

Tower Hill Reserve

Visitor Guide



“A stroll among the gigantic ferns of the valley... a ramble among the cones and craters... the winding path at the foot of the basaltic rises close to the lake... almost tropical reeds rustle in the breeze... leafy shrubs and trees form delightful bowers and alcoves... tender emotion in suitable company” – notes from George Bonwick’s visit to Tower Hill in 1858.



Getting there

Tower Hill Reserve is located 18 km west of Warrnambool and can be accessed from the Princes Highway.

Things to see and do

Wildlife

Tower Hill provides a habitat for many birds and animals and is a great place to view them. You may see koalas, emus, kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas, turtles and possums, as well as many waterbirds such as magpie geese and black swans.

Volcano

Tower Hill is a dormant volcano and has remarkable geological landscape features visible from lookouts around the reserve and when walking in the park. These include conical hills, large and small craters, basalt outcrops from lava flows, and layers of ash from eruptions long ago.

Walking

Take in the sights, sounds and smells of Tower Hill on one of the four self-guided walks. All walks start near the Visitor Centre in the picnic area.



Wagon Bay Loop – 1.5km, 30 minutes circuit

This gentle walk circles Wagon Bay pond, home to bird life and with views back to the Visitor Centre. The walk is mostly flat with some steps along the way.



Journey to the Last Volcano Loop – 1.9km, some steep hills, 1 hour circuit

This moderately strenuous, undulating walk leads up to and around the most recently active volcano crater and provides good views of the park.



Lava Tongue Boardwalk – 1.6km, flat, 30 minutes circuit

This gentle walk passes the remnant rocky outcrop of an old lava flow and crosses the wetlands to Fairy Island, with some of the best natural habitat in the park. It provides excellent opportunities for birdwatching and spotting reptiles, koalas and echidnas.



Peak Climb – 1.5km, steep hills, 30 minutes return

This steep walk goes via the Yatt Mirng Crater and provides panoramic views of the park and the coast.

Tower Hill Visitor Centre

Located in the picnic area, the Visitor Centre is managed by Worn Gundidj Aboriginal Cooperative. The centre has environmental and cultural displays and offers aboriginal arts and crafts for sale, as well as light refreshments. The building, designed by renowned architect Robin Boyd, is reminiscent of the volcanic hills that surround it. It is open 10am to 4pm including weekends and public holidays except Christmas Day.

Guided Tours

Guided tours of the park featuring wildlife and Aboriginal cultural heritage are provided for individuals and groups by Worn Gundidj. Tours run daily at 11am, and other times may be arranged by appointment. Bookings are required – please enquire at the Visitor Centre on (03) 5565 9202.

Facilities

The picnic area has picnic tables, electric barbecues and toilet facilities. The visitor centre has light refreshments. There are no drinking water taps or rubbish bins available. Staying overnight in campervans, caravans or tents is not permitted.

Be prepared and stay safe

Tower Hill Reserve is in the South West 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.

Please admire but do not feed the animals – animals habituated to humans put themselves at risk, and may cause annoyance or injury to park visitors.

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| Parking | Highway | Tower Hill Reserve |
| Information | Sealed road | Waterbody |
| Lookout | Unsealed road | |
| One way road | Walking track | |