



## Discover Tidbinbilla

Tidbinbilla offers outstanding wildlife and natural experiences and is set within a beautiful valley framed by granite-topped mountains.



Tidbinbilla offers outstanding wildlife and natural experiences. Discover this beautiful valley and its natural landscape. Enjoy the range of walking trails, meander through the Sanctuary wetlands, find a koala in the eucalypt forest, or relax with friends and family with a picnic or barbecue amongst the kangaroos and emus.

### A unique history

Aboriginal people have had a continuous association with the Tidbinbilla area for at least 21,000 years. It is the traditional Country of the Ngunnawal people. Neighbouring clans travelled through or stayed in this region, trading artefacts and knowledge, celebrating marriages and undertaking important ceremonies. The name 'Tidbinbilla' comes from 'Jedbinbilla', meaning 'where boys become men', referring to initiation ceremonies on the mountain tops.

The Tidbinbilla Valley also reflects the European history of the area. Century old rammed earth cottages and evidence of farming and eucalyptus oil distillation provide graphic reminders of the pioneers who tried to make a life here from the mid 1800s.

### Natural places

Discover Tidbinbilla's outstanding wildlife, natural beauty and diverse habitats. The beautiful and serene Tidbinbilla Valley protects wetlands, grasslands, woodlands and eucalypt forest habitats. Higher up, wet fern gullies, mountain streams and sub-alpine forests occur.

Tidbinbilla is part of the Australian Alps national parks, a series of parks and reserves that span Australia's south-eastern high country. The Australian Alps are National Heritage listed, recognising that its natural and cultural values are of outstanding national significance.

### Recreation

Recognised as Canberra's leading ecotourism attraction, Tidbinbilla offers outstanding wildlife and nature-based experiences in a natural setting as well as opportunities to find out about the conservation initiatives at Tidbinbilla. At the Visitor Centre you can explore the interpretation gallery, then have a coffee or light meal at the Tidbinbilla kiosk. In the Tidbinbilla shop you can search for a unique memento of your visit. In the reserve itself you can enjoy a picnic or barbecue with family and friends at one of the many picnic areas while the children enjoy the Nature Discovery Playground.

Ranger-guided activities are popular with visitors and can be booked online at [www.tidbinbilla.com.au](http://www.tidbinbilla.com.au). Experience wonderful wetland wildlife in the Sanctuary, find a koala in the eucalypt forest or watch for platypus at Black Flats Dam or in the Sanctuary. For the more energetic, there are the mountain bike trails around Jedbinbilla and Gibraltar Peak. If walking is more your style, then there are over 20 marked walking trails ranging from an easy short stroll to an all day bushwalk. Overnight accommodation is available at Nil Desperandum, an historic rammed earth cottage and can be booked through: [www.bookings.act.gov.au](http://www.bookings.act.gov.au)

### Conservation

Successful breeding programs for the critically endangered Southern Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, the Tasmanian Bettong and the Northern Corroboree Frog are managed at Tidbinbilla. You can see Northern Corroboree Frogs at the Tidbinbilla Visitor Centre. At the Rock-wallaby habitat you may glimpse this shy wallaby basking on a rock.

Tidbinbilla also protects a wide range of other wildlife including koalas, emus, kangaroos, platypus, wombats, potoroos, wallaroos, possums, water birds and much more.

## The Sanctuary

The Sanctuary at Tidbinbilla offers fabulous opportunities to experience nature. A wetlands ecosystem, surrounded by bushland and protected by a predator-proof fence, provides a safe refuge for a range of native animals. Stroll along a wheelchair accessible pathway past a series of interconnected ponds. Search for platypus from the boardwalks, observe the resident and migratory bird life, explore granite outcrops or get up close to our reptiles. Volunteer interpreters will share their knowledge and passion for the bush with you on weekends, public and school holidays.

## A place for learning

Birrigai at Tidbinbilla offers environmental and outdoor educational overnight camps and day programs (linked to the Australian curriculum) for schools, corporate and community groups using purpose-built accommodation and catering facilities. Ranger-guided talks at Tidbinbilla can also be booked. For more information go to [www.tidbinbilla.com.au](http://www.tidbinbilla.com.au)

## A place for volunteering

If you have a passion for the natural environment and enjoy sharing it with others, then why not join the Friends of Tidbinbilla ParkCare group, the Tidbinbilla Pioneers Association or the team of volunteer interpreters managed by CVA. Full training is provided.

## Further information

[vip@conservationvolunteers.com.au](mailto:vip@conservationvolunteers.com.au)

Website: [www.conservationvolunteers.com.au](http://www.conservationvolunteers.com.au) Tidbinbilla website: [www.tidbinbilla.com.au](http://www.tidbinbilla.com.au)

Discover our wild side and venture on an exclusive, behind the scenes endangered wildlife experience. Participants will see first hand the role Tidbinbilla plays in breeding the critically endangered Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby and the Northern Corroboree Frog. Personally contribute to this important research as you assist Tidbinbilla staff with the breeding and monitoring program. Stay overnight at Nil Desperandum, a pioneer homestead hidden away in a tranquil valley. The tour is run in partnership between Tidbinbilla and CVA. For more information call 1800 032 501 or go to [www.naturewise.com.au](http://www.naturewise.com.au)

## Please remember

- Respect the natural environment and other visitors.
- Cycling is allowed on formed roads and trails only.

- There are no bins at Tidbinbilla.
- Leave your pets at home.
- Only light fires in authorised fireplaces.
- No camping in the reserve.
- Drive carefully. For both your safety and our wildlife.
- Please observe the 35 km speed limit.

## Opening times:

Visitor Centre and kiosk	Opens	Closes
September to June	Daily	9.00am 4:30pm
July & August	Daily	10.00am 3:30pm

Reserve gates	Opens	Closes
Summer (AEDT)	Daily	7:30am 8:00pm
Winter (AEDT)	Daily	7:30am 6:00pm

Entry fees apply. Reserve may be closed on days of total fire ban, high winds or for management requirements. Closed Christmas Day.

Located approximately 40 minute's drive from the city centre. (from the city/northside, use Cotter Road and Paddys River Road. From Tuggeranong, use Point Hut Road and Tidbinbilla Road.

## Further information

Tidbinbilla Visitor Centre Ph (02) 6205 1233

Email: [info@tidbinbilla.com.au](mailto:info@tidbinbilla.com.au)

Website: [www.tidbinbilla.com.au](http://www.tidbinbilla.com.au)

Find us on Facebook (Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve-TAMS)

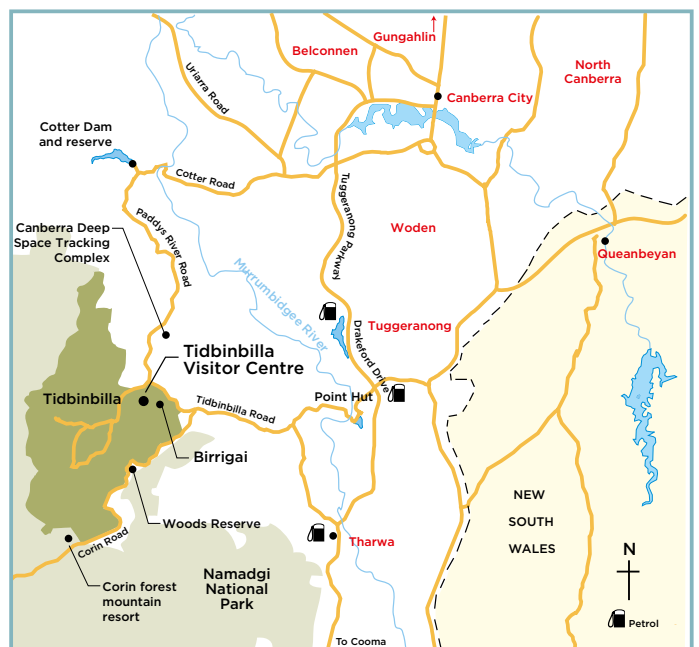
Canberra Connect Ph 13 22 81

Birrigai Ph (02) 6205 6748 Fax 6207 1030

Email: [birrigai@tidbinbilla.com.au](mailto:birrigai@tidbinbilla.com.au)

Website: [www.tams.act.gov.au](http://www.tams.act.gov.au)

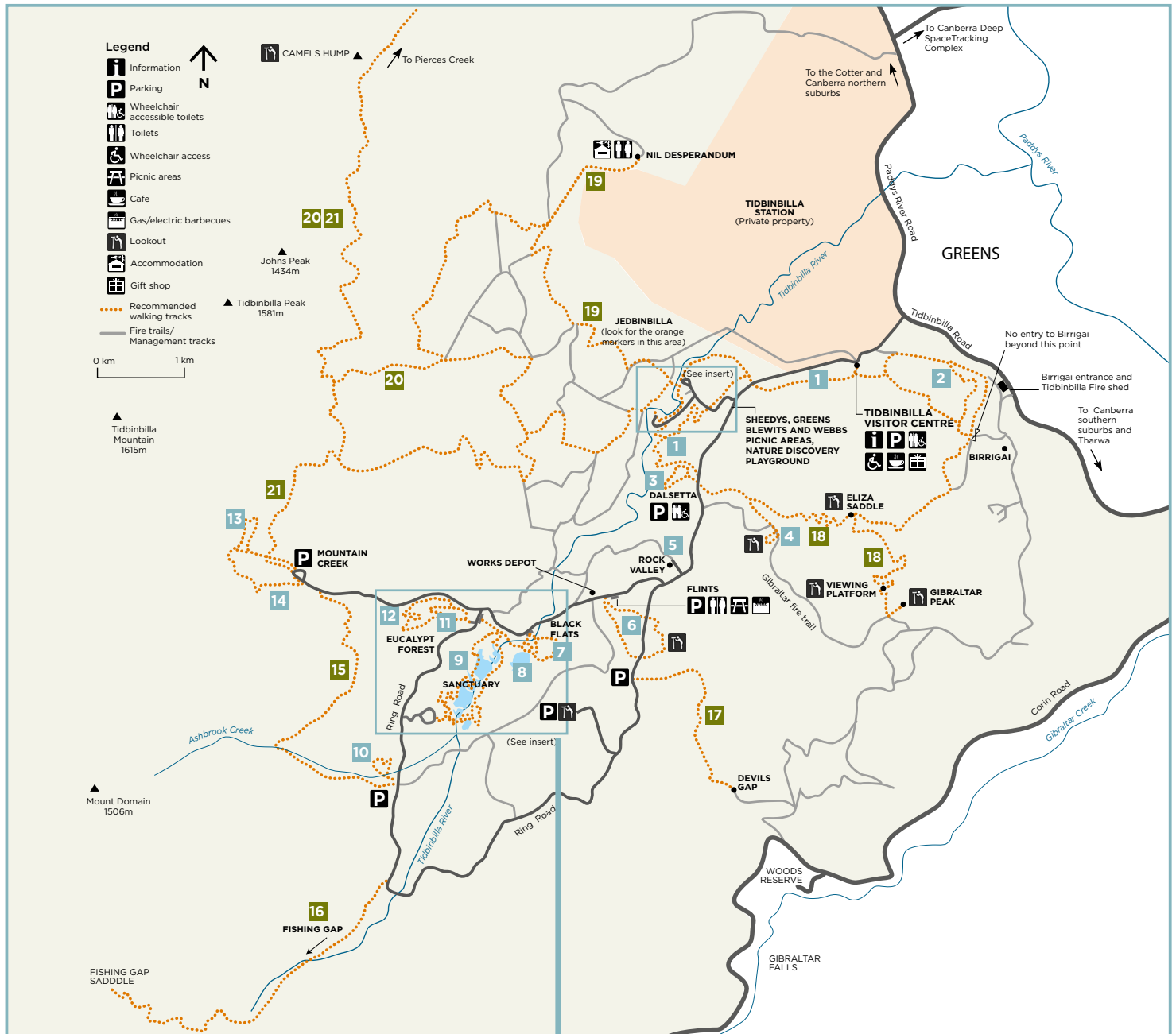
## How to get to Tidbinbilla



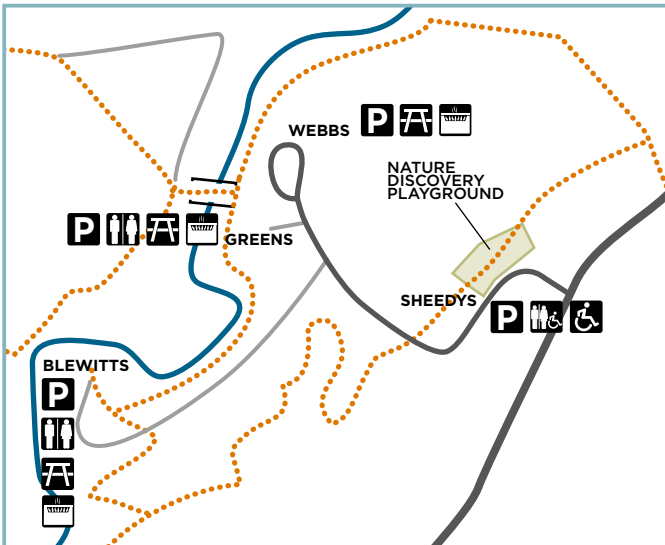
<b>Short walks and places of interest</b>
<b>1. CONGWARRA TRAIL</b>
<b>3 - 4 km 1 hour Easy</b>
An easy stroll from the Visitor Centre through open grassland that takes you to the Nature Discovery Playground (1.5km, 30 minutes). From here, trails meander down to the Tidbinbilla River and connect to Dalsetta via Webbs, Greens and Sheedys picnic areas.
<b>2. BIRRIGAI TIME TRAIL</b>
<b>3 km return 1 hour Easy</b>
From the Visitor Centre explore the Aboriginal and European heritage trail as it meanders up to the Birrigai Rock Shelter.
<b>3. TURKEY HILL TRAIL</b>
<b>500m return 15 minutes Easy</b>
From Dalsetta, take a short walk among the granite tors of Turkey Hill.
<b>4. XANTHORRHOEA LOOP</b>
<b>2.5 km return 45 minutes Moderate</b>
From Dalsetta, this walk climbs to a magnificent stand of grass trees.
<b>5. ROCK VALLEY HERITAGE SITE</b>
<b>Park at site</b>
Learn about early European settlement in the Tidbinbilla Valley by visiting the restored ruins of Rock Valley Homestead, built in 1895.
<b>6. CHURCH ROCK HERITAGE LOOP</b>
<b>2.5 km return 1 hour Easy</b>
Follow the footsteps of Aboriginal people and the early pioneers on this heritage walk to Church Rock. Great views and stories. Starts at Flints.
<b>7. BUSHLAND MEANDER</b>
<b>1.6 km return 1 hour Easy</b>
A lovely stroll through open woodland. Look for wallaroos, kangaroos and wallabies. Starts from Black Flats car park.
<b>8. BLACK FLATS DAM</b>
<b>300m return 15 minutes Easy</b>
A short walk to enjoy the tranquility of Black Flats Dam and its water birds, platypus and other wildlife.
<b>9. SANCTUARY LOOP</b>
<b>2.1 km return 90 minutes Easy</b>
A series of interconnected habitat zones, linked by a wheelchair-friendly walking trail. See Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies, platypus, echidnas, birds, and other animals in their natural habitats.
<b>10. HANGING ROCK</b>
<b>500 m return 25 minutes Easy</b>
A short walk near Ashbrook Creek through the tall eucalypts brings you to granite tors once used by local Aboriginal people.
<b>11. KOALA PATH</b>
<b>700m return 20 minutes Easy</b>
Look up for koalas, wombats, potoroos and wallabies.

<b>12. PEPPERMINT TRAIL</b>
<b>1.8 km return 45 minutes Easy</b>
From the Koala Path, follow the gravel track through the tall eucalypt trees and across Mountain Creek. Great for viewing koalas and forest birds.
<b>13. CASCADES TRAIL</b>
<b>1.8 km return 1 hour Moderate</b>
This walk climbs through the wet forest and meets a cascading mountain stream. Starts from the Mountain Creek car park.
<b>14. LYREBIRD TRAIL</b>
<b>2 km return 1 hour Moderate</b>
This trail passes in and out of moist fern-filled gullies and open forest. Look and listen for signs of the Superb Lyrebird, particularly during winter.
<b>Longer, harder walks</b>
<b>15. ASHBROOK FIRE TRAIL</b>
<b>6.5 km return 2 hours Moderate</b>
From Hanging Rock car park, explore tall forests and wet gullies before crossing Ashbrook Creek. Continue up to the locked gate on Mountain Creek Road then return the same way.
<b>16. FISHING GAP</b>
<b>7.7 km return 3 hours Hard</b>
Tall Mountain Gums and fern gullies frame this meandering walk along the fire trail. The walk ends at the saddle and returns the same way.
<b>17. DEVILS GAP</b>
<b>6 km return 2 hours Moderate</b>
A short but steep walk up the fire trail through dry mountain eucalypt forest. The walk ends at the boundary gate and returns on the same trail.
<b>18. GIBRALTAR PEAK</b>
<b>8.2 km return 3-4 hours Moderate-Hard</b>
The most direct route to Gibraltar Peak starts from Dalsetta, passing grasslands before the climb to Eliza Saddle. The trail then traverses for a short distance. After a steep climb, Gibraltar Peak is reached. Return via the same route or take the longer route via Eliza Saddle, Birrigai Time Trail, the Visitor Centre and Congwarra Trail. You can also return on the Gibraltar Fire Trail.
<b>19. NIL DESPERANDUM</b>
<b>13.8 km return 4 hours Moderate</b>
From the Visitor Centre, take the Congwarra Trail to Webbs, then follow the signs through Jedbinbilla to Nil Desperandum, a restored homestead built around 1895. You can also walk from Greens (8.6 km return 3 hours).
<b>20. CAMELS HUMP (Option 1)</b>
<b>19 km return 8 hours Hard</b>
Starting at the Visitor Centre, take the Congwarra Trail to Webbs then follow the signs through Jedbinbilla to Camels Hump fire trail. This walk lets you experience a little bit of everything that Tidbinbilla has to offer including great views.
<b>21. CAMELS HUMP (Option 2)</b>
<b>11.6 km return 6 hours Hard</b>
From Mountain Creek, climb to one of the highest ridges in the ACT. Enjoy stunning views. The walk ends at Camels Hump and returns on the same path.

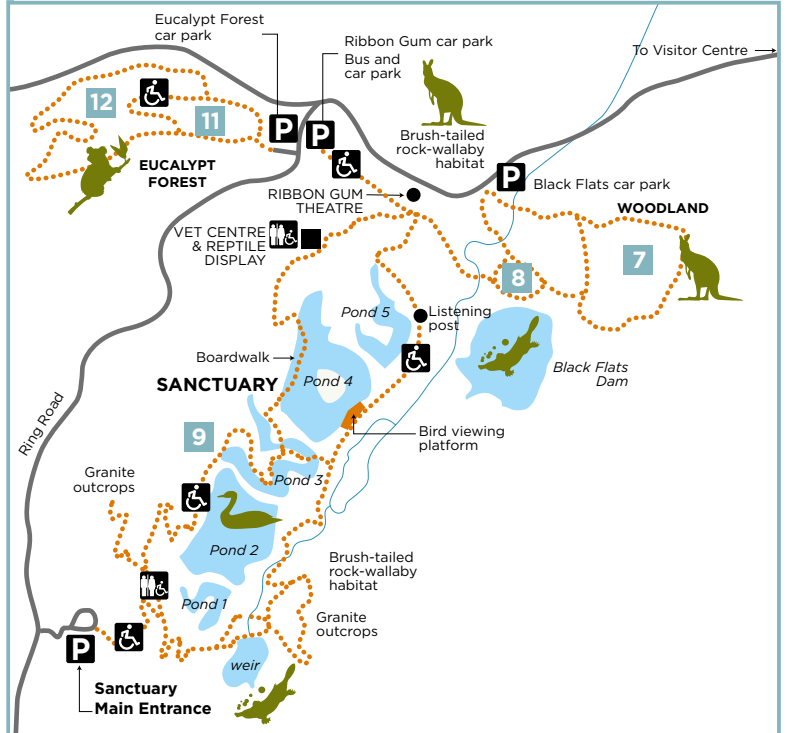
# Tidbinbilla Map



## Sheedys, Webbs, Greens, Blewitts picnic areas and Nature Discovery Playground insert



## Sanctuary, Eucalypt Forest, Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, Woodland and Black Flats Dam insert



Walk safely, know your capabilities, wear suitable clothing and sign the bushwalking register where available. Some tracks are steep and can be slippery. Weather conditions can change suddenly. Do not rely on mobile phones in an emergency as coverage in the valley is limited. Allow up to 15 minutes to exit the reserve before the gates are locked. Camping is not permitted at Tidbinbilla.