

Grampians National Park

Visitor Guide



Grampians National Park is Victoria's fourth largest national park. The park area, also known as Gariwerd is listed on Australia's National Heritage List for its Aboriginal cultural heritage, landscapes, diversity of flora and fauna and protection of threatened species. The park is a popular destination for visitors, well known for its variety of recreational activities such as bushwalking, car touring, camping and rock climbing.



Getting there

The park is located in Western Victoria, a three-hour (260km) drive from Melbourne and a five-hour (460km) drive from Adelaide. It is easily accessed from the villages of Halls Gap, Wartook and Dunkeld and a scenic day trip from the regional towns of Hamilton, Horsham, Stawell and Ararat. It is also a key destination on the internationally renowned Great Southern Touring Route.

Brambuk – The National Park and Cultural Centre

Start your visit at Brambuk in Halls Gap where you will find the latest park information, saleable maps and guidebooks. Immerse yourself in the cultural heritage of Gariwerd through interpretive displays, the Dreaming Theatre, the bushfoods cafe and cultural activities.

Open 9am - 5pm (except Christmas Day), phone (03) 5361 4000 or visit www.brambuk.com.au

When to visit

Recreational activities such as car touring, short walks and camping can be enjoyed throughout the park during any season.

Summer is usually hot and dry. Start activities early when it is cooler and avoid remote areas of the park during hot weather.

Autumn offers mild temperatures and generally stable weather, it is popular for camping, bushwalking, rock climbing and cycling.

Winter is cool and wet and popular for seasonal waterfalls, bushwalking and winter camping.

Spring is variable with mild to warm temperatures. Popular for wildflowers, camping, bushwalking, rock climbing and cycling.

Things to see and do

At 167,000ha in size the park has plenty to offer. There are three main visitor areas: Northern, Central and Southern Grampians and each distinctive area has a range of different activities.

Day trips, picnics and car touring

The Central Grampians offers the best selection of 2WD car touring, short walks, lookouts, waterfalls and picnic areas. Other car touring options are available across a large network of unsealed roads and tracks, with four-wheel drive vehicles required for some areas.

The *Grampians Road and Touring Map* covers car touring and is an essential tool to help plan your route. The Grampians Iconic 4WD brochure details a popular easy-medium route.

Check the latest access conditions by downloading the park's road report from www.parks.vic.gov.au

Bushwalking

The park is well-known for its variety of bushwalking.

The Central Grampians, dominated by the Wonderland Range, Mt Victory Road and the Mackenzie River, has the largest selection of day walks, including the Pinnacle, the Balconies and Mackenzie Falls.

The Northern Grampians comprising of the Mt Difficult Range and the Mt Stapylton area includes easy walks to Aboriginal rock art sites and more difficult day walks to exposed mountain peaks.

The Southern Grampians is spread across Mt William, Serra and Victoria Ranges. This expansive area offers diverse environments, rugged and remote bushwalks, and short walks to Aboriginal rock shelters and waterfalls.

The park has four multi-day walks. The most popular is the Grampians Peaks Trail (GPT), stage one, a three-day loop through the Wonderland and Mt William Ranges.

To increase accessibility, TrailRider all terrain wheelchairs for people with limited mobility are available for free hire from Brambuk.

Planning information, bushwalking guides and an All-Abilities Walking Track and TrailRider Guide are available for download at www.parks.vic.gov.au or as hardcopies from Brambuk.

Camping

The park has 10 vehicle based campgrounds. Book your campsite before you arrive at www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay, call 13 1963 or visit Brambuk in Halls Gap. Campgrounds with no fees operate on a first in first served basis and cannot be booked in advance.

Campground	Tent	Car	WC	Shower	Picnic	4WD	Dog	Fee
Boreang Secluded, unsealed access	12	11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Borough Huts Popular, sealed access	30	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Buandik Rock art, unsealed access	13	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jimmy Creek Popular, sealed access	13	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kalymna Secluded, unsealed access	5	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Plantation Popular, unsealed access	20	30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓
Smiths Mill Central, sealed access	22	11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stapylton Popular, unsealed access	11	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Strachans Secluded, unsealed access	8	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wannon Crossing Small, sealed access	6	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

*Dogs are only allowed in Plantation Campground and state forest surrounding the park


Dispersed or bush camping is not permitted inside the hatched areas displayed on the park map. While bush camping, remember:

- Campfires are not permitted – fuel stoves only
- Only camp in previously cleared areas
- Leave no trace of your visit – take all rubbish home with you
- Camp at least 25m from waterways and 1km from campgrounds.

Cycling

Road cyclists will find steep classic climbs to destinations such as Mt William, Boroka and Reed Lookouts. Adventurous mountain bikers can explore the parks open public unsealed roads and 4WD tracks.

Photography

There are many spectacular views and excellent opportunities for photography. For your safety and to preserve the plants and animals living here please stay on tracks and lookouts when taking photographs or video. Do not climb over barriers. The use of drones is not permitted in parks. 

Rock climbing and bouldering

The park is an internationally known climbing destination. A range of guidebooks are available that contain detailed information. Licensed tour and guiding companies can organise trips, training and skill development. Please take a minimal impact approach to climbing in the national park. Stay on designated walking tracks and do not damage vegetation. The installation of new bolts or fixed protection is prohibited.

Water sports

Surrounded by the national park, Lake Wartook, Lake Bellfield and Moora Moora Reservoir offer fishing, boating and swimming. Visit www.gmwwater.org.au for details on regulations and activities.

Events, commercial photography and filming

For information on planning events such as weddings and undertaking commercial photography or filming in the national park please call 13 1963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au.

Environment, culture and heritage

Aboriginal cultural heritage

The park and surrounding area is known as Gariwerd. It is the traditional lands of Aboriginal people and has a history dating back over 22,000 years. This landscape tells their story and protects over 80% of all rock art found in Victoria.

Five rock shelters are open to the public; Ngamadjidj, Gulgurn Manja, Billimina, Manja and Bunjils Shelter (Black Range Reserve near Stawell). Start your cultural journey by picking up a copy of the guide 'Aboriginal Culture of Gariwerd' at Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre.

Post settlement

The Grampians was named after the Grampian Mountains in Scotland by Major Thomas Mitchell on his 1836 expedition through western Victoria. Since this time the area has seen much change, particularly through industries such as forestry, stone quarrying and gold mining. The park has also had the construction of dams and pipelines to supply water to the region for drinking and agriculture. Tourism established its roots in the early 1900s when walking guides led visitors into the remote mountains. These days over 1.3 million people from all over the world visit the park annually.

Geology

The sandstone ranges of the Grampians began forming approximately 430 million years ago, as sediment deposited on the sea floor. Through the geological processes of pressure, heat, folding, faulting and erosion the mountain ranges of the Grampians have shaped to their present-day appearance.

This geology, fundamental to soil composition, inherently dictates the flora found within the national park.

Flora

The park protects one third of Victoria's flora species and is the most important botanical reserve in the state.

Close to 970 native species occur in the park, including over 40 endemic species found nowhere else in the world. The area is well known for its rich and colourful spring wildflower displays, places to visit include Heatherlie Quarry, Sundial Peak and the Piccaniny.

Wildlife

The park provides habitat for a range of wildlife, including at least 230 bird, 40 mammal, 30 reptile, 11 amphibian and 6 native fish species. Fifty species in the park are classified as threatened, including Brush-tail Rock Wallabies, Smokey Mice and Powerful Owls. At dawn and dusk, Halls Gap and Fyans Valley are great places to spot common species, such as Eastern-grey Kangaroos and Emus.

Caring for the national park

- Please take all rubbish with you and leave no trace of your visit - there is no rubbish collection in the national park.
- Keep wildlife wild – do not feed the native wildlife.
- Dogs and domestic pets are not permitted in the park.
- Campfires are only permitted in provided steel fireplaces.
- Campfires are not permitted while bush camping.
- Generators, chainsaws and firearms are not permitted.

Be prepared and stay safe

In an emergency dial 000 for police, ambulance or fire.

Important things to know

The park has many remote areas, plan wisely before your visit:

- Mobile phone service does not exist in many areas, you may get emergency phone coverage at high elevations.
- Drinking water is not provided – bring plenty of your own.
- Creeks dry up in the warmer months and should not be relied on.
- Drive carefully on roads, wildlife regularly cross without warning.
- Walking tracks, roads and visitor sites may be closed due to seasonal storms, fire damage or maintenance. For your safety, please respect closures.

Be fire ready

Bushfires can occur during the warmer months. It is your responsibility to check current and forecast weather conditions. The park is located in the **Wimmera and South West** fire districts.

Campfires cannot be lit on days of Total Fire Ban, however gas cookers can be used for preparing food. On Code Red days this park will be closed for public safety. Closure signs will be erected, but do not expect an official warning from park rangers.

For emergency updates and fire information listen to local radio, visit www.emergency.vic.gov.au, download the VicEmergency phone app or call 1800 226 226.

For park conditions visit www.parks.vic.gov.au or call 13 1963.

Other resources

Visit the Grampians National Park page on www.parks.vic.gov.au for further information on activities, the environment, culture and heritage. The Grampians area offers a range of experiences outside of the national park.

Grampians Tourism (www.visitgrampians.com.au) and local Visitor Information Centres (V.I.C.) can assist with accommodation, dining, tours, activities, festivals and events.

Ararat V.I.C.	1800 657 158	or	03 5355 0281
Halls Gap V.I.C.	1800 065 599	or	03 5361 4444
Hamilton V.I.C.	1800 807 056	or	03 5572 3746
Horsham V.I.C.	1800 633 218	or	03 5382 1832
Stawell V.I.C.	1800 330 080	or	03 5355 0281
Dunkeld V.I.C.	03 5577 2558		

There are a number of other parks in the Grampians region that offer camping and activities.

Visit www.parks.vic.gov.au and download a visitor guide for information on nearby parks including Arapiles-Tooan State Park, Black Range State Park, Little Desert National Park, Mt Buangor State Park, Budj Bim National Park and Mt Langi Ghiran State Park.

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