

Grampians National Park

Rising abruptly from the surrounding plains, the Grampians National Park is renowned for its rugged beauty, breathtaking views, Aboriginal rock art and forests rich in wildlife. One of Victoria's most popular holiday destinations, Grampians National Park is ideal for a wide range of outdoor activities.



Flat Rock looking over Mt Stapylton, Grampians National Park.

Getting there

The Grampians National Park is a three-hour (260km) drive west from Melbourne, a five-hour drive from Adelaide, and a key destination on the Great Southern Touring Route.

From Melbourne to Halls Gap, take the Western Freeway (M8) to Ballarat, the Western Highway (A8) to Ararat, then follow the Ararat-Halls Gap Road (C222) to Halls Gap.

From Melbourne to Dunkeld, take the Western Freeway (M8) to Ballarat, then follow the Glenelg Highway (B160) to Dunkeld.

Things to see and do

The park is a great destination for walking, sightseeing, camping, rock climbing, scenic drives and spending time in nature. Native animals abound, so keep an eye out for kangaroos and emus, especially while driving.

The Grampians are rich in Aboriginal culture and provide an insight into the Jardwadjali and Djab Wurrung people who have walked and lived in these ranges they have called Gariwerd for thousands of years.

For further Park information, walking brochures and detailed maps call into Brambuk - The National Park and Cultural Centre, 2.5km south of Halls Gap.

Picnics

Taking a scenic drive to a quiet picnic area is a great way to visit the National Park. Many popular visitor sites have picnic tables and toilet facilities, with several located near streams,

lakes or in tranquil forest settings. These include Zumsteins, Jimmy Creek, Mt Zero, Mafeking, Buandik and Red Rock.

Bushwalking

The Grampians National Park is famous for its variety of bushwalking experiences; from a leisurely stroll to a more challenging overnight hike, there is something to suit every level of walker. Discover grand views from rocky mountain peaks, marvel at impressive waterfalls, encounter wildlife in forest environments and learn about fascinating Aboriginal and European heritage.

Wonderland Range Walks

A short car trip along bitumen roads will take you through the Wonderland Range, where you can view impressive rock formations carved out over time by the wind and rain. Take a short walk to the Grand Canyon or continue on the challenging climb to the iconic Pinnacle Lookout. Visit Sundial and Lakeview Lookouts or take a gentle stroll to the pretty Silverband Falls. For the fit and adventurous Mt Rosea is a challenging day walk.

Central Grampians Walks

The Central Grampians area offers grand views and impressive lookouts. Spend a few hours driving and walking or spread it out over a few days. Easily accessible on bitumen roads, this area highlights popular attractions in the Wonderland Range but ventures further into the mountains to the popular lookouts, Boroka, Reeds and the Balconies. Mackenzie Falls offers a choice of walks; from the wheelchair accessible Broken Falls and Bluff Lookout, to the short and

steep walk to the base of the falls. The quiet Zumsteins Picnic area offers you the chance to explore the fascinating European heritage of the area.

Northern Grampians Walks

Accessible via unsealed roads, the impressive Northern Grampians offers breathtaking beauty on a grand scale. Beginning at the Hollow mountain carpark there are a variety of walks to choose. Discover Aboriginal heritage at the Gulgurn-Manja Art Shelter, explore windswept caves on Hollow Mountain or access some of the world's best rock climbing at Summerday Valley. From the Mt Zero Carpark take short but steep walk up Flat Rock; enjoy rock pools after rain and marvel at the sheer cliffs of Hollow Mountain and Mt Stapylton. For the fit and adventurous, the challenging Mt Stapylton walk departs here as well.

Southern Grampians

Stunted forests and ancient rocky escarpments fill the skylines of the Southern Grampians. Adventurous walkers can enjoy the Mt Sturgeon and Mt Abrupt day walks, where challenging climbs reward with expansive farmland views. For those wanting a shorter walk the Piccanniny offers similar views. This area is also fantastic for spring-time wildflowers.

Grampians Peaks Trail

The Grampians Peaks Trail is one of the Walk Victoria's Icons long distance trails. The first section is now complete and offers a 36 kilometre, 3 day/2 night circuit walk departing from Halls Gap.

Be inspired by the spectacular outlook of rugged mountain peaks from the top of Mount Rosea, panoramic views from the Pinnacle Lookout, ancient rock features of the Grand Canyon and the rich cultural history of this truly iconic Grampians landscape. For more information see:

www.grampianspeakstrail.com.au

Four Wheel Drive Touring

For those with four-wheel drive experience seeking to explore picnic areas, wildlife encounters, lakes and mountain ranges beyond well known sites, the Grampians offers a huge network of unsealed roads and four wheel drive tracks. Get to know park regulations and seasonal conditions and stay on open tracks only. The Grampians Iconic Drive brochure or Road and Touring Map can help you plan out your route.

Other Activities

There are a host of other popular activities to enjoy in the Grampians including wildlife and spring wildflower viewing, rock climbing, cycling and water based activities such as boating, canoeing and fishing.

Where to stay

Camping

A variety of campgrounds located in beautiful forest surrounds are available in the Grampians National Park. All campgrounds have basic amenities including pit toilets, fireplaces and picnic tables. Drinking water is not provided so

please bring your own. Please book early during busy holiday periods to avoid disappointment.

Sites are unpowered and most will accommodate up a large tent and one vehicle. Staplyton, Plantation Smiths Mill, Borough Huts, Boreang, Jimmy Creek and Buandik campgrounds have some sites suitable for camper trailers or caravans.

Visitors should pre-book their campsite. For further information or to book visit www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay or call into Brambuk, The National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap.

If camping is not your thing, a variety of accommodation is available in the towns and villages surrounding the Grampians. For further information call into a local Visitor Information Centre or visit www.visitgrampians.com.au

Be prepared and stay safe

Before you head out into the park, is important to check park conditions and plan for a safe visit by:

- Check local weather conditions before you head out
- Always carry a good quality map, water and food
- Always take a hat, drinking water, sunscreen
- Wear sturdy footwear with a good tread
- Keep to the walking tracks, mind your footing and supervise children at all times
- Walking tracks may involve rock steps, uneven and slippery track surfaces, water crossings and rock hopping
- On longer walks, carry protective clothing
- Check trails and roads are open by visiting the Grampians page on www.parks.vic.gov.au. Ongoing track maintenance, fire or seasonal storm damage can alter road and track conditions or cause temporary closures.

Enjoy the park, but please be aware:

- Tree limbs may drop without warning
- Camp fires may only be lit at designated campgrounds and in fireplaces provided. Ensure fires are never left unattended and are completely out before you leave. NO fires are to be lit on a day of Total Fire Ban.

Many parks and forests are located in high fire risk areas.

Grampians National Park is in the Wimmera and South West Total Fire Ban Districts. Be aware of forecast Fire Danger Ratings for this fire district. No fires may be lit on days of Total Fire Ban.

On days of forecast Code Red Fire Danger this park will be closed for public safety. If you are already in the park you should leave the night before or early in the morning for your own safety.

For up to date information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice call the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line** on 1800 240 667.

Check the latest conditions by calling **13 1963** or visiting www.parks.vic.gov.au

For more information

www.parks.vic.gov.au
www.visitgrampians.com.au

