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Deer Hunting FAQs – Snowy and Errinundra NP

Question: Do I need a license to hunt?

Hunters must have a current Game Licence endorsed for hunting deer.

To recreationally hunt deer in Victoria, deer hunters need to abide by the hunting laws found in the [Wildlife \(Game\) Regulations 2024](#) and the [Wildlife Act 1975](#).

There are other general hunting laws contained in other acts on land management, firearms, and animal welfare.

<https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/hunting/deer/deer-hunting-laws>

How can I hunt responsibly?

Deer hunters must follow the approved hunting methods and use the approved equipment; comply with bag limits (Hog Deer); seasons (for Hog Deer and hound hunting), and hunting times (no recreational night hunting); and must have a current Game Licence endorsed for hunting deer.

<https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/hunting/respect-hunt-responsibly>

<https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/hunting/deer/ethical-hunting>

Can I hunt using hounds? Deer can only be hunted by stalking, the use of dogs is not permitted.

Are there any restrictions on firearms?

Where hunting is allowed, firearms must only be those calibres or gauges permitted for the species available for hunting in that park.

Can I camp with my firearm?

Yes, according to licensing and other relevant regulations. Firearms and bows must not be used (and must remain unloaded) within 100m of any designated camping area or designated picnic area.

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Hunters can possess unloaded firearms, bows and crossbows in and within 100 metres of McKillops Bridge camping area and at camping or picnic areas on the eastern side of the Snowy River but cannot hunt in these areas.

<https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/hunting/deer/where-to-hunt>

Where can I camp in Snowy River NP or Errinundra NP?

Camping in and around the Snowy River NP for hunters includes McKillops campground, Jackson's Crossing and Hicks campgrounds and Raymond Creek Falls campground. There is also dispersed camping allowed throughout the park.

Best access for hunters into the east side of the park is off the Yalmy Road – Joes Creek track, Mooresford Road, Wests Track, Varneys Track, Deddick Trail, Waratah Flat Track and Monkey Top Track. Also, from the north off McKillops Road there is access to the Deddick Trail and Bowen track. Some of these tracks listed are seasonal closures.

There is only one designated camping area within Errinundra NP at Frosty Hollow which is accessed via Hensleigh Creek Rd and Coast Range Rd. Dispersed camping is not allowed in Errinundra NP, however there are opportunities for camping (with firearms) within the surrounding State Forest.

Can I travel through the hunting exclusion zones with a firearm?

Firearms are not permitted in a National Park unless gazetted otherwise or the owner has a permit from PV. The current NP Act, regulations and new gazettal do not allow for any carriage of firearms in the Snowy River National Park on or west of the river. All access needs to be from the east side of the river.

McKillops Bridge camping area is the only area west of the Snowy River where firearms (unloaded) can be carried.

Can I access all areas of the park?

Hunting is not permitted within 100m of campgrounds and picnic areas. No hunting or carriage of firearms is permitted on the Snowy River or in areas of the park west of the river. McKillops Bridge camping area is the only area west of the Snowy River where firearms (unloaded) can be carried.

Within the Snowy River National Park, deer stalking is not permitted in Gelantipy Plateau Reference Area, Zig Zag Creek Reference Area, and Mountain Creek Reference Area.

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Deer stalking is permitted in all areas of Errinundra National Park, except for Big River Reference Area and Musket Creek Reference Area.

Can I hunt from the water on the Snowy River?

No hunting or carriage of firearms is permitted on the Snowy River. Hunting is permitted east of the left bank (looking downstream) of the river only. All access needs to be from the east side of the river.

Why are some areas excluded?

Reference areas are areas where all human interference is kept to a minimum. No access to reference areas is permitted except to protect natural processes or for emergency operations or research.

What times of the year can I hunt? Hunting will be seasonal from 15 February – 15 December each year, inclusive.

Question: What types of deer can I hunt (Sambar, Hog, Fallow, Red Deer)

All species of deer declared to be game under the Wildlife Act 1975 can be hunted.

Pest animals and other species must not be hunted in these parks.

Do I need to enter a ballot to hunt certain species of deer? No. All species of game deer in these parks can be hunted according to regulations during the specified season. For arrangements in other parks visit <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/hunting>

What should I do with the carcass?

The Game Management Authority recommends that once a deer is dispatched it should be properly handled to minimise waste. Bring out as much meat as you can and ensure that the carcass is not left near a road, track or a waterway. Prepare game quickly and never leave game to waste.

Why is hunting permitted in these two National Parks?

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This expanded access to seasonal deer stalking on public land adds to existing opportunities for accredited hunters – supporting outdoor recreation while helping control wild deer in parks across Victoria.

Allowing recreational hunters greater access to help manage wild deer will also contribute to better biodiversity outcomes, making our bush healthier for our native wildlife.

This announcement compliments the *Victorian Deer Control Strategy* – a state-wide plan for government and authorities to manage deer populations across the state and coordinate control action in priority areas to minimise impacts on native habitat, biodiversity and agriculture.

Who do I contact for more information?

You can contact the Parks Victoria customer service line on 13 1963 or the Game Management Authority customer service line on 136 186.

Can I still camp if I don't hunt?

National parks are for everyone. Hunting regulations guide where, when and how hunting is permitted. Compliance and education operations by the Game Management Authority, park rangers and the Conservation Regulator focus on safety for all park users. In and around campgrounds where firearms are allowed, there are clear restrictions on how they are stored. Responsible hunting guidelines emphasise the importance of respecting all relevant laws, non-hunters and the environment.

<https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/enforcement>

<https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/hunting/respect-hunt-responsibly>

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