

Warby Ovens National Park

Visitor Guide



This incredibly diverse park offers visitors the chance to explore many different landscapes, from the granite hills and woodlands of the Warby Ranges, the Box-Ironbark of the Killawarra Forest, and the River Red Gum forests and wetlands of the heritage-listed Ovens River. Enjoy spectacular views, great walking and cycling, horse riding, canoeing, boating and fishing, or relax at your campsite and watch the wildlife.



Acknowledgment of Country

Warby-Ovens National Park is part of an Aboriginal cultural landscape in the traditional Country of the Yorta Yorta Peoples. Parks Victoria respects the deep and continuing connection that Yorta Yorta Traditional Owners have to these lands and waters, and we recognise their ongoing role in caring for Country.

Getting there

Warby-Ovens National Park is located 240km north east of Melbourne and 10km west of Wangaratta. It is best accessed via the Hume Freeway, and from Wangandary and Yarrawonga Roads in Wangaratta.

Things to see and do

Located between the Victorian Alps and Murray Valley, Warby-Ovens National Park protects some of Victoria's most significant bushland. It is a haven for nature lovers and offers a wide range of recreational opportunities.

Picnicking

There are several beautiful spots in the park to enjoy a picnic with family and friends. Refer to the maps for locations and facilities.

The views from Ryans and Kwat Kwat Lookouts are exceptional, with distant snow-covered peaks in winter, or enjoy panoramic views from the historic fire tower at Warby Tower Lookout. Briens Gorge offers views of the Jubilee Falls when weather allows.

Walking

The Warby Ranges and Killawarra Forest offer a variety of walks along designated tracks, ranging in length and difficulty. There are no defined walking tracks along the Ovens River, but visitors can explore the River Red Gum forests by following the vehicle tracks and riverbanks. A GPS or topographic map and compass is recommended.

Wear sturdy footwear with a good grip and carry plenty of water, especially in hot weather. Many of the creeks and waterfalls in the hills are dry for much of the year and only run after rain.

Alpine Views Walk – 2km one-way, 2hrs – Grade 3

Expansive views of the Alps can be enjoyed on a clear day. The track is also rich in orchids and other wildflowers in spring. The walk initially follows the Friends Track south east from Wenhams Camp

and ends at Boilerwood Track. The track is steep in places and a moderate level of fitness is required.

Chick Hill Walk – 1km one-way, 1hr – Grade 4

A very steep climb from the corner of Wirrynia Avenue and Taaffe Road in Hamilton Park rewards walkers with spectacular views of the Alps, including Mt Buffalo. The track also links up with the Ridge Track leading to Mt Glenrowan. The track is very steep with limited signage. Moderate fitness is required.

Friends Track – 4.6km loop, 2hrs – Grade 3

This self-guided walk starts and ends at Wenhams Camp, with the opportunity of a diversion to Kwat Kwat Lookout via the Peregrine Track (1km return). The track passes a stand of iconic Grasstrees and through forested granite hills rich in birdlife and spring wildflowers. The track is hilly in places and a reasonable level of fitness is required. It is a great family walk but not suitable for prams. Watch out for mountain bikes on this popular shared-use track.

Mt Glenrowan Lookout Walk – 9km return, 4hrs – Grade 3

Morgans Lookout on Mt Glenrowan offers unparalleled views of the Ovens and King Valleys and the Victorian Alps. The walk begins at Taminick Gap. Park on the dirt carpark on the side of the Ridge Track, before the gate. The first section is a short steep climb up the sealed road to the communication towers. With the hardest climb behind you, the rest of the walk is moderate to easy.

Pangarang Lookout Walk – 4.5km return, 2hrs – Grade 3

This easy walk offers panoramic views to the west over farmland and floodplain. It begins from the carpark on Ferris Road and follows the Management Vehicles Only track to the lookout. The formed track has a gentle slope with some low obstacles, becoming moderately steep towards the end. Return the same way.

Pine Gully Nature Trail – 2km loop, 1hr – Grade 3

This self-guided walk introduces visitors to the Park's natural values and is an excellent place to appreciate the wildflowers in spring. After sufficient rain, the Pine Gully Falls can be seen from the viewing platform. It is steep and rocky in places and can be slippery.



Salisbury Falls Walk – 4.5km one-way, 2hrs – Grade 4

Starting from Shanley Street, this track makes its way up Mt Warby and on through the Salisbury Falls Gorge before joining the Friends Track to Wenhams Camp. The track is steep in places with many stairs and a moderate level of fitness is required. It can be walked in reverse, or combined with the Alpine Views Track.



Springtime Flower Walk – 4.9km loop, 2.5hrs – Grade 2

This easy loop walk is a lovely family stroll through Box Ironbark forest rich in birdlife. In spring, wildflowers cover the forest floor. The track is relatively flat and well signed. Starting at Forest Camp, you can take the shorter northern loop (1.2km, 30mins) or the longer southern loop (3.7km, 2hrs) or combine them both.



Sunrise Walking Tracks – 2-6km loop, 1hr-3hrs – Grade 3

This complex of walking tracks offers multiple options and loops ranging from two to six kilometres and from moderate to hard. During spring a variety of wildflowers can be seen here. The walks start at Sunrise Carpark at the end of Delloro Road. Some of the tracks are steep in places with many steps. A reasonable level of fitness and bushwalking experience is recommended.



Taylor's Track and Peregrine Track – 1.7km one-way, 30mins – Grade 2

This walk leads to Kwat Kwat Lookout for excellent views of the Ovens Valley and the Victorian Alps. It provides a more direct route to the lookout from Wenhams Camp and can be used as diversion or shortcut to the Friends Track. This formed track has a mostly gentle gradient until the last 50 metres where it becomes steeper, and a few obstacles.



Warby Falls Heritage Trail – 3.2km one-way, 2hrs – 7.4km loop, 5hrs – Grade 4

From the carpark on Booth Road, this track follows a gully with a historic saw mill, weirs, sheep washes, dams and waterfalls (dry in summer). It ends at the carpark near the corner of Booth Road and Baileys Road, next to the Taminick Winery. The gradient is gentle at the beginning and end, but steep in the middle, with multiple obstacles and undulating terrain. A high level of fitness is required.

Camping

There is a range of unpowered camping options available. No fees or bookings are required. Campers must be self-sufficient and bring their own firewood and drinking water.

Wenhams Camp is an excellent base for exploring the walking tracks in the granitic hills, many of which start from the camp. It offers individual camp sites with a separate Day Visitor Area.

The peaceful **Killawarra Forest Camp** was the site of a Forest Commission camp in the Depression of the 1930s. During World War II it was turned into an internment camp for Italian immigrants.

Both campgrounds are suitable for tents and caravans, and have toilets, picnic tables, and fire places with grills. Forest Camp also has a picnic shelter (rotunda). The maximum length of stay is 3 days. Sites are limited so large groups are asked to contact Parks Victoria on 13 1963 when planning their trip.

Self-sufficient campers will enjoy the **dispersed bush camping** along the Ovens River, with its sandy beaches, river access and fishing. There are picnic tables at some of the river bends but no other facilities. Permanent structures or camps are not permitted.

In dry weather, it may be possible to access some areas with 2WD vehicles including campervans and caravans, but exercise caution

and look out for deep potholes and wheel tracks. Roads may become impassable in wet weather, even to 4WD vehicles. Check the latest conditions and road closures at parks.vic.gov.au.

Guidelines for sustainable camping

- Set up campsites at least 20 metres away from waterways.
- Digging steps into river banks is illegal and can cause erosion and landslides.
- Camping is not permitted in day visitor areas or on licensed water frontages adjacent to private property.
- Do not spray paint or attach signs to trees.
- Chemical toilets are recommended. Please do not empty chemical toilets or other rubbish into public toilets or waterways.
- Earth pit toilets are acceptable, but must be at least 100m from waterways. Bury toilet waste, including paper at least 15cm deep.

Bike riding

Mountain bikes are permitted on open vehicle roads and tracks and some management tracks, including the Pangarang Lookout Walk and the Ridge Track to Mount Glenrowan. Cyclists may also use the Friends Track. Cyclists must always give way to walkers and not ride off the track. Bike riding is prohibited in areas affected by Cinnamon Fungus and on all other walking tracks.

Horse riding

Horses may be ridden on vehicle tracks throughout the Park. Horses are not permitted on walking tracks.

Car touring

There are excellent scenic drives to be enjoyed, with many roads accessible to 2WD vehicles in dry weather. Check the Park maps to see which roads are only suitable for 4WD vehicles. Some roads are impassable after heavy rain. Please comply with signs about road closures and check the latest conditions at parks.vic.gov.au.

Fishing

There are many good fishing spots along the river and boats can be launched all-year round at Camerons Bend. Go to www.vfa.vic.gov.au for information on Victorian recreational fishing licences and the *Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide*.

Boating and canoeing

The lower reaches of the Ovens River offer some of the best still water canoeing in the state among the maze of channels and wetlands. With care, power boats can explore the river for several kilometres upstream from Camerons Bend. Obstacles like submerged trees and sandbars may not be visible, and currents and other conditions are constantly changing. Play it safe and keep your speed down, and always wear a lifejacket.

Boat ramps are located at the Bundalong Day Visitor Area and Camerons Bend, which offers all-year round access. Check transportsafety.vic.gov.au to ensure you have the appropriate boat driving licence and vessel registration.

Swimming

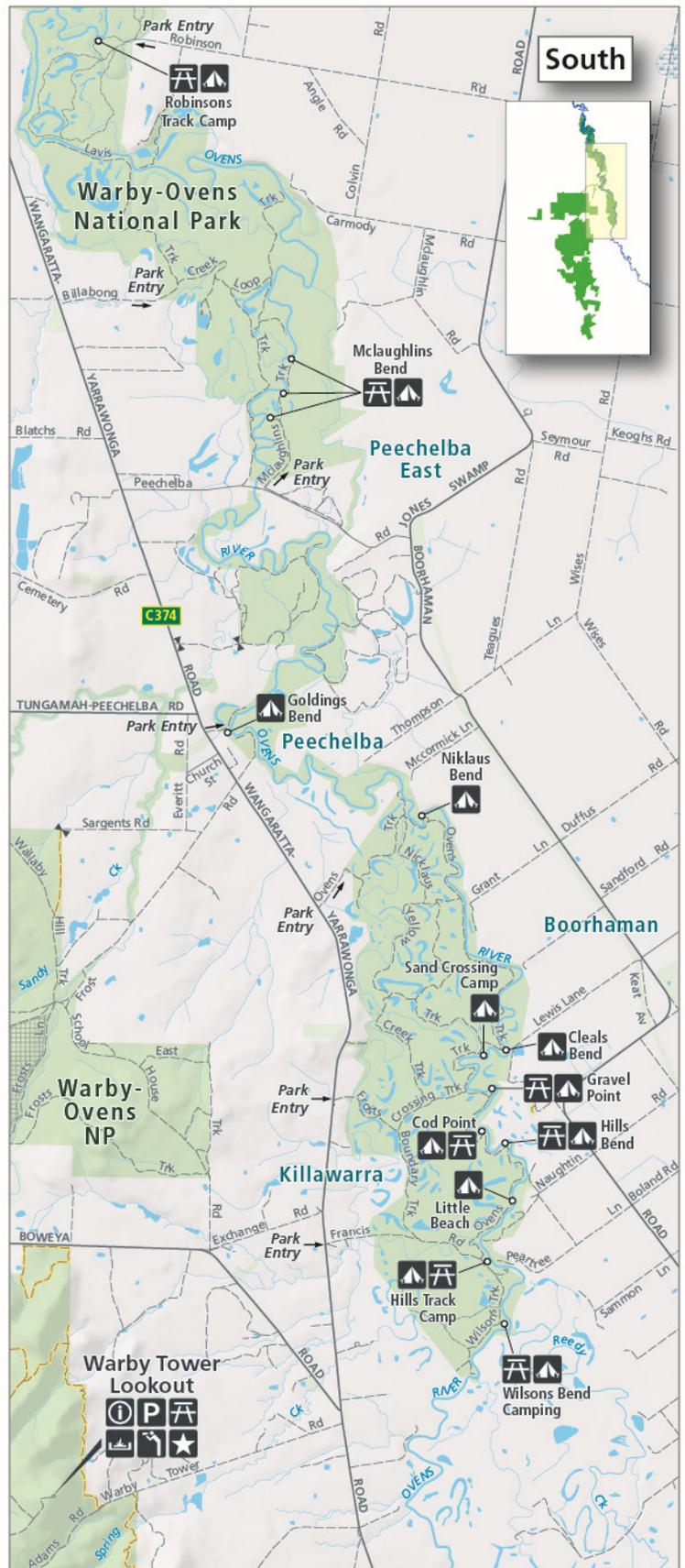
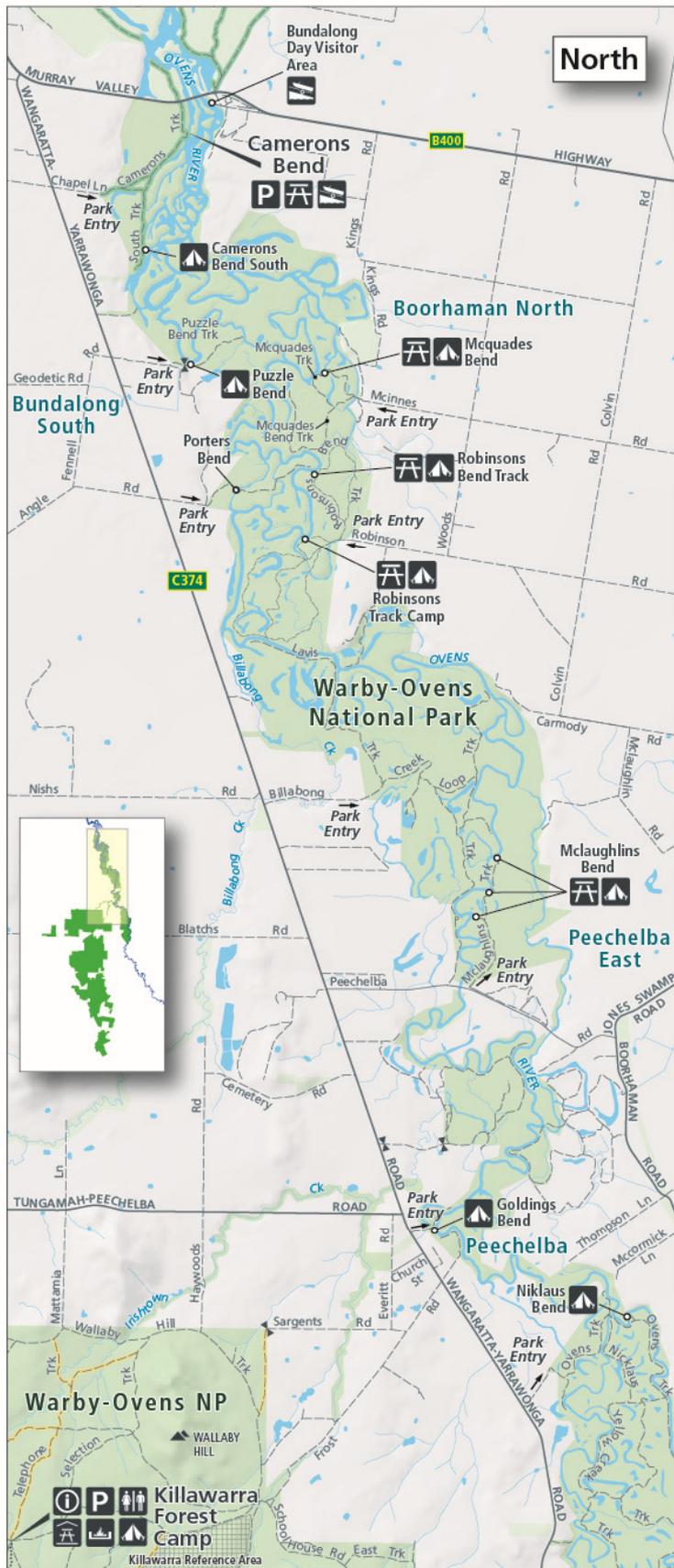
There are many beautiful spots to swim in the Ovens River and its wetlands, but please exercise caution and actively supervise children in or near water. Rivers may have fast currents, underwater objects, and deep holes which can be hazardous.

Prospecting

Prospecting is permitted 200 metres either side of the Tarrawalla Track between Boweya Track and a point 200 metres past the junction of the adjoining Parallel Track. Prospectors must hold a current Miners Right or Tourist Fossicking Authority. Prospectors may only search for gemstones, such as the mineral Wavellite.

Warby-Ovens National Park

Ovens River



- Parking
- Information
- Toilets
- Sheltered area
- Picnic area
- Fireplace
- Camping
- Boat ramp

- Lookout
- Point of interest
- Warby-Ovens National Park
- Other reserves
- Highway / Freeway
- Main road
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- 4WD track
- Walking track
- Management Vehicles Only
- Gate

www.parks.vic.gov.au

Disclaimer: Parks Victoria does not guarantee that this data is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability which may arise from you relying on this information. Cartography by Parks Victoria March 2020

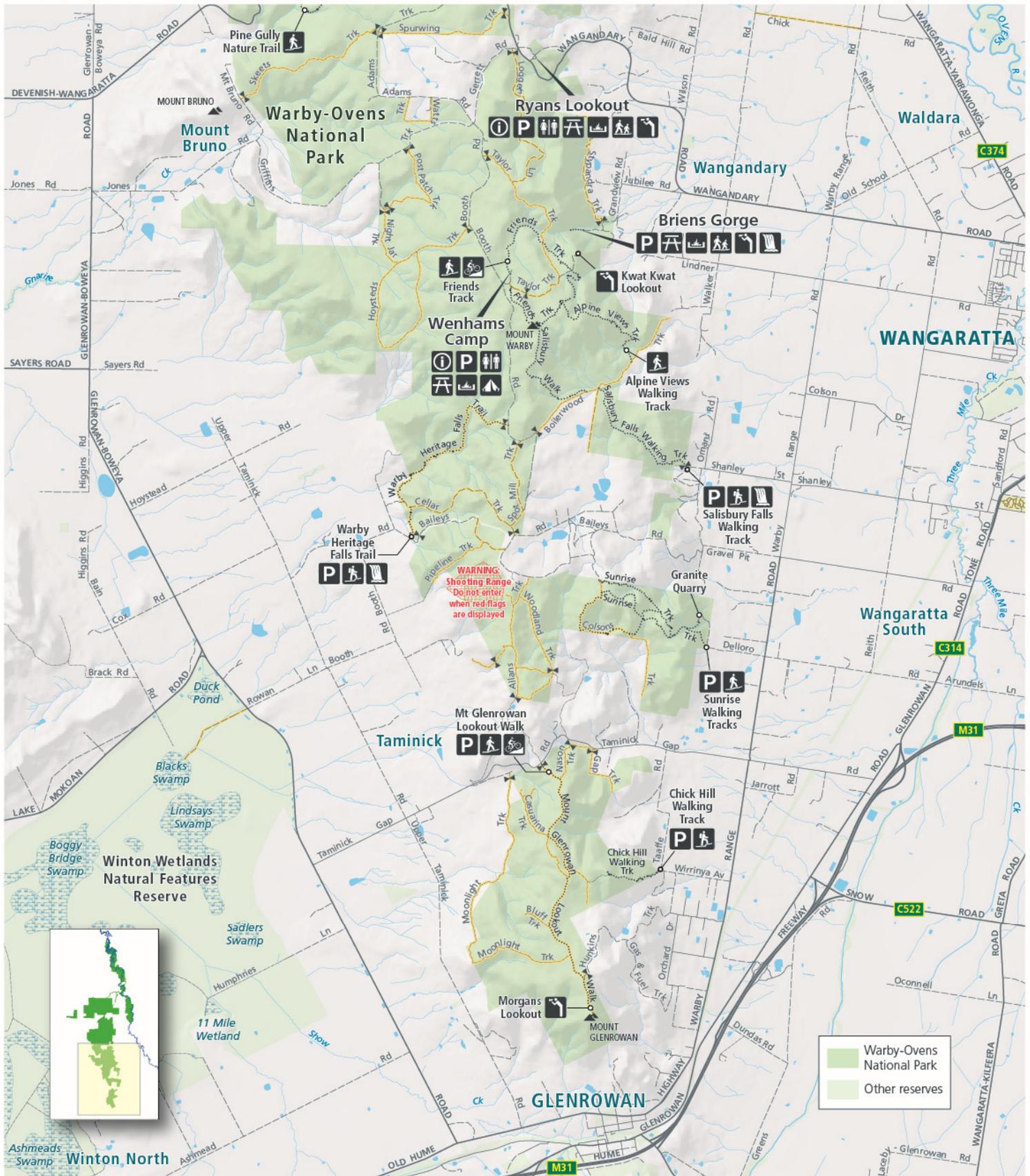
For mobile App search for Avenza PDF Maps



0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres

Warby-Ovens National Park

Southern Warby Ranges



Warby-Ovens National Park
Other reserves

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Parking | Fireplace | Walking trail Grade 3 | Highway / Freeway | 4WD track |
| Information | Camping | Walking trail Grade 4 | Main road | Walking track |
| Toilets | Lookout | Mountain bike | Sealed road | Management Vehicles Only |
| Picnic area | Walking trail Grade 2 | Waterfall (seasonal) | Unsealed road | Gate |

Plants and animals

The vegetation of Warby-Ovens National Park is characterised by three distinct vegetation communities – the dry woodlands of the Warby Range, the Box-Ironbark of the Killawarra Forest and the River Red Gum forest and wetlands of the largely unregulated, heritage-listed Ovens River.

Notable plant species include the Austral Grass-tree, with its long 'skirt' and black trunk, and the hardy Spur-wing Wattle.

The park is an important location for the survival of species including the Squirrel Glider, Feathertail Glider, Powerful Owl, Turquoise Parrot, Carpet Python and Lace Monitor. Many animals in the Park are nocturnal and not easy to spot during the day.

The open woodland offers plenty of habitat for birdlife including rosellas, robins, Wedge-tailed Eagles, Eastern Spinebills and White-throated Treecreepers. The exposed granite slabs are ideal sunning sites for a variety of reptiles. Early morning and late afternoon are generally the best times to see birds and other wildlife, like Swamp Wallabies or Eastern Grey Kangaroos.

Waiting for the rains

Winter rains rejuvenate the Warbys, allowing the creeks and waterfalls to flow once more. With spring come the wildflowers. Nodding Blue-lily, Common Fringe-myrtle, grevilleas and orchids burst into flower to the delight of the bird and insect world.

Spring floodwaters from the mountains revive the wetlands of the Lower Ovens attracting water birds and triggering breeding of a host of aquatic wildlife.

Looking after the park



Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

- Please take rubbish home with you for recycling and disposal
- All native plants and animals are protected by law
- Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the park
- Vehicles, including motor bikes, may only be used on formed open roads. Drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy.
- Firearms and fireworks are prohibited
- Fires are permitted only:
 - If it is not a day of Total Fire Ban
 - A 3-metre area around it is cleared of anything flammable
 - An adult is in attendance at all times
 - At least 10 litres of water are available for immediate use
- In the Warby Ranges and Killawarra Forest, fires are permitted only in the fireplaces provided at campsites and picnic areas.
- Put the fire out with water, not soil. When the campfire is cool to touch, it is safe to leave.
- No campfires or solid fuel barbecues may be lit on a day of Total Fire Ban. Portable gas or electric barbecues or camping stoves may be used, provided that the conditions above are met.
- A generator may only be used on a day of Total Fire Ban if a 3-metre area around it is cleared of anything flammable.
- Be a good neighbour. Please consider the impacts of generators or loud music on other visitors. To reduce the risk of your generator starting a bushfire, ensure your generator is:
 - located in an area clear of fuels, dry grass or other combustibles
 - the generator is only refuelled when the engine is cold.
 - extension cords do not cross access tracks and are rated for external use.

Cinnamon Fungus

Cinnamon fungus (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*), is a serious plant disease. It invades the fine roots of plants causing them to rot and ultimately die. It is present in the Warby Range section of the park. You can limit the spread of this disease by preventing the movement of infected soil. Clean camping gear and boots before entering and leaving the site, keep to formed tracks and obey all signs relating to Phytophthora. For further information visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

Be prepared and stay safe



- Avoid camping or parking under or near large trees, like River Red Gums, as branches may fall and swing away from the tree at any time. Whole trees may fall without warning.
- Rope swings are not recommended.
- Mobile phone reception in the Park is patchy.
- Avoid camping close to waterways if rain or storms are forecast, as waters may rise quickly and trap you.
- Rivers may have fast currents, underwater objects, and deep holes which can be hazardous. Never swim alone, and do not swim in floodwater. Wear a life jacket in deep water.
- Drinking alcohol significantly increases the risk of drowning.
- Always enter the water slowly, feet first. For your own safety, do not dive or jump in to the river. Submerged objects can cause neck or spinal injuries.
- Actively supervise children in and near water. Children under five should always be within reach, and children under ten within sight. Lifejackets and flotation devices are recommended.
- Snakes are more active in spring, summer and autumn. If you see a snake, stand still and don't panic. Snakes nearly always move away when they feel footstep vibrations.
- Mosquitoes may be present all year round and can carry diseases like Ross River Fever or Barmah Forest Virus. Wear long sleeves and pants and use insect repellent, particularly at dusk and dawn.

Emergencies

For emergency assistance call Triple Zero (000). If there is a green emergency marker sign near you, read the information to the operator.

Most of Warby-Ovens National Park is in the North East Total Fire Ban District. The area west of the Ovens River and north of Peechelba is in the Northern Country Total Fire Ban 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 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. Do not enter the Park. If you are already in the park, leave the night before or as early as possible in the morning. Warning signs may be erected but do not expect a personal warning. Check the latest conditions at parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 1963.

Further Information

Call Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or visit parks.vic.gov.au.

Download free geo-referenced park maps from Avenza Maps.

For tourist information, including local accommodation, contact:

Wangaratta Visitor Information Centre

100 Murphy Street, Wangaratta VIC 3677

Phone: (03) 5722 0760 or Freecall: 1800 801 065

Website: visitwangaratta.com.au