Your tent is your castle but please no moats dug around it.

"I lay my dreams at your feet...
walk softly for you walk on my dreams"

Uncle Ernie Innes 2012

Visiting the huts



Don't get left out in the cold. Huts are only for emergencies and temporary shelter. Always BYO tent.

Blizzards can occur any time of the year, so camp early before you get cold, wet and tired.

Keep fires small and within existing fireplaces. In some huts, due to their special heritage value, fires are prohibited.

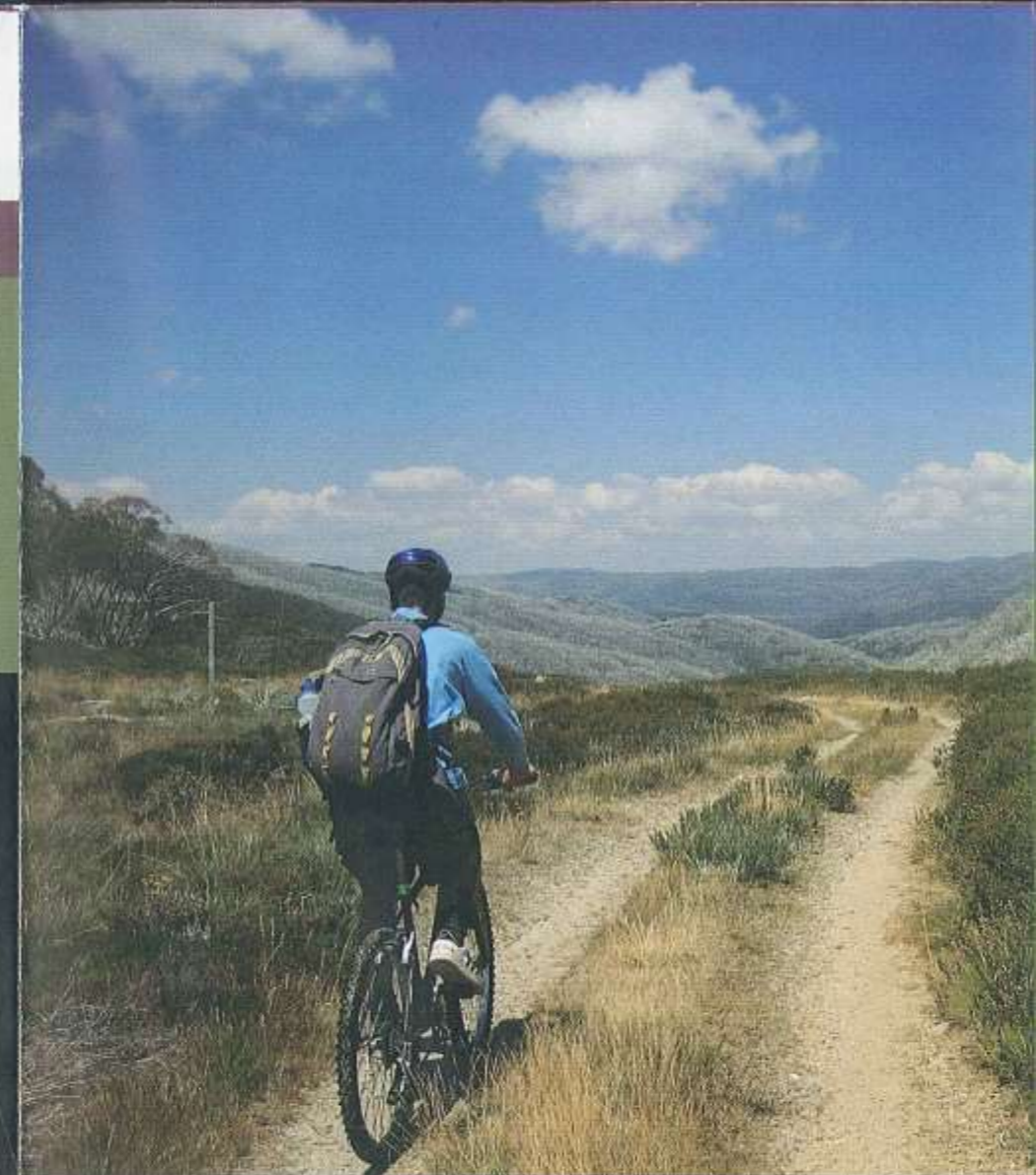
Others have camped here before, maybe for thousands of years. Enjoy your visit or special campsite but please respect our heritage places.



Horseriding in the mountains

a wonderful experience

Keep it under control... your horse that is!
Weeds in the Alps, no thanks... use only weed free feed.
Take the water to the horse, not the horse to the water.
Hard hooves destroy fragile wetlands and stream banks so tether (but not to trees) well away from water, campers and huts.



Mountain bike riding

fun, fast and not so furious

Riding is all about respect...

- R**ide only on trails open to mountain biking
- E**xpect someone may be around the next corner, ring your bell or call out
- S**low to approach others
- P**ass others with care, slow to a walking pace or stop
- E**njoy your ride with mates, know your equipment and the area in which you are riding
- C**ontrol your speed and ride within your ability, wear a helmet and safety gear
- T**rails are damaged when you skid, cut corners and if wet and muddy