



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY (VK1)



About the ACT

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) is the smallest self-governing internal territory of Australia, located enclaved within the state of New South Wales. It was established in 1911 specifically to host the newly designed, planned national capital city of Canberra.

Canberra serves as the political and administrative hub of Australia, housing major national institutions like Parliament House, the High Court, and the National Gallery.

Beyond the urban landscape of Canberra, the territory features vast bushland and mountainous wilderness, with Namadgi National Park covering nearly half of the ACT's total land area.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY FLORA & FAUNA



GANG-GANG COCKATOO
Callocephalon fimbriatum

The Gang-gang Cockatoo is native to south-eastern Australia and is the emblem of the Australian Capital Territory. It is named after the loud metallic sound it makes by hitting two branches together. They are highly intelligent and social birds, often seen in forests and woodlands across the ACT.



ROYAL BLUEBELL
Wahlenbergia gloriosa

The Royal Bluebell is a delicate native wildflower found in grasslands and open woodlands of the ACT. It produces stunning blue, bell-shaped flowers in spring and is a symbol of the region's natural beauty and biodiversity. It is the floral emblem of the Australian Capital Territory.

Always check alerts

Always check **alerts** before heading out to a park, reserve or plantation forest. Roads or sections may be closed due to flooding, snowfall, bushfire, or road damage.

Safety in ACT parks

When exploring parks like Namadgi National Park or Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, planning for changing environmental conditions is essential:

- **Preparation:** Check live **Parks ACT Alerts** before leaving. File a trip intention plan with an emergency contact.
- **Communication:** Mobile coverage is unreliable or absent. Carry a physical map, compass, or a **Personal Locator Beacon (PLB)**, which can be hired at park visitor centres.
- **Weather & Environment:** Prepare for extreme cold and snow in winter, or intense heat in summer. Avoid forested areas during strong winds due to falling tree limbs, and take extreme care around unpredictable waterways.
- **Fire Safety:** Observe **Total Fire Bans**. Outside of bans, fires are strictly limited to designated metal fire pits using your own brought firewood, and must be completely doused with water before departure.

In a life-threatening emergency, dial **Triple Zero (000)** or use park solar emergency phones where available.

Restricted and Closed Areas

- **Leased Land Sections:** Portions of reserves overlap with private rural leases (such as sections of the Tuggeranong Hill Nature Reserve and Rob Roy Range Nature Reserve). Public access to these leased sections is prohibited without explicit authorisation.
- **Temporary and Safety Closures:** Specific tracks, lookouts, or facilities close periodically. For example, parts of the Canberra Nature Park and specific sites like the Gibraltar Falls viewing platform undergo temporary closures for maintenance or seasonal management operations.

- **Night Restrictions:** Many nature reserves and parking areas close overnight (often gated after 5:00 PM or 6:00 PM) to protect wildlife and prevent unauthorised vehicle access.
- **Commercial Forestry:** Areas of plantation forests like Kowen Forest close to unauthorised visitors during active harvesting, high fire danger periods, or severe weather.

Further information

Information on preparing for a visit to ab ACT park can be found on the [Parks ACT Before you go page](#).

More information on Access to parks in the ACT can be found on the [Parks ACT Access page](#).

You can check current conditions via the [Parks ACT Alerts Page](#) before planning a visit.