

Tower Hill Reserve

Visitor Guide



“A stroll among the gigantic ferns of the valley... a ramble among the cones and craters... the winding path at the foot of the basaltic rises close to the lake... almost tropical reeds rustle in the breeze... leafy shrubs and trees form delightful bowers and alcoves... tender emotion in suitable company”
– notes from George Bonwick’s visit to Tower Hill in 1858.



Getting there

Tower Hill Reserve is located 18 km west of Warrnambool and can be accessed from the Princes Highway.

Facilities

The picnic area has picnic tables, electric barbecues and toilets. The visitor centre has light refreshments. There are no drinking water taps or rubbish bins available. Staying overnight in campervans, caravans or tents is not permitted.

Things to see and do

Wildlife

Tower Hill provides a habitat for many birds and animals and is a great place to view them. You may see koalas, emus, kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas, turtles and possums, as well as many waterbirds such as black swans, ducks and spoonbills.

Please admire but do not feed the animals. This may cause them illness and pain putting their health at risk, and may cause annoyance, behavioural change or injury to park visitors.

Tower Hill Visitor Centre

Open 10am to 4pm including weekends and public holidays except Christmas Day. The Visitor Centre is located near the picnic area and is managed by Worn Gundidj Aboriginal Cooperative. The centre has displays along with light refreshments and aboriginal arts and crafts for sale.

Guided Tours

Guided tours of the park featuring wildlife and Aboriginal cultural heritage are provided for individuals and groups by Worn Gundidj.

Tours run daily at 11am, and other times may be arranged by appointment. Bookings are required. Enquire at the Visitor Centre on (03) 5565 9202.

Volcano

Tower Hill is a dormant volcano and has remarkable geological landscape features visible from lookouts around the reserve and when walking in the park. These include conical hills, large and small craters, basalt outcrops from lava flows, and layers of ash from eruptions long ago.

Walking

Take in the sights, sounds and smells of Tower Hill on one of the four self-guided walks. All walks start near the Visitor Centre in the picnic area.

Wagon Bay Loop 1.5km, 30 minutes circuit

This gentle walk circles Wagon Bay pond, home to bird life and with views back to the Visitor Centre. The walk is mostly flat with some steps along the way.

Lava Tongue Boardwalk 1.6km, flat, 30 minutes circuit

This gentle walk passes the remnant rocky outcrop of an old lava flow and crosses the wetlands to Fairy Island. This walk has some of the best natural habitat in the park. It provides excellent opportunities for potting birds, reptiles, koalas and echidnas.

Journey to the Last Volcano Loop 1.9km, some steep hills, 1 hour circuit

This moderately strenuous, undulating walk leads up to and around the most recently active volcano crater and provides good views of the park.

Peak Climb 1.5km, steep hills, 30 minutes return

This steep walk goes via the Yatt Mirng Crater and provides panoramic views of the park and the coast.

Be prepared and stay safe

Tower Hill Reserve is in the South West fire district. Bushfires can occur during the warmer months. It is your responsibility to check current and forecast weather conditions. Campfires cannot be lit on days of Total Fire Ban, however gas cookers can be used for preparing food.

On Code Red days this park will be closed for public safety. Closure signs will be erected, but do not expect an official warning from park rangers.

For emergency updates and fire information listen to local radio, visit emergency.vic.gov.au, download the VicEmergency phone app or call 1800 226 226. For park conditions visit www.parks.vic.gov.au or call 13 1963. For emergency assistance call Triple Zero (000).

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| P Parking | — Highway | ■ Tower Hill Reserve |
| i Information | — Sealed road | ■ Waterbody |
| 👁 Lookout | - - - Unsealed road | |
| → One way road | ••••• Walking track | |

