

# Grampians National Park - UPDATE



In January 2011 a significant storm and flood swept through the Grampians National Park causing damage to roads, walking tracks, campgrounds and popular visitor sites. Many areas of the National Park are closed including popular overnight hikes, including the Major Mitchell Plateau, Fortress & Wonderland overnight hikes. The Mt Difficult & Briggs Bluff is the only overnight hiking experience presently available.

## Overnight Hiking - Grampians National Park Mt Difficult & Briggs Bluff

**Start:** Troopers Creek Campground **End:** Beehive Falls Carpark  
**Distance:** 13.2km Total **Grade:** Hard  
**Recommended Map:** Northern Grampians (Outdoor Recreation Guide)

### Day One

#### Troopers Creek Campground to Briggs Bluff Hiker Campsite

**Distance:** 7.1km **Allow:** 6 hours **Elevation Change:** 500m

This walk, suitable for fit and energetic walkers, can involve water crossings, slippery track surfaces, rockhopping and rock scrambling. The walk begins as an easy stroll through forested slopes. Soon the track becomes a steep, zig zagging climb to the base of massive cliff overhangs and then weaves through a maze of weathered rock formations and boulders. Just beyond the Mt Difficult Hiker Campsite, turn left and follow the track markers over the rocky slope until you reach the summit.

Return back to the intersection and follow the track to your left along the rocky escarpment for 2.7km until you reach another intersection. From here turn left and follow the track for 300m until you reach the Briggs Bluff Hiker Campsite which is located near Mud Hut Creek.

### Day Two

#### Briggs Bluff Hiker Campsite to Beehive Falls Carpark

**Distance:** 6.1km **Allow:** 5 hours **Elevation Change:** 420m

Continue north-west beyond the Briggs Bluff Hiker Campsite for 200m and turn right and follow the track to the summit of Briggs Bluff that offers some of the most spectacular cliffline views in the northern Grampians. Return along the same route to the track intersection and follow the track towards Beehive Falls. The track descends through massive boulders and over windswept terraces to a plateau with splendid views. An unrelenting scramble over steep slopes and rock outcrops brings takes you to Beehive Falls (best after rain). Descend down the rocks to the bridge and follow the easy graded track to the Beehive Falls Carpark.

### Register your trip

- Group sizes must not exceed 12 people, with a maximum of 24 people at a Hiker Campsite per night.
- A compulsory registration system applies to this overnight hike.
- A Trip Intention Form with proposed route and emergency contact numbers need to be lodged at Brambuk the National Park & Cultural Centre in Halls Gap, well in advance of departure.
- All walkers are to report back in at the conclusion of their trip to prevent emergency response procedures being activated.

### Walking track conditions

- Track conditions may change from time to time.
- ALWAYS check current conditions when registering your walk with Brambuk the National Park & Cultural Centre.
- All walking tracks in the Grampians are marked with coloured track markers. Please remain on marked tracks only.
- Walking tracks may involve rock steps, uneven and slippery track surfaces, water crossings and rock hopping.
- There are steep cliffs throughout the Grampians, please supervise children at all times.

### Mt Difficult (Gar) & Briggs Bluff Hiker Campsite Locations

- |                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Briggs Bluff Hiker Campsite   | 294 055 GDA94 Zone 54 |
| • Mt Difficult Hiker Campsite   | 284 030 GDA94 Zone 54 |
| • Longpoint West Hiker Campsite | 293 024 GDA94 Zone 54 |
| • Longpoint East Hiker Campsite | 306 026 GDA94 Zone 54 |

### Weather

- At higher altitudes weather conditions can change rapidly at any time of year.
- Temperatures exceeding forty degrees may be experienced during Summer and Autumn.
- Strong winds, low temperatures and heavy rain-squalls are common at any time of the year.
- Snowfall and blizzards are common in Winter. Low cloud may seriously reduce visibility with little warning.

### Campfires

- Fuel stoves only in permitted hiker campsites.
- During Summer and Autumn Total Fire Bans are common; this means no fires are to be lit including portable cooking appliances.
- Always check for Total Fire Bans and fire conditions prior to your walk and carry a small radio or mobile phone.
- Being aware of a Total Fire Ban is your responsibility. Contact the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 or listen to local radio ABC or ACE Radio.

### Respect Environment and Culture

Please follow minimal impact guidelines:

- Stay on track - prevent trampling
- Use a fuel stove - it's better for the bush
- Carry it in, carry it out; don't bury or burn it
- Carry out human waste where possible, otherwise bury human waste 15 cm deep, 100m from water, campsites.

### Be safe, be prepared

- Plan your route according to your group ability and ensure all members understand emergency evacuation procedures.
- At least one member of the party should have previously completed the proposed route at the same time of the year.
- Each member of the party should carry a topographic map and a compass, and know how to navigate with them. If you are using a GPS, ensure the GPS datum is set up relevant to the map you are using.
- Check clothing, tents and other equipment prior to departure to ensure you are properly equipped.
- All members should carry good quality, waterproof, outer shell protective layers.
- Walkers should have knowledge of first aid, particularly for conditions such as sprains and strains, hypothermia and heat exhaustion.
- Do not rely on mobile phone for communication.
- Water is usually not available in Summer and Autumn.
- Each person carry 3-4 litres of water per person per day.

For further Information contact Brambuk - The National Park & Cultural Centre, Halls Gap 03 5361 4000 or call Parks Victoria Information Centre 13 1963, or visit [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

For activities and attractions in the Grampians Region visit [www.visitgrampians.com.au](http://www.visitgrampians.com.au)



Healthy Parks  
Healthy People

# Overnight Hiking - Trip Intention Form

## Grampians National Park

phone: 03 5361 4000 fax: 03 5361 4059

email: info@brambuk.com.au

- Please ensure that this form is completed, and all information is accurate.
- In filling out this form it is **YOUR responsibility** to contact Brambuk - National Park & Cultural Centre before you commence your walk to discuss details with staff. Allow more than two days in case any changes need to be made.
- To ensure you have returned safely, please contact staff again at the completion of your hike.
- The Centre is open daily from 9am to 5pm. If the Centre is closed you may leave a message on the answering machine, or place this form under the door to say that you have returned.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Hikers in group: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Track route	O/night campsite	Grid ref

Vehicles left at: \_\_\_\_\_ Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Make) \_\_\_\_\_ (Model) \_\_\_\_\_ (Colour) \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicles left at: \_\_\_\_\_ Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Make) \_\_\_\_\_ (Model) \_\_\_\_\_ (Colour) \_\_\_\_\_

### Group Carries

- |   |                                     |   |                                  |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map _____                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Compass    | <input type="checkbox"/> Spare Clothing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Matches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water _____ litres/per day | <input type="checkbox"/> EPIRB      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping Bag     | <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof Jackets         | <input type="checkbox"/> GPS        | <input type="checkbox"/> Food for __ days | <input type="checkbox"/> Torch   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tent/Tarp                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel Stove | <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit    |                                  |

Other relevant information eg: Medical Condition

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In the event of **NOT REPORTING** my return to Brambuk - The National Park & Cultural Centre by (DAY) \_\_\_\_\_ (DATE), \_\_\_\_\_

I request that you contact my emergency contact person/s:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*EMERGENCY PROCEDURES will be initiated in the event of you not reporting at the end of your trip. If you do not report the completion or cancellation of the trip, a search by local police and emergency services may be undertaken. If this occurs you could be liable for civil action for any costs involved.**

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Office Use Only</b> Trip details checked by: _____ Date: _____ <b>Discussion Tick Box</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Ban <input type="checkbox"/> Water <input type="checkbox"/> Weather <input type="checkbox"/> Not Reporting In Return confirmed: <input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> In Person <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ Signed: _____
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