Background

Heritage listed for its biodiversity and significant cultural heritage, the Grampians National Park was established in 1984 to protect environmental and cultural values of national importance. The park has more than 800 indigenous plant species and is home to one third of Victoria’s flora, a range of wildlife, and the majority of surviving Aboriginal rock art places in south-east Australia.

Changes to rock climbing in the Grampians National Park

In recent years, rock climbing in the national park has increased and contemporary rock climbing activities, such as bouldering and the use of fixed protection (bolts and chain anchors), have emerged, creating risk to irreplaceable environmental and cultural values.

To ensure the protection of these values, in February 2019 Parks Victoria announced it would be implementing restrictions that were established to protect the park’s highly sensitive places called Special Protection Areas. This decision meant that the restrictions prohibiting rock climbing and abseiling within Special Protection Areas would be enforced.

No-impact climbing remains permitted in locations across the 100,000 hectares of the national park that are outside of Special Protection Areas, which are shown in the maps below.

Special Protection Areas

A Special Protection Area is a place that is particularly special or at significant risk. This could be because it is a protected Aboriginal place, or has a threatened species of plant or animal that is vulnerable to human activity. To protect these areas, bushwalking and picnicking are the only permitted activities within a Special Protection Area.

Climbing at Summerday Valley

In June 2019, Parks Victoria announced that tour operators offering rock climbing and abseiling at Summerday Valley (which is within a Special Protection Area) in the Grampians National Park had been issued a variation to their existing licences. The variation provided conditional authorisation for existing Licensed Tour Operators to continue undertaking rock climbing and abseiling in three designated areas within Summerday Valley. This conditional authorisation has since been extended and updated to include a climbing area called Lookout Point Wall, near Halls Gap. Climbers wishing to climb in Summerday Valley or Lookout Point Wall will need to register with a licensed tour operator.

Grampians Landscape Management Plan

In partnership with Traditional Owner groups, Parks Victoria is preparing a new management plan for the Grampians landscape, an area that covers the Grampians National Park and some adjacent parks and reserves.

While this plan is not being developed in response to changes to rock climbing in the Grampians National Park, it will provide longer-term direction on matters such as access and usage of the park.

To be involved in this process, visit: https://engage.vic.gov.au/grampians-management-plan
Hollow Mountain (Wudjub-Guyun) and Mount Stapylton - Rock Climbing Exclusion Zones

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.


27/08/2020
South - Rock Climbing Exclusion Zones

- Protected Areas - restrictions apply
- No climbing permitted
- Parks Victoria Visitor Sites
- Parks and Reserves
- State Forest
- National Parks

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Northern Victoria Range - Rock Climbing Exclusions Zones (includes eight focus areas)

No climbing permitted
- Protected areas - restrictions apply
- Parks Victoria Visitor Sites
- Grampians National Park
- State Forest

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27/08/2020
Hollow Mountain (Wudjub-Guyun and Ngamadjidj) - Rock Climbing Exclusion Zones

Restricted climbing and abseiling with a Licensed Tour Operator is currently possible. Bushwalking and picnicking is permitted in all Special Protection Areas.


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