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| Werribee Gorge State Park  Visitor Guide |
| Displaying 500 million years of geological history, Werribee Gorge retains a wild, rugged natural beauty.  The park offers spectacular views, great opportunities for bushwalking and rock climbing, and contains some splendid plants such as the white-flowered Snowy Mint-bush and red-tinged Wedge-leaf Hopbush. |
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# Getting there

Werribee Gorge State Park is approximately 8kmwest of Bacchus Marsh via the Western Freewayand Pentland Hills Road to Myers Road, or via Ironbark Road (Ballan-InglistonRoad) from Bacchus Marsh-Balliang Road. Refer to this Visitor Guide map over page.

# Things to see and do

## Walking

Map copy and drinking water are needed. Photograph this map. Wear a hat and walking shoes with grip. Stay on signposted, named tracks and do not enter private property. Walk in either direction.

Warning: *Sections of riverside tracks may become flooded and impassable after heavy rain. Plan your walk with weather forecasts*.

 **Walk   
 Grade 3**

All of these walks are Grade 3 – moderate level of fitness, walking on uneven ground, many steps, rock hopping and steep hill sections.

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|  | 1. Short Circuit Walk – 5km, 2 hours circuit |

This track overlaps the eastern half of Werribee Gorge Circuit Walk, diverging near Eastern Viewpoint and heading down to the river and Meikles Point Picnic Area.

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|  | 2. Werribee Gorge Circuit Walk - 10km, 4.5 hours circuit |

There are no shortcuts. Allow plenty of time and daylight. Walking anticlockwise will returns you riverside along the clearly signposted track. It is steep in places with rock scrambling along sections of river-track. Start at either the Quarry or Meikles Point Picnic Area.

Excellent views are provided along the gorge rim. A 50m section of cable handrail is provided to assist walkers on tricky high angle rock above the river upstream from Meikles Point Picnic Area.

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|  | 3. Centenary Walk – 4km, 2.5 hours return |

Start at Myers or Quarry Picnic Area Carparks. Follow Werribee Gorge Circuit Walk before diverging to the right and passing through open woodland to the bridge across Myrniong Creek. After crossing the creek there is a very steep climb to the top of the James Whyte Island Reserve rewarded with panoramic views.

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|  | 4. Ironbark Gorge Walk - to Falcons Lookout   3km, 2 hours return |

Enter from the Ironbark Gorge Carpark on the Ballan-Ingliston Road. Follow the first section through the scenic Ironbark Gorge Walk before turning right onto Falcons Lookout Walk. Panoramic views of the gorge and beyond are your reward on this excellent walk.

## Rock climbing at Falcons Lookout

Falcons Lookout is a small climbing area with an east-facing cliff and is best tackled in the cooler morning to avoid afternoon sun. Solid Parks Victoria climbing anchors can be found at the top of the cliff. *This is the only area in the park where rock climbing is permitted.*

## Picnicking, paddling and rockpools

Enjoy a picnic with family and friends at MeiklesPoint or Quarry Picnic Areas. Fireplaces, picnictables and toilets are provided.   
**Inland waterways**: including rivers, creeks, lakes and dams are great for water recreation, but remember they have hidden dangers, such as submerged objects, debris, slippery rocks, flooding and strong currents. Visit [www.watersafety.vic.gov.au](http://www.watersafety.vic.gov.au) for more information.

# Exploring the history

Werribee (originally spelt ‘Wearibi’) isthought to derive from an Aboriginal wordmeaning either ‘swimming place’ or ‘backbone’. Several geological surveys completed by the 1880s recognised the geological importance ofthe gorge and it was reserved in1907 and became Werribee State Park in 1975.

# Plants and animals

Werribee Gorge is an island of nature in a cleared, farmed and developed landscape. Today it is vitally important to the survival of native plants and animals. Birdlife is prolific, with two notable species being the Wedge-tailed Eagle and the Peregrine Falcon which do not appreciate drones in their airspace. Other native wildlife present includes echidnas, koalas, platypus and kangaroos.

A permit is needed to fly drones in the park. They disrupt eagles and falcons and impact on other park visitors.

# Be prepared and stay safe

Werribee Gorge State Park is in the **Central** 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 [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au), on the VicEmergency smartphone app or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226. No fires may be lit on declared days of Total Fire Ban, however gas cookers may be used under certain conditions for food preparation.

On Code Red Fire Danger Rating days this park will be closed for public safety. Closure signs will be erected but do not expect an official warning. Check the latest conditions at [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au) or by calling 13 1963. 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. Mobile phone service does not exist in many areas of the park however you may get emergency phone coverage at high elevations. Updated September 2019