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Be prepared

Access to Barrington Tops is via a steep, unsealed road and can become very slippery in snow, ice or rain. With high vehicle usage the road can be boggy and corrugated with large potholes. **4WD vehicles are better suited** to driving in these conditions. If your car becomes stranded it may take several days to be recovered.

Mobile phone service on the Barrington Tops is patchy or non-existent. Do not rely on your phone working and make sure you tell someone about your travel plans before you leave.

The weather can change quickly in the Barrington Tops particularly during a snow event. **Make sure you pack** plenty of extra warm clothing, blankets, and additional food and water—even if it's just a day trip!

The information in this brochure was derived from the following sources:

www.mynrma.com.au - driving in the snow

www.roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au - snow driving

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

[www.Facebook/BarringtonTopsSnowChasers](https://www.facebook.com/BarringtonTopsSnowChasers)



Gloucester

Visitor Information Centre

27 Denison Street Gloucester 2422
New South Wales
AUSTRALIA

02 6538 5252

information@MidCoast.nsw.gov.au

www.gloucestertourism.com.au



Driving in Ice & Snow Barrington Tops

The World Heritage Barrington Tops region reaches a peak elevation of 1586 metres. During the winter months when conditions are right the area can experience snow falls ranging from a light dusting to heavy falls. Driving in Barrington Tops during a snowfall or ice event requires extreme caution. Drivers must heed warnings issued and adhere to any road closures that may be in place.

Barrington Tops Forest Road

The main access road to Barrington Tops is Barrington Tops Forest Road (also known as the Scone Road). Most of this road is unsealed which can present an additional hazard during a snow event. If this road deteriorates it can be closed to all vehicles to ensure the safety of visitors. Road closures are at the discretion of the Local Emergency Management Committee and local police.

Thunderbolts Way to Nowendoc and Walcha

In a widespread snow event visitors seeking to avoid driving on the unsealed roads of Barrington Tops can occasionally access roadside snow via the Thunderbolts Way. However the steep incline of Thunderbolts Way can be hazardous due to black ice. Drive to the conditions and check on road conditions prior to travel.

Driving in snow conditions

Check your tyres and brakes

Brakes, steering and suspension are critical for the safe handling of a car in slippery conditions. Traction on the road is compromised during a snow or ice event—2WD vehicles are affected more than 4WD vehicles. Snow and ice reduce handling and braking performance, increasing the risk of a vehicle crashing.

If you intend to take your vehicle into snow conditions check your tyres and brakes before you travel:

- Check your tyres have plenty of tread depth
- Check tyres for damage such as cuts, bubbles in the side walls or scuffing. If tread wear is uneven or near the minimum legal limit, have them replaced and the wheel alignment checked.
- Refer to your vehicle manual for the correct tyre pressure for driving in snow and ice.
- Check your brakes are working correctly prior to heading to the snow.

Driving in snow and ice

- Slow the vehicle using gears and avoid sudden braking, accelerating or sudden movement of the steering wheel.
- If you do use your brakes, apply them gently on the straight before coming into the corner. Use gradual acceleration and keep your momentum up slopes.
- Leave extra distance between you and the vehicle in front.
- Always tell someone where you are going before you travel
- Be prepared in case of an incident—take extra warm clothing, food and water, candles and matches

Be aware of black ice

Take care when driving at night, dawn or dusk where surface moisture and dew can freeze into black ice—a transparent coating of ice on roads that can be very difficult to see, particularly in shaded or low-lying areas. Watch for icy patches on shady parts of the road, especially on Thunderbolts Way, through cuttings, on bridges and on winding stretches where ice may have formed over a thin layer of snow.

Using anti-freeze

Add anti-freeze to your engine radiator. You'll need to match the amount of anti-freeze to the capacity of the coolant system. If the coolant freezes, the engine block and radiator may crack, leaving you stranded with an expensive repair bill. Most modern cars use coolant with wide temperature capabilities, but you'll need to check with your service provider if special coolant is needed. Adding anti-freeze to your windscreen washing fluid will prevent it freezing on the windscreen when driving.

Driving in high winds

In strong winds there is potential for trees and branches to fall, posing a risk to visitors and vehicles. There is also a risk that trees might fall over roads and trails, possibly blocking access into and out of areas. Blizzard conditions do occur on Barrington Tops and driving during a high wind snow event is extremely hazardous, do not risk it.

Using your GPS

When driving on the Barrington Tops plateau it is recommended to turn off your GPS as it can take you off track and to the wrong destination. Pick up maps and information about road conditions from the **Gloucester Visitor Information Centre** in Denison Street.

When will it snow?

Snow falls are most likely in the Barrington Tops from May to August, and are usually of very short duration. Tracking the Barrington Tops weather reports at the Bureau of Meteorology will keep you up-to-date with changing weather conditions, which may indicate a snow event.

www.bom.gov.au/nsw/forecasts/barrington-tops.html

Where can I see snow?

You can access Barrington Tops plateau via the Barrington Tops Forest Road: from the eastern side through Gloucester, and the western side through Scone. Polblue camping area (1450m) and Devils Hole lookout (1400m) on the Barrington Tops Forest Road are good places to start. **From Gloucester:** Take the Bucketts Way into Gloucester, stop for coffee, turn at the roundabout on Queen & Church Streets and head out on Thunderbolts Way, following the signs to Scone.

Road closures

The Barrington Tops Forest Road can be closed at short notice to all vehicles by the Local Emergency Management Committee and local police. For up-to-date information about closures go to

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/alerts/Alerts-list

Annual winter closure of 4WD trails: The following 4WD trails within Barrington Tops are closed to all vehicles each year from 1 June to 30 September:

- Barrington Trail (south and north)
- Paddys Ridge Trail
- Butchers Swamp Trail
- Bullock Brush Trail
- Tugalow Trail
- Thunderbolts Trail

When the above trails are closed, vehicles cannot access the campgrounds at Little Murray, Junction Pools and Gummi Falls. Walkers & non-motorised mountain bikers can still use these closed trails.