



Mimosa Rocks National Park

Located just North of Tathra Mimosa Rocks National Park covers an area of 5,802 ha and embraces 20 km of coastline. The park contains a diverse system of beaches, sea caves, headlands, cliffs, offshore stacks and lagoons. Spotted gums (*Corymbia maculata*) with an understorey of burrawangs are a feature of the park.

A number of threatened fauna species are found within the park including the sooty owl, golden tipped bat and hooded plover. The brown pigeon is found at the southern limit of its distribution.

Aboriginal people have occupied what is now Mimosa Rocks National Park for at least 6000 years. By that time, the sea had risen to its present level establishing a new range of hunting grounds including the Bega River estuary and three coastal lagoons either within or adjacent to the park.

It is, however, thought that Aboriginal occupation of the district could date back over the past 25,000 years. Today the major archaeological remains of this occupation are found in middens and open camp site deposits.

The estuaries and lagoons along the park's coastline also contain important wetlands. These are highly significant areas for nature conservation providing habitat and food for a range of waterbirds (both local and migratory).

In helping to maintain the ecosystems of the coastal lakes and lagoons, wetlands also play a vital role in protecting oyster habitat and the nursery grounds of prawns, and a range of commercial fish species.

Bournda National Park

Located just South of Tathra, Bournda National Park features the combination of ocean beaches, creeks, lagoons and the expansive waters of Wallagoot Lake. While the park is well serviced with camping and recreational facilities, its natural environment remains unspoiled.

The park has a rich history of Aboriginal occupation. It was an important food gathering place and evidence of hunting and tool making have been found in coastal middens and old camp sites.

The wetland areas around the mouth of Wallagoot Lake provide valuable habitat. Threatened little terns breed on the northern side of Wallagoot Lake in most summer seasons. The site is fenced to protect the birds from disturbance. A team of shorebird



volunteers assist the National Parks and Wildlife Service with monitoring and protection of the birds.

For more detailed information please visit:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkHome.aspx?id=N0082>

Walking Tracks

Tathra Coastline Walk, A medium/ hard 1 hour return walk on dirt/bush tracks with spectacular views. Follows the coastline and links Tathra Wharf to Kianinny Bay.

The Kangarutha Track in Bournda National Park is a moderately difficult, 9kms one way full day walk. The track follows the coastline from Tathra's Kianinny Bay to Turingal Head through Bournda National Park. This challenging walk has ocean vistas, sandy and pebbly beaches and a variety of coastal vegetation. It is best to organise a car shuffle at either end or midway at White Rock for a shorter walk. There is a park-use fee if you leave a vehicle at Turingal Head.

The Bournda Lagoon Walk in Bournda National Park is a fairly difficult 6kms loop. Enter right off Sapphire Coast Drive, into the Bournda lagoon car park North of Merimbula. The walk follows the edge of the lagoon to Bournda Island before heading inland and back along Sandy Creek. It passes through exquisite coastal habitats including pockets of rainforest. It is a great location for bird watching, and dolphins are often seen off Bournda and North Tura beaches. A park-use fee is applicable.

Hobart Beach To Bournda Lagoon in Bournda National Park is an easy 5kms return walk taking approximately 2 hours. Enter off Sapphire Coast Drive, South of Tathra. Stroll thru low coastal heath and eucalypt forest to see the tranquillity of the Bournda Lagoon.

Hobart Beach Campground to Bondi Lake in Bournda National Park is an easy 2kms return walk taking approximately 1hour. Enter off Sapphire Coast, South of Tathra. Hidden just behind the coastal dunes discover Bondi lake, a fresh water lake filled with waterbirds for the nature lover.

The Main Ridge Track in the Tathra Wildlife Reserve is a moderately steep 4km return walk taking approximately 2 hours. The walk starts just behind the Tathra Bowling Club or from Thompsons Road Tathra. Along the track you will experience coastal rainforest, this walk is a shady haven in summer. A secluded wetland area has an abundance of



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waterbirds including great egrets and white-faced herons as well as frogs and eastern water dragons. A wildlife lovers heaven.