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Visiting the parks

Although the three parks have much in common, some aspects of the experience are rather different, requiring planning. It can be a long way to 'civilisation' in all three parks, and there is often little formal accommodation nearby. So you need to plan for some independence in food, water and petrol, and it helps to carry information brochures, maps, and so on. The Australian Alps app, available on the Australian Alps National Parks website, offers maps and itineraries for all three parks.¹

Walking is best way to see each park, so be prepared with day packs, bad weather clothing and appropriate footwear. You don't have to do epic treks to see plenty, but it's good not to have to hurry back to your car because of cold or thirst.

Detailed information follows for the parks, organised according to the different ways a visitor may best enjoy each. For Namadgi, shorter distances and proximity to Canberra mean that short visits and walks to different parts of the park will be satisfying. For Kosciuszko and Alpine National Parks, tours are advised, interspersed with walks. Some areas are on the beaten track and some are much less visited, but you can use an ordinary car in fine conditions for all of those described. Variability in possible routes, driving conditions and itinerary make it hard to provide accurate driving times.

You will get the most thorough feeling for the area if you camp. The benefits are that you don't have to make radical changes in your outlook as you move from the towns or suburbs to the bush each day, driving stress is reduced, the hours spent on long winding dirt roads are adequately rewarded and, best of all, you