

Macedon Regional Park

Visitor Guide



The Macedon Ranges are the southern end of Victoria's Great Dividing Range and feature many natural and cultural points of interest. The Macedon Regional Park protects forested land along the ridge of the Range and provides great outdoor opportunities including bushwalking, picnics and scenic drives.



Getting there

Macedon Regional Park is north west of Melbourne. From the Calder Freeway take the Mount Macedon Road exits north of Gisborne or the Woodend exit and follow the signs.

Things to see and do

Mount Macedon War Memorial Cross

After the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne, Mount Macedon War Memorial Cross is the most significant war memorial in Victoria. An icon in the region this imposing structure commemorates those who served in all wars.

Major Mitchell Lookout

Offering stunning views to the north west of the range, this lookout was named after Major Thomas Mitchell, the first European to climb the 1000 metre peak in 1836. After sighting Port Phillip Bay from the southern aspect of the peak, Mitchell named it Mount Macedon as reference to Philip II of ancient Macedonia.

Mount Macedon Survey Cairn

This eight-metre-high cairn was built in the 1860s as a location point for land surveys. It is one of only three mortared stone Geodetic Triangulation Cairns in Victoria.

DC3 Kurana Display

This sign marks the site of the 1948 crash of Australia's first pre-war DC3. The plane ploughed into a pine plantation on the southern slopes of Mount Macedon on route from Melbourne to Deniliquin.

Camels Hump

The nearby Hanging Rock and this rocky outcrop are a mamelon – a volcanic feature formed six million years ago, when thick lava squeezed through a narrow vent in the earth's crust.

The highest peak in the range, Camels Hump at 1,011m offers superb views of Hanging Rock and the surrounding countryside.

Mount Towrong

Mount Towrong is ideal for those seeking a quieter, more remote place and offers superb views of the iconic War Memorial Cross.

Mount Towrong is connected by the Macedon Ranges Walking Trail (loop) and can be readily reached by a steep ascent from Anzac Road or from the walking trail branching off Hemphill's Track.

Sanatorium Lake

The cool climate of the Macedon region was thought to provide a perfect environment for patients suffering tuberculosis. In 1899 a sanatorium was opened in a building previously used as a private hospital. It closed in 1910.

A lake was made to supply water to a new, larger sanatorium which was never built. Swimming and fishing is not permitted in the lake.

Top of the Range Tea Rooms

Enjoy the stunning scenery of the park viewed from these tea rooms. Located at the summit next to the Mount Macedon War Memorial Cross Reserve. Drinks, meals, morning and afternoon tea are available 7 days a week during business hours. (03) 5427 3466

Picnicking

Enjoy a leisurely picnic at one of six picnic grounds within the Park. The Harbison Picnic Ground has free electric barbecues, shelters and toilets.

Days Picnic Ground has great space for both small and larger groups while historical Sanatorium Picnic Ground offers an ideal location for smaller groups with easy access to the well defined Sanatorium Eco Tourism Trail.

Scenic Drives

A network of sealed and unsealed public roads allows you take in the stunning scenery of the park by car. Some unsealed roads are subject to seasonal closure. All vehicles must be registered and drivers/riders licensed.

Bike riding

A series of multi-purpose tracks in the Old Scout Camp area provide cycling with some sections suited to casual riding while others provide more challenging experiences. Other open formed roads and tracks in the park offer opportunities to explore the forest and enjoy some magnificent views of the nearby countryside.

Some walking tracks within the park are managed for walkers only and are not available to cyclists. View the map for details.

Horse Riding

Old Scout Camp area provides a great starting point for your ride. Float parking is also available from the signposted section in Days Picnic Ground. Riders must remain on defined roads and tracks at all times.

Horses are not permitted on walking tracks, closed management tracks or in picnic grounds.

Walking

There are great opportunities to explore the park on foot via a series of walks that make up the Macedon Ranges Walking Track (loop).

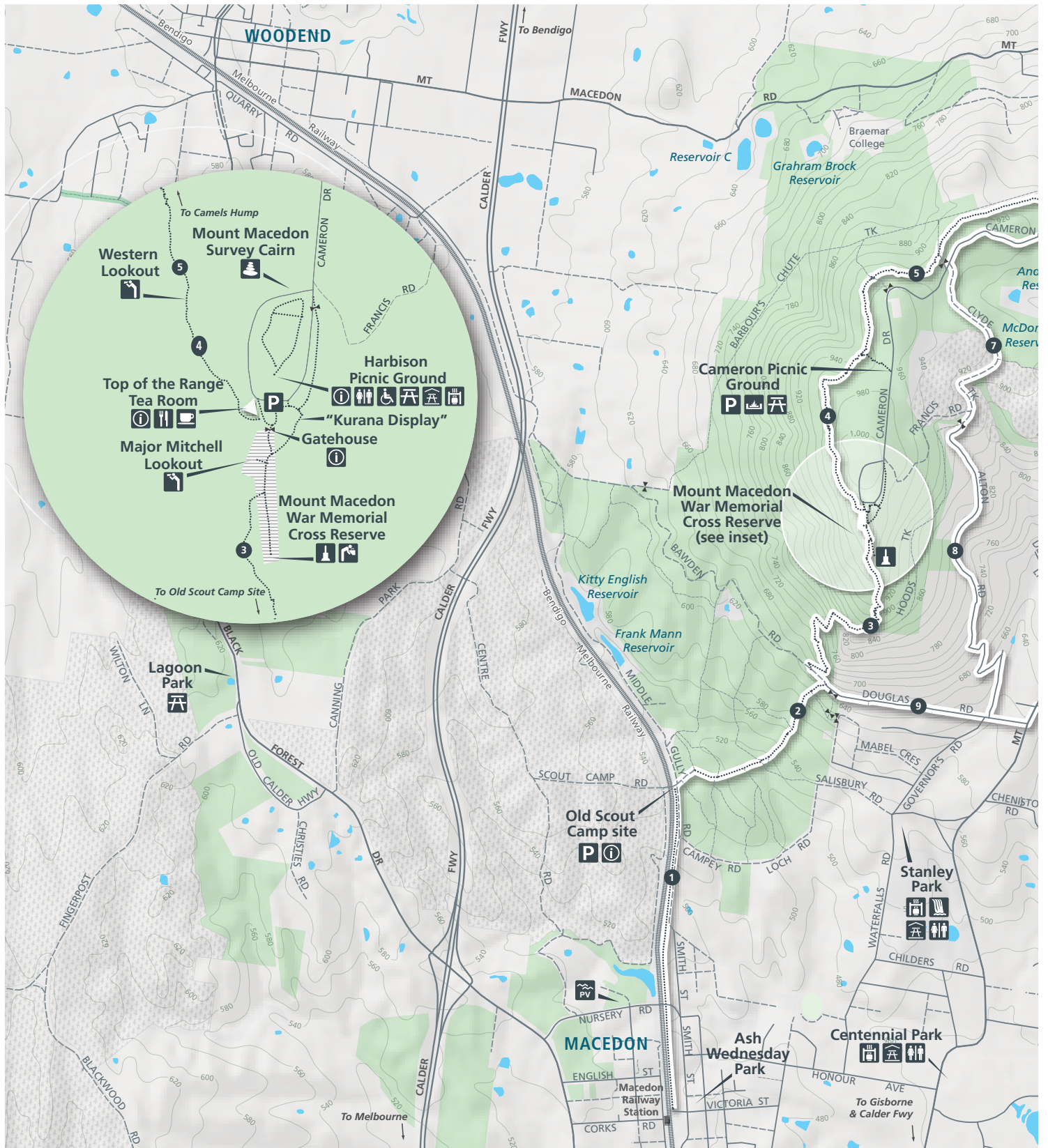
Most sections of the 18.8 km trail loop are Grade 3 level moderate to difficult grade walking due to the steep mountain slopes.

Walking with dogs on a lead is permitted in the park. By keeping your dog on a lead you keep it safe and assist in the protection of the nature of the area you have come to explore and enjoy.

Check the weather forecast before exploring the park as Mount Macedon is usually cooler than surrounding areas and conditions can change quickly.

Macedon Regional Park

Map 1



- | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|--|
| Parking | Fireplace | Memorial | Hwy / Fwy | Walking track |
| Information | BBQ (Gas) | Parks Victoria office | Main road | Eco tourism trail |
| Toilets | Water fountain | Restaurant | Sealed road | Macedon Ranges walking track |
| Disabled access | Lookout | Cafe | Unsealed road | Macedon Regional Park |
| Picnic table | Falls | Walking | 4WD track | Other park |
| Picnic shelter | Cairn | Walk reference number | Seasonal closure | Softwood Plantation |
| | | | | Mount Macedon War Memorial Cross Reserve |

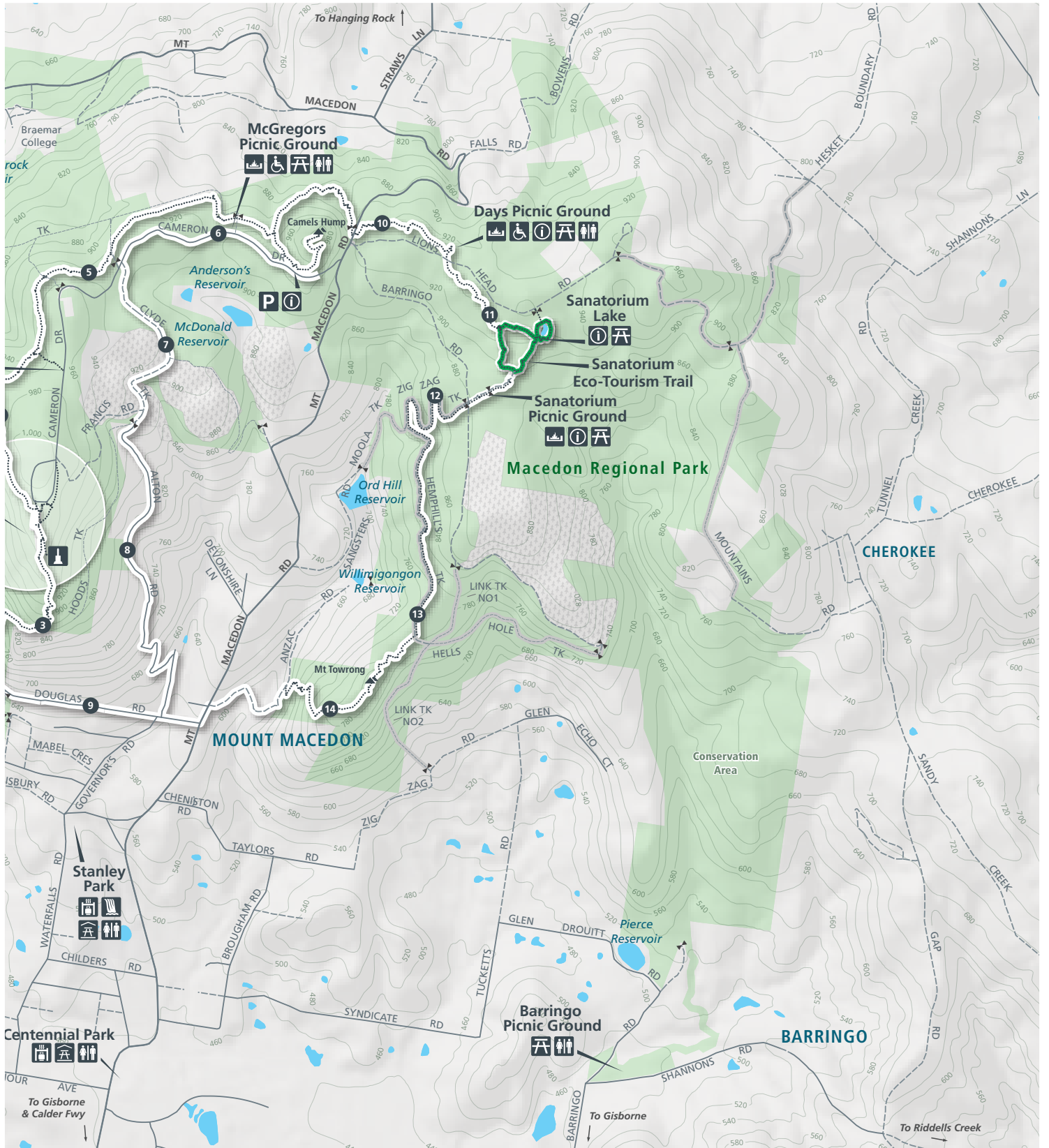


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Macedon Regional Park

Map 2



- | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Parking | Fireplace | Memorial | Hwy / Fwy | Walking track |
| Information | BBQ (Gas) | Parks Victoria office | Main road | Eco tourism trail |
| Toilets | Water fountain | Restaurant | Sealed road | Macedon Ranges walking track |
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1. Macedon Railway Station to Old Scout Camp
2km, 40 minutes one way

From the station, walk north along Smith Street and Middle Gully Road to the Old Scout Camp site. Look out for native orchids and Kangaroo Grass, widespread before European settlement, but reduced by grazing and early land management practices.

Near the Old Scout Camp is one of the many stone bridges on the Melbourne-Bendigo railway line. The Sunbury to Woodend section was opened in 1861.

2. Old Scout Camp to Bawden Road/Douglas Road
1.4km, 25 minutes one way

You now enter Macedon Regional Park. Follow the arrows east. Shortly after crossing the shallow creek, turn left and begin walking uphill. After some time, follow the arrow pointing left. At the embankment, climb the stairs and cross Bawden Road. To continue your walk, take the second wooden staircase.

3. Bawden Rd/Douglas Rd to Macedon War Memorial Cross
2.2km, 1 hour one way

The track runs parallel with the road for a short distance before zigzagging up the southern face of Mount Macedon. This is the steepest part of the track and may be slippery. On passing Hoods Track, you begin to leave the dry slopes and enter wetter Messmate/gum forest.

Since the Ash Wednesday fires of February 1983 there has been prolific regeneration including stands of wattle, Messmate, Snow Gum and Alpine Ash. The understorey features Hazel Pomaderris and Hop Goodenia, and ferns such as Mother Shield and Fishbone. The track merges on to a sealed path in the Cross Reserve. Turn left to exit the war memorial cross reserve via the Gatehouse.

4. Macedon War Memorial Cross to Cameron Picnic Ground
1.8km, 30 minutes one way

Walk towards the Tearooms, turn left and follow the sign to the Western Lookout loop, with views of Woodend and the surrounding areas. Return to the main track and proceed in a north-west direction through the Messmate forest, where you might see wallabies and wombats and hear many types of birds.

Cameron Picnic Ground is a good place to plan a break - it is 200m to the right off the main track.

5. Cameron Picnic Ground to Camels Hump
2.7km, 1 hour one way

Return to the main track and head north-east. The track heads around the northerly aspect of the range crossing several management tracks, eventually merging into a dirt road at the boundary of private properties. Turn right and follow the signs to McGregor's Picnic Ground.

The track continues along the northern boundary of the picnic ground to a management track - turn right and follow the signs to Camels Hump carpark. A short 500 metre walk takes you to the peak of Camels Hump.

A direction dial on the viewing platform helps you identify features in the surrounding landscape including the Hanging Rock.

From Camels Hump you have two return routes options:

- Walks 6 to 9 - 10.3km - 3.5 hours.
Travel the south-east face of Mount Macedon towards Macedon Railway Station via Cameron Drive
- Walks 10 to 14 - 8.7km, 3 hours.
Continue along the walking track towards Sanatorium Lake

6. Camels Hump to Clyde Track (via Cameron Drive)
1.4km, 30 minutes one way

To continue the loop walk (Sections 7 & 8) back to the Macedon Railway Station, return to Camels Hump carpark, then follow the Cameron Drive road easement back towards the Memorial Cross. Turn left at Clyde Track.

7. Clyde Track to Alton Road
1.4km, 25 minutes one way

Follow the descending track through the remnant stand of wet Messmate/gum forest through the plantation areas leading out of the Park into Alton Road.

8. Alton Road to Douglas Road/Bawden Road
2.8km, 1 hour one way

Follow Alton Road down to Douglas Road / Bawden Road, passing Alton and Hascombe historic homes. Alton Road has views to Mount Towrong and over Mount Macedon township.

9. Douglas Road/Bawden Road to Macedon Railway Station
4.7km, 1.5 hours one way

At Douglas Road turn right to go back to the embankment stairway, the Old Scout Camp and Macedon Railway Station. Alternatively, turn left to the township of Mount Macedon.

10. Camels Hump to Days Picnic Ground
1.8km, 30-40 minutes one way

The circuit track loops around the Camels Hump and continues over Mount Macedon Road and on to Days Picnic Ground.

11. Sanatorium Eco Tourism Trail to Zig Zag Track
2.6km, 45 minutes one way

Continue through Days Picnic Ground, cross Lions Head Road to the start of the Eco Tourism Trail. Follow the signs to Sanatorium Lake. Take a stroll around the lake or follow the signs to Sanatorium Picnic Ground. Continue through this picnic ground to Barringo Road and veer left to the start of Zig Zag Track.

12. Zig Zag Track to Hemphill's Track
1.3km, 15-25 minutes one way

The Zig Zag Track winds its way down through wet Messmate forest to Hemphill's Track. Listen out for the many bird species calling through the valley.

13. Hemphill's Track to Mount Towrong Track
1.5km, 25 minutes one way

Hemphill's Track branches left off Zig Zag Track and takes you through tall Messmate and gum forest.

14. Mount Towrong Track to Anzac Road (Macedon)
1.5km, 45 minutes one way

Turn right off Hemphill's Track and continue along Mount Towrong Track towards its summit. The understorey consists of Prickly Moses with dense Wiregrass, while the upper storey vegetation changes to dry Messmate, Broad-leaved Peppermint and Long-leaved Box.

From the western face of Mount Towrong, you can see Mount Macedon and local areas. The track becomes steep as you walk down towards Anzac Road.

Descend the stairs and turn left then follow Anzac Road back towards Mount Macedon.

Pick up walk sections 9, 2 and 1 to return to Macedon Railway Station.

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. Macedon Regional Park is in the 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.