

CHAKOLA, Kangaroo Valley

230B Mount Scanzi Road, Kangaroo Valley

About Chakola

The Deacock family purchased the land in 1963, and in 1965 Chakola opened as a holiday camp for school-aged children – one of the first ‘creative leisure’ and ‘experiential learning centre’ operations of its kind at the time. Since then Chakola has hosted holiday, teenage and school groups; family celebration groups; yoga, health and lifestyle groups; common-interest, art and handicraft groups; corporate groups; conservation groups and numerous other structured and un-structured programs where guests set their own agenda.

All flora and fauna at Chakola is protected under a private Voluntary Conservation Agreement with the NSW government and National Parks regulations. No pets are permitted. There is good mobile network coverage around the Chakola buildings, however no signal is available below the escarpment and along the river.

Getting to Chakola

Kangaroo Valley is approximately 2.5 hours drive from Sydney (or Canberra). See map below.

If taking the Hume Highway turn off at Mittagong/Bowral (or Moss Vale) towards Fitzroy Falls (which is well worth a stop for the view), and about 500m after crossing the historic Hampden Bridge turn right onto Mount Scanzi Road.

If taking the Princes Highway turn on to Kangaroo Valley Road at Berry (or turn off at Bomaderry/Nowra and cross Cambewarra Mountain), and about 500m beyond the village of Kangaroo Valley turn left onto Mount Scanzi Road.

From the turn off drive 2km and look for the Chakola sign on the right. Drive to the end of the gravel road (past the first house) and park in the car park. Please drive slowly as wildlife frequently crosses the gravel road.

Facilities & Accommodation

Built in 1965 using locally milled hardwood timber, the main lodge comprises a large open plan dining/meeting area, mezzanine level, large screened front deck, commercial kitchen with pantry, a cold room, and four bathrooms (with six showers and toilets).

A separate large screened ‘work barn’ is available for meetings and group activities.

Adjacent to the main lodge there are three separate buildings with 13 rooms, sleeping a maximum of 34 people.

Walking Tracks & Activities

The Kangaroo River forms one boundary of the property, and is reached by walking tracks that descend through the 60m high sandstone escarpment which parallels the river. There are three walking tracks – an easy '**loop track**' along the top fence, which offers views of Red Rocks, Wattamolla and the upper valley rim; a gentle and well defined '**river track**' that descends through the escarpment and meanders along the river; and a shorter but more challenging '**cliff track**' that can connect with the 'river track' for a longer walk through the property.

In Kangaroo Valley there are several canoe hire operators, golf, horse riding, a bicycle 'pump track', Pioneer Museum and other attractions. The village has cooking classes, a lead light workshop, local gym, sports field, and a variety of shops, cafes and restaurants. There are numerous walking tracks along the valley rim to several scenic waterfalls, through neighbouring National Parks and Nature Reserves.

Terms & Conditions

Chakola is available for 'group' bookings of up to 34 people for a minimum stay of 2 nights. All bookings are based on 'exclusive use' (ie no other guests). Use of all facilities is included, however the supply and preparation of meals (and/or catering) is the guests responsibility.

You will need to bring your personal toiletries, suitable footwear (runners, gym shoes or walking boots etc – open sandals and thongs are not recommended), swimming costume, seasonally casual and comfortable clothing (layered seasonal clothing is recommended), a sunhat, raincoat, insect repellent, personal medications. You are welcome to bring your favourite musical instrument - 'unplugged music' is welcome, loud amplified music is not. Bring a book, deck of cards, a board game or whatever takes your fancy.

Information on local restaurants, shops and food supplies in the valley is available on request (major shopping precincts are located in nearby Nowra, Berry, Moss Vale, Bowral and Mittagong). Caterers are available but need to be booked well in advance, and would need to be accommodated as part of your group booking.

- There must, at ALL times, be care shown to the bush habitat and ALL wildlife on the property. No flora or fauna is to be damaged in any way and nothing must be removed from the property. No trees are to be felled or disposed of, burned or removed.
- No domestic pets or animals of any kind and no guns or traps can be brought on site. Penalties exist for contravention of the rules laid down by the National Parks & Wildlife Service of NSW.
- Chakola is an unspoilt natural bushland property. For your own safety do not approach or attempt to handle any wildlife. Due caution should be taken at all times.
- For your own protection, covered footwear should be worn at all times. Thongs or open toed sandals are not recommended.
- Extreme care must be taken at all times if leaving the immediate vicinity of the main buildings. Visitors should stay on the established walking paths at all times, should not walk alone and should inform intended route and approximate time of return.

- Children are the responsibility of their parent/guardian at all times and must not leave the main building area without adult supervision.
- The established campfire below the main building may be used by prior arrangement.
- Smoking is not permitted inside or around any buildings.
- Swimming or any activities in or along the Kangaroo River is at your own risk.
- All vehicles must be parked in the designated parking area. Please drive slowly as wildlife regularly crosses the road between the bushland and neighbouring paddocks.
- There are several buildings including storage & work sheds and the manager's cottage that are off limits. The wooden yurt (along the upper fence line) and heritage cottage (close to the river) are the private property of the owners and are off limits.
- Prior to departure please clean and leave rooms, bathrooms, kitchen, main lodge and big barn in the same condition found. Brooms, mops and cleaning agents are provided.

