

# 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.



### Getting there

Werribee Gorge State Park is approximately 8km west of Bacchus Marsh via the Western Freeway and Pentland Hills Road to Myers Road, or via Ironbark Road (Ballan-Ingliston Road) from Bacchus Marsh-Balling 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.



#### Grade 3

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

#### 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.

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

There are no shortcuts. Allow plenty of time and daylight. Walking anticlockwise will return 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.

#### 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 Myrning Creek. After crossing the creek there is a very steep climb to the top of the James Whyte Island Reserve rewarded with panoramic views.

#### 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

This is the only area in the park where rock climbing is permitted. 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.

### Picnicking, paddling and rockpools

Enjoy a picnic with family and friends at Meikles Point or Quarry Picnic Areas. Fireplaces, picnic tables 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') is thought to derive from an Aboriginal word meaning either 'swimming place' or 'backbone'. Several geological surveys completed by the 1880s recognised the geological importance of the gorge and it was reserved in 1907 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

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. 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 Total Fire Ban days. 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 [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au) or by calling 13 1963.

September 2019

Parks Victoria

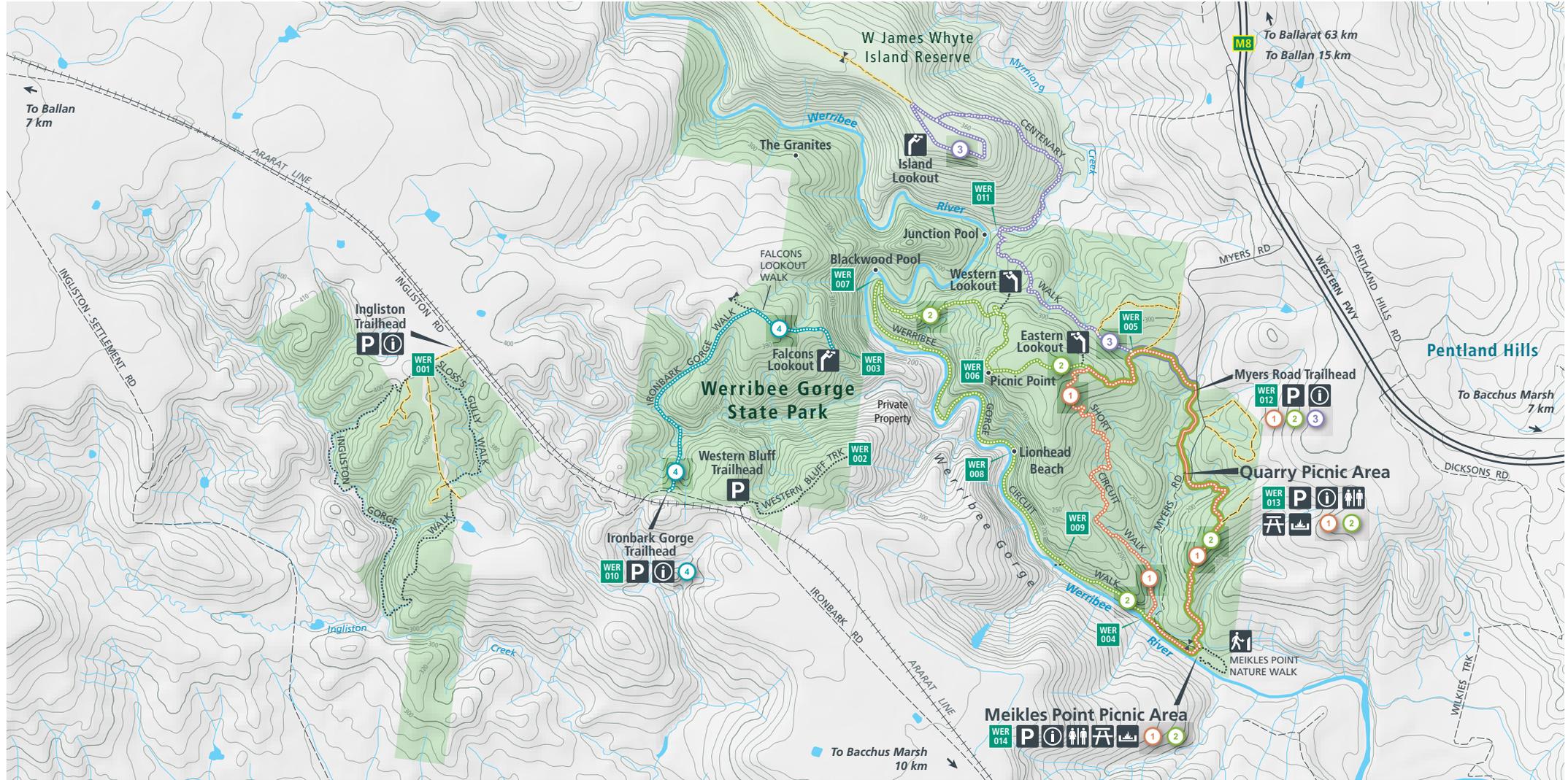
Phone 13 1963  
[www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)



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|------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <b>P</b> Parking | Fireplace        | Freeway/highway | 4WD                 | Werribee Gorge State Park | Short Circuit Walk 5km   2 hours circuit                 |
| Information      | Lookout          | Main road       | Walking track       | Other park/reserve        | Werribee Gorge Circuit Walk 10km   4.5 hours circuit     |
| Toilets          | Self-guided walk | Sealed road     | Mgmt. vehicles only | ESTA emergency marker     | Centenary Walk 4km   2.5 hours return                    |
| Picnic table     | Gate             | Unsealed road   | Railway             |                           | Ironbark Gorge/Falcons Lookout Walk 3km   2 hours return |

