

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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/
walking track only | Other park/reserve |
| Toilets | Boat ramp | Canoeing | Gate | Unsealed road | | State Forest |
| | | | | | | Area subject to inundation |

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. Data source acknowledgements: State Digital Mapbase, The State of Victoria and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries. Cartography by Parks Victoria October 2018
 For mobile App search for Avenza PDF Maps



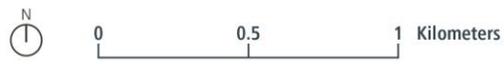
Cape Conran Coastal Park

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 |

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. Data source acknowledgements: State Digital Mapbase, The State of Victoria and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries. Cartography by Parks Victoria October 2018
 For mobile App search for Avenza PDF Maps





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.

Camping

Cape Conran has relaxed bush camping among mahogany gums in a banksia woodland.

Fireplaces, picnic shelter, bush showers and septic toilets are provided in the Banksia Bluff camp area. Borewater is available, but is not recommended for drinking. The nearest food supplies are at Marlo. Gas, wood, ice and a public phone is available from the park office.

Cabins

Each cabin is fully self-contained, including a toilet, hot shower and outdoor barbeque. A communal laundry is nearby. You need to bring pillows, sleeping gear and towels.

Additional items you might like to take include folding chairs, sturdy shoes for walking, binoculars, wet weather gear (even in summer), fishing gear (surf and estuary) and insect repellent.

During peak holiday periods, a ballot system is used to allocate cabins and campsites at Cape Conran. Camping and Accommodation bookings are required in advance. Go to www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay or call 13 1963 or the park office on (03) 5154 8438

Group accommodation

The cabin complex is ideal for schools and other groups. In addition to the cabins, Olive-berry Lodge caters for groups with its fully equipped kitchen, tables with bench seating and sleeping quarters (17 beds).

Beware Reef Marine Sanctuary

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.

For further information

Parks Victoria

Call 13 1963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

Area Name Visitor Information Centres

Parks Victoria office

171 Nicholson Street, Orbost, Vic 3888
(03) 5161 1222

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

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 www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

No fires may be lit on Total Fire Ban days. On Code Red Fire Danger Rating days this park will be closed for public safety. Do not expect an official warning. Check the latest conditions at www.parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 1963. For emergency assistance call Triple Zero (000).

Area Name Visitor Information Centres

Parks Victoria office

Cape Conran Road, PO Box 18, Marlo, Vic 3888
Ph (03) 5154 8438

Snowy River Visitor Information Centre

Slab Hut, 39 Nicholson Street, Orbost Vic 3888
Ph (03) 5154 2424