



Staying at Outward Bound Tharwa

Frequently Asked Questions

Where will I be staying?

You will be staying on Outward Bound Australia's National Campus, at Tharwa, ACT. Sitting on the edge of Namadgi National Park, Outward Bound Tharwa boasts views of Mount Tennent, idyllic bushland and expansive grounds backing onto the Murrumbidgee River. We have 7 accommodation buildings with capacity for 140 people, a 60-person conference hall available for hire and a dining hall with commercial kitchen.

Please contact your Outward Bound Coordinator if you'd like a high ropes session, a paddle on the Murrumbidgee River or a facilitated session with our experienced Group Leaders.

How far is Outward Bound Tharwa from the Canberra CBD?

Outward Bound Tharwa is 30 minutes' drive from Parliament House and Canberra Airport. It is well situated for both outdoor adventures in the neighbouring Namadgi and Tidbinbilla National Parks, or for Canberra CBD trips alike!

What type of accommodation is available? Can my group and I camp on Campus?

We offer both cabin-based and camping options to suit your group's need. Our Campus has 142 beds and campsites for 100 people. Each campsite has access to toilets and running water, and Outward Bound can provide fire pits (fireban status permitting) for campfires. You will be required to bring your own camping equipment.

How many people can sleep in a cabin, and what is the configuration of rooms?

Six self-contained cabins sleep 22 people across four rooms (6, 6, 6, 4). Each cabin has a communal living area, a small kitchenette and each room has an ensuite. There are three bunkhouses that sleep 20 people in total, each with bunk beds and heating, and pedestal fans available. You will be issued a cabin accommodation matrix with your Welcome Email to allocate guests to rooms.

Can you pick my group up from Canberra?

No, we do not offer transport services. You will need to make private arrangements for this. Please advise your Outward Bound Coordinator if you plan to bring a 22-seater bus or larger, or if you require long-term parking for any vehicle during your stay.

Will my group have exclusive access to the venue?

We cannot guarantee exclusive access to the Campus, however we do offer all clients individual dining hall sittings and allocate accommodation thoughtfully. Please ensure courteous behaviour during your stay that respects the Outward Bound staff, other Campus users and the Campus environment itself. If you have concerns about other occupants on Campus, please raise them with your Outward Bound Coordinator.

What time can I check in and out?

We offer flexible check-in and check-out times, as coordinated in advance with Outward Bound. Arriving after lunch on day one and leaving before lunch on your final day is typically standard.

Do you provide linen and towels?

Your cabin booking includes a bottom sheet, pillow and pillow slip for each guest, and a bathmat for each bathroom. These will be in your cabin upon arrival. Winter sleeping bags are available for hire (\$27.50 per person for the duration of the stay) and can be unzipped into doonas. Alternatively, attendees should bring their own sleeping bags or doonas, and are welcome to also bring their own pillows for comfort!

Please bring your own towel and soap for the shower.



What is the catering like? What if I have dietary requirements?

We offer catered and self-catered accommodation options to meet your needs during your stay at Outward Bound Tharwa. Joining us for a catered program means you will be served homecooked, diverse meals in our dining hall overlooking the grounds. Central to the Campus, the dining hall is set up to comfortably seat approximately 50 people, with additional space on the back verandah. You/your client coordinator will be contacted to schedule meal sittings for your group.

Additionally, you have the option to take a 'packed lunch' – we provide snacks and lunch meals to-go so that you can take them with you when you leave the Campus for the day. Planning a school excursion with trips into the Canberra CBD? Speak with your Outward Bound Coordinator about scheduling this option. Please let us know in advance if you wish to take any packed lunches during your stay.

We can cater to specific dietary requirements including but not limited to:

- Vegetarian
- Dairy-Free
- Vegan
- Lactose-Free
- Gluten-Free
- Halal

You will have the opportunity to provide details about your dietary requirements when you complete the 'Attendee Information and Consent Form' issued to your group. This form is due 4 weeks before your stay so your dietaries can be accounted for when ordering food. Please provide as much detail as possible, as this helps us to best cater for your needs and provide suitable substitutions where necessary.

All meals are freshly prepared in house within our commercial kitchen. Breakfast is a cold continental of cereal, toast, selection of condiments, tea, coffee and juice. Lunch is a sandwich or wrap salad bar with cold meats. Morning and afternoon tea will be fruit and snacks (depending on age of guests, this will vary) and dinner is a pre-submitted choice from 7 meals and comes with dessert.

Can I bring my own food?

Whether you are joining us for a catered or self-catered program, you are welcome to bring along additional food to supplement, however, please note the following:

- The food you bring must align with our Campus's 'Nut Aware' policy. This means it cannot contain nuts, even if it is in a sealed package. Nuts are not included in our catering nor handled on our premises. Please help us maintain an uncontaminated environment for the safety of our participants and attendees who are anaphylactic to nuts.
- Your room has limited food-preparing capacity, and you will not have access to our kitchen facilities. If you are bringing food, please ensure it does not need preparation.
- Please dispose of all rubbish thoughtfully, and consider others using the Campus.

My stay is self-catered, what does this mean?

All cabins have a kettle, fridge and bench space. For groups of less than 12, there is one cabin with facilities to prep and cook meals. There are no dining tables in any cabin.

For groups up to 50 we have a dining space containing a microwave, toaster, kettle/hot water urn, sandwich press, bar fridge and washing and sanitizing station. If there is more than one group on Campus during your stay, you will be contacted to book in a 1 hour timeslot in the dining hall. The commercial kitchen is available to groups with external caterers who hold a 'Supervise Food Safety' certificate (provision of certification required).

Alternatively, we have two BBQs that are available at an extra charge. We recommend either bringing your own pre-made meals, eating off Campus, bringing a certified external caterer or selecting to be catered during your stay with us. As above, please ensure that any food brought onto Campus does not contain nuts.

The nearest takeaway restaurants are about 10 minutes drive away. The Tharwa Local Store also has a range of counter food from 8am-5:30pm.

**If there wifi and reception?**

We have minimal wifi connectivity and intermittent internet strength on our Campus, although you can discuss options to connect to the internet with your Outward Bound Coordinator - they will advise on networks and where the strongest signal is located.

In terms of phone reception, those with Telstra mobiles will find they have better reception than those whose mobiles are with other carriers, although all should receive reception around our main office. If you are concerned about phone reception, please let your Outward Bound Coordinator know prior to your arrival.

What is a single supplement charge?

A single supplement charge is an additional charge applied to cabins with low occupancy, or individuals requesting their own room in a cabin.

If you choose to bring a small group size, spread your attendees out across the cabins with low capacity in each, or attendees would like single rooms, this incurs additional single supplement charges (dependent on final occupancy numbers) as below:

- Full cabin = 22 people
- 20 to 22 people = No single supplement charge incurred
- 15 to 19 people = 1 x single supplement charge incurred
- 10 to 14 people = 2 x single supplement charge incurred
- 5 to 9 people = 3 x single supplement charge incurred
- 4 people = 4 x single supplement charge incurred