

Warby-Ovens National Park



Visitor Guide

The 14,655ha Warby-Ovens National Park is characterised by three distinct vegetation communities - the granitic hills and woodlands of the Warby Range, the Box-Ironbark of the Killawarra Forest and the Redgum forest and wetlands of the unregulated Ovens Heritage River. Together they provide an important link from the alpine foothills to the Murray River protecting some of the State's most significant bushland.



The Victorian Government created Warby-Ovens National Park, along with other new and expanded parks and over 200 conservation reserves, in June 2010 to protect and enhance the remaining River Red gum forests in Victoria.

Enjoying the park

The views from Ryan's Lookout are exceptional, especially in winter with snow covered peaks in the distance.

Picnicking - Ryan's Lookout, Brien's Gorge Falls, Pine Gully and The Forest Camp have barbecue facilities and picnic tables.

Car touring - For a pleasant drive, from Ryan's Lookout follow Gerrett's Road, turn right into Adam's Road, then follow Tower Road to Boweya Road and return to Wangaratta. To visit the Killawarra Forest enter via Camp Road from Boweya Road turn right into Center Road, re-join Boweya Road via School House Road.

Fishing - Murray Cod are frequently caught in the Lower Ovens River. Most are returned to the river to ensure the ongoing survival of this iconic fish.

Boating - The lower reaches of the Ovens River offer some of the best still water canoeing in the state among a maze of channels and wetlands. With care power boats can explore the river for several kilometres upstream from Camerons Bend.

Camping - There are basic campgrounds at Wenhams Camp and The Forest Camp with pit toilets and barbecues. Large groups are asked to contact the Ranger before using the camping areas. Bring your own drinking water.

More adventurous campers will enjoy camping on the banks or the Lower Ovens River. No facilities are provided and tracks can become impassable in wet weather.

Walking - Management tracks and the open grassy understorey are ideal for easy walking. Wear sturdy footwear and always carry water on your walk, especially during hot weather.

Bike riding - Bike riding is permitted on open vehicle roads tracks and some management tracks including Pangarang Lookout Walk and Ridge Track to Mount Glenrowan. Riding is prohibited on all other walking tracks and areas affected by Cinnamon Fungus.

The Friends Walking Track may be used by both walkers and bike riders between the hours of 6pm and 11pm Monday to Sunday and 8am to 12 noon on Saturday and Sunday.

Bike riders must give way to walkers and remain on the tracks at all times.

Prospecting - A small area in the Killawarra section of the park is available for prospecting - 200 metres either side of Tarrawalla Track (between Boweya Track and a point 200 metres past the junction of the adjoining Parallel track). Prospectors may only search for gemstones, in particular the mineral Wavelite. Prospectors must hold a Miners Right or Tourist Fossicking Authority.

Be fire ready and stay safe

Many parks and forests are located in high fire risk areas. **On days of forecast Code Red Fire Danger this park will be closed for public safety.**

If you are already in the park you should leave the night before or early in the morning for your own safety.

Closure signs will be erected and rangers will patrol where possible, however you may not receive a personal warning that the park is closed so check the latest conditions by calling 13 1963 or visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au.

For up to date information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice call the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line** on **1800 240 667**.





Warby - Ovens National Park

- Highway
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Vehicle track
- Management vehicles only track
- Walking track
- Gate
- National Park
- Other Park / Reserve
- Other Public Land
- Reference Area - No Public Access
- Water body

Recreational Facilities

- Camping
- Fireplace
- Lookout
- Park information
- Picnic table
- Self-guided walk
- Toilets

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For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre
Call 13 1963
or visit the
Parks Victoria website
www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Wangaratta Visitor
Information Centre
100 Murphy Street
Wangaratta Vic 3677
Freecall: 1800 801 065

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish away with you for recycling and disposal

All native plants and animals are protected by law. Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the park

Firearms are prohibited

Light fires only in fire places provided. No fires, including gas barbecues may be lit on a day of **Total Fire Ban**

Warby –Ovens National Park is in the **North East Total Fire Ban District**

It is your responsibility to know if it is a day of Total Fire Ban. If in doubt call the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667**

Park closures - Be prepared to leave early as **extreme weather may cause the closure of some park areas** for public safety

Avoid camping under River Red Gums as they are prone to dropping branches at any time.

Vehicles, including motor bikes, may only be used on formed open roads. Drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy

Be self-sufficient with drinking water. Carry it in and/or know how to make untreated water safe for drinking

Morgan's lookout

Major Mitchell originally named the Warby Range "Futters Range" during his travels through the area in 1836. It was later renamed after Ben Warby, who took up the 9300ha Taminick Run in 1844.

Despite its modest height (approx 515 metres) the 400 million-year-old granite range offered good vantage points to Ned Kelly and fellow bushrangers in the late 1800s. From the summit of Mount Glenrowan (Morgan's Lookout) they could easily see the comings and goings in the small town of Glenrowan.

In 1979, the Warby Range was declared a State Park in recognition of its scenic value and the diversity of plant and animal species. The park was expanded to include the Killawarra and Boweya Forests in October 2002 and the Lower Ovens River in 2010.

Walking tracks

Friends Track is a self-guided walk starting from Wenhams Camp and is a moderate 4.6km loop track taking approximately two hours to complete. There is an opportunity to divert from the track to **Kwat Kwat Lookout** (1km return) with excellent views of the Ovens Valley and the Victorian Alps. Mountain bike riders are permitted to use this track so look out for cyclists.

The Friends of the Warbys Arboretum - A walk through the Arboretum at Wenhams Camp helps visitors identify the park's diverse range of plants.

Salisbury Walk (4.5km), starting from Shanley Street, makes its way up the Salisbury Falls Gorge to Wenhams Camp via Friends Track. An alternative route via Alpine Views Track looks out over the Ovens Valley. The track is steep in places and a moderate level of fitness is required.

Sunrise Walk is a complex of tracks providing a choice of two to six kilometre walks ranging from moderate to hard. The walks start from the end of Delloro Road and climb up to the plateau to the west. During spring a variety of wildflowers beautify the area. At the start is a 1.5km return walk to a quarry where granite was obtained to build the Anglican Cathedral in Wangaratta.

Pangarang Lookout Walk begins from Ferris Road and is an easy 3km return offering panoramic views to the west.

Pine Gully Nature Walk provides a good interpretation of the park's natural values on a 2km self-guided loop walk. The walk takes about an hour to complete and is steep and rocky in places. Suitable footwear is essential.

Mt Glenrowan -There is no better place to view the Ovens and King Valley and the Victorian Alps than from this vantage point. The 9km return walk to the lookout begins from the stile at Taminick Gap and follows Ridge Track. There is one steep section of sealed road leading up to the communication towers near the start of the walk, while the remainder is moderate to easy.

A haven for plants and animals

The vegetation of the Warby Range is characterised by a mosaic of open forests and woodlands of Blakely's Redgum, Red Stringybark and a range of Box species. Small communities of White Cypress Pine occur on the western side.

To the north the black trunks of the Mugga Ironbarks in the Killawarra and Boweya Forests contrast strikingly with the granitic hills woodland of the Warby Range and the Red gum forest, billabongs and wetlands of the Lower Ovens River.

Other plant species in the park include the Austral Grass-tree, with its long "skirt" and black trunk, and the hardy Spurwinged Wattle.

Most animals in the park are nocturnal and not easy to spot during the day. You may see Swamp Wallabies or Eastern Grey Kangaroos darting off into the bush, disturbed by your vehicle or approaching footsteps. The exposed granite slabs are ideal sunning sites for a variety of reptiles. The open woodland offers plenty of habitat for birdlife including rosellas, robins, Wedge-tailed Eagles, Eastern Spinebills and White-throated Treecreepers.

The park is an important location for the survival of species such as the Squirrel Glider, Feathertail Glider, Powerful Owl, Turquoise Parrot, Carpet Python and Lace Monitor.

Waiting for the rains

Winter rains rejuvenate the Warbys, allowing the creeks and waterfalls to flow once more. With spring come the wildflowers. Nodding Blue-lily, Common Fringe-myrtle, grevilleas and orchids burst into flower to the delight of the bird and insect world.

Spring floodwaters from the mountains revive the wetlands of the Lower Ovens attracting water birds and triggering breeding of a host of aquatic wildlife.

Cinnamon Fungus - Take Care

Phytophthora cinnamomi, also known as cinnamon fungus, is a serious plant disease that destroys many native plants. It is present in the Warby Range section of the park. To help prevent the spread of the disease, avoid walking and driving in wet areas. Clean camping gear and boots before leaving the site and keep to formed tracks. For further information on Phytophthora visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au.

How to get there

Warby-Ovens National Park is 240km north east of Melbourne and 10km west of Wangaratta. It is best accessed from Wangaratta via Wangandary and Yarrowonga Roads.

Date December 2010

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