

# Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park

## Visitor Guide



Welcome to Grampians National Park, known traditionally as Gariwerd, where you can experience significant Aboriginal culture in one of Australia's most iconic natural places. Explore the natural beauty of Gariwerd, from its world famous hiking trails, majestic waterfalls, stunning spring wildflowers and awe-inspiring mountain views. Cross paths with kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas and native birds. Parks Victoria respects the deep and continuing connection that the Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung Traditional Owners have to the lands and waters of Gariwerd, and we recognise their ongoing role in caring for Country.



### Getting there

Gariwerd is located in west Victoria, a three-hour (260km) drive from Melbourne and a five-hour (460km) drive from Adelaide. Easily accessible from Halls Gap and Dunkeld and a short distance to the regional towns of Hamilton, Horsham, Stawell and Ararat.

### Things to see and do

#### Brambuk - The National Park and Cultural Centre

Make Brambuk your first stop before exploring Gariwerd. Visit the National Park information centre for the latest walking, camping and touring information. A unique range of souvenirs and park maps are available in the gift shop. The onsite café offers a selection of delicious food and drinks, with options to dine indoors or outside to enjoy nature at its finest. A series of self-guided walks through the Brambuk wetlands and native gardens provide a glimpse of the native plants and animals of Gariwerd.

Please note, the Cultural Centre building is currently closed for upgrades and these works are expected to be ongoing between 2022-2024. The information centre and café remain open. Located 2km south of Halls Gap, the centre is open daily 9am - 5pm (closed Christmas Day).

#### Bushwalking

Pick up a walking map from Brambuk - The National Park and Cultural Centre and plan a walk to match your fitness and experience. Always pack for the weather: water, food, clothes and equipment. Adjust your day to the weather conditions and have a bushfire plan.

#### Central Grampians Area

Popular walks accessible via sealed roads between Halls Gap and Wartook include Boroka Lookout, Reed Lookout, the Balconies, Lakeview Lookout and Venus Baths. More challenging half day walks include the Pinnacle, Mt Rosea and Mackenzie Falls.

#### Northern Grampians Area

Access is mainly via unsealed roads. Roses Gap Road is sealed.

Easier walks include Ngamadjudj and Gulgurn Manja Shelters, Heatherlie Quarry and Beehive Falls.

More challenging and remote hikes include Hollow Mountain (Wudjub-guyun), Mt Stapylton (Gunigalg) and Mt Difficult (Gar).

#### Southern Grampians Area

Accessed via sealed and unsealed roads. Easier walks include Baingggug (The Piccaninny), Manja Shelter, Brownings Loop and

Billimina Shelter. More challenging day walks include Mt Abrupt (Mud-dadjug), Mt Sturgeon (Wurgam) and The Chimney Pots.

#### Grampians Peaks Trail

This spectacular trail is a 164km, multi day walking experience that showcases the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. The trail is a 13 day/ 12 night hiking experience from Mt Zero in the north to Dunkeld in the south and provides many options, from overnight to multi day itineraries. For further information call into Brambuk - The National Park and Cultural Centre or visit [parks.vic.gov.au](https://parks.vic.gov.au).

#### Camping

Campgrounds with fees must be booked online prior to arriving. Visit [parkstay.vic.gov.au](https://parkstay.vic.gov.au) or call 13 1963.

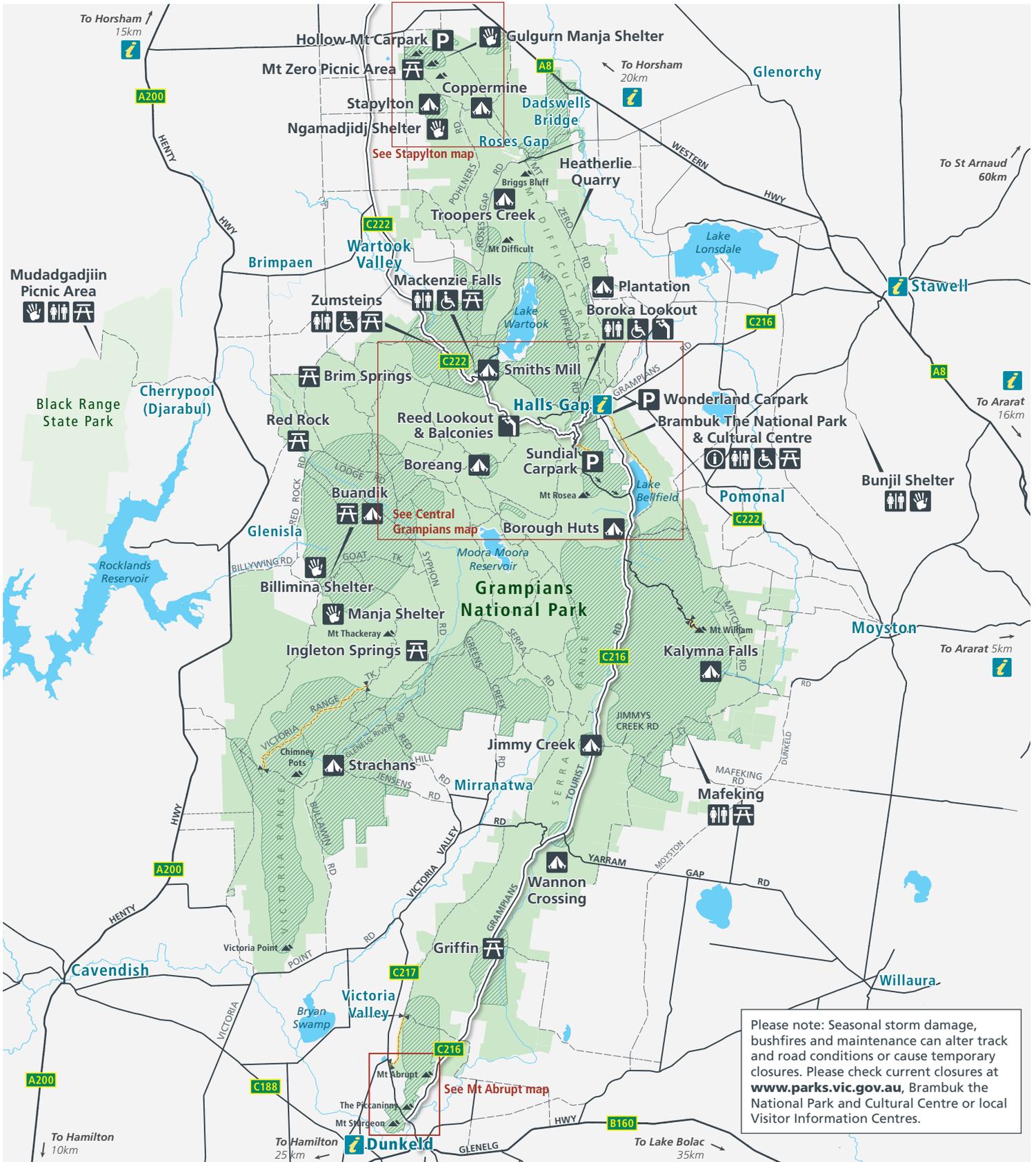
Campground	Tent	Caravan	Family	Picnic	AA	WiFi	Fee
<b>Boreang</b> Secluded, unsealed access	12	11	✓	✓	✓		✓
<b>Borough Huts</b> Popular, sealed access	30	5	✓	✓	✓		✓
<b>Buandik</b> Rock art, unsealed access	13	4	✓	✓	✓		✓
<b>Coppermine</b> Secluded 4WD access	0	4	✓	✓			✓
<b>Jimmy Creek</b> Popular, sealed access	13	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Kalymna</b> Secluded, unsealed access	5	0	✓		✓		
<b>Smiths Mill</b> Central, sealed access	22	11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Stapylton</b> Popular, unsealed access	11	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Strachans</b> Secluded, unsealed access	8	0	✓	✓	✓		✓
<b>Troopers Creek</b> Variety of sites, sealed access	9	4	✓	✓	✓		✓
<b>Wannon Crossing</b> Small, sealed access	6	1	✓	✓	✓		
<b>Plantation*</b> State Forest, unsealed access	20	30	✓	✓	✓	✓	

\*Dogs on-lead are permitted at Plantation Campground only (State forest areas).

#### Dispersed bush camping

See hatched areas on map for permitted dispersed camping zones.

- No campfires – fuel stoves only
- Do not clear vegetation – camp in clearings
- Camp at least 25m from streams and 1km from park visitor sites
- Use toilets or dig a hole at least 20cm deep (away from streams)
- Leave no trace of your visit – take all rubbish home.



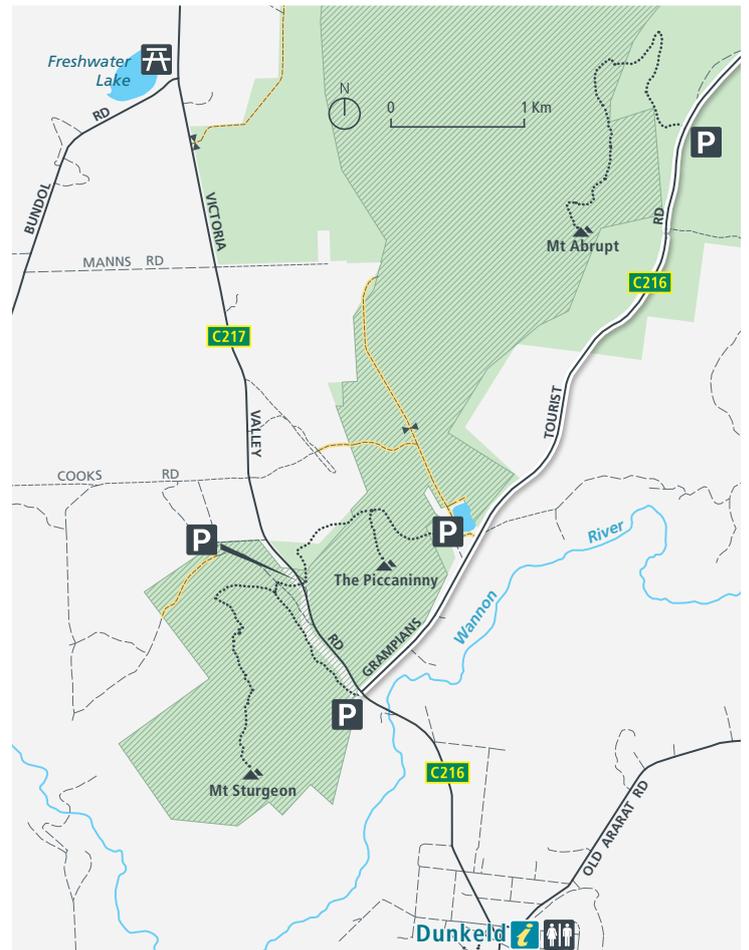
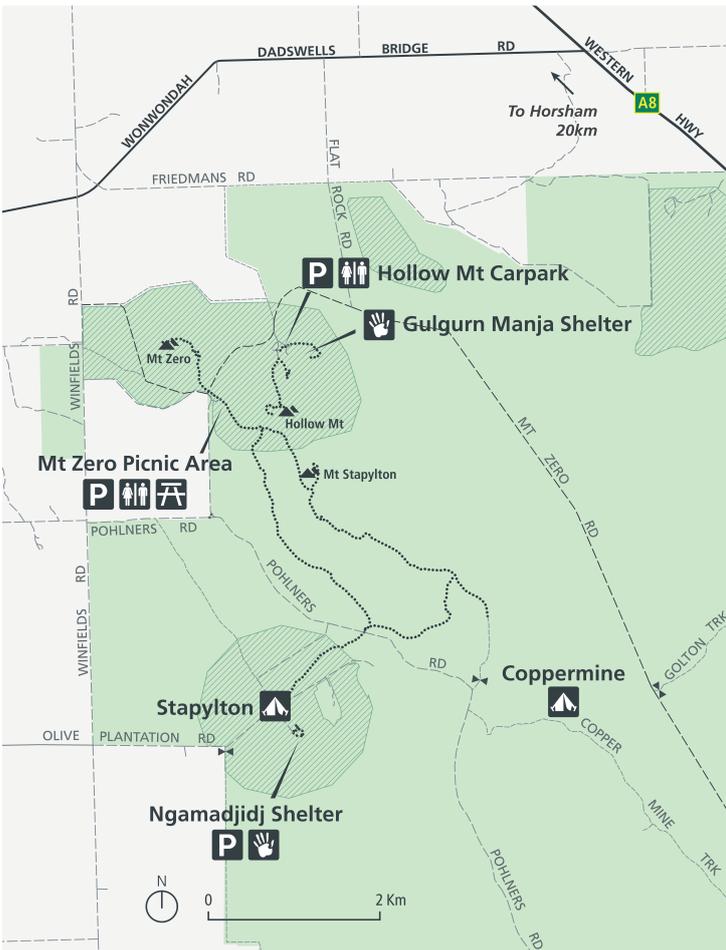
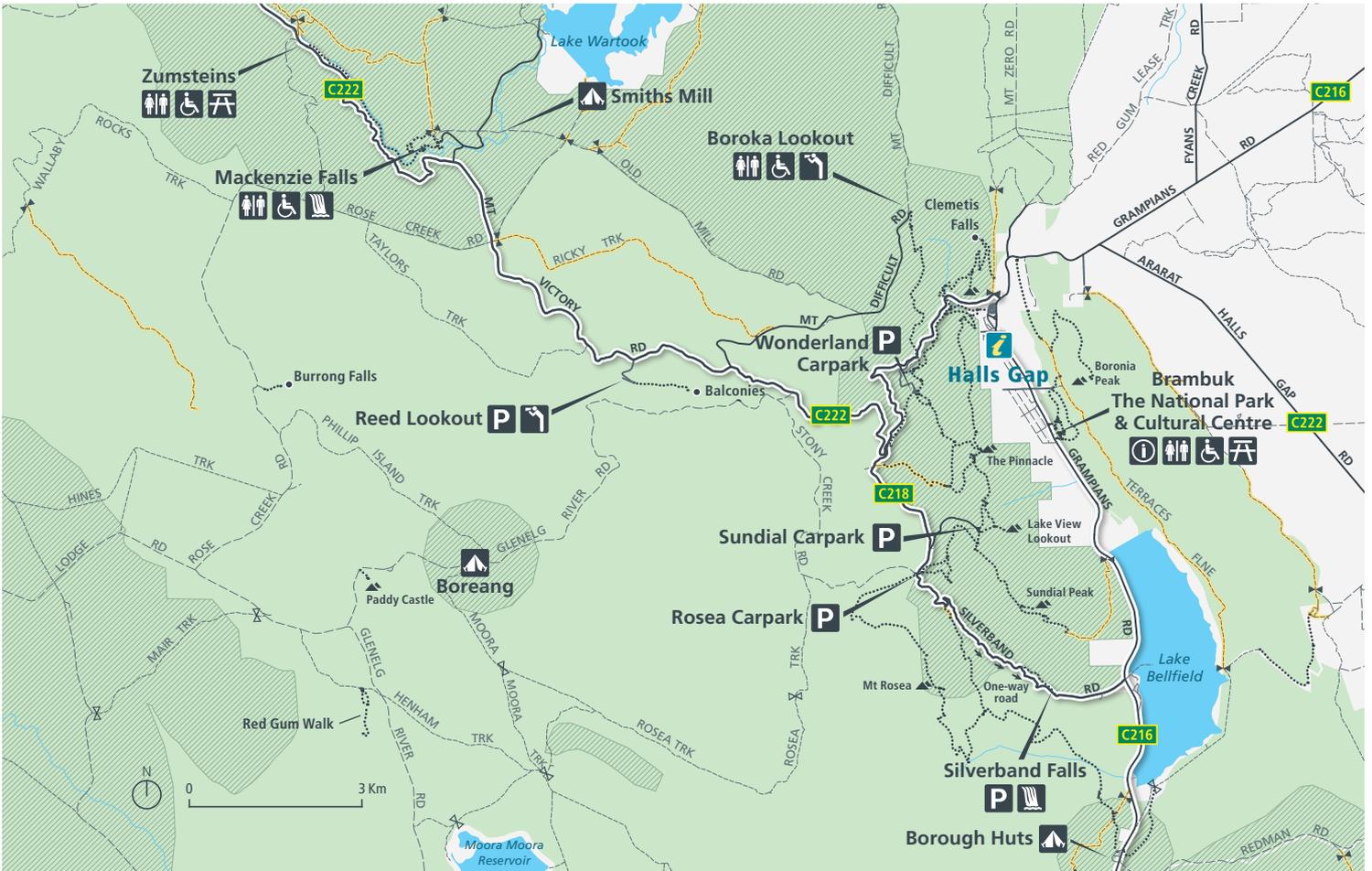
Please note: Seasonal storm damage, bushfires and maintenance can alter track and road conditions or cause temporary closures. Please check current closures at [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au), Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre or local Visitor Information Centres.

- |                 |                     |               |                             |                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Parking         | Camping             | Highway       | Main tourist roads          | Dispersed camping not permitted |
| Information     | Aboriginal site     | Main road     | Walking track               | Mountain/peak/hill              |
| Disabled access | Lookout             | Sealed road   | Management vehicles/walkers | Mgmt. vehicle gate              |
| Toilets         | Visitor Info Centre | Unsealed road | Grampians National Park     | Seasonal gate                   |
| Picnic area     |                     | 4WD track     | Other park/reserve          |                                 |



# Grampians National Park

Central Grampians, Stapylton Area, Mt Abrupt Area



## Rock climbing, abseiling and bouldering

For more than 22,000 years, Gariwerd has been the traditional lands of the Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung Peoples. The landscape contains many registered Aboriginal places and holds the richest concentration of Aboriginal rock art in Victoria. Parks Victoria and Traditional Owners developed the Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan in 2021. Opportunities for recreation, including rock climbing, have been identified in the plan.

### What do I need to do before climbing?

Information is available on the Parks Victoria website and at Brambuk - The National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap.

#### Conditions:

- Rock climbing can only occur in designated areas.
- Rock climbers are responsible for assessing and accepting the risk associated with undertaking the activity.
- Climbers are requested to minimise the use of chalk and only use chalk coloured to match the rock surface.
- A mandatory rock climbing permit is currently being developed, which will be free and available online for all rock climbers. Keep up to date on its progress at the Parks Victoria website.

## Other activities

**Road cycling and mountain biking** are permitted on public roads and open 4WD tracks. It is not permitted on closed roads or management vehicle and walking tracks.

**Fishing** is popular in surrounding lakes. Visit [vfa.vic.gov.au](http://vfa.vic.gov.au) to obtain a licence and for information on where and how to fish in Victoria.

**Swimming** areas are located at Lake Bellfield and Lake Fyans. Visit [gwmwater.org.au](http://gwmwater.org.au) for more information. **Swimming is not permitted in Mackenzie Falls due to hidden dangers including submerged rocks, deep cold water and strong currents.**

## All-abilities access and TrailRider

The 'All-Abilities Walking Track and TrailRider Guide' is available for download from [parks.vic.gov.au](http://parks.vic.gov.au) or pick up a copy at Brambuk - The National Park and Cultural Centre. A TrailRider (all-terrain wheelchair) and assistant are also available for hire free of charge. Phone 13 1963 to book.

## Environment, culture and heritage

### Aboriginal cultural heritage

The park, traditionally known as Gariwerd, has an Aboriginal cultural history dating back at least 22,000 years. The landscape holds this heritage and protects many important cultural sites, including the largest collection of rock art in south-eastern Australia. Begin your journey at Brambuk - The National Park and Cultural Centre, or visit one of five easy to access rock art shelters open to the public.

### Post settlement history

The Grampians was named after the Grampian Mountains in Scotland in 1836. Since this time, the area has seen change through resource industries such as forestry, stone quarrying, gold mining and water harvesting. Tourism was established in the early 1900s.

### Geology

The four distinct sandstone ranges of the Grampians began forming approximately 430 million years ago. Over time, geological processes such as pressure, heat, folding, faulting and erosion have slowly shaped the mountains we see today. Geology is fundamental to soil composition and influences where flora are found here.

### Plants

The park protects one third of Victoria's flora species and is the most important botanical reserve in the state. Close to 970 native species occur and over 40 are found nowhere else in the world. The area is known for its colourful spring wildflower displays and popular walks including Heatherlie area, Sundial Peak, The Piccaninny and Mt Zero.

## Wildlife

The park provides habitat for at least 230 bird, 40 mammal, 30 reptile, 11 amphibian and six native fish species. There are 50 known species in the park classified as threatened, including Brush-tailed Rock Wallabies, Smokey Mice and Powerful Owls.

## Caring for the national park

- Keep wildlife wild – do not feed native wildlife
- Take all rubbish home with you
- Campfires are only permitted in the steel fireplaces provided, otherwise use a fuel stove
- Respect other campers, keep noise down after 10pm
- Hunting, firearms, generators and chainsaws are not permitted
- Dogs and domestic pets are not permitted.



**Drone use requires a permit** as they impact wildlife, other visitors and park operations using aircraft.

## Be prepared and stay safe

### In an emergency dial triple zero (000) for police, ambulance or fire.

- At lookouts, never climb over barriers. Your safety is more important than a social media post
- Mobile phone coverage is unavailable in many areas
- Plan ahead - check for closures and road conditions
- Carry a quality map and plenty of water and food
- Wear sturdy shoes, a hat, sunscreen and carry a small first aid kit
- Plan your timing and return from walking well before dusk
- Wildlife is common along roadsides at dawn and dusk.

### Be fire ready

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. Bushfire safety is a personal responsibility. Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park is in the Wimmera and South West fire districts. 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](http://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. Warning signs may be erected, but do not expect a personal warning. Check the latest conditions at [parks.vic.gov.au](http://parks.vic.gov.au) or by calling 13 1963.

## Further information

For park information visit [parks.vic.gov.au](http://parks.vic.gov.au) or phone 13 1963.

**Local Visitor Information Centres** can assist with accommodation, dining, tours, activities, festivals and events: [visitgrampians.com.au](http://visitgrampians.com.au)

Ararat VIC	1800 657 158	or	03 5355 0281
Halls Gap VIC	1800 065 599	or	03 5361 4444
Hamilton VIC	1800 807 056	or	03 5572 3746
Horsham VIC	1800 633 218	or	03 5382 1832
Stawell VIC	1800 330 080	or	03 5355 0281
Dunkeld VIC	03 5577 2558		

## Parks and reserves nearby

Arapiles-Tooan State Park, Black Range State Park, Little Desert National Park, Mt Langi Ghiran State Park and Budj Bim National Park. For information on State Forest areas visit [delwp.vic.gov.au](http://delwp.vic.gov.au)