



# Douglas-Apsley

## NATIONAL PARK

Deep river gorges with boulders and waterfalls, contrast with dry eucalypt forests. Take a 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 is one of the few largely uncleared dry eucalypt forest areas in Tasmania. Because of this bushwalkers, conservationists and local residents campaigned for its protection as a national park, which was declared in 1989. Over half of the state's eucalypt species and more than 65 bird species are found in the national park, as well as many mammals and reptiles.

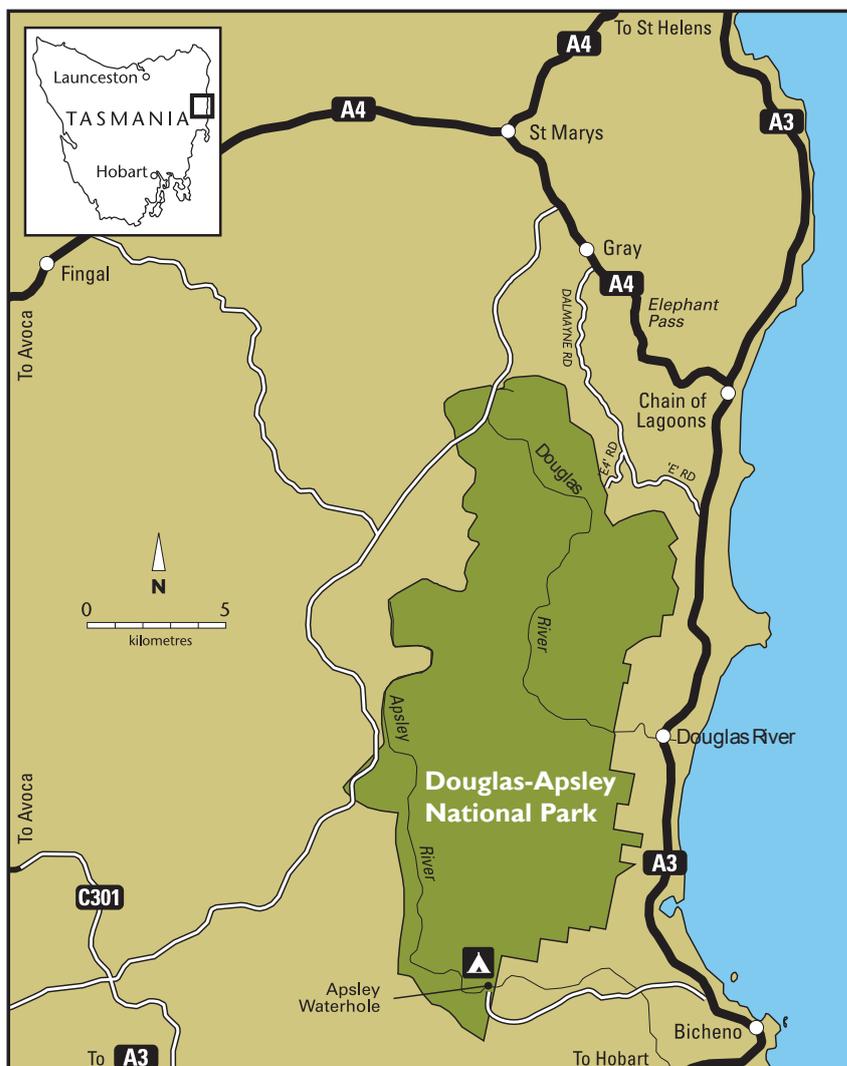
National park fees apply and park passes can be purchased from the visitor centres in Bicheno and Freycinet, or from Service Tasmania shops state-wide (Monday-Friday, 9.00am-5.00pm).

### Getting there

The park is located north-west of Bicheno on the East Coast of Tasmania. It is about 157 km (2.25 hr) south-east 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 4 km north of Bicheno, turn west off the Tasman Highway (A3) into Rosedale Road. Follow this for 7 km to the car park. The road is subject to flooding.

At the northern end of the park, the Thompsons Marshes area, there 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 clearly marked turn-off. The last 2 km to the car park are rough and steep. A four-wheel drive vehicle is recommended.



### Things to do

Walks within the national park range from short easy strolls, to demanding overnight walks for experienced bushwalkers.

#### From Apsley Waterhole Carpark:

**Loop Walk:** 10-15 minutes return. An easy stroll through the open forest above the Apsley Waterhole. A side track descends steeply to the waterhole.

**Apsley Gorge track:** 3-4 hours return. A medium grade walk to the Apsley Gorge with its tranquil pools. The river should only be crossed in dry weather when the water levels are low. Be aware of heavy rain in the catchment which may cause the river to rise before you cross it on your return trip.

### From Thompsons Marshes:

**Heritage and Leeaberra Falls:** 5-7 hours return. This walk leads from wildflower-rich marshland, through open forest and damp gullies, to deep gorges with waterfalls.

**Heritage Falls/Rainforest Circuit:** 7-9 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. This varied walk traverses the park from north to south. It is moderate to difficult with some long, steep sections and is recommended for experienced walkers only.

## Important

The fungal root-rot disease *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, deadly to many native 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 equipment. Once introduced it cannot be eradicated. To prevent its spread always stay on walking tracks and only walk the Leeaberra Track from north to south to minimise the risk of the fungus being spread into the northern part of the park.

Dogs and other pets are prohibited in the park, even if left in a car.

When in any natural area, observe the minimal impact bushwalking 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 near the Apsley Waterhole. There are toilets, a car park with space for buses, and an information booth. Closer to the river is a small bush camping area with a toilet; it does not have vehicle access.

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

The northern part of the park has no facilities other than a car park.

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

The park is a fuel stove only area between 1 October and April 30. Outside these dates 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 and accommodation are available at Bicheno.

## What to bring

Warm and waterproof clothing are essential at any time of the year. A hat and sunscreen are recommended. If you are walking wear sturdy walking shoes or boots. Overnight walkers will require a fuel stove, tent and adequate food. Please register before your walk.

## Weather

Tasmanian weather changes quickly so be prepared for varying temperatures and sudden rainfall. Long distance walks in this area are best avoided on high fire danger days.

For weather forecasts phone 1196 or visit the Bureau of Meteorology website at [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

## Further information

Maps are available online at [www.tasmap.tas.gov.au](http://www.tasmap.tas.gov.au), from Service Tasmania and outdoor shops.

TASMAP Douglas-Apsley National Park Map & Notes  
1:50 000, 1997

Tasmania's 60 Great Short Walks

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

Parks and Wildlife Service, Freycinet National Park:  
(03) 6256 7000