

CAMPERS GOLDEN RULES

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups. Split larger parties into groups of 4–6.
- Repackage food to minimise waste.
- Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.

TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES

- Durable surfaces include established tracks and campsites, rock, gravel and dry grasses.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 100 metres from lakes and streams.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.

In popular areas:

- Concentrate use on existing track and campsites.
- Walk single file in the middle of the track, even when wet or muddy.
- Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.

In pristine areas:

- Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and tracks.
- Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for rubbish or spilled foods. Pack out all rubbish, leftover food, and litter.
- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 20–25cm deep at least 100 metres from water, camp, and tracks. Cover and disguise the hole when finished.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 100 metres from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegrad-able soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

- Respect indigenous art and other sites of cultural significance. Always get appropriate permission.
- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

MINIMISE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the bush. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

RESPECT WILDLIFE

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and rubbish securely.
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

BE CONSIDERATE OF YOUR HOSTS AND OTHER VISITORS

- Respect cultural owners and their country.
- Be courteous. Give way to other users on the track.
- Take breaks and camp away from tracks and other visitors.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

CAMPING

Campers' packing checklist

Camping is not about having the latest gear, but having what suits you and your own camping style. Find out what you need to pack to ensure a safe and enjoyable camping getaway.

Campfire safety

Building a campfire to roast up some snags can be a real camping pleasure but you need to follow the safety rules to make sure the fire stays under control.

Camping etiquette

Camping is a means of escaping the pressures of everyday life - so we don't want that ruined by inconsiderate campers - or spoil someone else's holiday with our own poor behaviour.

Camping first aid

Camping in the bush can bring us into contact with hazards and creepy crawlies not often faced in city living. Being up-to-date with first aid techniques plus a well-stocked first aid kit can be vital.

Camping with kids

Camping with kids doesn't have to be a trial. A well-planned trip is fun for kids and parents.

Camping with pets

Wouldn't dream of going away without your pet? Here's some tips on how to make sure both you and your pets enjoy your holiday.

Choosing the right camp site

When selecting your camp site there are five main things to consider.

Easy camping meals

The key to successful camp cooking is to keep it simple. Pretty much anything tastes good when you've cooked it yourself over a campfire or a gas stove, so stick to easy, tasty meals.

Good clean camping fun

Camping is fun, but it can also be a dirty business.

Rainy day camping survival guide

How to make camping in the wet fun - even with a tribe of kids.

Safe camping

Dealing with natural hazards is all part of the camping experience but it's important to know how to cope with the worst nature can throw your way.

Tent Commandments

Choosing the right tent makes the difference between a great holiday and a camping disaster. We help you decide on the right tent for you.