Great Otway National Park and Otway Forest Park

West Otways - Kennett River to Princetown

Marreeyn Visitor Guide

Rich with nature and heritage, this section of the park encompasses a large and diverse landscape including the undulating plains and plateaus of the hinterlands, breathtaking coastlines and ancient rainforests. Marreeyn is the local Kirrae language for the Narrow Leaf Peppermint gum tree, a common species in the western area of the park. Local Indigenous communities welcome you to this special place.

Enjoying the parks

Visitors to the parks can enjoy a range of activities such as camping, fishing, horse riding, touring, bushwalking, mountain bike riding, or four wheel driving.

Picnicking and camping

There are many beautiful places for a picnic so plan your visit to get the most out of your day. Ideal picnic spots include Lake Elizabeth, Melba Gully, Shelly Beach and Blanket Bay.

The parks offer excellent camping opportunities. From 1 July 2014, visitors to the national park need to pre-book their campsite. For further information or to book go to www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay

Please refer to the camping guide overleaf for further information.

Horse riding

Experience and enjoy the natural environment on horse back. Permits may be required for some sections of the parks.

Camping with horses is limited to areas within the Otway Forest Park. Park staff can assist you with planning your riding visit and will advise if a permit is necessary. Many open formed roads and tracks provide ideal trails that do not require a permit.

The Wonga and Barongarook areas in the Otway Forest Park are ideal for horse riding as there are a number of wide, slashed roadsides. The network of forest roads on gentle slopes is also suited to carriage driving.

Be fire ready and stay safe

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

Closure signs will be erected and rangers will patrol when possible, however you may not receive a personal warning that the park is closed so check the latest conditions by calling 13 1963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au when possible, however you may not receive a personal warning that the park is closed so check the latest conditions by calling 13 1963 or visit www.greatoceanwalk.com.au

Hikers in large groups are asked to register for the Great Ocean Walk at least four weeks in advance.

Exploring on foot

There are a range of walks in the park which cater for all abilities. Brochures are available from visitor information centres.

The spectacular Great Ocean Walk features the rugged coastline and forests of the park. Visit www.greatoceanwalk.com.au or call Parks Victoria on 13 1963 to obtain an Overnight Hikers Registration Form and guidelines.

East Otways Visitor Guide

Be sure to use the East Otways – Torquay to Kennett River Visitor Guide to assist with your visit to the east end of the Otways.

For more information call the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 or visit our website at www.parks.vic.gov.au

For up to date information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.
Where can I take my dog?

**Otway Forest Park:** Dogs must be on a lead and under direct control at all times at Stevensons Falls Camping Area, Dandos Camping Area, Beauchamp Falls Camping Area, Barns Station Picnic Area, Loves Creek Picnic Area and Paddy's Swamp Trail Bike Visitor Area. Dogs are allowed off-lead outside these areas.

**Great Otway National Park:** Dogs are only allowed on a lead in designated dog areas within the Great Otway National Park. Please observe regulations and signage on where and when you can take your dog into the park.

For further information on where you can take your dog call in to the local Visitor Information Centre or call Parks Victoria on 13 19 63.

A range of formed tracks and roads provide four wheel drive access throughout the parks. Parks Victoria works together with Four Wheel Drive Victoria on projects that demonstrate care and good will. If you'd like to get involved contact Four Wheel Drive Victoria on 03 9657 5209 or via their web site at www.ofwdv.com.au

Seasonal track closures apply to many tracks in the parks. For more details call Parks Victoria on 13 19 63 or on the web at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Remember always stay on the tracks and avoid muddy areas to reduce damage to the environment. Be considerate, slow down or stop for horse riders, cyclists or hikers. Parks are for everyone to enjoy.

Detailed driving tour options and map guides are available from accredited Visitor Information Centres along the coast from Geelong to Nelson.

**Camping**

From 1 July 2014, visitors need to pre-book their campsite in the national park. For further information or to book go to www.parks.vic.gov.au/visit.

**Toilets**

Toilets are located on the map below. Please refer to this when planning your visit. Please respect this park and help us maintain the health of our natural environment for all visitors.

This map links with Great Otway National Park and Angahook park note. Be sure to use the guide to assist with your visit to the east end of the parks.

**Swimming**

Many beaches and rivers are exposed to unseen dangers such as currents, rip, reefs and logs. Beaches are not patrolled within the parks. Parks Victoria recommends swimming only at beaches patrolled by lifesaving services. Beaches are patrolled by lifesavers when red and yellow flags are displayed.

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<td>Joanna Beach</td>
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<td>Lake Elizabeth</td>
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<td>Aire Crossing</td>
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**Disclaimer:** Parks Victoria does not guarantee that this data is without flaw and therefore disclaimer all liability which may arise from you relying on this information.
Waterfalls and rainforest walks
Many of the spectacular waterfalls found in the park are accessible by only a short stroll. Be sure to visit Triplet Falls, Hopetoun Falls, Beauchamp Falls, Stevenson Falls and Sabine Falls.
Maits Rest, Melba Gully and Triplet Falls are easy walks through ancient, cool temperate rainforests. See separate park notes for Melba Gully and Triplet Falls.

Car touring
There are a range of opportunities to visit the parks in your car, although some roads do not provide for all-weather two wheel drive access. A popular drive is the forest and waterfalls drive. This drive takes in Maits Rest Walk, Cape Otway Lightstation, several waterfalls and returns via Turtons Track and the Forrest-Apollo Bay Road through Skene's Creek.

Wildlife watching
There is a wide range of wildlife habitat across the parks which gives visitors many opportunities to see wildlife in their natural surroundings. Watch carefully for the shore nesting Hooded Plover - a small, shy bird that relies on considerate beach users to survive.
If you come across any native animals that may need assistance please call Wildlife Rescue on 0500 540 000 (24 hours).

Fishing and hunting
The coastline, as well as a number of streams and rivers which flow through the parks, provide great opportunities for keen anglers. The Gellibrand River’s upper waters are popular with anglers seeking River Blackfish and Brown Trout, as well as Black Bream near Princetown.

Caring for Country
The spiritual and physical connections of the four traditional language groups, Gadubanud, Kirrae Whurrung, Wadawurrung, and Gulidjan people are still celebrated today.
Through their rich and diverse culture, Aboriginal people have been intrinsically connected to Country for tens of thousand of years.
Parks Victoria recognises this connection and acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities of these areas.

A proud logging history
The Otway forests have a long logging history and have been a timber source for more than 150 years. Timber production peaked in 1961 and ceased in 2008.

Using forest timber
While the Great Otway National Park has been established for the protection and preservation of the natural values of the area, the Otway Forest Park allows for broader activities.
Timber and other forest resources (such as seeds and foliage) - for firewood, posts and poles and decorative products can be collected under a permit in designated areas of the Otway Forest Park.
Contact the DEPI on 136 186 for further information, relevant maps, permits and resources.

Visitor Information Centres
To fully enjoy the park be sure to visit local Visitor Information Centres and plan ahead. Accredited centres are located at Apollo Bay, Colac, Port Campbell, Lorne or Geelong (Little River) or visit www.visitotways.com and www.visitsurfcost.com.

How to get there
The Great Otway National Park and Otway Forest Park are south of Melbourne via Geelong or Colac. From the west, approach via Port Campbell along the Great Ocean Road.
A daily bus service between Geelong, Lorne and Apollo Bay connects with train services to Melbourne. For timetable details call V/Line Country Information on 13 2232.

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