

Aire Crossing

Great Otway National Park

Rising in the Otway Ranges, the Aire River snakes its way through lush forest and magical ferny groves to the crashing surf of the Southern Ocean. The Aire Crossing is a great place to camp and explore the park.



Great Otway National Park

The Great Otway National Park stretches from Torquay through to Princetown and up through the Otways hinterland towards Colac. The park features rugged coastlines, sandy beaches, rock platforms and windswept heathland. In the north, the park features tall forests, ferny gullies, magnificent waterfalls and tranquil lakes.

Getting there

The Great Otway National Park and Otway Forest Park are south of Melbourne via Geelong or Colac. From the west, approach via Port Campbell along the Great Ocean Road.

A daily bus service between Geelong, Lorne and Apollo Bay connects with train services to Melbourne. For timetable details call V/Line Country Information on 13 2232.

Things to see and do

The Great Otway National park offers a variety of activities to suit all types of visitors. Visit for the day to take in one of the many short walks and spectacular scenery, or plan a longer stay at one of the campgrounds to relax and soak up your surrounds. Launch a kayak on the Aire River for a unique perspective on this stunning landscape.

Aire Crossing Camping Area

Aire Crossing is a tranquil location, with a small campground

that has five camp sites and easy access to the magnificent Triplet Falls and the Little Aire Falls. Access is on an unsealed road and can be slippery when wet.

Walking

Exploring on foot is one of the best ways to experience the beauty of the Great Otway National Park. There are a range of walks which cater for all abilities. Brochures are available from Visitor Information Centres.

Lower Kalimna Falls – 6.0km, 2.5hrs return

This gentle walk follows the route of an old timber tramway with interpretative signs that help bring the history of the trail back to life.

Cora Lynn Cascades – 4.5km, 2hrs return

A gentle walk through lush fern gullies to stunning cascades framed amongst a backdrop of native ferns and mosses.

Great Ocean Walk

The Great Ocean Walk is one of Victoria's most sought after long distance walks, stretching from Apollo Bay to the Twelve Apostles. Each walk day is different and unique, with nature's drama unfolding at every step. It gives long-haul walkers a challenging new experience, as well as opportunities to 'step-on and step-off', with day or overnight hikes available. Hikers can choose to walk during the day and take advantage of local accommodation, or camp overnight at one of seven

purpose-built camp sites. Guided walk and transport services are also available. For more information see

www.greatoceanwalk.com.au

Waterfalls

The park is renowned spectacular waterfalls, with many accessible by only a short stroll, including Erskine, Phantom, Kalimna and Sheoak Falls in the east, and Triplet, Hopetoun, Beauchamp, and Stevenson falls in the west.

Phantom Falls

Phantom Falls is a pleasant waterfall, about 15 metres high. The falls are accessed along the St Georges River from the Allenvale Road carpark. They can be reached via a 90-minute return walk, 2 kilometres out of Lorne.

Triplet Falls

Triplet Falls is one of the iconic visitor sites in the Great Otway National Park. Nestled amongst the ancient forests of Mountain Ash and Myrtle Beech, you will discover three distinct and impressive cascades flowing through shady rainforests and glades of mossy tree ferns.

This beautiful area is set in the ancient forest and provides views into the lower cascades and the majestic main falls. A small picnic area is also available for visitors to relax and enjoy the beautiful surrounds.

Erskine Falls

Erskine Falls are at the end of Erskine Falls Road 10km north west of Lorne. There is a viewing point above the falls and a walking track, steep in places, leads to the base of the falls. The falls cascade over one of the highest drops in the Otways.

Picnics

There are many beautiful places for a picnic so plan your visit to get the most out of your day. Ideal picnic spots in the east Otways include Blanket Leaf, Sheoak, Distillery Creek, Grey River and Moggs Creek. In the west Otways ideal locations include Lake Elizabeth, Melba Gully, Shelly Beach and Blanket Bay.

Camping in the Otways

Great Otway National Park offers excellent camping opportunities, whether you are looking for a family friendly place to park your caravan or a solitary night under the stars. For detailed information about the options available to you visit the Great Otway National Park page on www.parks.vic.gov.au

Horse riding

Experience and enjoy the natural environment on horse back.

Park staff can assist you with planning your riding visit and will advise if a permit is necessary. Many open formed roads and tracks provide ideal trails that do not require a permit.

Mountain bike riding

The Forrest area caters for all levels of mountain bike riders with over 60km of formed tracks and a 12km mountain bike

loop linking Forrest, West Barwon Reservoir and Lake Elizabeth.

The Old Beechy Rail Trail provides an excellent walking or cycling experience from Colac, through hinterland towns and communities, to the top of the Beech Forest ridge. This 45km trail can be completed in shorter segments with areas suitable for beginners and more experienced walkers or cyclists.

Car touring

There are a range of opportunities to visit the parks in your car, although some roads in the Great Otway National Park and Otway Forest Park do not provide for all-weather two wheel drive access.

The following drive features the spectacular coastal scenery of the Great Ocean Road, waterfalls, picnic areas, tall mountain forests and short walks suitable for the family.

Take a drive from Lorne along the Great Ocean Road towards Kennett River and turn right along Grey River Road (keep a lookout for koalas here). Drive to the Benwerrin - Mt Sabine Road (20km), turn right and continue to Erskine Falls Road (20km) then return to Lorne. (Allow 3 hours). Delaney's Road, near Barwon Downs, provides access to the top of the main ridge of the Otways.

Another popular drive is the forest and waterfalls drive. This drive takes in Maits Rest Walk, Cape Otway Lightstation, several waterfalls and returns via Turtons Track and the Forrest-Apollo Bay Road through Skenes Creek.

Comprehensive tour maps are available from accredited Visitor Information Centres along the coast from Geelong to Nelson.

Be prepared and stay safe

Great Otway National Park is in the South West and Central Total Fire Ban Districts. Be aware of forecast Fire Danger Ratings for this fire district. No fires may be lit on days of Total Fire Ban.

On days of Code Red Fire Danger this park will be closed for public safety. Closure signs will be erected and rangers will patrol when possible, however you may not receive a personal warning that the park is closed. Check the latest conditions by calling **13 1963** or visiting www.parks.vic.gov.au

For more information

please visit the Great Otway National Park page on: www.parks.vic.gov.au