

# Great Otway National Park and Otway Forest Park

## West Otways - Kennett River to Princetown



### Marreeyn Visitor Guide

Rich with nature and heritage, this section of the park encompasses a large and diverse landscape including the undulating plains and plateaus of the hinterlands, breathtaking coastlines and ancient rainforests.

*Marreeyn* is the local Kirrae language for the Narrow Leaf Peppermint gum tree, a common species in the western area of the park. Local Indigenous communities welcome you to this special place.



*These parks provide vital homes, food and shelter for Yellow-tail black cockatoos and a huge variety of other species, including 43 species found nowhere else in the world!*

#### Enjoying the parks

Visitors to the parks can enjoy a range of activities such as camping, fishing, horse riding, touring, bushwalking, mountain bike riding, or four wheel driving.



#### Picnicking and camping

There are many beautiful places for a picnic so plan your visit to get the most out of your day. Ideal picnic spots include Lake Elizabeth, Melba Gully, Shelly Beach and Blanket Bay.

The parks offer excellent camping opportunities whether you are looking for a family friendly place to park your caravan or a solitary night under the stars. Please refer to the camping guide overleaf for further information.



#### Horse riding

Experience and enjoy the natural environment on horse back. Permits may be required for some sections of the parks.

Camping with horses is limited to areas within the Otway Forest Park. Park staff can assist you with planning your riding visit and will advise if a permit is necessary. Many open formed roads and tracks provide ideal trails that do not require a permit.

The Wonga and Barongarook areas in the Otway Forest Park are ideal for horse riding as there are a number of wide, slashed roadsides. The network of forest roads on gentle slopes is also suited to carriage driving.



#### Exploring on foot

There are a range of walks in the park which cater for all abilities. Brochures are available from Visitor Information Centres.

The spectacular Great Ocean Walk features the rugged coastline and forests of the park. Visit [www.greatoceanwalk.com.au](http://www.greatoceanwalk.com.au) or call Parks Victoria on 13 1963 to obtain an Overnight Hikers Registration Form and guidelines.

Hikers in large groups are asked to register for the Great Ocean Walk at least four weeks in advance.



#### Mountain bike riding

The Forrest area caters for all levels of mountain bike riders with over 60km of formed tracks and a 12km mountain bike loop linking Forrest, West Barwon Reservoir and Lake Elizabeth.

The Old Beechy Rail Trail provides an excellent walking or cycling experience from Colac, through hinterland towns and communities, to the top of the Beech Forest ridge. This 45km trail can be completed in shorter segments with areas suitable for beginners and more experienced walkers or cyclists.

#### Angahook Visitor Guide

Be sure to use the Great Otway National Park and Otway Forest Park Angahook Visitor Guide to assist with your visit to the east end of the parks.

#### 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 when 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.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.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.



**Four wheel driving and trail bike riding**

A range of formed tracks and roads provide four wheel drive access throughout the parks.

Parks Victoria works together with Four Wheel Drive Victoria on projects that demonstrate care and good will. If you'd like to get involved contact Four Wheel Drive Victoria on **03 9857 5209** or via their web site at [www.vafwdc.org.au](http://www.vafwdc.org.au)

**Seasonal track closures** apply to many tracks in the parks. For more details call Parks Victoria on **13 1963** or on the web at [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

*Remember always stay on the tracks and avoid muddy areas to reduce damage to the environment. Be considerate, slow down or stop for horse riders, cyclists or hikers. Parks are for everyone to enjoy.*

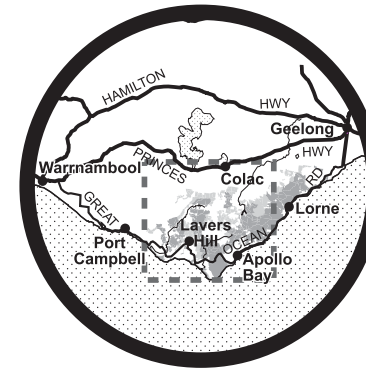
Detailed driving tour options and map guides are available from accredited Visitor Information Centres along the coast from Geelong to Nelson.

**Where can I take my dog?**

**Otway Forest Park:** Dogs must be on a lead and under direct control at all times at Stevensons Falls Camping Area, Dandos Camping Area, Beauchamp Falls Camping Area, Birnam Station Picnic Area, Loves Creek Picnic Area and Paddy's Swamp Trail Bike Visitor Area. Dogs are allowed off-lead outside these areas.

**Great Otway National Park:** Dogs are only allowed on a lead in designated dog areas within the Great Otway National Park. Please observe regulations and onsite signage on where and when you can take your dog into the park.

For further information on where you can take your dog call in to the local Visitor Information Centre or call **Parks Victoria on 13 1963**.



This map links with the Great Otway National Park and Otway Forest Park, Angahook park note.

**Toilets**

Toilets are located on the map below. Please refer to this when planning your visit.

Please respect this park and help us maintain the health of our natural environment for all visitors.

**Swimming**

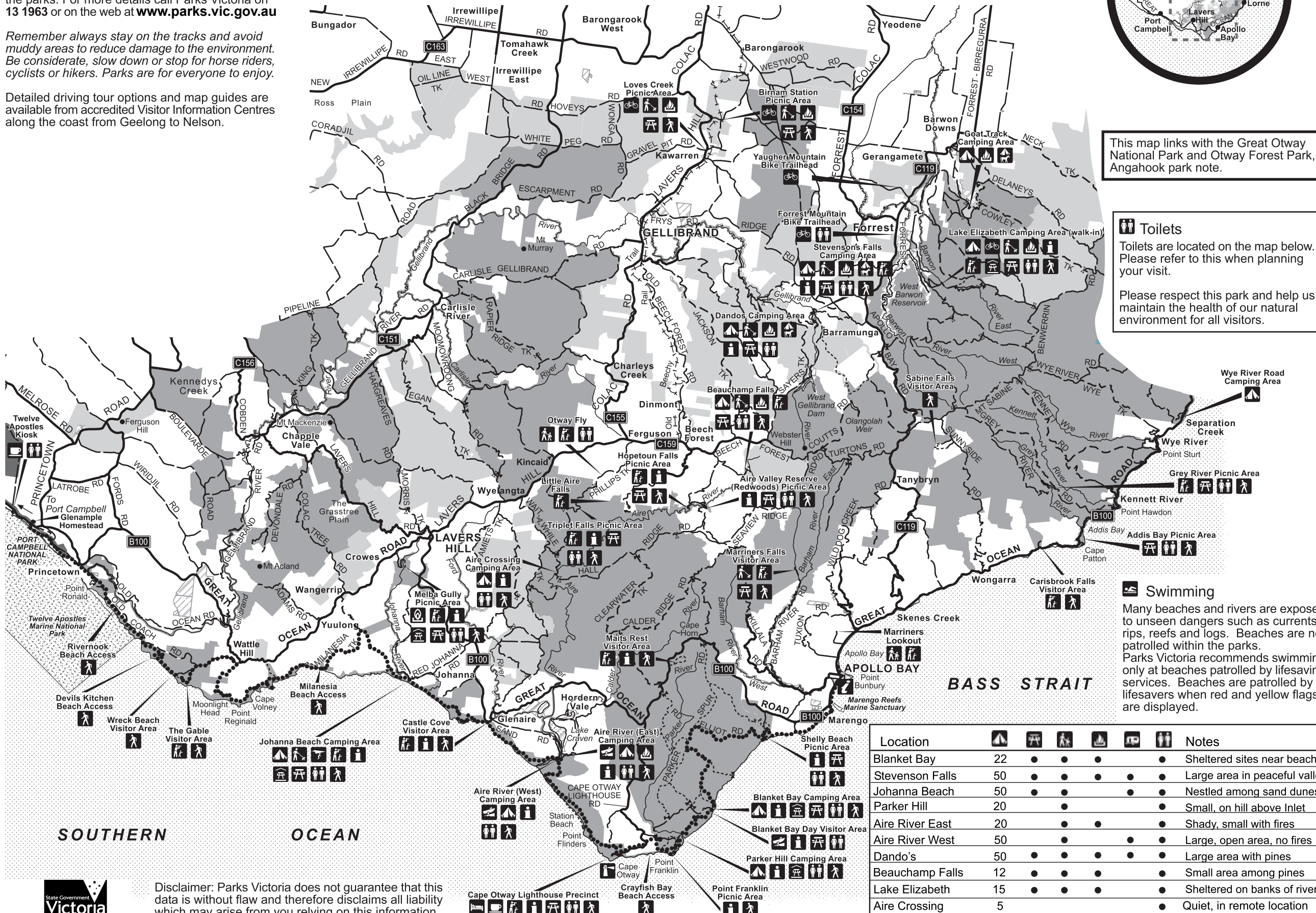
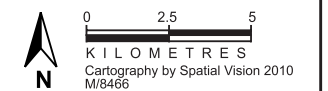
Many beaches and rivers are exposed to unseen dangers such as currents, rips, reefs and logs. Beaches are not patrolled within the parks. Parks Victoria recommends swimming only at beaches patrolled by lifesaving services. Beaches are patrolled by lifesavers when red and yellow flags are displayed.

**Great Otway National Park & Otway Forest Park Marreeyn**

- Highway
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Vehicle track
- Great Ocean Walk
- Walking track
- Old Beechy Rail Trail
- Seasonally Closed Gate
- Management Vehicle Gate
- Great Otway National Park
- Otway Forest Park
- Marine National Park / Marine Sanctuary
- Other Reserves
- Water body

**Recreational Facilities**

- Accommodation
- Bird hide
- Boat launching
- Barbecue-Gas
- Fireplace/ Barbecue-Wood
- Camping
- Horse camping
- Cafe
- Hang-/paraglider launching
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Park Information
- Picnic shelter
- Picnic table
- Toilets
- Tourist information
- Family walk
- Cycling or shared use track
- Walking track/Beach access
- Dogs on lead



Location							Notes
Blanket Bay	22	•	•	•	•	•	Sheltered sites near beach
Stevenson Falls	50	•	•	•	•	•	Large area in peaceful valley
Johanna Beach	50	•	•	•	•	•	Nestled among sand dunes
Parker Hill	20	•	•	•	•	•	Small, on hill above Inlet
Aire River East	20	•	•	•	•	•	Shady, small with fires
Aire River West	50	•	•	•	•	•	Large, open area, no fires
Dando's	50	•	•	•	•	•	Large area with pines
Beauchamp Falls	12	•	•	•	•	•	Small area among pines
Lake Elizabeth	15	•	•	•	•	•	Sheltered on banks of river
Aire Crossing	5	•	•	•	•	•	Quiet, in remote location

Disclaimer: Parks Victoria does not guarantee that this data is without flaw and therefore disclaims all liability which may arise from you relying on this information.



For further information  
Parks Victoria Information  
Centre  
Call **13 1963**  
or visit the  
Parks Victoria website  
[www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

Great Otway National Park  
PO Box 63  
Apollo Bay Vic 3233  
Visitor Information  
Centres

**Apollo Bay**  
Great Ocean Road  
Apollo Bay 3233  
Tel (03) 5237 6529

**Port Campbell**  
Port Campbell Vic 3269  
Tel (03) 5598 6089

**Colac**  
Cnr Murray and Queen St  
(Princes Hwy), Colac 3250  
Tel (03) 5231 3730

**Lorne**  
15 Mountjoy Pde  
Lorne Vic 3232  
Tel (03) 5289 1152

Caring for the  
environment  
Please take rubbish away  
with you for recycling and  
disposal.

**Fire**  
Fires may only be lit in  
fireplaces provided.  
No fires/flames, (including  
gas or fuel stoves/lanterns  
in tents) may be lit on days  
of **Total Fire Ban**.

This area of the Great  
Otway National Park and  
Otway Forest Park is in the  
**South West  
Total Fire Ban Districts**.

It is your responsibility to  
know if it is a day of Total  
Fire Ban.

If in doubt call the **Victorian  
Bushfire Information Line:**  
**1800 240 667.**

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

Mobile Phones  
CAUTION: You may not be  
in mobile phone network  
range in some areas of the  
park

### Healthy Parks Healthy People

Visiting a park can improve  
your health, mind, body and  
soul. So, with over four million  
hectares of parkland available  
to Victorians, why not escape  
to a park today!



## Enjoying the parks



### Waterfalls and rainforest walks

Many of the spectacular waterfalls found in the parks are accessible by only a short stroll. Be sure to visit Triplet Falls, Hopetoun Falls, Beauchamp Falls, Stevenson Falls and Sabine Falls.

Maits Rest, Melba Gully and Triplet Falls are easy walks through ancient, cool temperate rainforests. See separate park notes for Melba Gully and Triplet Falls.



### Car touring

There are a range of opportunities to visit the parks in your car, although some roads do not provide for all-weather two wheel drive access.

A popular drive is the forest and waterfalls drive. This drive takes in Maits Rest Walk, Cape Otway Lightstation, several waterfalls and returns via Turtons Track and the Forrest-Apollo Bay Road through Skenes Creek.



### Wildlife watching

There is a wide range of wildlife habitat across the parks which gives visitors many opportunities to see wildlife in their natural surroundings.

Watch carefully for the shore nesting Hooded Plover - a small, shy bird that relies on considerate beach users to survive.

If you come across any native animals that may need assistance please call Wildlife Rescue on 0500 540 000 (24 hours).



### Fishing and hunting

The coastline, as well as a number of streams and rivers which flow through the parks, provide great opportunities for keen anglers. The Gellibrand River's upper waters are popular with anglers seeking River Blackfish and Brown Trout, as well as Black Bream near Princetown.

Fishing is not permitted in marine national parks and sanctuaries. Check separate marine park notes for activity/boundary guidelines.

*Adults generally require a Victorian Amateur Fishing Licence, available from the Department of Primary Industries at [www.dpi.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au), or your local fishing and sports store.*

Recreational hunting of pest animals and declared game species is permitted in the Otway Forest Park. Hunting pest species does not require a permit. Hunting game species requires a game licence issued by the Department of Sustainability and Environment and is only permitted during officially notified seasons.

**Firearms or ammunition are not permitted in the Great Otway National Park.**



Hooded Plover (M)



### Cape Otway Lightstation

The Cape Otway Lightstation was built in 1848 as a warning beacon for ships entering Bass Strait and was only the second lightstation to be built on the mainland. Visit the Telegraph Station, take a tour and relax in the café. Admission costs apply. Contact the lightstation on (03) 5237 9240.

## Caring for Country

The spiritual and physical connections of the four traditional language groups, Gadubanud, Kirrae Whurrong, Wathaurong, and Gulidjan people are still celebrated today.

Through their rich and diverse culture, Aboriginal people have been intrinsically connected to Country for tens of thousand of years.

Parks Victoria recognises this connection and acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities of these areas.

## A proud logging history

The Otway forests have a long logging history and have been a timber source for more than 150 years. Timber production peaked in 1961 and ceased in 2008.

### Using forest timber

While the Great Otway National Park has been established for the protection and preservation of the natural values of the area, the Otway Forest Park allows for broader activities.

Timber and other forest resources (such as seeds and foliage) - for firewood, posts and poles and decorative products can be collected under a permit in designated areas of the Otway Forest Park.

Contact the Department of Sustainability and Environment on 136 186 for further information, relevant maps, permits and resources.



## Visitor Information Centres

To fully enjoy the park be sure to visit local Visitor Information Centres and plan ahead. Accredited centres are located at Apollo Bay, Colac, Port Campbell, Lorne or Geelong (Little River) or visit [www.visitotways.com](http://www.visitotways.com) and [www.visitsurfcoast.com](http://www.visitsurfcoast.com).

## How to get there

The Great Otway National Park and Otway Forest Park are south of Melbourne via Geelong or Colac. From the west, approach via Port Campbell along the Great Ocean Road.

A daily bus service between Geelong, Lorne and Apollo Bay connects with train services to Melbourne. For timetable details call **V/Line Country Information on 13 2232.**



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