

# Grampians National Park (Gariwerd)

## Fauna Guide



Grampians National Park (Gariwerd) is Victoria's fourth largest National Park. The park is located in an area known as Gariwerd and is renowned for its significant diversity of fauna species. The park provides crucial habitat for at least 230 bird, 40 mammal, 30 reptile, 11 amphibian and 6 native fish species. 50 species in the park are classified as threatened, including Brush-tailed Rock Wallabies, Smokey Mice and Powerful Owls. Keep a close eye out on all levels of the park to discover some of the more common native species.

### Eastern Grey Kangaroo

Eastern Grey Kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*) live in mobs throughout the park. Excellent viewing spots include Fyan's Valley, Halls Gap recreational oval and Wartook Valley, grazing on grasses in open plains or low-lying denser scrub and forests within the park.

### Red-necked Wallaby

Red-necked Wallabies (*Macropus rufogriseus*) are commonly found at low, mid, and high altitudes. Red-necked Wallabies live in scrub and forests and are typically solitary.

### Swamp Wallaby

Swamp Wallabies (*Wallabia bicolor*) are commonly found from low to high altitudes. Swamp Wallabies are found in most areas within the park. They prefer living in scrub and forest and are typically solitary.

### Emus

Emus are common in areas where farmland meets the park, prevalent throughout the Victoria Valley, north of Lake Bellfield and avoid thickly forested regions. They feed on leaves, grasses, fruits and insects.



Eastern Pygmy Possum (*Cercartetus nanus*)



Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*)

### Water birds

Head to the southern end of Lake Bellfield to see herons, pelicans, wood ducks and a variety of shore birds. Similar sightings are available at Moora and Lake Wartook.

### Birds of prey

Wedge-tailed Eagles are a common sight in the warmer weather as they soar on the warmer air currents. Keep an eye out for Whistling Kites and Little Eagles in forests surrounding the park.

### Gliders and possums

Gliders and possums are found throughout the park. Common places include Fyan's Creek Loop, Grampians Road, Red Gum Lease and behind the football oval. Gliders usually reside in eucalypt forests, nesting in tree hollows. Possums can be found in both forest and woodland. Both are nocturnal and feed at night on insects, nectar, flowers and fruit.

## Koalas

There are no large colonies existing within the park and individual Koalas are hard to spot. They can sleep up to 20 hours at a time and feed on the leaves of eucalypt trees. Alternative parks with high populations of koalas include Budj Bim National Park and Tower Hill.

## Bat

Little Forest Bat (*Vespadelus vulturnus*), White-striped Freetail Bat (*Taladira australis*), Large Forest Bat (*Vespadelus darlingtonia*) and the Lesser Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus geoffroyi*) are species that may be observed in the park and are found commonly at Heatherlie Quarry and Fyan's Creek loop. Bats are nocturnal and the best viewing time is at dusk. Listen out for their high pitch chirp.

## Platypus

The waterways in the park tend to be seasonal and are not suitable for the Platypus. Some sightings have been done at Mackenzie River near Laharum.

## Echidna

For most of the year echidnas are solitary animals. They dig for ants and termites on the forest floor often leaving behind large holes. Echidnas take shelter by digging between rocks, hollow logs and among tree roots. The best viewing time is mornings or early evenings. Sightings are sometimes observed roadside.

## Snakes

While snakes are common, sightings are usually rare. Common species in the park include the Copperhead Snake (*Austrelaps superbus*), Eastern Tiger Snake (*Notechis scutatus*), Red-bellied Black Snake (*Pseudechis porphyriacus*) and Eastern Brown Snake (*Pseudonaja textilis*).

## Skinks and other lizards

On warm summer days Black Rock Skinks can be found basking on rocky outcrops. Along creeks keep an eye out for water skinks such as the Eastern Three Lined Skink (*Acritoscincus duperreyi*), Eastern Bearded Dragon (*Pogona barbatus*) and the occasional Lace Monitor (*Varanus varius*).



Tree goanna (*Varanus varius*)

## Further information

For further information on fauna within the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park visit the Brambuk National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap and check out the *Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park Fauna List*.

Opening hours: 9.00am - 5.00pm daily, except for Christmas Day

Address: 277 Grampians Road, Halls Gap, Victoria, 3381

Phone: 8427 2058

Email: [brambuk@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:brambuk@parks.vic.gov.au)

## Caring for country

- Please take all rubbish with you and leave no trace of your visit.
- Keep wildlife wild – do not feed the native wildlife.
- Campfires are only permitted in provided steel fireplaces.
- Generators, chainsaws and firearms are not permitted.
- Domestic pets are not permitted.

## Be prepared and stay safe

In an emergency dial 000 for police, ambulance or fire.

## Important things to know

The park has many remote areas, plan wisely before your visit:

- Mobile phone service does not exist in many areas, you may get emergency phone coverage at high elevations.
- Drinking water is not provided – bring plenty of your own.
- Creeks dry up in the warmer months and should not be relied on.
- Drive carefully on roads, wildlife regularly cross without warning.
- Walking tracks, roads and visitor sites may be closed due to fire damage, seasonal storms or maintenance.

## Be fire ready

Bushfires can occur during the warmer months. It is your responsibility to check current and forecast weather conditions.

The park is located in the **Wimmera** and **South West** fire districts.

Campfires cannot be lit on days of Total Fire Ban, however gas cookers can be used for preparing food. On catastrophic days the 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 call 1800 226 226, listen to local radio (94.1FM, 89.3FM, 91.7FM or 594AM), download the VicEmergency phone app or visit [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au)

For park conditions visit [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au) or call 13 1963.



Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*)



Red-bellied Black Snake (*Pseudechis porphyriacus*)



Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*)



Shingleback Lizard (*Tiliqua rugosa*)