

VISITING...

Ben Lomond National Park



Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania

DEPARTMENT of TOURISM, PARKS,
HERITAGE and the ARTS

In the northeast of Tasmania, the magnificent massif of Ben Lomond rises above rural pastures and forestry land with its imposing and precipitous cliffs. Visible over much of the northern midlands, this alpine plateau is home to a wide variety of alpine plants communities and animals, and in seasons of good snowfall is the main focus of downhill skiing in the state. Its highest point, the summit of Legges Tor (1572 metres) is the second highest peak in Tasmania.

Highlights

Ben Lomond National Park offers a great contrast to the dry coastal parks in other areas of eastern Tasmania. Rock climbing and walking are just some of attractions for the more active. Down hill and cross-country skiing are also popular, however, skiing conditions are often limited. For others the panoramic views from the lookout at Jacobs Ladder are not to be missed.

National parks fees apply. Parks passes are available at Service Tasmania Shops state-wide (Mon-Fri 9-5).

Getting There

The park is situated about 50 km or 1 hour southeast of Launceston. From Launceston take the C401 through White Hills then east toward Upper Blessington. 3.5 km before you reach Upper Blessington turn right into Ben Lomond Road (C432)

From Hobart it is a 3 hour drive north on the Midlands Highway (A1) turnoff to Evandale (B41) and take the partly sealed C413 to Blessington then continue on the Blessington Road towards Upper Blessington on the C420 and C401, taking a right turn into Ben Lomond Road.

It is 8 km from the Ben Lomond Road turnoff to the park boundary and 18km to the alpine village. The road

is unsealed and the final climb up Jacobs Ladder to the plateau is steep. Although it has recently been extensively upgraded to increase safety, there is a 30km speed limit which motorists are requested to observe. Vehicles traveling uphill should give way to those descending.

In conditions of snow and ice the road may be closed without notice at the barrier 4.5 km from the alpine village. Wheel chains and anti freeze must be carried between June and September. During ski season wheel chain hire and shuttle bus services operate from the snowline.

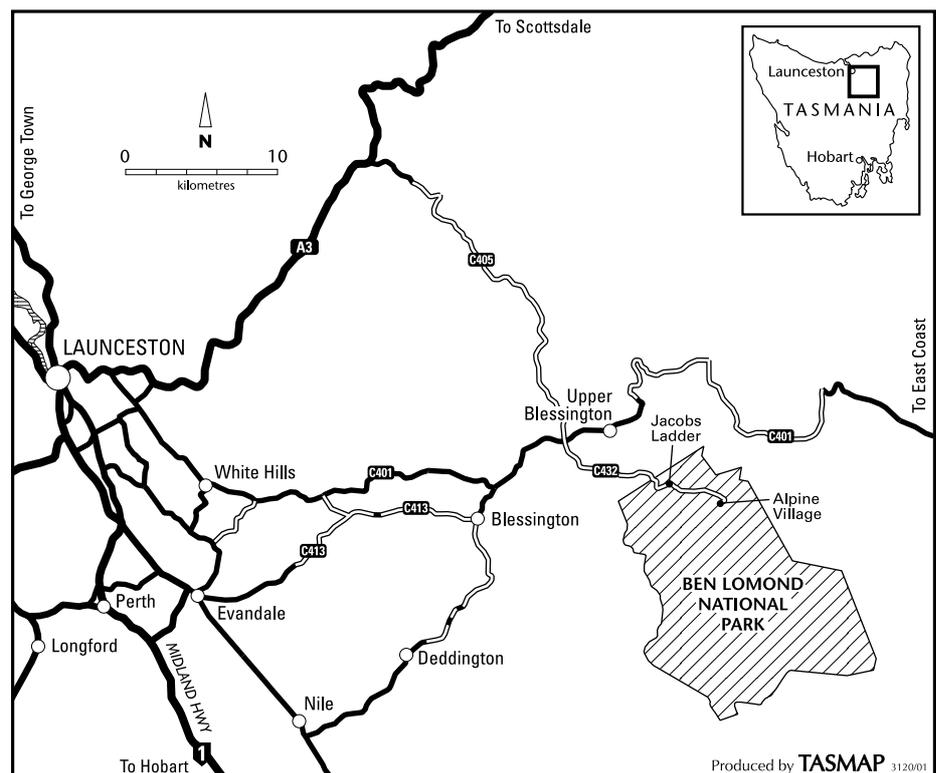
Maximum size for passenger vehicles is a 22 seater and bus drivers must have an alpine license to travel the Jacobs Ladder section of the road.

In the snow season, a bus service runs from Launceston to Ben Lomond.

Things to do

There are a number of activities that can be enjoyed within the park.

A beautiful and challenging **drive** reaches the plateau after a series of rather spectacular hairpin bends known as Jacobs Ladder. Visitors can enjoy views of



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the dramatic landscape of dolerite columns and scree slopes and beyond. The vegetation of Ben Lomond is different to other parts of Tasmania and in summer the alpine wildflowers are well worth a look.

For experienced **rock climbers** and **abseilers**, the dolerite columns of Ben Lomond offer some serious climbing.

In fine weather there are some short **walks** with great views, but care should be taken in poor weather conditions.

Carr Villa to Alpine Village - 2 hours one way. This walk climbs steeply up to the plateau and continues along the plateau to the highest point, Legges Tor, then descends to the Ben Lomond Road. Follow the road about 1km to the alpine village.

Legges Tor Circuit - 1 hour return. The highest peak can be reached with a gentle climb from the road about 1km before the lodges. The track makes a circuit at the top and descends the same way.

All walkers and cross-country skiers should register details of their trip at the alpine village, where there is a self registration booth. Make sure to also register when you return. Log books are only checked if a party is reported overdue, so tell someone reliable of your plans. Staff at Ben Lomond Creek Inn are happy to take particulars of your walk but be sure to advise of your safe return.

Facilities

A car park and toilet facilities are located at the alpine village.

There is a public day shelter hut on the ski fields. This hut has heating but no cooking facilities.

During the snow season, early July - late September, a number of facilities are available in the park. Eight ski tows operate on the down hill slopes, and there are ski hire, instruction and sales services as well as a kiosk at the alpine village. Snow mobile tours, first aid and locker storage facilities are also available.

The Ben Lomond Skifield Management Authority manages the ski fields. For enquiries regarding tows etc phone 03 6340 6070 or during the ski season try the mountain office on 03 6390 6279.

There is a small camping area 1 km inside the park on the left hand side. There are 6 unpowered sites suitable for tents or campervans, a toilet, drinking

water and a lookout. These are the only camping facilities in the park.

Remote camping is permitted anywhere in the park provided it is not within 500m of any road. Campers should use fuel stoves.

The Ben Lomond Creek Inn provides meals and accommodation and operates all year round. Bookings should be made during the ski season by ringing 6372 2444.

There are several lodges in the alpine village area. These are owned either privately or by alpine clubs and usage is generally restricted to members and their guests.

What to bring

Warm, water and wind proof clothing is essential at any time of the year. In summer wear a hat and use sunscreen. If venturing off-track, a map, compass and navigational skills are essential.

Weather

The weather can change rapidly at any time of the year and low cloud can make it impossible to see more than an arms-length ahead. Never venture away from the marked track unless you have a map and compass, and can navigate in zero visibility. Be prepared and check the weather conditions before setting out. For current weather forecasts contact the Bureau of Meteorology on 1196 or www.bom.gov.au.

Futher Information

Ben Lomond Plateau Ski and Walk Map available at Service Tasmania;

1:25 000 map series -
Giblin and Stacks maps
cover the region.

Parks & Wildlife Service
Website
www.parks.tas.gov.au



Contact

Ben Lomond Office 03 6390 6279
(Winter only)

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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