

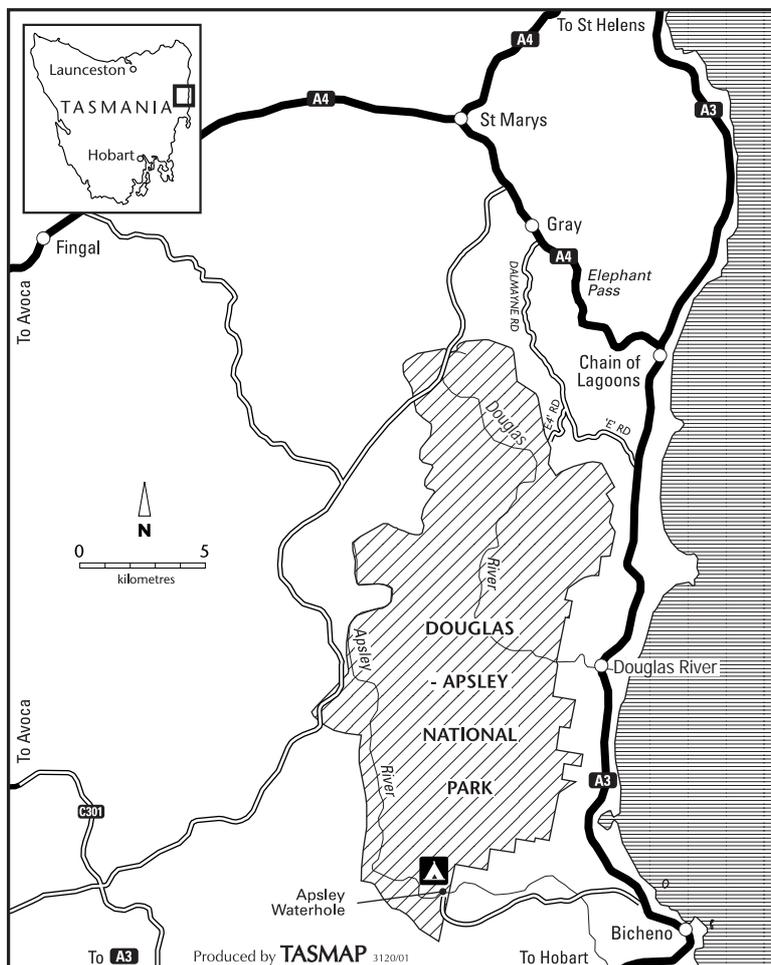
VISITING...

# Douglas-Apsley National Park



Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania

DEPARTMENT of TOURISM, PARKS  
HERITAGE and the ARTS



## Getting there

The park is located northwest of Bicheno on the east coast of Tasmania. It is about 157 km (2.25 hr) southeast of Launceston (via Lake Leake) and 178 km (2.5 hr) north-east of Hobart.

The main visitor area and car access is at the southern, or Apsley Waterhole end of the park. About 3 km north of Bicheno, turn west off the Tasman Highway (A3) into Rosedale Road. Follow this for 7.4 km to the car park.

At the northern, Thompsons Marshes, end of the park is a small car park from which the longer walks begin. About 24 km north of Bicheno on the Tasman Highway (A3) look for the Douglas-Apsley National Park sign. Turn west into this unsealed 'E' road to a turnoff clearly marked 'Douglas Apsley National Park'. The last 2 km to the car park are rough and steep. A 4WD vehicle is recommended.

See map for access to the west of the park.

## Things to do

Walks within the park range from short easy strolls to quite demanding overnight walks for experienced hikers.

Deep river gorges, strewn with dolerite boulders and waterfalls, contrast with dry crackling eucalypt forests and the colourful heathlands of spring. Take a rugged walk through forest and gorge, study rare plants and animals, relax with a picnic beside a stream or take a refreshing plunge in the Apsley Waterhole.

## Highlights

The Douglas-Apsley was proclaimed a national park in 1989, and is one of the few largely uncleared dry eucalypt forest areas in Tasmania. Over half of the state's eucalypt species and more than 65 bird species are found in the park, as well as many mammals and reptiles.

National Parks fees apply. Parks passes can be purchased from the Visitor Centres in Bicheno and Freycinet, or from Service Tasmania Shops statewide (Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm).

From Apsley Waterhole:

**W** **Lookout Track Circuit** - 10 to 15 minutes return. An easy stroll or assisted wheelchair access trail, through open forest to the lookout platform above Apsley Waterhole. Return the same way or via the campground where the track descends steeply to the waterhole.

**W** **Apsley Gorge Circuit** - 3 to 4 hours return. A medium grade walk to the picturesque Apsley Gorge with its tranquil pools and undisturbed river scenes. Due to river crossings this walk should only be attempted in dry weather when the water levels are low.

From Thompsons Marshes:

**Heritage & Leeaberra Falls** - 5 to 7 hours return. Full of variety, this walk leads from wildflower-rich marshland through open forest and wetter gullies to deep gorges with spectacular waterfalls.

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**Heritage Falls/Rainforest Circuit** - 7 to 9 hours return (overnight trip recommended). This circuit walk follows the beginning of the Leeaberra track, branching off to the Rainforest Ledge and returning past the Heritage and Leeaberra Falls.

**Leeaberra Track** - 3 days one way to Apsley Waterhole. A fascinating and varied walk that traverses the park from north to south. It is moderate to difficult with some long, steep sections and is recommended for experienced walkers only.

On the western side of the park:

**Apsley Myrtle Rainforest Walk** - 30+ minutes return. A wonderful place to spend half an hour or half a day. A marked track descends from the car park to Myrtle Creek.

## Important

The root rot disease *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, deadly to many endemic plant species, is present in the southern parts of the park. This fungus is carried in soil and water and is easily transported on walking boots, tent pegs and by cars and other pieces of equipment. Once introduced it can not be eradicated. To prevent its spread always stay on walking tracks and only walk **from the north to the south** of the park.

No dogs/pets are allowed in the park, even if left in the car.

When in any natural area, observe the Minimal Impact Bushwalking (MIB) code. Keep to marked tracks. Use toilets if provided. Where there are no toilets dig a 15 cm deep hole at least 100 m away from water, campsites and tracks. Bury all faecal waste and toilet paper.

Do not feed the wildlife.

The Apsley Waterhole feeds Bicheno's water supply. Please do not contaminate the water.

## Facilities

Basic facilities can be found at the Apsley Waterhole. There are toilets, a car park with space for buses, and an information booth. Nearer the river is a small bush camping area with a toilet and shelter; it does not have vehicle access.

For walkers there are bush camping sites near Heritage Falls and Tevelein Falls.

The northern and western parts of the park have no facilities other than the car parks.

Outside the park there is commercial camping at Bicheno and at Lagoons Beach.

The park is a **fuel stove only** area between October 1 and April 30. Outside this time fires are allowed at the Apsley Waterhole campsite. To minimise the risk of fire and degradation to the area, fuel stoves are recommended all year round.

Drinking water can be obtained from the Apsley River, but should be boiled for three minutes before drinking.

There are no shops in the park. Food, fuel, meals and accommodation are available at Bicheno.

## What to bring

Warm and waterproof clothing is essential at any time of the year. In summer wear a hat and use sunscreen. If you are hiking be sure to bring sturdy boots, a fuel stove, tent, and adequate food. Please register before you go.

## Weather

The weather is always changeable so be prepared and check the weather forecast. Up-to-date weather forecasts are available from the Bureau of Meteorology on [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au) or phone 1196.



## Further information

For the longer walks it is strongly advised to obtain a copy of the Douglas-Apsley Map & Notes, 1997 available from Service Tasmania Shops.

Parks & Wildlife Service Website  
[www.parks.tas.gov.au](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au)

 Great Short Walks- refer to Great Walks Booklet

## Contact

Freycinet National Park  
(7 days)

Ph: 03 6256 7000

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

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