

Serendip Sanctuary

Visitor Guide



A wildlife oasis in the Western Volcanic Plains, this 250 hectare sanctuary is home to a rich and diverse array of birds and mammals. Come and learn about the grassland and wetland habitats that these animals call home. Serendip is an experience you will never forget.



Parks Victoria recognises the Wadawurrung People have sustainably cared for and managed the landscapes and waterways of Wadawurrung Country for thousands of years. Parks Victoria acknowledges the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of this sanctuary and recognises their continuous connections to Country.

Opening hours

Serendip Sanctuary is open from 8.00am – 4.00pm every day except for Christmas Day and Good Friday.

Getting there

Serendip Sanctuary is located at 100 Windermere Road, Lara. It is at the base of the You Yangs, 60km from Melbourne and 22km north of Geelong. It is signposted from the Princes Highway.

Things to see and do

Walking

There are four interconnecting nature trails. They are all gentle well formed tracks with no steps and are wheelchair accessible. All are within walking distance from the main visitor car park and each trail is no longer than 2km return. Refer to map.

Wildlife Walk

Our most popular walk enables visitors to experience a close encounter with native wildlife. It is a great walk to take if you have limited time but would still like to see a large variety of wildlife.

The walk meanders past Eastern Grey Kangaroos grazing before providing you with outstanding opportunities for birdwatching from viewing areas and bird hides. You may be treated to Whistling Kites soaring high overhead or magnificent Yellow-billed Spoonbills wading through the shallow water.

Specially designed bird hides give you the chance to see some of the over 150 species of bird that have been recorded at Serendip Sanctuary.

Facilities

Entry to Serendip Sanctuary is free. Guided tours are available for groups (minimum of 15 people) by appointment for a moderate fee. The toilet facilities in the picnic area cater for people with restricted mobility. Drinking water is available at the picnic area. No rubbish bins are provided – please take your rubbish home.

Ponding site

A ponding site and ponding equipment provide children with opportunities to catch water bugs and study their features using magnifying glasses.

Picnics

A picnic area with free undercover electric barbecues, picnic tables, a shelter and toilets is located next to the main visitor car park.

Environmental Education

Serendip Sanctuary's curriculum based education program offers students an excellent opportunity to learn about the wetland and grassy woodland habitats of Victoria's Western Volcanic Plains.

An Education Officer can deliver a range of activities that are adapted to meet the specific Victorian Curriculum and VCE outcomes (fees apply for education services). For bookings, please contact 13 1963.

Serendip also runs a Junior Ranger program on school holidays. For more information, please visit juniorrangers.com.au

Caring for the park

Walk quietly so as not to frighten the free range animals away. Be sure to walk on the designated paths and leave everything where you find it.

Please do not feed wildlife. The animals at Serendip are native to Victoria and most of them are free to come and go as they please. They find their food in the wild. Feeding wildlife is harmful and dangerous to them and you. It can result in diseases, aggressive behaviour and an unnatural reliance on humans for food. Please let them stay wild.

The use of drones is not permitted in parks.

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.

Serendip Sanctuary 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 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 parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 1963.

Updated December 2022



Points of Interest

- 1 Eastern Barred Bandicoot
- 3 Outdoor learning centre
- 4 Display pond
- 5 Office
- 6 Classroom

Wildlife walk - 1110m

- 7 Marcia O'Brien picnic area
- 8 Native grassland

- 9 Wildlife walk entrance gate
- 10 Macropod and Emu enclosure
- 11 Reptiles
- 12 Brolga
- 13 Marshland bird hide
- 14 Billabong bird hide
- 15 Freckled Duck enclosure
- 16 Pademelon
- 17 Wetland and dryland aviaries
- 18 Indigenous and sensory garden
- 19 Australian Bustard

Wetland walk - 1110m

- 20 Lake view
- 21 Observation tower
- 22 Ponding site
- 23 North Arm Tea-tree bird hide

Farm Dam for Wildlife Walk - 1300m

- 24 Farm dam bird hide
- 25 Farm dam bird hide

Wader Walk - 1300m

- 26 Wader bird hide

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|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Information | Bridge | Wildlife Walk | Fence |
| Toilets | Bird hide | Wetland Walk | Unsealed road |
| Picnic table | Gate | Wader Walk | Sealed road |
| Sheltered area | Native grassland | Farm Dam for Wildlife Walk | Management vehicles only |
| BBQ - Electric | | | |

