



Plan and prepare

Grampians Peaks Trail

The Grampians Peaks Trail is a 160km, multi-day walk that showcases the many and varied landscapes across Grampians National Park (Gariwerd). The trail has been designed as a 13-day/12-night hiking experience from Mt Zero in the north to Dunkeld in the south, with hike-in campgrounds that have been individually designed.

A significant benefit of the Grampians Peaks Trail is that it can be accessed at many points along the track. This makes it a flexible experience for those who want to enjoy different sections of the trail. Trailheads are signposted and listed on the Parks Victoria website and the official maps for Grampians Peaks Trail. Walkers have the option of undertaking the trail independently by carrying their own equipment or using a Licensed Tour Operator to provide support, guided experiences, transport shuttles and more. Licenced Tour Operators can be found at parks.vic.gov.au

The following information, alongside the recommended Parks Victoria Grampians Peaks Trail topographic maps will help you prepare for your adventure. Parks Victoria staff at Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap can also assist you with maps and further information to help you plan your journey.

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Staying safe on the Grampians Peaks Trail

Overall, the Grampians Peaks Trail is a challenging Grade 4 walking track with remote areas. A good level of base fitness and navigation knowledge is required for all sections. Some of the more difficult sections, with long steep ascents and unmodified track surfaces, require a higher level of fitness and walking experience.

Weather

- Seasonal changes may impact how you experience the Grampians Peaks Trail. In winter, on high and exposed sections such as Mt William, Major Mitchell Plateau, Gar (Mt Difficult), Mt Rosea and Mt Abrupt can be exposed to freezing temperatures, rain and snow. In these conditions, these sections should only be attempted by hikers with a high level of fitness, walking experience and good quality 4-season equipment. In summer, very high temperatures are common, and you may need to reschedule your walk due to bushfire safety and high heat risk.
- There are many cliff edges and spectacular lookouts along the trail. Always keep a safe distance and be aware that fog and mist can hide cliff edges. Stay on the trail, watch your step and supervise children at all times.

Track conditions

- Lichen, algae and moss are natural on rock surfaces and when wet can be extremely slippery to walk on. Please look for secure footholds and take your time when walking the trail.
- The trail has areas of uneven ground, loose rock, water crossings and is subject to natural forces that result in fallen branches and debris. Please wear suitable hiking boots and be aware of changing trail conditions.
- Some sections of the trail require walkers to crouch under rock ledges and crawl through short rock caverns, proceed slowly with caution.

Plan

- Carry an up to date Grampians Peaks Trail topographic map, follow the advice of signs and be aware of the Emergency Markers along the trail in case of an emergency.
- Mobile phone service is available at higher elevations along the Grampians Peaks Trail. At lower elevations, such as in valleys there is poor or no phone service. Carrying a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) is recommended.
- Plan the timing of your walk and don't hike in dusk or dark. If walking in poor light conditions, use appropriate lighting such as a good quality head torch.
- Walkers should carry sufficient water and not rely solely on the untreated water tanks at hike-in campgrounds.
- Have a personal bushfire plan during summer.
- Inexperienced hikers are encouraged to undertake easier and shorter sections of the trail or arrange a supported/guided hike with a Licenced Tour Operator.

Climate and weather

Grampians National Park covers 168,000 hectares. The northern section of the park is typically drier and hotter than the central and southern sections. The higher elevations are also colder and wetter than the lower elevations. Throughout the year, Mt William and the Major Mitchell Plateau (1167m in elevation) is around 8 degrees colder than in the valley (230m to 400m in elevation) and receives significantly higher rainfall between May and September.

Keeping up to date with the weather

The Bureau of Meteorology website bom.gov.au has the latest weather information. Check the weather closest to your starting location or position on the trail.

Season	Considerations
Spring (Sept, Oct, Nov) Mild variable weather Cool to cold nights	All sections of the trail recommended. Weather conditions on high and exposed sections may be wet and cold. Snow at higher elevations still possible in early Spring.
Summer (Dec, Jan, Feb) Dry landscape Hot weather High bushfire risk	December has mildest summer temperatures and maximum daylight hours. Due to bushfire risk, avoid longer walks in January and February. Choose 2 or 3-day options as the weather forecast and bushfire danger ratings can be accurately monitored. Check before you start the walk.
Autumn (March, April, May) Dry landscape Mild weather Moderate bushfire risk	April and May are the best walking seasons in Autumn. Bushfire risk still present in March. In late autumn weather conditions on high and exposed sections may be wet and cold. Snow possible on Mt William and the Major Mitchell Plateau in late-May.
Winter (June, July, August) Water in the landscape Cold conditions Snow possible at higher elevations	The coldest and wettest months of the year, with less than 10 hours of sunlight on most days. Weather conditions on high and exposed areas can include driving rain, cold strong winds, sleet and possible snow. The Major Mitchell Plateau is a harsh environment and you need 4-season clothing and equipment - best avoided by inexperienced hikers.

Water

Untreated water is available at water tanks at hike-in campgrounds and trailheads. Have a safe and reliable way to treat water for drinking. Options include bringing water to a rolling boil, cooling and drinking; chlorine or iodine tablets; handheld ultraviolet (UV) light units; and portable microfilters.

Each walker should carry at least 3 to 4 litres per day. Carrying two 1 litre water bottles and a lightweight 2 to 4 litre collapsible bladder will allow you to increase your water-carrying capacity on longer sections of the trail or in hot conditions. During summer and autumn many creeks in the park are dry and become unreliable sources of water.

Plan for emergencies

In an emergency call triple zero (000) and provide the triple zero operator with your location. This can be obtained by quoting a nearby Emergency Marker or using the Emergency Plus phone app. This allows you to see your coordinates or address and state this to the operator.



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triplezero.gov.au

Mobile phone service is available at higher elevations along the Grampians Peaks Trail. At lower elevations, such as in valleys there is poor or no phone service. Carrying a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) is recommended.

Be bushfire aware

Grampians National Park is in a bushfire area. It is important for walkers on the trail to be aware of this risk and have a bushfire plan. Before your walk:

- Visit parks.vic.gov.au for advice on managing personal bushfire risk
- Download the VicEmergency app, set a watch zone around Grampians National Park and check the upcoming fire danger ratings. The park spans across both the Wimmera and South West Total Fire Ban Districts.
- Visit bom.gov.au and check the weather forecast for the Wimmera and South West Victoria Districts. Download the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) app to keep up to date whilst on the trail.
- Check the 'Change of Condition' notifications on the Grampians National Park page at parks.vic.gov.au
- Plan to leave the park early on hot, dry and windy days as conditions may change quickly.

Booking a hike-in campground

Bookings at hike-in campgrounds are required before you start a multi-day hike. The trail itself is free to hikers but camping fees apply to stay overnight. The trail is made up of 13 day sections categorised over three areas; Northern, Central and Southern Grampians Peaks Trail. For trips planned during the popular walking seasons of spring and autumn, it is recommended to book well in advance. Research online and know what sections of the trail you wish to undertake. To book campgrounds or for further information on suggested itineraries visit parks.vic.gov.au or call 13 1963.

Hike-in campgrounds

There are 11 dedicated hike-in campgrounds along the Grampians Peaks Trail. Each campground is unique with orientation and amenities carefully designed and located to provide a great experience for hikers. They all feature basic toilet facilities and untreated water tanks and have an unpowered communal shelter or gathering area for meal preparation.

Campfires and fuel stoves

Campfires are not permitted. Only liquid fuel or gas stoves can be used on the Grampians Peaks Trail.

Tent platforms and pads

Campgrounds either have timber tent platforms or granite sand pads. Tent platforms have steel chains that can be used to secure your tent. Additional guy rope may be needed for tent vestibules or tunnel style tents. Standard timber platforms and granite sand pads are 3.5m x 3.5m.

Communal shelters and gathering areas

A communal shelter or gathering area is provided at each campground. Standard campgrounds have an enclosed communal shelter with tables, seats and a large capacity untreated water tank. Remote campgrounds have a wind protected open gathering area with picnic tables. Each campground has a solar powered USB charging station, either within the communal shelter or at the toilets (for sites without a communal shelter).

Toilets

Each campground has non-flushing toilets. Carry out all rubbish or sanitary items and don't dispose items in the toilets.

Schools and large walking groups (up to 16 people)

For schools and large walking groups undertaking sections of the trail in the Northern and Central Grampians, group camping is available close to the trail at other campgrounds in Grampians National Park. Mount Stapylton Campground (Northern Grampians) and Borough Huts and Stony Creek Campgrounds in the Wonderland Range (Central Grampians) are large purpose-built campgrounds for groups. The Southern Grampians section of the trail only has standard purpose-built hike-in campgrounds.

School groups are required to register their trip for better safety with Parks Victoria at parkconnect.vic.gov.au. For further information on group options contact Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap.

Off trail accommodation

Halls Gap and Dunkeld are key towns along the trail with a variety of accommodation for walkers including camping or roofed accommodation. For further information about off-trail accommodation go to visitgrampians.com.au.

Equipment, clothing and food

It is important to be well-prepared before your walk. Good quality lightweight equipment and clothing that is designed for multi-day bushwalking is essential for an enjoyable experience. Packing for a multi-day trip is a fine balance between too much equipment and the right amount of equipment.

Make sure you take:

- Official Grampians Peaks Trail topographic map (for North/Central/South) and compass.
- Waterproof jacket and pants, thermal layers, breathable-fabric layers, beanie, sun hat and sunscreen.
- Hiking boots or shoes with a good tread and support.
- Water and food for all meals and snacks, plus extra for an emergency. Fuel stove for cooking,
- Drinking water treatment equipment for untreated water tanks at campground.
- 3-season tent, 3-season sleeping bag, mat and cord/thin rope to attach your tent to timber tent platforms.
- Lightweight gas or liquid fuel stove, matches/lighter, cooking pot and utensils.
- Head torch with spare batteries. Useful when moving around a campground at night.
- Good quality first aid kit with snake bite bandage.
- Mobile phone with USB cable – you can recharge at campgrounds along the trail. We also recommend taking a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) for extra safety and a small radio to listen to weather or bushfire updates.
- Toilet paper, trowel and a bag to carry your rubbish.
- Waterproof pack liner to keep everything in your hiking backpack dry.

Getting to the trail

By vehicle

Halls Gap is a 3-hour (255km) drive from Melbourne and a 5.5-hour (500km) drive from Adelaide. Dunkeld is a 3-hour (270km) drive from Melbourne via the A8 Western and B160 Glenelg Highways and a 5.5-hour (510km) drive from Adelaide. The Grampians Peaks Trail passes through Halls Gap and Dunkeld and is close to the regional towns of Hamilton, Horsham, Stawell and Ararat.

The trail can be accessed at a number of locations including popular day visitor sites or minor trailheads in Grampians National Park. Some trailheads provide plenty of parking for those undertaking private vehicle shuffles, while others are only suited to a few vehicles or have no parking at all. For locations with limited or no parking, walkers are highly encouraged to organise drop-off and pick-up with a Licensed Tour Operator; see parks.vic.gov.au/LTO

By public transport

Halls Gap and Dunkeld are both accessible from Melbourne on public transport via a combination of both train and bus. For information on public transport services in Victoria visit vline.com.au

Further information and tours

Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre

Visit Brambuk in Halls Gap to help plan your trip. Parks Victoria staff can provide you with detailed trail information, official Grampians Peaks Trail topographic maps and updates on the latest park conditions. Seasonal storms, bushfire, planned burns and ongoing track maintenance can alter track conditions or cause temporary closures. Before you start your walk, check the latest park information at Brambuk.

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

Grampians Peaks Trail - Licensed Tour Operators

Licensed Tour Operators approved by Parks Victoria for the Grampians Peaks Trail can help you make the most of your Grampians Peaks Trail experience. You can choose from guiding services, pick-up/drop-off services and accommodation. For further information on these services visit parks.vic.gov.au

Accommodation surrounding Grampians National Park

There is a variety of accommodation options available in Halls Gap, Dunkeld, Dadswells Bridge, Pomonal, Wartook and the surrounding towns of Horsham, Stawell, Ararat and Hamilton. For more information go to visitgrampians.com.au or contact a local Visitor Information Centre.

Contact details

Grampians Peaks Trail and campground bookings: parks.vic.gov.au/grampianspeakstrail

Parks Victoria: parks.vic.gov.au

Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre: brambuk@parks.vic.gov.au

Grampians regional tourism: visitgrampians.com.au