

# Cape Conran Coastal Park

## Visitor Guide



Cape Conran Coastal Park boasts heathlands, wild ocean beaches and banksia woodlands brimming with nectar-feeding birds. It is a great park for water activities including swimming, diving, boating, fishing or rock pooling. Experience the park by foot on the Cape Conran Nature Trail or the magnificent Dock Inlet and Pearl Point day walks.



### Getting there

Cape Conran Coastal Park in East Gippsland is approximately 420 km east of Melbourne and 530 km south of Sydney.

Cape Conran can be reached via the Princes Highway by turning off at Cabbage Tree Creek or via Orbost and Marlo to the west. The eastern section of the park can be reached by turning off the highway east of Cabbage Tree Creek to Bemm River.

### Things to see and do

#### Walking

The diversity of walking opportunities around Cape Conran can take you through white sandy beaches, rocky ridges and banksia woodlands. The day visitor areas on the east and west sides of the Cape provide easy access to the beach.

From West Cape road, you can stroll up to Conran Creek or keep going the nine kilometres east, to Point Ricardo, which takes approximately three hours, one way. Along the East Cape, you can walk up the beach to the Yeerung River, which takes approximately one and a half hours, one way.

From here you can keep walking west to Pearl Point or Dock Inlet.



**Pearl Point – 25km, 7 hours return**  
**Grade 4**

Recommended for the more energetic, the walk from East Cape to Pearl Point can be difficult due to the soft beach sand.

Pearl Point features spectacular sedimentary rock formations, rolling sand dunes and an abundance of seabirds and sea life. It is also a popular spot for surf fishing. This walk can also be a return walk via the Pearl Point Track.



**Dock Inlet – 20km, 5 hours return**  
**Grade 3**

Soak up the serenity of Dock Inlet, a unique land locked expanse of fresh water isolated from the coast by a coastal dune barrier. The inlet is fed by the east and west branches of Dock Creek from a pristine catchment. The shallow tannin coloured waters support a diverse range of waterfowl.

Keep an eye out for White-bellied Sea Eagles that are often seen in the area. Starting at Yeerung River Bridge, follow Pearl Point Track to Dock Inlet. This can also be a return walk via the beach to Yeerung River.



**Estuary View Walk – 1.5km, 30 minutes one way**  
**Grade 3**

Experience the rich diversity of flora and fauna found in the lower reaches of the Yeerung River. A different perspective to the river is especially noticeable at sunset and sunrise when the birds are at their most active and the water is often calm and reflections clear. The track also allows access to the coastline east of the river when the entrance is breached.



**Yeerung Gorge – 1km, 30 minutes return**  
**Grade 3**

This surprising landform harbours some unusual vegetation associations and contains several deep dark rock pools fed by the babbling Yeerung River.

You can reach the gorge, which is deeply incised into the coastal plain, by crossing the Yeerung Bridge and taking the Pearl Point Track and the East Yeerung Track to the carpark.



**Heathland Walk – 3km, 1 hour return**  
**Grade 3**

Starting near the Activities Centre opposite the office on the west side of the camp road, the walk through the heathland can be full of surprises. Many birds feed on the nectar rich plants and occasionally the threatened Ground Parrot (*Pezoporus wallicus wallicus*) may be sighted. Whilst in flower the striking spikes of Grass Trees provide a post for the rosellas to feed from. Lizards and large Lace Monitors, (known as Goannas) are common around Cape Conran.



**Swampy Creek Walk – 1.6km, 30 minutes one way**  
**Grade 3**

Starting near the Activities Centre opposite the office on the east side of the camp road, the walk passes through coastal woodland before reaching Swampy Creek and the coastline. Fed by water runoff from a vast heathland to the north, the creek can at times have high flows but during dry conditions is reduced to wet depressions fringed by lush vegetation.



**Cape Conran Nature Trail – 2.3km, 1 hour one way**  
**Grade 3**

The Cape Conran Nature Trail begins in the East Cape Day Visitor Area and continues across the Cape to the western side. The Nature Trail provides insight into the special nature of the coastal environment. From Joiners Channel and the boat ramp there is a trail around to Salmon Rocks Beach.

# Cape Conran Coastal Park

Overview



- |                 |              |           |          |               |   |                            |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|----------|---------------|---|----------------------------|
| Parking         | Picnic table | Telephone | Swimming | Highway       | 4WD                                       | Cape Conran Coastal Park   |
| Information     | Gas barbecue | Shower    | Fishing  | Main road     | Walking track                             | Marine Sanctuary           |
| Disabled access | Lookout      | Diving    | Camping  | Sealed road   | Management vehicle/<br>walking track only | Other park/reserve         |
| Toilets         | Boat ramp    | Canoeing  | Gate     | Unsealed road |   | State Forest               |
|                 |              |           |          |               |   | Area subject to inundation |

www.parks.vic.gov.au  
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# Cape Conran Coastal Park

Cape Conran Inset



Parking	Picnic table	Telephone	Swimming	Highway	4WD	Cape Conran Coastal Park
Information	Gas barbecue	Shower	Fishing	Main road	Walking track	Marine Sanctuary
Disabled access	Lookout	Diving	Camping	Sealed road	Management vehicle/ walking track only	Beach
Toilets	Boat ramp	Canoeing	Gate	Unsealed road		Campground





## East Cape Boardwalk – 400m, 15 minutes one way

Cape Conran is rich in our cultural heritage, both Indigenous and post European. The East Cape Boardwalk was a joint project of the former National Parks Service and the Moogji Aboriginal Council in Orbost. The boardwalk rounds East Cape to Cowrie Bay.

From Cowrie Bay a track links to the Nature Trail and a complete loop can be made back to the East Cape Day Visitor Area, or continue on to the West Cape and Salmon Rocks Beach.

### Banksia Bluff Cabins and Campground

Banksia Bluff Cabins and Campground are nestled within the coastal landscape and vegetation by the pristine beach of Cape Conran Coastal Park. Bookings for cabins and campsites are required in advance online at [parks.vic.gov.au](https://parks.vic.gov.au) or call 13 19 63.

Bore water from the taps is not suitable for consumption so please BYO drinking and cooking water.

Campfires are permitted within a provided Parks Victoria purpose-built campfire ring. Please ensure you understand campfire regulations and restrictions applicable. Check out the campfire and barbeque safety brochure to find out what you can and can't do <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/fire-restrictions-and-regulations>

Firewood collection or the use of chainsaws within Cape Conran Coastal Park is not permitted under section 44A, regulation 46 and 73 of the National Parks Act 1975. BYO firewood.

The Banksia Bluff office has available for purchase firewood, ice, and gas. Nearby Marlo (17km) has fuel and basic convenience supplies. Orbost (34kms) has fuel, supermarket, chemist, medical and veterinary services.

There are several cabins available for booking, and Olive-Berry Lodge which is suitable for larger group stays.

The 135 campsites are irregular and vary in size and shape, with no 2 sites the same. The natural footprint of each campsite is a feature of the bush camping experience.

Dogs are permitted in the campground subject to booking a dog friendly campsite. Dogs must always be on a lead to comply with park regulations and to protect native animals and sensitive revegetation areas. There are paralysis ticks so check your dog often.

Campground amenities include toilets and cold-water outdoor beach showers. All campsites are unpowered and the use of generators within Cape Conran Coastal Park is not permitted under section 44A, regulation 73 under the National Parks Act 1975.

## For further information

### Parks Victoria

Call 13 1963 or visit [www.parks.vic.gov.au](https://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

### Banksia Bluff Cabins and Campground

Call 13 1963 or visit [www.parks.vic.gov.au](https://www.parks.vic.gov.au)  
[infocapeconran@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:infocapeconran@parks.vic.gov.au)

Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries are areas of the sea established to protect a sample of Victoria's marine plants and animals, and their habitats.

Beware Reef, located approximately 5km offshore from Cape Conran is a Marine Sanctuary of 220 hectares. The sanctuary is known for its representation of reef environments in Victoria, its values for underwater recreation and maritime heritage.

### Wildlife

Many plants and animals are found at Cape Conran. There are interpretive panels at the Activities Centre at Cape Conran that explain some of the history of the area as well as the flora and fauna that can be found around the Cape.

During May to October whales may be sighted off the coast and dolphins are often seen surfing the waves.

### Caring for the park

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

- Stay on walking tracks to prevent erosion and damage to plants
- All native plants, animals, cultural and historic features are protected
- Your rubbish is your responsibility - carry out what you carry in
- Please do not handle or feed wildlife as it fosters dependence and may cause disease
- Respect traffic speed limits and No Parking signs

### 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.

Cape Conran Coastal Park is in the East Gippsland 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](https://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. Do not enter the Park. If you are already in the Park, leave the night before or as early as possible in the morning.

Check the latest conditions at [parks.vic.gov.au](https://parks.vic.gov.au) or by calling 13 1963.

### Orbost Visitor Information Centre

Slab Hut, 35 Nicholson Street, Orbost Vic 3888

Ph (03) 5154 2424