

Werribee Gorge State Park

Visitor Guide



Displaying 500 million years of geological history, Werribee Gorge retains a wild, rugged natural beauty. The park offers spectacular views, great opportunities for bushwalking and rock climbing, and contains some splendid plants such as the white-flowered Snowy Mint-bush and red-tinged Wedge-leaf Hopbush.



Getting there

Werribee Gorge State Park is approximately 8km west of Bacchus Marsh via the Western Freeway and Pentland Hills Road to Myers Road, or via Ironbark Road (Ballan-Ingliston Road) from Bacchus Marsh-Balliang Road.

Things to see and do

Walking

The park offers a variety of walking experiences to suit all ages, abilities and aspirations.



Werribee Gorge Circuit Walk – 10km, 4.5 hours circuit

Start at the Quarry or Meikles Point Picnic Area and walk in an anti-clockwise direction. This track is steep in places with some rock scrambling along the river section of the track, however excellent views are provided along the gorge rim. A cable handrail is available along a 50m section of the walk to assist walkers on high angle rock above the river. The track along the river may become impassable after heavy rain.



Short Circuit Track – 5km, 2 hours return

This track follows the same footprint as the eastern half of Werribee Gorge Circuit Walk, diverging near Eastern Viewpoint and heading down to the river and Meikles Point Picnic Area.



Falcons Lookout – 3km, 2 hours return

Panoramic views of the gorge and beyond reward on this excellent walk to Falcons Lookout. Enter from Ballan-Ingliston Road through the picturesque Ironbark Gorge.



Centenary Walk – 4km, 2.5 hours return

Start at Quarry Picnic Area and follow Werribee Gorge Circuit Walk before diverging and passing through open woodland to the bridge across Myrning Creek. After crossing the creek there is a very steep climb to the top of the James Whyte Island Reserve with panoramic views over Werribee Gorge and beyond.

Rock climbing

With an east-facing cliff, rock climbing at Falcons Lookout is best tackled in the morning to avoid the hot afternoon sun. Solid Parks Victoria anchors can be found at the top of the cliff.

This is the only area in the park available for rock climbing.

Picnicking

Enjoy a picnic with family and friends at Meikles Point or Quarry Picnic Areas. Fireplaces, picnic tables and toilets are provided.

Exploring the history

The name Werribee (originally spelt 'Wearibi') is thought to derive from an Aboriginal word meaning either 'swimming place' or 'backbone', the latter perhaps referring to the Werribee River's snake-like bends.

By the 1880s, several geological surveys had been carried out and the geological importance of the gorge was appreciated. It was reserved in 1907 and became a state park in 1975. The park has since been enlarged by the purchase of adjoining freehold land.

Plants and animals

With its ruggedness and steep slopes, Werribee Gorge has remained in a relatively natural state, making it vitally important for the preservation of native flora and fauna in a landscape that has been cleared and farmed.

Trees in the park include Red Ironbark, Grey Box, Manna Gum, Varnish, Golden Wattle and the White Cypress-pine, usually found north of the Great Dividing Range. Keep an eye out for Wedge-leaf Hopbush, Snowy Mint-bush, bush peas, groundsels and ferns.

The Gorge is home to Echidnas, Koalas, Platypuses, Swamp Wallabies and Eastern Grey Kangaroos. Birdlife is prolific, with two notable species being the mighty Wedge-tailed Eagle and the splendid Peregrine Falcon.

Be prepared and stay safe

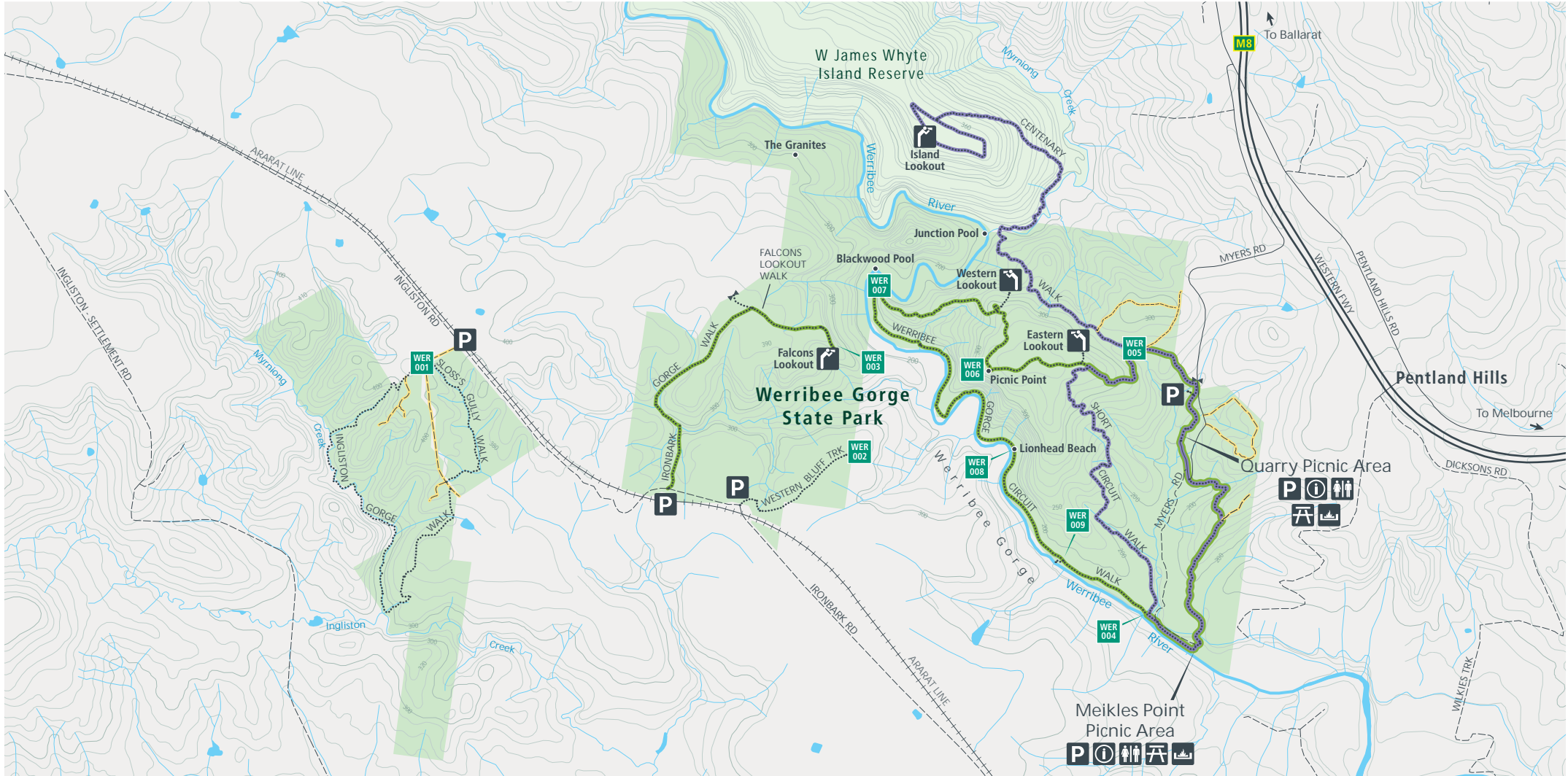
Werribee Gorge State Park is in the Central fire district. Bushfire safety is a personal responsibility. Anyone entering parks and forests during the bushfire season needs to stay aware of forecast weather conditions. Check the Fire Danger Rating and for days of Total Fire Ban at www.emergency.vic.gov.au, on the VicEmergency smartphone app 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.

Mobile phone service does not exist in many areas of the park, however you may get emergency phone coverage at high elevations.

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|  Parking |  Fireplace |  Werribee Gorge Circuit Walk |  Freeway/highway |  4WD |  Werribee Gorge State Park |
|  Information |  Lookout |  Short Circuit Walk |  Main road |  Walking track |  Other park/reserve |
|  Toilets |  Gate |  Centenary Walk |  Sealed road |  Mgmt. vehicles only |  ESTA emergency marker |
|  Picnic table | |  Ironbark Gorge Walk |  Unsealed road |  Railway | |

