



Plan and prepare

Grampians Peaks Trail

The Grampians Peaks Trail is a 164km, 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 within the Gariwerd landscape.

Walkers can experience different sections of the trail by choosing various length hikes, from one-night and multi-day hikes through to the full 13 day/ 12 night experience. The Trail can be walked independently by carrying your own equipment or using a Licensed Tour Operator to provide support such as guided experiences and transport shuttles.

The following information, alongside the recommended Parks Victoria Grampians Peaks Trail topographic maps will help you prepare. 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.

Plan and prepare

Staying safe on the Grampians Peaks Trail

The Grampians Peaks Trail is a challenging Grade 4 and 5 long distance hike, in some very remote and challenging areas of the park. It is important that hikers are experienced and have a good fitness level and navigation knowledge. Some of the more difficult sections, with long steep ascents, rough track surfaces and long days of walking, require a very high level of fitness and long-distance hiking 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, always watch your step and supervise children.

Track condition safety

- Lichen, algae and moss are natural on rock surfaces and when wet can be extremely slippery to walk on. Please look for secure footholds, watch your step 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. Always 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.
- Always carry sufficient water. Please follow the advice of how much water to carry and how to treat untreated water under the water section within this document.
- Have a personal bushfire plan during summer and learn about fire ratings and what they mean.
- Inexperienced hikers are encouraged to undertake easier and shorter sections of the trail or arrange a supported/guided hike with a Licenced Tour Operator

Water

It is important that walkers bring their own water supply prior to setting out and fill up along the route. Each walker should carry at least 4 to 6 litres per day (especially on longer sections). Carrying two 1 litre water bottles and a lightweight 2 to 4 litre collapsible bladder will help to increase your water-carrying capacity on longer sections or in hot conditions. During summer and autumn many creeks in the park are dry and become unreliable sources of water.

Water along the trail is untreated. The most reliable source of untreated water on Grampians Peaks Trail, are serviced water tanks located at selected trailheads, road crossings, access points and some hike-in campgrounds. These tanks are marked on the Grampians Peaks Trail topographic maps and are serviced regularly by Parks Victoria. Untreated water at hike-in campgrounds, is generally supplied for cooking and hand washing. When rainfall is minimal, water supply at hike-in campgrounds cannot be guaranteed. 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.

For the latest information on available water along the trail, visit parks.vic.gov.au/grampianspeakstrail or contact Parks Victoria staff at Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap.

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.

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 and heat health, avoid longer walks in January and February. Choose 2 or 3-day options with shorter days, as the weather forecast and bushfire danger ratings can be accurately monitored. Check before you start walking.
Autumn (March, April, May) Dry landscape Mild weather Moderate bushfire risk	April and May are the best walking seasons in Autumn. Bushfire risk is 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.

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.



Save the app that could save your life



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.
- During Autumn, planned burns may cause closures on the Trail. Always check the change of conditions for closures or upcoming planned burns.

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/grampianspeakstrail or call 13 1963.

Booking a overnight stay in Halls Gap

Halls Gap township is the overnight stop for day four on the Northern section and the start of the Central section. Walkers are required to book separate accommodation in Halls Gap (roofed or camp sites), go to visitgrampians.com.au, for further information (during weekends and peak times some accommodation have a 2-night minimum stay).

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 either a unpowered enclosed roof shelter or open communal area.

Campfires and fuel stoves

Campfires are not permitted at hike-in campgrounds along the Grampians Peaks Trail. 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 open 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. All campgrounds have a solar powered USB charging station, either within the communal shelter or at the toilets (for sites without a communal shelter).

Toilets

Each hike-in campground has non-flushing toilets with board walks or tracks to the main camping area. Please 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 information on group options, contact Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre.

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. There is also accommodation close to Trail near Mt Zero, Roses Gap and Pomonal. 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 trail heads and track crossings.
- 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.

Secure Food Storage

Food scraps or unsecured food can attract animals along the Grampians Peaks Trail and at hike-in campgrounds. Please ensure that your food is stored securely and that you do not leave food unattended. If you are storing food in your pack, make sure it is suitably packed in air-tight containers or sealed bags and try to avoid storing packs in tents overnight, this can attract animals that may damage your tent and take or ruin your food supply. To avoid attracting animals into the communal shelters at hike-in campgrounds, please leave benches clean and take food scraps and rubbish with you.

As hikers, it's our responsibility to prevent wild animals from getting the taste for human food. It disrupts their natural diet, makes them dependent on people and even poses a safety threat to us by spreading disease.

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

There are many public transport options operated by Public Transport Victoria including rail service to Ararat. Horsham and Stawell are stops for The Overland train service connecting Melbourne and Adelaide. Coach and tour operators also offer transport from Melbourne. Visit ptv.vic.gov.au or call 1800 800 007. Tullamarine International Airport Melbourne and Avalon Airport are the nearest airports.

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