

Great Otway National Park

Overview for Visitor Guides



Great Otway National Park stretches from Torquay to Princetown and up through the Otways hinterland towards Colac. Captivating and bursting with things to do, the park's rugged coastlines, remote sandy beaches, tall forests and magnificent waterfalls will entertain a lifetime of visits.



Getting there

Great Otway National Park is south of Melbourne via Geelong (Great Ocean Road, B100) or Colac (inland routes C155 or C164). Western approach is via Port Campbell along the Great Ocean Road (B100).

A daily bus service between Geelong, Lorne and Apollo Bay connects with train services to Melbourne.

For more information – www.parks.vic.gov.au

View online, save or print map-based Visitor Guides related to specific areas of Great Otway National Park including:

- Apollo Bay and Cape Otway;
- Anglesea and Aireys Inlet;
- Forrest; and,
- Lorne.

Visitor Information Centres can be found at Apollo Bay, Colac, Port Campbell, Lorne, Torquay and Geelong (Little River).

Things to see and do

Waterfalls, walking and cycling

Many of the spectacular waterfalls found in the park are accessible by only a short/medium walk including Triplet Falls, Erskine Falls, Hopetoun Falls and Kalimna Falls.

Shared walk and cycle trails occur near Anglesea at Distillery Creek and Moggs Creek picnic areas.

Great Otway National Park offers an incredibly wide array of walking trails ranging from short to long, easy to difficult. For ideas, print out the Visitor Guides covering the areas you are interested in.

Swimming and surfing

Swimming is popular, however many beaches and rivers are exposed to unseen dangers such as currents, rips, reefs and logs. Beaches are not patrolled within Great Otway National Park. Parks Victoria recommends swimming only at beaches patrolled by lifesaving services. Beaches are patrolled by lifesavers when red and yellow flags are displayed.

Surfers frequent a variety of beaches along this coastline from Torquay to Apollo Bay including the world-famous Bells Beach and Johanna Beach just beyond Cape Otway.

Camping and picnicking

There are many beautiful places to camp with basic facilities. The relevant Visitor Guide maps indicate these sites and facilities. Some camping areas require booking and fees. For more information and to book go to www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay

The park offers some excellent opportunities for picnicking with facilities such as Melba Gully Picnic Area, Sheoak Picnic Area and Distillery Creek Picnic Area. Bush settings for picnicking abound.

Four wheel driving

A range of formed tracks and roads provide licenced drivers and registered vehicles four-wheel drive access throughout the parks.

Seasonal track closures apply to many tracks to protect them from water damage and impacts of four-wheel drives and motorbikes.

Dogs on lead in the Otways

Dogs are generally not permitted in Great Otway National Park, however there are several specific areas that allow for dogs on leads. Dogs are permitted in all areas of Otway Forest Park. Refer to Dogs in Otways Parks fact sheet for further information.

Fishing and hunting

Adults generally require a Victorian Recreational Fishing Licence to fish in the park's streams, rivers and estuaries. Visit the Victorian Fisheries Authority at www.vfa.vic.gov.au, or local licence outlets.

Hunting is not permitted in Great Otway National Park.

For information on game hunting in Otway Forest Park go to www.delwp.vic.gov.au. Recreational hunting of pest animals in the Otway Forest Park does not require a permit.

Horse riding in the Otways

A wide range of roads and tracks suitable for horse riding are available in Great Otway National Park and the nearby Otway Forest Park. Refer to Horseriding in the Otways Fact Sheet for information.

Caring for the park

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

- Firearms, cats and other pets are not permitted in the park.
- All plants, animals, other natural features and cultural sites are protected and must not be disturbed or removed.
- Feeding wildlife is bad for their health. It is an offence to feed or leave food where it is accessible to wildlife. Penalties apply. Store all food securely and properly dispose of all rubbish.

Be prepared and stay safe

For emergency assistance call Triple Zero (000). If there is a green emergency marker sign near you, read the information on the marker to the operator. Great Otway National Park is in the South West and Central fire district. Bushfire safety is a personal responsibility. Anyone entering parks and forests during the bushfire season needs to stay aware of forecast weather conditions. Check the Fire Danger Rating and for days of Total Fire Ban at www.emergency.vic.gov.au, on the VicEmergency smartphone app or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226. No fires may be lit on Total Fire Ban days. On Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating days this park will be closed for public safety. Warnings signs may be erected, but do not expect a personal warning.

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

Great Otway National Park

Overview map

