



Barrington Tops

Explore the lush rainforests and ancient beech forests of the World Heritage-listed Barrington Tops, one of the State's premier wilderness destinations.



MUST SEE AND DO

Try cattle mustering on horseback, with stockmen as your guides, in the northern Barrington foothills.

Discover the boutique wineries on the Gresford Wine Trail.

Picnic with llamas at a lavender and llama farm.

Follow the Farm Gate Trail and sample handmade goat's cheese, perch, herbs, alpaca meat and wine.

Take in the views at Devils Hole, the best lookout in the Barrington Tops National Park.

top l – r: Thunderbolts Lookout, Barrington Tops National Park, Hamilton Lund; Wildflowers, Hamilton Lund; Waterfalls, Barrington Tops National Park, Geoff Higgins; Thunderbolts Lookout, Hamilton Lund

Natural wonders

Barrington Tops is a 25 km long plateau, set among a series of extinct volcanoes and surrounded by more than 20 valleys. Covering 1,200 sq km of unspoilt wilderness, the Barrington Tops National Park ranges from subtropical rainforest to subalpine snowgums that are thousands of years old. With its pristine rivers and historic country villages, Barrington Tops is the ultimate retreat for nature lovers.

Barrington Tops National Park

This World Heritage-listed area of lush valleys, high plains and extinct volcanic peaks offers a wonderful choice for bushwalkers. Wander through forests of subtly striped snowgums or discover the complex ecosystem of the subtropical rainforest, where the native flora includes delicate orchids, fleshy elkhorns and staghorns, and gigantic bird's nest ferns.

Amid the leaf litter, caves and rock pinnacles, you may be lucky enough to see scrub turkeys and lyrebirds, satin bowerbirds, wallabies and pademelons; and, on a night tour, koalas and quolls. Sharp-eyed visitors may even catch a rare glimpse of a platypus in a mountain creek.

In the woodlands and the moss swamps, the ground is dotted with bluebells, paper daisies and delicate rice flowers.

Wilderness lodgings

Even when you're in the middle of the wilderness, you needn't leave creature comforts behind – while there are many well-maintained campsites, those who prefer conventional

accommodation can choose from B&Bs, rustic farm stays and luxury retreats.

Historic towns

Many of the towns in the area were settled in the early 19th century, and can trace their origins to the timber industry, gold prospecting and even ship-building. While you're exploring, why not sample the local specialties? Wander through an Aboriginal bush-tucker garden in Gloucester or enjoy the cuisine of talented local chefs at alfresco cafés in Barrington, Dungog, Gresford and Gloucester.

Gloucester and Dungog

The towns of Gloucester and Dungog offer a window onto the colourful history of Barrington Tops. Take a stroll along Dungog's wide country streets and admire the heritage architecture of the houses, with their wrought iron balconies and elegant lines. While at Gloucester, a gold-rush boomtown, you can visit Hebblewhite's Bakery and Garner's General Store, in business for more than 130 years and still owned by the same families.

Dungog started life as a military post during the campaign to rid the area of bushrangers such as the notorious Captain Thunderbolt. Browse through the galleries, relax in a café, or catch a film at the town's original picture theatre where screenings are held every weekend.

It's not just the towns that reflect the local history. Take the link road between Gloucester and Dungog that winds through the Dungog



State Forest and you'll come across the Monkerai Bridge. It's the second-oldest timber truss bridge in NSW, a reminder of a time when more than 350 hardwood bridges provided passage over fords, rivers and gullies.

Copeland


The smaller settlements of Paterson, Barrington, Clarence Town, Gresford, Vacy and Stroud are just as interesting, but none is more atmospheric than Copeland, 15 minutes west of Gloucester. Copeland was once a thriving goldfield town – more than \$300 million of gold was dug out

of the 70 mines here. Most of the remnants of the town have been covered by vegetation, leaving only the historic cemetery and the Mountain Maid Mine, where guides will take you deep into the hillside.

Wet and wild

Barrington Tops is known for the Manning, Barrington, Williams and Allyn rivers, which all rank highly in an area renowned for its natural treasures. Melted snow trickles from the high peaks into wild rivers, becoming plunging waterfalls in fern-lined gorges. You can picnic by a

tranquil pool or, if you feel like something more adventurous, head for Dungog or Gloucester where you can sign up for a whitewater rafting expedition, as well as skydiving, 4WD touring and mountain-bike riding.

 For more information, contact Gloucester Visitor Information Centre, telephone: (02) 6558 1408, and Dungog Visitor Information Centre, telephone: (02) 4992 2212, web: www.barringtontopstourism.com.au



Barrington Tops Accommodation

Hookes Creek Forest Retreat ★★★★★

Beneath the World Heritage-listed Barrington Tops you'll find 10 luxury cedar cottages, all with open fires and spa baths, horse-riding, bushwalking and bird-watching plus first class service and friendly country hospitality. Advanced Eco Tourism Accredited.
384 Jems Creek Road, Cobark
Telephone (02) 6558 5544
www.hookescreek.com.au
Rates: From \$140 per couple per night*



Barrington Tops Attraction / Activities

Barrington Visitor Information Centres

For accommodation bookings and information about tours and attractions in the World Heritage-listed Barrington Tops National Park. Open 7 days, the centres stock a large range of locally produced arts and crafts.
Dungog Visitor Information Centre, Gloucester
Visitor Information Centre
Telephone 1300 130 647
www.barringtontopstourism.com.au



Barrington Tops Accommodation

Riverwood Downs Mountain Valley Resort ★★★★★

5 times winner of Tourism NSW Consumer Choice Award. Situated 2½ hours north of Sydney, Riverwood Downs is a magnificent resort in the foothills of Barrington Tops World Heritage Wilderness. Pets welcome.
311 Upper Monkerai Road, Monkerai Valley
Telephone 1800 809 772
www.riverwooddowns.com.au
Rates: From \$90 per room per night*

* Prices are valid at date of publication, October 2007 and are subject to change. Accommodation prices based on twin/double share (unless otherwise stated) and subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply, please contact service provider for a complete list of terms and conditions.