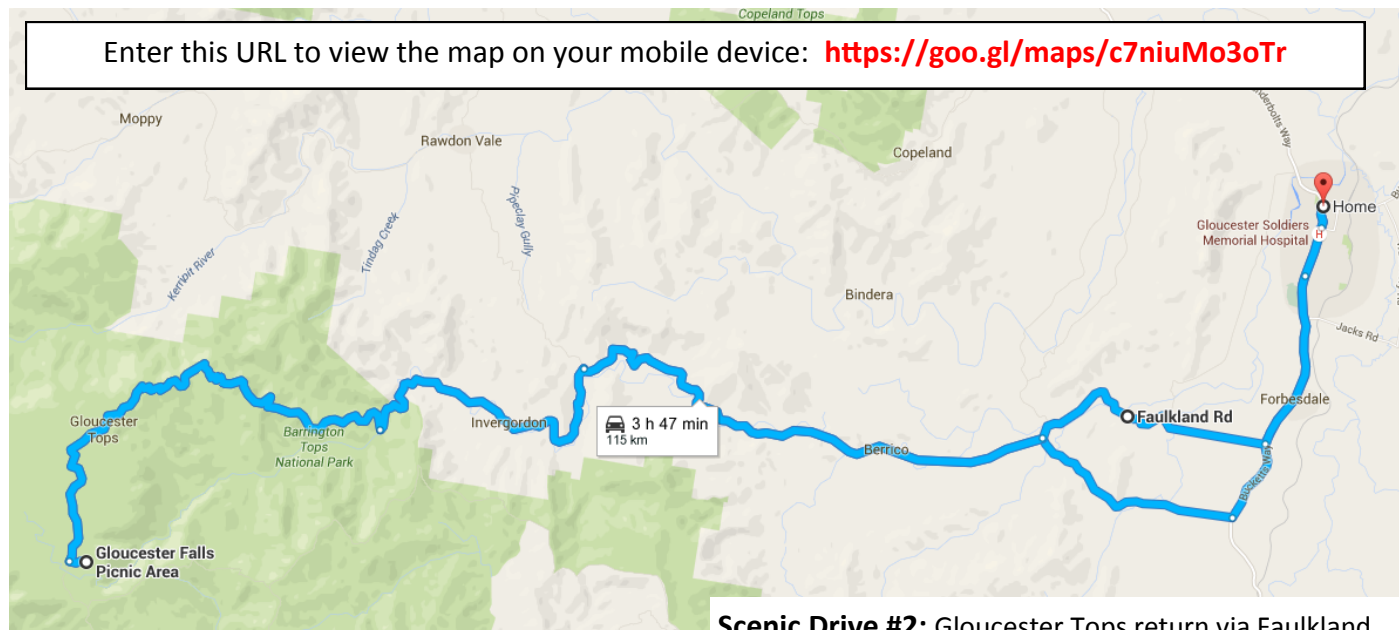


Enter this URL to view the map on your mobile device: <https://goo.gl/maps/c7niuMo3oTr>



### Scenic Drive #2: Gloucester Tops return via Faulkland

**Length:** 115km

**Start:** Visitor Information Centre at 27 Denison Street

**End:** Gloucester township

**Featuring:** Gloucester River valley, Gloucester Tops, Barrington Tops National Park, Andrew Laurie Lookout, Gloucester Falls, Gloucester River, Faulkland and multiple river crossings on concrete causeways (caution advised).

### Gloucester Visitor Information Centre

27 Denison Street, Gloucester  
New South Wales  
AUSTRALIA



**T:** 02 6538 5252

**F:** 02 6558 9808

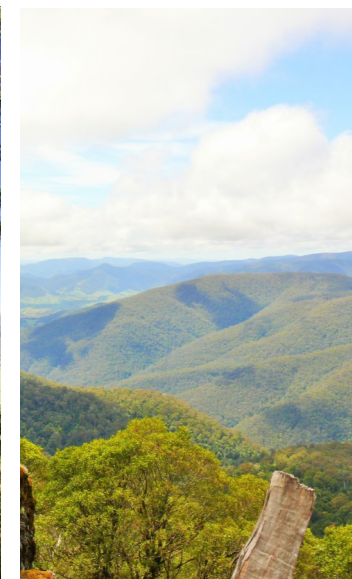
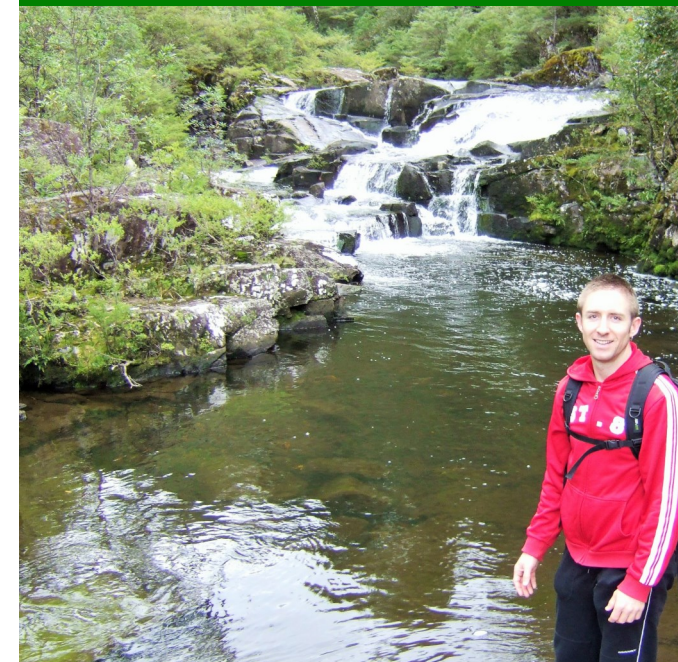
[information@MidCoast.nsw.gov.au](mailto:information@MidCoast.nsw.gov.au)

[www.gloucestertourism.com.au](http://www.gloucestertourism.com.au)

# Scenic Drives

Gloucester New South Wales

## DRIVE 2: GLOUCESTER TOPS





## Scenic Drive #2 – Gloucester Tops

If you only have half a day then this offers you a taste of world heritage wilderness. Gloucester Tops National Park is the easternmost section of Barrington Tops and is the closest part of this stunning wilderness to Gloucester.

This drive is 115km return and will take about 4 hours at a leisurely pace with stopping along the way. One third of the road is gravel so please drive cautiously, especially at the many river crossings that make this drive so scenic. Ensure you take your own water, a picnic lunch and warm clothes as the national park here is 1300m above sea level so it can easily get chilly under the magnificent trees.

(NB. This route may be unsuitable in times of snow or high river levels, check with the Visitor Information Centre.)

**Start:** Visitor Information Centre at 27 Denison Street.

**End:** Gloucester township.

**Featuring:** Gloucester River valley, Gloucester Tops National Park, Andrew Laurie lookout, Gloucester Falls, Gloucester River, Faulkland and multiple river crossings on concrete causeways (caution advised).

**Use this URL to see the map online:**  
<https://goo.gl/maps/c7niuMo3oTr>

Head out of town south for 10km towards Newcastle via Church Street that becomes Bucketts Way, where you'll see the big tourist sign for Barrington Tops and Gloucester Tops. Turn right into Gloucester Tops Road, you'll follow this road until it ends high in the national park. Within this park you'll find Gloucester Falls where the Gloucester River is born, deep green Gondwanaland forests, high altitude wetlands with snow gum meadows plus some spectacular views of course!

And on the way you'll see beautiful rural landscapes and cross numerous river fords with picnic and swimming spots before returning to Gloucester or continuing your journey towards the Pacific Highway.

Along Gloucester Tops Road for the next 40km you'll track the Gloucester River as the road winds through productive farming valleys surrounded by forest-clad mountain tops. There are hidden valleys and vistas that will surprise and delight.

Watch for the sharp left turn of Gloucester Tops Road at the Invergordon locality, if you miss this turn you'll end up in the next valley on the way to Rawdonvale.

As you climb further into the mountains you'll cross the Gloucester River at several fords and then drive past a commercial caravan park before arriving at the gate of the national park. Keep driving a little further and you pass the NPWS Gloucester River Camping Area which is a great camping spot if you're looking to stay overnight. Otherwise a further 18km of winding mountain road brings you to your destination at Gloucester Tops picnic area. Several walking trail options are available here.

The Gloucester Tops walking circuit combines three popular and scenic walks into a longer 7km circuit. It's worth the extra effort, you'll be rewarded with an awesome wilderness walking experience that provides a sense of the astonishing diversity within the Gloucester Tops precinct of Barrington Tops National Park.

Setting out from Gloucester Falls picnic area along the Gloucester Falls Track you'll walk through open snow gum woodland to Andrew Laurie lookout on the edge of the escarpment and on to Gloucester Falls lookout. Taking the River Track, you'll wander amid sub-alpine woodland. Look out for swamp wallabies and grey kangaroos along this walk, and in summer a carpet of native wildflowers.

The Antarctic Beech Forest Track features cool temperate rainforest with the canopy of ancient trees towering above the tree ferns and a damp carpet of moss on the forest floor, rocks and logs. The longer walking track option takes you to a mossy cascade with the purest mountain water. As you step behind the curtain of green you'll feel like you're on the film set of Lord Of The Rings.

Your return to Gloucester is via the same route, take care on the descent down the mountain. When you get to the T-intersection in the Faulkland locality, turn left onto Faulkland Road if heading back to Gloucester via the scenic Faulkland route. Or turn right if you are heading directly back to the Bucketts Way, follow the signs to Newcastle.

On Faulkland Road the lovely Federation-era house overlooking the river here is Faulkland House. There are two more river fords to cross, each with a scenic riverside picnic area, swimming spots, fish crossing and the Gloucester River gently babbling over the pebbles downstream of each crossing.

Continue on Faulkland Road that winds past more scenic rural landscapes and admire the view of the Buccan Buccans (Bucketts Mountains), now up close and personal. If you have a little more time, turn left onto Stantons Lane (which later becomes Bucketts Road) and return to Gloucester via this scenic route that skirts around the lower slopes of the Buccan Buccans (*see brochure Scenic Drive #1*).

Otherwise continue along Faulkland Road to where it meets the Bucketts Way, turn left to return to Gloucester or turn right to continue your journey towards Stroud, the Pacific Highway and Newcastle. You've now had a taste of the wonders of world heritage Barrington Tops, come back to see the beautiful northern section sometime soon.