

# Woodlands Historic Park

## Visitor Guide



Explore this fascinating relic of the landscape that European settlers saw in the 1840s. The park has a 150-year old homestead, Indigenous canoe trees, native woodland and grassland and plenty of kangaroo spotting opportunities.



### Opening hours

Woodlands Historic Park is open daily from 9.00am to 4.30pm. During the warmer months of Daylight Saving the opening hours are extended 7.30am to 7.30pm.

### Getting there

Woodlands Historic Park is 22km north of Melbourne CBD. Follow the Tullamarine Freeway and turn right into Oaklands Road. There are a number of entrances, although a popular place to arrive is the Somerton Road Picnic Area.

### Things to see and do

#### Woodlands Homestead and Living Legends

Woodlands Homestead offers a rare example of a large pre-fabricated timber house brought to colonial Australia from Britain. Visit the homestead to learn about its construction and significance. Just in front of the Homestead are real Living Legends! Established to bring retired champion horses back to the public, the front paddocks are home to some of Australia's finest retired racehorses. For more information visit [www.livinglegends.org.au](http://www.livinglegends.org.au)

#### Back Paddock

This section of the park is fenced to help manage and restore the 1840s character of vegetation and wildlife. Experience the wilder parts of the park away from Woodlands Homestead. Cycle or walk as you search for birds and other wildlife. Please remember to close the gates as this is a site for a recovery program for the threatened Eastern Barred Bandicoot.

#### Gellibrand Hill

Explore the granite boulders and enjoy a 360-degree view of the city, the bay, the Great Dividing Range and Melbourne Airport. Access is via walking tracks from Somerton Road Picnic Area, Woodlands Homestead and the carpark off Providence Road.

#### Picnics

Enjoy a picnic among the magnificent River Red Gums at the Somerton Road Picnic Area. Electric barbecues, tables and toilets are available. There are also shaded picnic tables outside the homestead but no barbecues.

#### Walking

The many tracks throughout the park cater for all trail enthusiasts and offer some spectacular scenery and plenty of opportunities for wildlife spotting.



#### 1 Murrup Gurrong Yan (Spiritual Creek Walk) – 2.5km, 1 hour circuit

Begin the trail by crossing the footbridge from Somerton Road Picnic Area. Follow the path with the river on your right, until the second creek crossing which loops you back to the carpark.



#### 2 Woodlands Hill Walk – 1.5km, 30 minutes return

Begin from Somerton Road Picnic Area, crossing the footbridge and continue straight, reaching a gate and continue up the hill. You will discover a peaceful vantage point with views of the area. This outlook can also be accessed from the Homestead.



#### 3 Moonee Ponds Creek Trail – 9km, 3 hours return

Begin at the Woodlands Homestead carpark, taking the right fork of the road, as you drive in. Park at the information shelter and walk through the gate, following the signs. The track takes you past billabongs to the back-paddock fence, and continues with the fence on your left, and the airport on your right. At the far corner of the fence, turn around to retrace your steps. Keep an eye out for kangaroos that are often seen grazing in this area.

### Cycling

There are plenty of trails criss-crossing the park offering opportunities for beginner and intermediate off-road cyclists. The 1.5km downhill north/south track along the eastern perimeter fence is particularly popular with cyclists. All trails within the park are shared for walkers and cyclists and some also welcome horse riders, so take care and watch out for fellow trails users.

### Horse riding

Horses are permitted in some parts of the park. Please refer to the map overleaf for more information.

### Be prepared and stay safe

Woodlands Historic 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 Extreme (or Catastrophic) Fire Danger Rating days this park will be closed for public safety. Warning 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.



- 1 Murrup Gurrong Yan (Spiritual Creek Walk)
- 2 Woodlands Hill Walk
- 3 Moonee Ponds Creek Trail



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|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------|---|---------------|
| Parking         | Dogs on lead permitted | Tower                | Unsealed road                             | Park entrance |
| Information     | Horsingriding          | Dogs not permitted   | Fuel break                                | Gate          |
| Disabled access | Cycling                | Horses not permitted | Walking track                             |               |
| Toilets         | Historical site        | ESTA marker          | Management vehicle/<br>walking track only |               |
| Picnic table    | Homestead              | Freeway/Highway      | Back paddock fence                        |               |
| Barbecue        | Cafe                   | Sealed road          | Woodlands Historic Park                   |               |