

“Victoria’s Alpine National Park protects an important part of our natural and cultural heritage, and offers an amazing range of outdoor activities in both summer and winter. But please remember we need your help to look after it for the future.”

Parks Victoria Ranger, Lachie Jackson



Mt St Bernard Hospice, 1930s

Victoria’s largest park came into being in 1989 when the Alpine National Park, which stretches all the way from central Gippsland to the NSW border, was created from several existing parks.

This magnificent national park covers 646,000 hectares, encompassing most of the state’s highest mountains and also diverse and stunningly beautiful alpine topography with ranges, wild rivers, impressive escarpments, forests and open grasslands known as high plains.

Human occupation of the Alps is long and varied. Countless generations of Aboriginal people summered in the high country, holding tribal ceremonies and feasting on protein-rich Bogong Moths.

After European exploration and settlement came gold miners, timber getters, dam-builders and graziers who ran their stock on the lush summer pastures. Today the park is chiefly renowned for unrivalled bushwalking, camping and ski touring in beautiful mountain landscapes.

“I’ve walked a lot of this park and been delighted by the feeling of being so far from civilization, in a world that seems so untouched.”

Park visitor, Lloyd Brown



Howqua Valley



Mitta Mitta



Snowy River National Park

FLORA AND FAUNA

Rare or threatened wildlife including the Mountain Pygmy-possum, the world’s only exclusively alpine marsupial, inhabits the park.

Above the tree line of twisted Snow Gums are extensive alpine herbfields, famous for their summer wildflowers.

In spring, brilliant Flame Robins hop about on snow drifts. In summer, you may encounter Swamp Wallabies, wombats, echidnas and possums. The noisy birdlife includes Gang-gang Cockatoos, Pied Currawongs and sleek Ravens.



LOOKING AFTER THE PARK

- Please leave dogs, cats and firearms at home.
- Do not drive off roads or tracks.
- Please take your rubbish away with you.
- Remember that all native plants and animals are protected.
- Choose dry campsites at least 30 metres from streams and use a portable stove, especially above or near the treeline.

- No Fires (including stoves) on **Total Fire Ban days**. Observe Fuel Stove Only areas to prevent damage to vegetation.
- Enjoy a visit to a hut but do not use them for accommodation. Always carry your own camping equipment.
- Wash up away from streams, and where toilets are not provided bury toilet waste at least 100 metres from streams.



Mount Buffalo National Park



NEARBY PARKS

Australian Alps National Parks – The Alpine National Park adjoins the magnificent Kosciuszko National Park in NSW which extends north to the ACT’s Namadji National Park. Managed co-operatively, the three parks protect most of the major alpine and sub-alpine environments of mainland Australia.

Snowy River National Park is famous for great canoeing and rafting. It is also the destination for those who appreciate magnificent forests, rugged gorges and wild riverscapes.

Baw Baw National Park is an imposing sub-alpine granite plateau, popular for cross-country skiing in winter and bushwalking in the warmer months.

Mount Buffalo National Park, established in 1898, is one of Victoria’s oldest national parks. Its rolling plateau top has gorges, waterfalls and monumental granite tors, and gives sweeping panoramic views. In winter it is popular for family skiing and snow play, and in summer for bushwalking, camping and photography.

THE BLUFF

The Bluff is a spectacular feature in the southwest of the park. The 200 metre high rocky escarpment has panoramic views from the top, reached by foot or on horseback.



MOUNT FEATHERTOP

Victoria's second highest peak can be reached by foot along one of several walking tracks. The summit affords brilliant views of the surrounding Victorian Alps.

KEY ATTRACTIONS

BRYCE GORGE

The Gorge is one of the park's most impressive features. A 5.7 km walking track goes through varying alpine ecosystems and leads to views of several waterfalls.



BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

With their network of walking tracks, the Bogong High Plains are popular in summer when the wildflowers bloom. In winter, cross-country skiing conditions are perfect. Apart from awe-inspiring views, there are historic huts to explore.



Wallace's Hut, Bogong High Plains



Be prepared for sudden adverse weather changes at *any time of year*. Always carry warm waterproof clothing, food, water, a compass and detailed maps. Always stay on roads or walking tracks. Keep groups small (4-8 people) and choose walks that suit abilities. Check for seasonal road closures on 4WD tracks between June and October.

Alpine National Park

How to get there

The park is 3 - 5 hours drive from Melbourne. It can be reached by several routes including the Great Alpine Road (B500), the Kiewa Valley Highway (C531) and the Licola Road from Heyfield.

Mt. Buller, Mt. Stirling and The Bluff are accessible from Mansfield along the Maroondah Highway.

In winter, wheel chains must be carried.



Recreational Facilities

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|
| Camping (generally includes Toilet / Fireplace) | Cross-country skiing | Park boundary |
| Historic ruins | Picnic table | Wilderness area |
| Lockout | Horsing | Major sealed road |
| Park information | Hiking / bushwalking | Minor road |
| | | Walking track |

KEY ACTIVITIES



CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Skiers can enjoy downhill runs at nearby snow resorts or go cross-country on well-groomed trails around Mt Hotham and Falls Creek. The more adventurous can try the Bogong High Plains, which have unlimited cross-country and telemark skiing opportunities.

CAR TOURING

The Great Alpine road has been sealed recently, creating a memorable touring route that traverses over 240 km of glorious scenery. Please take care on narrow mountain roads.



WALKS

The park has scope for countless short and extensive walks that give access to lookouts, historic sites and magnificent alpine wilderness. The longest is the 650 km Australian Alps Walking Track, which runs from Walhalla to Canberra.



BUSH CAMPING

Experience a night in the great outdoors at one of the park's numerous campsites, which have basic facilities. Dispersed camping is also permitted, provided camps are at least 30 metres from streams.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For details on the Alpine National Park and other Victorian national parks contact the **Parks Victoria Information Line on 13 1963**. You can also visit our website at <http://www.parks.vic.gov.au>

For information about local conditions, attractions and accommodation contact

Alpine High Country Visitor Centre, Bright	(03) 5755 2275
Australian High Country Visitor Centre, Mt Beauty	(03) 5754 3172
Bairnsdale Visitor Centre	(03) 5152 3444
Orbost Visitor Centre	(03) 5154 2424
Mansfield Visitor Centre	(03) 5775 1464
Omeo Visitor Centre	(03) 5159 1552

PARKS VICTORIA

Parks Victoria manages Victoria's national, state, regional and metropolitan parks, conservation reserves, many significant cultural assets and Melbourne's bays and major waterways.

Parks Victoria's role is to carefully preserve the natural values of the parks and other assets it manages, sensitively integrated with an unsurpassed range of outdoor visitor opportunities.

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