

Lower Glenelg National Park



Visitor Guide

Enjoy incredibly beautiful riverside camping while walking, fishing, canoeing or exploring by 4WD. This breathtaking area features 50m high limestone cliffs stretching 15km along the Glenelg River Gorge and tranquil Glenelg River Estuary. The iconic Great South West Walk links Portland and Nelson as it passes through stunning local national, state and coastal parks.



Getting there

The park is in southwest Victoria adjoining the South Australia border – about 420km from Melbourne and 490km from Adelaide. There is good access to most points by vehicle or on foot.

Caring for Country

‘Ngatanwarr wartee pa kakay teen Gunditjmarra mirring; Welcome brothers and sisters to Gunditjmarra Country.

We are happy and proud to share this special place with you and ask that you take the time to look, listen and feel the Country. We ask visitors to experience and respect this Country – it holds our spirit and stories from our past, present and future’ – Gunditjmarra Elders.

Things to see and do

Walking – great opportunities

There are short walks that lead to excellent views at many locations along the Glenelg River, or enjoy a longer walk by discovering the walking tracks that are part of the Great South West walk.

Great South West Walk

250km long-distance circuit walk
greatsouthwestwalk.com

The Great South West Walk (GSWW) is an internationally acclaimed walk starting and ending at Portland. The 250km route passes through forest, heathlands, coastal cliffs and beaches of the family of parks found in this area. The GSWW takes in Cobboboonee National Park (NP), Lower Glenelg NP, Discovery Bay Coastal Park, Mt Richmond NP and Cape Nelson State Park and includes the stunning Glenelg River Gorge and the wild, spectacular wind-swept coast of Discovery Bay. Choose from short and longer walks as well as the entire experience. A map detailing the entire walk and its options is available from Visitor Information Centres at Portland and Nelson.

Princess Margaret Rose Cave and camping area

The Princess Rose Cave, visitor centre and campground area are currently closed due to safety risks. Upgrades and essential safety works are currently being planned, with the full scope of works to be completed in 2023.

Princess Margaret Rose Cave is an underground wonderland set in natural bush surroundings on the clifftops of Glenelg River and Lower Glenelg National Park. Arguably the most decorated cave per square metre in Australia, it is 2km from the South Australian border and 17km upstream from Nelson.

For further information on the Princess Margaret Rose Cave, please visit parks.vic.gov.au or call 13 1963.

Camping and picnics

All camping and picnic areas have tables, toilets and fireplaces. Campers need to pre-book and fees apply. To book national park campsites go to parks.vic.gov.au

- Nine drive-in riverside camping areas.
- Seven canoe-only camping areas.
- Five hiker-only Great South West Walk camping areas. All within one day’s walk of each other.

National Park Camp & Picnic Areas (see map)	Car Camp	Canoe Camp	GSW Walk Camp	Picnic Area
Visitor sites				
Pines Landing		✓		
Moleside		✓	✓	✓
Saunders Landing				✓
Wild Dog Bend	✓			
Pritchards	✓			
Skipworth Springs		✓		
Georges Rest		✓		
Battersbys	✓		✓	
Red Gum Landing	✓			
Forest Camp North	✓			
Forest Camp South	✓			
Wilson Hall	✓			
Sapling Creek				✓
Bowds		✓		
McLennans Punt	✓			
Pattersons		✓	✓	
Hutchessons	✓			
Sandy Waterholes				✓
Lasletts		✓		
Simsons			✓	
Glenelg Estuary*				✓
Lake Mombeong*	✓		✓	
*Discovery Bay Coastal Park				

Four-wheel driving, trail and cycling

Sealed, gravel and sandy roads provide two-wheel drive access to many areas and attractions within the park. Short walks lead to views at many locations along the Glenelg River. Bicycles, including mountain bikes, are not permitted on walking tracks including the Great South West Walk. Sandy tracks may need 4WD in summer.

River cruise

Relax by taking a river cruise or a canoe tour and discover the beauty of the river gorge along the way. Find out more, by visiting the Nelson Visitor Information Centre.

River estuary and ocean beach

A short walk to the ocean beach begins at the Ocean Beach Carpark.

The Glenelg River Estuary is home to many native and migratory bird species as well as an abundance of fish species making it a great place to go bird watching, fishing, paddling and canoeing.

Boat ramps are available to launch small boats, canoes and kayaks.

Swimming and surfing

Visit watersafety.vic.gov.au for more information.

Swimming is very popular in the river and at beaches along the coastline, however many beaches and inland rivers are exposed to hidden dangers such as currents, rips, reefs and submerged objects, debris, flooding and currents. Always swim with care and company.

Parks Victoria recommends swimming only at beaches patrolled by lifesaving services. Discovery Bay Coastal Park does not have lifesaver patrolled beaches. Red and yellow flags are displayed when beaches are patrolled by lifesavers.

Fishing

The coastline, streams and rivers in the area provide opportunities for keen anglers. The Glenelg River is popular with anglers and most visitor areas have jetties. Fishing is not permitted in marine national parks and sanctuaries. Check separate marine visitor guides for activity/boundary limits. Adults generally require a Victorian Recreational Fishing Licence, available from the Victorian Fisheries Authority at vfa.vic.gov.au or your local fishing gear outlet.

Horse riding

A wide range of roads and tracks are available for horse riding in the nearby Cobboboonee National Park and the nearby, but separate Cobboboonee Forest Park. For information on horse riding and for seasonal road closures in the area's parks visit parks.vic.gov.au

Dogs in the national park

Dogs are not permitted in Lower Glenelg National Park but are permitted nearby in Cobboboonee Forest Park. Different land managers on the coast have different dog regulations. Be sure to check signage whenever visiting other beaches and parks.

For your boating safety while on the river

Power boats must observe the speed limit signs marked in knots. These are as follows:

8 knots – generally applies from the river mouth to the upstream end of Sandy Waterholes water skiing/ power boating zone, except in the two 'water skiing/ power boating zones' and during the hours set aside for water skiing and power boating.

10 knots - from the upstream end of the Sandy Waterholes water skiing/ power boating zone to Wild Dog Bend.

5 knots - from Wild Dog Bend to downstream of Crawford River at Dartmoor.

Check your Boating Regulation Guide for specific rules and regulations that apply while operating a power boat on this river.

Move to the right side of the river when you meet another craft, unless you are heading upstream within the transit channels. Remember to keep to the right side of the transit channel.

Transit channels are 15m wide and extend along one bank of the river for the entire length of the water skiing/ power boating zone. Yellow buoys mark the entry and exit of the ski zone transit channel.

Houseboats are prohibited in the Victorian section of the river unless exempted by a permit.

Night operators must ensure navigation lights are working.

Appropriate safety equipment must be carried and/ or worn.

Do not obstruct other river users, either on the water or at the launching ramps.

Do not enter Mud Lake (near the river mouth). This is an important wildlife refuge area.

Beware of floating logs and snags along the upper reaches of the river. This may limit the use of power boats between the northern boundary of the park and Dartmoor.

Boating safety

- Do not mix alcohol and boating
- Know the boating regulations for the river
- Watch out for boats, canoes and other hazards
- Do not overload the boat
- Ensure that you are carrying or wearing the appropriate safety equipment. Refer to the State Boating Council Victorian Boating Guide for details.

Canoeing safety

Know your group's abilities and plan stages accordingly - choose sensible daily distances

- Do not mix alcohol and canoeing
- Do not canoe alone
- Do not overload your canoe
- Know the boating regulations for the river
- Ensure that participants can swim, and are wearing life jackets
- If you do capsizе, pull the canoe into the bank.

Canoes must use the transit channels when passing through the water skiing/ power boating zones.

Be prepared and stay safe

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.

Lower Glenelg National Park is in the South West 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 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.

Phone reception can be poor in the Lower Glenelg National Park. Tune in to ABC Radio on 94.1FM, 96.9FM or 594AM for emergency broadcast messages.

On Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating days, this park will be closed for public safety. Warnings signs may be erected, but do not expect a personal warning.

Check the latest conditions at parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 1963.