

From the midlands highway turn east to Evandale. At Evandale turn north to meet the Blessington Highway at White Hills. From Launceston pick up the highway in St Leonards and travel east to White Hills. From White Hills go east for about 30km then turn south (right) into Ben Lomond Rd. This is a gravel road which winds up to the high country over about 15k, finishing with the exciting ascent of Jacobs Ladder. This section of the road may require chains or be closed during winter, when a shuttle bus is usually available. The final km of the road crosses the plateau to the Ski Village. A turnoff to the right below Jacobs Ladder leads to Carr Villa where there is parking near the Scout Hut. From Carr Villa the main park track leads up to the Plains of Heaven, just north of Legges Tor, then down to the road 1/2km north of the Village.

From the Village a track which doubles as a ski run runs south for about 1km, and there are a number of ski tow lines on the eastern face of Legges Tor, but the Park is largely untracked. The northern half of the plateau is easily traversed, with rewarding trips to the eastern rim (Hamilton Crags) where the very rare cushion plant *Veronica ciliolata* is easily seen, or a much longer traverse to the western rim via the top of the Carr Villa track and across the Sprent Plains. The lower, southern part of the plateau can be reached from the village by taking the track going south and continuing down to the Rodway Valley, which separates the two halves of the plateau.

The southern end of the Ben Lomond plateau can be reached by two tracks – Storeys Bluff is attained via a steep track leaving Storeys Creek township. To reach the southeastern corner (The Knuckle, Sphinx Bluff, Pavement Bluff) from Rossarden go north on Rossarden Rd., pass the Storeys Creek turnoff and continue for three km to a very sharp bend. An old timber track leads north (just navigable to robust 4WD vehicles) to the base of a very steep track up to the plateau. The southern end of the plateau is rather more scrubby than the north end but traversing is possible. For the intrepid, a scramble down the head of Storeys Creek provides spectacular scenery, but you then need to find your way through rough forest to pick up the Stacks Bluff track.

Below the 200m cliffs which surround most of the Ben Lomond Plateau are extensive dolerite blockfields which host the only known forests of the endemic *Eucalyptus archeri*. This dwarf gum can be seen at Carr Villa.

The Ben Lomond plateau is marked by broad, swampy valleys dominated by *Richea scoparia* with sedgy openings and patches of the cushion plants *Abrotanella forsteroides* and *Pterygopappus lawrencei*. At the edges of the valleys *Orites acicularis* is usually abundant as the vegetation passes upwards into *Leptospermum rupestre* highland scrub where slopes are steep and very rocky, or on more gentle dry ground, alpine heath with *Lissanthe montana*, *Epacris serpyllifolia*, *Bellendenia montana*, *Baeckea gunniana*, *Grevillia australis*, *Pentachondra pumila* and *Orites acicularis*. Heath species diversity increases markedly on the eastern and western rims of the plateau. In dense heaths at the northern and southern ends *Westringia brevifolia* and *Leionema montanum* are prominent. Grassy patches are common within the alpine heath with the herbs *Senecio pectinatus*, *Euphrasia collina* and *Gentianella diemensis* always present. High altitude grasslands, dominated by *Poa gunnii* occur on the Plains of Heaven while the lovely Menamatta tarns form the centre of a broad, flat valley (Sprent Plains) covered by sedgy grassland – *Carpha alpina*, *Empodisma minus* and *Oreobolus distichus* are abundant. From the ski village take the Carr Villa track to the Land of Little Sticks, go west to Sprent Plains then turn south to the tarns.

Legges Tor or the western rim of the northern plateau are the places to see spectacular “tortoise shell” weathering where ice erosion has cut across dolerite columns, leaving polished hexagonal sections on the rock mounds.