

# Great Otway National Park, Otway Forest Park

## Dogs in the Otways

Many residents and visitors to the Otways region enjoy recreation activities with dogs. This includes having their dogs with them while they go walking, camping, horse riding, cycling, fishing and picnicking.



*Hanging out with your dog in the park can be good for your mind, body and soul.*

### Enjoying the park

Great Otway National Park now provides designated areas for visitors to bring their dogs on their park visit.

Being considerate while you are in the park with your dog contributes to protecting habitat and provides a vital contribution to a healthier environment.

National parks are designed to protect fragile ecosystems so please be sure to only take your dog into the permitted areas and keep them on a lead where required.

In areas where dogs are allowed off lead owners are required to keep their dog under effective control. This includes keeping your dog within sight, trained to respond to voice commands and ensuring it does not disturb or threaten other visitors or wildlife.

There are a number of accommodation places in the Otways where people can stay with their dogs. Go to the local Visitor Information Centre for more information.

### Where can I take my dog in the Otway Forest Park?

Dogs are allowed throughout the Otway Forest Park.

Dogs must be on a lead and under direct control at all times within visitor and camping areas including 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 but please ensure that they do not disturb wildlife or other park users.

### Where can I take my dog in the Great Otway National Park?

National parks are special places declared to protect Australia's unique native flora and fauna. In order to protect these native species, dogs, cats and other introduced animals are usually not allowed in national parks. Parks Victoria has recognised the need for residents and visitors to have areas to enjoy with their dogs and ask visitors to observe regulations and signage on where and when you can take your dog into the park.

Dogs are allowed on a lead in designated areas within the Great Otway National Park. See map over page.

Dogs are allowed off-lead in two beach areas of the national park on a trial basis.

Assistance dogs for disabled visitors are permitted in the parks where visitor access is allowed.

As with other rubbish please ensure you collect your dog's droppings. Help keep our parks healthy and clean by carrying bags to collect and dispose of in a rubbish bin.



### Dog regulations

Parks provide opportunities for many activities for all people. It is important to be a responsible dog owner to ensure all park visitors enjoy their time in the park.

Dog owners face a fine for:

- bringing or allowing their dog to enter prohibited areas in the park;
- not picking up their dog's droppings;
- not having their dog on a lead where required;
- allowing their dog to cause annoyance to any person, wildlife or property including when not on a lead; and
- not registering their dog.

*Dogs found unattended will be impounded.*

### Where else can I walk my dog?

The Surf Coast Shire has printable maps on their website about where and when you can take your dog around township areas. Visit [www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au](http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au) or call **1300 610 600**.

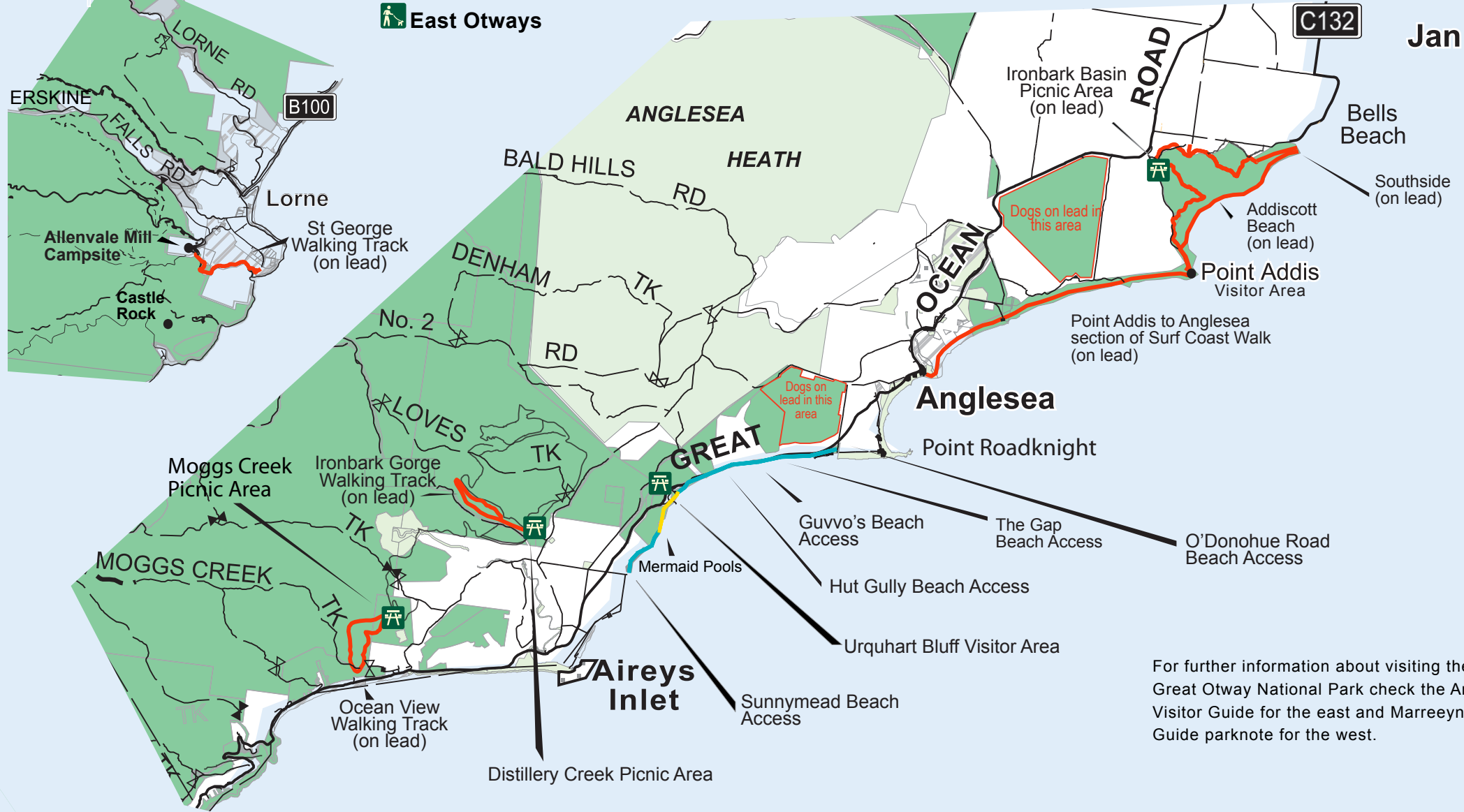
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# Great Otway National Park designated dog areas

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## East Otways

## West Otways

Dogs are permitted on a lead in the west of the Great Otway National Park in the following areas:

- Lake Elizabeth camping area and walking track
- Cape Otway Lightstation carpark
- Johanna Beach carpark, camping area and walking tracks to the beach
- Johanna Beach western section between Johanna River and western bluff
- Mariners Falls day visitor area

For further details on these locations check the Great Otway National Park Marreeyn Visitor Guide.

**Great Otway National Park and Otway Forest Park Dogs**

- Dogs on lead
- Dogs off lead
- Permitted on lead between 9am and 7pm from 1 December to end of February and Easter  
Permitted off lead at all other times
- National park

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