

Serendip Sanctuary

Visitor Guide



A wildlife oasis in the Western Volcanic Plains, this 250 hectare sanctuary is home to a rich and diverse array of birds and mammals. Come and learn about the grassland and wetland habitats that these animals call home. Serendip is an experience you will never forget.



Opening hours

Serendip Sanctuary is open from 8.00am – 4.00pm every day except for Christmas Day and Good Friday.

Getting there

Serendip Sanctuary is located at 100 Windermere Road, Lara. It is at the base of the You Yangs, 60km from Melbourne and 22km north of Geelong. It is signposted from the Princes Highway.

Things to see and do

Walking

There are four interconnecting nature trails. They are all gentle well formed tracks with no steps and wheelchair accessible. All are within walking distance from the Information Centre and each trail is no longer than two kilometres return. Refer to map page.

Wildlife Walk

Our most popular walk enables visitors to experience a close encounter with native wildlife. It is a great walk to take if you have limited time but would still like to see a large variety of wildlife.

The walk meanders past Emus and Eastern Grey Kangaroos grazing before providing you with outstanding opportunities for birdwatching from viewing areas, bird hides and flight aviaries. You may be treated to Brolgas trumpeting, Whistling Kites soaring high overhead, magnificent Yellow-billed Spoonbills wading through the shallow water, or even a glimpse of the well hidden Tawny Frogmouth as it watches you pass by.

Specially designed bird hides give you the chance to see some of the 150 species of birds that breed at, or visit, Serendip Sanctuary.

Facilities

Entry to Serendip Sanctuary is free. Guided tours are available for groups (minimum of 15 people) by appointment. Moderate fees apply for the tours. The toilet facilities in the picnic area cater for people with restricted mobility.

Drinking water is available at the picnic area.

No rubbish bins are provided – please take all rubbish away with you for recycling and disposal.

Picnics

A picnic area with free undercover electric barbecues is located next to the main visitor car park. The area has picnic tables, a shelter and toilets.

A group barbecue area with a wood fire (located within the sanctuary) may be reserved for a small fee.

Environmental Education

Serendip Sanctuary's curriculum based education program offers students an excellent opportunity to learn about the wetland and grassy woodland habitats of Victoria's Western Volcanic Plains, as well as the captive breeding of endangered native animals.

An education officer can deliver a range of activities that are adapted to meet the specific AusVELS standards or VCE outcomes (fees apply). For bookings, please contact 13 1963.

Serendip also runs a Junior Ranger program on most school holidays. For more information on the holiday program please visit www.juniorrangers.com.au Bookings are essential.

Ponding site

A ponding site and ponding equipment provide children with opportunities to catch water bugs and study their features using magnifying glasses.

Caring for the park

Walk quietly so as not to frighten the free range animals away. Be sure to walk on the designated paths and leave everything where you find it.

The animals at Serendip are native to Victoria and most of them are free to come and go as they please. They find their food in the wild. Feeding them is harmful and dangerous to them and you. It can result in diseases, aggressive behaviour and an unnatural reliance on humans for food. Please let them stay wild.

Be prepared and stay safe

Serendip Sanctuary 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.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226. No fires may be lit on Total Fire Ban days. On Code Red Fire Danger Rating days this park will be closed for public safety. Closure signs will be erected but do not expect an official warning. Check the latest conditions at www.parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 1963. 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.



Points of Interest

- 1 Carpark
- 2 Toilets (disabled access)
- 3 Public BBQ area
- 4 Eastern Barred-bandicoot project site
- 5 Group BBQ area (bookings only)
- 6 Outdoor learning centre
- 7 Information centre
- 8 Display Pond
- 9 Office
- 10 Classroom
- 11 Native Grassland

Wildlife walk - 1110m

- 12 Wildlife walk entrance gate
- 13 Kangaroo and Emu enclosure
- 14 Reptiles
- 15 Brolga
- 16 Marshland bird observation hide
- 17 Lake Serendip
- 18 Billabong bird observation hide
- 19 Freckled Duck enclosure
- 20 Pademelon walk-through
- 21 Walk-through wetland & dryland aviaries
- 22 Walk-through Wallaby enclosure
- 23 Brolga breeding enclosure
- 24 Bustard breeding enclosure

Wetland walk - 1110m

- 25 Lake view
- 26 Observation tower
- 27 Ponding site
- 28 North Arm Tea-tree bird observation hide
- 29 North Arm

Farm Dam for Wildlife Walk - 1300m

- 30 Farm dam bird observation hide
- 31 Demonstration farm dam for wildlife
- 32 Farm dam bird observation hide

Wader Walk - 1300m

- 33 Wader bird observation hide

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| Information | BBQ - Wood | Wildlife Walk | Fence |
| Toilets | Bridge | Wetland Walk | Unsealed road |
| Picnic table | Bird hide | Wader Walk | Sealed road |
| Sheltered area | Gate | Farm Dam for Wildlife Walk | Management vehicles only |
| BBQ - Electric | Native grassland | | |

