

3. Before you visit a national park

Discuss these visitor guidelines with your students before your site visit to a national park. Engage students in a discussion about how each of the following guidelines helps protect visitors and/or the park and its natural and cultural heritage.

1. Keep to the roads and walking tracks so you don't disturb the environment, and so you don't get lost.
2. Look and photograph or sketch plants and animals but don't disturb them or take them away.
3. Leave soils and sand dunes undisturbed and undamaged. Do not take rock, fossil or water samples.
4. Don't litter. This includes orange peel, bottle caps, cigarette butts and matches. Litter can pollute the natural environment or create fire or health risks.
5. Take your rubbish home with you. If bins are provided you should make sure your rubbish is securely placed in the bin so that the wind doesn't blow it away and animals can't easily remove it.

6. Leave your pets at home. Pets can bring in diseases that kill some wildlife species. Pets can also disturb wildlife as well as other park visitors.

7. Respect the rights of other people to enjoy a peaceful visit to a natural place.

8. Use a fuel or gas stove instead of a campfire when possible. If there are approved fireplaces you can use these but check that it is not a Total Fire Ban or fire restricted time, and check the fire is out when you leave.

All timber, standing or fallen, dead or alive, is a valuable habitat for animals.

9. Follow the advice and directions of rangers – they are experts on their park and know the current conditions to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable visit.

Always tell the ranger where you are going in the park, especially when going for an overnight walk.

10. Look after park furniture, signs and structures. They are provided for use by you and other members of the public.

