

Croajingolong National Park

Visitor Guide



Named after the Aboriginal people of the area, Croajingolong National Park follows the far-eastern coastline of Victoria for 100 kilometres and features eucalypt forest, rainforest and heathland. Croajingolong is a great spot for walking, remote coastal camping and all water activities.



Getting there

Croajingolong National Park in Far East Gippsland is located approximately 450km east of Melbourne and 500km south of Sydney.

The park is accessed from multiple points along the Princes Highway between Cann River and the New South Wales border. Roads to Wingan Inlet, Mueller Inlet, Thurra River and Shipwreck Creek campgrounds are unsealed and not recommended for caravans. Access is weather dependent.

Things to see and do

Walking

Throughout the park there are some delightful walks that explore the many different environments in this area, with sandy beaches, colourful heathlands, vast dune fields, tall eucalypt forests and rainforests. Many are located near the park's main campgrounds.

Saros Track 650m, 45 minutes return

Enjoy magnificent views of the coast as you follow the path to view the shipwreck of the SS Saros that ran ashore during heavy fog on its way to Sydney in 1937. The track departs from the grassy area 100m west of the Lightstation.

Dunes Walk – 4km, 2 hours return

Explore a unique landscape of soaring sand dunes towering above the Thurra River. The walk begins at the Thurra River Campground near campsite 14 and winds through coastal banksias and heathland before opening out into a network of sandy trails through the dunes.

There are no walking track markers once on the dune fields due to the constantly shifting sands, so take careful note of your return route.

Point Hicks Lightstation – 4.5km, 1.5 hours return

Experience pristine natural beauty and immerse yourself in history as you walk to the Lightstation. The walk commences at the Lightstation Reserve gate. Once at the Lightstation Car Park, a track to the left of the grassy area leads down to the monument and then up to the light tower.

Access inside the Lightstation's stone walls is limited to visitors staying in the keepers' accommodation.

Mt Everard – 6km, 3 hours return

Enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding forests and heathlands as well as Point Hicks and the dunes from a large sloping rock face

on Mt Everard. The track commences from the car park on the Mt Everard Track. To access the track, turn off the Point Hicks Rd onto Cicada Trail (4WD only), 6km north of Thurra River Campground.

Genoa Peak – 1.5km, 1 hour return

North west of Mallacoota, Genoa Peak offers magnificent views of the Wilderness Coast, the Thurra Dunes and Mallacoota Inlet. To access Genoa Peak, a gravel road from the Princes Highway leads to a picnic area, where a walking track provides access to the summit.

Clinton Rocks Walk – 8km, 4 hours return

This walk starts at Tamboon Inlet, which is only accessible by boat. Walk east along the beach to explore the giant granite boulders covered in brilliant orange lichen at Clinton Rocks. The walk boasts spectacular views of the coast, and on a clear day the Point Hicks Light Tower is visible.

Alternatively, it is possible to drive down Clifton Rocks Track and walk 150m to the beach.

Please take care, as rocks may be slippery and this area is subject to large, unexpected waves.

Wingan River Rapids – 5km, 2.5 hours return

Meander through fern gullies before winding down to the Wingan River where the track becomes narrow and in places is marked by rock cairns. Explore downstream into the rainforest or upstream into the cascading rapids. Access to the walking track is from the car park along Boundary Track.

Please take care, as rocks may be slippery when wet or unstable and rapids are not suitable for white water rafting

Rame Head – 8km, 3 hours return

This walk will take you through coastal forest. The walking track begins at the western end of Fly Cove via the Beach Access Track at Wingan Inlet and meanders over the headland, terminating at Trig Point.

Walkers are advised not to rock hop around Rame Head as access is dangerous due to high tides and sudden waves.

Lake Elusive – 6km, 2 hours return

Up to 21 metres deep, Lake Elusive is the deepest dune blocked coastal lake in Victoria. The walk commences at the small carpark on the West Wingan Road, 3km from the campground and meanders through tall eucalypt forest. At the end of the walk, visitors arrive at a white, sandy beach and have the opportunity to explore along the shoreline.

Croajonglong National Park

West



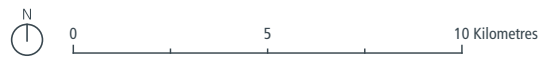
- | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Information | Accommodation | Family walk | Highway | Walking track | Croajonglong National Park |
| Toilets | Camping area | Canoeing | Main road | Management vehicle only | Other park/reserve |
| Picnic table | Boat ramp | Lighthouse | Sealed road | Seasonal closure | Marine/Coastal Park |
| Fireplace | Fuel | Waterfall | Unsealed road | Major river | Wetland |
| Lookout | Telephone | Mountain/hill | 4WD | Minor river | Area subject to inundation |

www.parks.vic.gov.au
 Disclaimer: Parks Victoria does not guarantee that this data is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability which may arise from you relying on this information. Data source acknowledgements: State Digital Mapbase. The State of Victoria and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries. Cartography by Parks Victoria March 2017
 For mobile App search for Avenza PDF Maps



Croajonglong National Park

East



Heathland Walk – 2km, 30 minutes return

The Heathland Walk commences at the Shipwreck Creek Day Visitor Area and concludes at the communal cooking area. During spring and summer there is an amazing variety of wildflowers, some of which are classified as rare or threatened. Keep your eyes open for orchids.

Shipwreck Creek to Centre Track via Old Coast Road – 6.5km, 2 hours one way

The Old Coast Road Walking Track commences at the Shipwreck Creek Day Visitor Area, travels towards Mallacoota, and concludes at a carpark on Centre Track. This walk also provides spectacular views along the Wilderness Coast as it meanders through the heathland to a Bloodwood dominant forest further inland. There are great opportunities for birdwatching.

Wilderness Coast Walk – 100km, 7 days one way

The Wilderness Coast Walk extends 100km from the Eastern Shores of Sydenham Inlet in Croajingolong National Park, to Wonboyn in the Nadgee Nature Reserve, NSW.

The walk can be accessed from a number of locations along the coastline. Two-wheel drive access is available at Bemm River, Thurra River, Wingan Inlet and Shipwreck Creek. Please check on road conditions prior to entering the park.

Parks Victoria and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service require walkers to book in order to manage numbers and minimise visitor impact on these remote areas.

Boating

There are launching ramps for boats at Karbeethong, Mallacoota, Gipsy Point, Tamboon Inlet and Bemm River, with an effluent waste disposal facility located at the Karbeethong public jetty on the Mallacoota Lakes. Small boats (maximum 20 horsepower) may be launched at Wingan Inlet.

The islands located in the Mallacoota and Tamboon Inlet's are utilised as nesting sites by coastal and wading birds. In order to provide safe and undisturbed nesting habitat, please do not land on the islands between October and February.

Canoeing

Some of Australia's best flat water canoeing can be found throughout the park on the many rivers, streams and estuaries. Sea kayaking is a challenging activity along the spectacular coastline.

Fishing

Fishing is permitted within the park (excluding Marine National Parks) and a number of different surf and estuary fish species may be caught. A Victorian Recreational Fishing Licence is required to fish in all Victorian waters.

Four-wheel driving

Several tracks lead to remote locations or create alternative touring routes through the park and adjoining state forest. Check with Parks Victoria or DELWP for updated road conditions and seasonal closures before setting out. Road closures apply to all vehicles.

Camping





There are four main camping areas in Croajingolong National Park with an additional campground at Peachtree Creek Reserve.

Camping is only permitted in the designated camping areas and is not permitted around the Mallacoota Lakes. Toilets and barbecues are provided in all campgrounds and fees apply. Mueller Inlet has no barbecues and no fires are allowed, so visitors need to bring their own gas barbecues or burner. Motorised boats are also prohibited.

Advance bookings are required for Shipwreck Creek, Wingan Inlet and Peachtree Creek campgrounds. Go to www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay or call 13 1963.

Bookings for Thurra River and Mueller Inlet campgrounds are available at www.pointhicks.com.au. All enquires to Point Hicks Lighthouse - (03) 5158 4268 or info@pointhicks.com.au.

Assistant Lightkeepers cottages are available at both Point Hicks and Gabo Island Lightstation Reserves. The nearby towns of Cann River and Mallacoota also offer campgrounds and motel accommodation.

Campground				
Thurra River	46	✓	✓	✓
Mueller Inlet	8	✓	Gass fires only	
Peachtree Creek	11	✓	✓	
Wingan Inlet	23	✓	✓	✓
Shipwreck Creek	5	✓	✓	✓

Flora and fauna

Over 1000 species of native plants have been recorded in the park. Among the spectacular wildflower displays, 90 species of orchids are known to occur.

Fifty-two mammal species, 26 reptile species and 306 species of birds have been recorded. The birds represent about half of Victoria's and a third of Australia's total bird species.

Wetlands attract 40 species of migratory seabirds and waders while coastal heathlands and woodlands attract hawks, eagles and falcons. Six owl species live in the forests.

Threatened species found in the park include the Ground Parrot, Eastern Bristlebird, Smoky Mouse, Grey-headed Flying Fox and Australian Fur Seal.

Caring for the park

- All native plants, animals, cultural and historic features are protected
- Please take rubbish away with you for recycling and disposal
- Pets and firearms are not permitted
- Fires may only be lit in designated fireplaces.
- Please do not handle or feed wildlife as it fosters dependence, may cause disease and can foster aggressive behaviour.
- Road closures apply to all vehicles

Be prepared and stay safe

Fire: 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.

Croajingolong National Park is in the East Gippsland 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 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. Do not enter the Park. If you are already in the Park, leave the night before or as early as possible in the morning.

Check the latest conditions at parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 1963.

Water: Be extremely careful when paddling in areas where rivers are open to the ocean as they are often subject to strong rips and currents.

Extreme care is required when crossing entrances. Sudden waves and strong currents affect these areas.

Driving: Some access tracks are shared carriage ways, please watch for other traffic.