

## Snowy Mountains - NSW

THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS is a significant and untamable high country where many myths and traditions of Australian identity were born. The region's natural beauty, its activities and attractions combined with the history and folklore of its generous and friendly population make for a heady mix for the visitor.



Few would disagree that the “Snowies”, as it is affectionately known, is one of Australia's most beautiful and enjoyable destinations. Known for being home to Australia's best snowsports, it is outside this peak season the mountains shake off the snow to expose their real beauty.

Spectacular peaks, clear mountain streams and the clean, crisp, high country air provide a brilliant backdrop for your holiday experience. In the warmer months of spring and summer, when fields of wildflowers bloom, one can become snap-happy on horseback in the high plains or enjoy the impressive scenery on a bushwalk along the rooftop of Australia.

Melting snow generates a surge for white-water rafters, trout fill the streams and the vast lakes offer great water skiing or the outlook for a perfect picnic. Glacial lakes in the state's largest National Park offer Australia's purest water, while in the towns and villages quaint country pubs and local galleries abound.

The Snowies offer an abundance of natural and cultural attractions and activities – it's up to you how relaxed or active you want to be.



**A HOLIDAY WITH A VIEW** The mountains are beautiful year-round and attract visitors seeking nature-based and adventure holidays. Australia's high country is home to magnificent peaks, flowing water and a plethora of accessible natural attractions for lovers of the outdoors.

The Snowies are perfect for a touring holiday with a view, with the option of an adventure or two. The highest mountain on mainland Australia, Mt Kosciuszko, is here in the Snowy Mountains.

Easily viewed from lookouts or to truly experience the highs, the more adventurous can walk to the top of one of the world's famous 'seven summits'. The famous Snowy River flows from the high country, through the Snowies and down to the coast. Follow its guide and tour the small towns, pebbled edges primed for a picnic and learn about the legend. Walking, cycling or horse riding are great ways to explore the alpine landscape in the warmer months. Take in some of the country's most impressive scenery. Visit the amazing Yarrangobilly Caves, explore two million year old limestone formations and swim outdoors in the naturally heated thermal pool.

Another popular outing is a trip to one of the Snowy Hydro power stations. Tumut 3 Power Station offers a vivid insight into the sheer scope of this iconic part of the nation's postwar development.

Famous for trout fishing, it's worth trying your luck on the many lakes including Lake Eucumbene and Lake Jindabyne, the Murrumbidgee River or any of the streams around Bombala, Adaminaby, Nimmitabel and Thredbo.

The physical aspects of the region are complemented by a wealth of culture in the literature, storytelling and folklore of the people of the region. Whether you're after a rugged back-to-nature experience, want to be cosseted in alpine splendour or simply feel like going somewhere beautiful, diverse and interesting with the whole family, it's all here in the Snowy Mountains.

THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS DRIVE is a great touring route when travelling by car or motorcycle to explore the region in all its glory. A drive like no other, it encompasses the country's highest mountains, some of our most diverse flora and fauna, high country huts, towns bursting with historic and cultural significance, feats of engineering ingenuity, cold climate wines and rivers that flow with legends.

From each town, you can visit attractions and settlements and learn the history by being surrounded by it. Breathe in the fresh air and meet the most easy going, friendly lot of people you'll probably find in Australia.

The Snowy Mountains are in the south east of New South Wales, and are the highest point in Australia's Great Dividing Range. Much of the region is incorporated into Kosciuszko National Park. At 2,228m, Mount Kosciuszko is the highest peak on the Australian mainland. The flat expanse of the Monaro High Plain to the east of the region is sheep country renowned for the quality of its Merino wool.

The alpine climate is characterised by cool, crisp air. Temperatures average from minus 6 degrees Celsius in July, and 21 degrees Celsius in January. The Snowy Mountains is one of the few regions that experiences four distinct seasons. Mountain weather can be extremely unpredictable and walkers are advised to be prepared for all conditions and check weather forecasts before setting out. The cool evenings experienced throughout most of the year mean it's wise to rug up at night.

