

Ararat Regional Park



Visitor Guide

Close to the rural city of Ararat, this park is a wonderful place to enjoy a scenic drive, picnic, or a leisurely walk among woodland, spring wildflowers and abundant wildlife.

Three separate, easily-accessible blocks make up the park: the ancient Ararat Hills block (820ha) boasts panoramic views from Pioneer Lookout and a rich gold mining history; Dunneworthy block (2670 ha) is made up of gentle terrain to the north; and Bradys block (180ha) with its rich Ironbark forests is in the Norval-Cathcart area.



Common Correea (*Correa reflexa*)

The park is home to more than 200 native wildflower and other plant species, including 34 species of small delicate native orchids.

A rich human history

Many Indigenous people of the Ararat area descend from the *Parn Balug* clan, one of 40 clans of the *Djab wurrung* people from south-west Victoria's Gariwerd-Grampians region.

Indigenous Australians have been intrinsically connected to this Country, through their rich culture, for tens of thousands of years.

Parks Victoria recognises this connection and acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Communities of Victoria.

The early 1840s heralded the arrival of the first squatters, their flocks, religion and lifestyle. The Indigenous people's traditional lifestyle, social and cultural structures were severely affected by new diseases, land use conflict and 'payback' massacres.

Gold was discovered at Ararat in 1857, and relics of this gold mining era are evident in the numerous shallow mine shafts, a mining dam and water-races in the Ararat Hills.

Ararat's Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre gives an insight into the area's goldmining.



Prospecting and firewood

Recreational prospecting is allowed in the park – a Miner's Right is required and can be obtained from Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in Ararat. Please fill in holes leaving no trace of your visit.

Domestic firewood collection is allowed under a permit available from an authorised outlet in Ararat. Contact Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) for details - call 136 186 or visit their website www.dse.vic.gov.au



Driving and sightseeing

Drive the sealed One Tree Hill Road up to Pioneer Lookout for panoramic views of the Grampians, Mt Langi Ghiran, and Mt Cole.

Note that some park tracks are steep and unsuitable for conventional two-wheel-drive vehicles. Other tracks may become slippery in wet weather. See over for map details.



Walking and cycling

Explore the park by foot or bicycle on the extensive and well-signposted network of vehicle roads and tracks.

Stroll along the 2km loop walking track at Bridal Hill, and enjoy a picnic at Bridal Hill or Blackie Reserve.



A haven for wildlife

Significant wildlife species found in the park include the Peregrine Falcon, the threatened Powerful Owl and the vulnerable Brush-tailed Phascogale – a small, carnivorous mammal relying on hollows for shelter and breeding.

Native animals commonly seen here include kangaroos, wallabies and echidnas. Also seen are Brush-tailed possums and Sugar gliders which are most active at night.

Be fire ready and stay safe

Many parks and forests are located in high fire risk areas. On days of forecast Code Red Fire Danger this park will be closed for public safety. If you are already in the park you should leave the night before or early in the morning for your own 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 so check the latest conditions by calling 13 1963 or visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

For up to date information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.



For further information

Parks Victoria
 Information Centre
 Phone 13 1963
 or visit the website
www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Parks Victoria Stawell
 Phone 13 1963

Ararat and Grampians Visitor
 Information Centre
 Western Highway, Ararat,
 Toll Free 1800 657 158

Caring for the environment

Help us look after the park by remembering these guidelines:

Vehicles, including motorcycles, may only be used on formed open roads

Drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy

Dogs are permitted but must be under control at all times

A domestic firewood permit is required to collect and remove wood from designated areas within the park

Fire

Ararat Regional Park is in the South West and Wimmera Total Fire Ban District

It is your responsibility to know if it is a day of **Total Fire Ban**

If in doubt call the

Victorian

Bushfire Information Line:

1800 240 667

No fires/flames, (including gas or fuel stoves/lanterns in tents) may be lit on days of

Total Fire Ban

Campfires

Wood may be collected only for use within the park

Fires must be less than 1 metre in size, clear for 3 metres around and never left unattended

Park closures

Be prepared to leave early as **extreme weather may cause the closure of some park areas** for public safety.

| Ararat Regional Park | | Recreational Facilities | |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| | Highway | | Lookout |
| | Major sealed road | | Nature walk |
| | Minor sealed road | | Picnic table |
| | Unsealed road | | Tourism information |
| | Vehicle track (4WD) | | |
| | Railway line | | |
| | Regional Park | | |
| | Other Parks & Reserves | | |
| | Water body | | |

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KILOMETRES

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MELBOURNE

Victoria's Box-Ironbark Forests

Once covering three million hectares, these forests and woodlands were cleared for agriculture, gold mining, urban development and timber.

Today, only 17% of the original area of Box-Ironbark vegetation remains preserved in a number of Box-Ironbark parks. These, along with over 200 conservation reserves, exist to conserve and enhance what remains of the Box-Ironbark forests, woodlands and wildlife.

Other nearby Box-Ironbark parks and reserves include:

- Deep Lead Nature Conservation Reserve
- Saint Arnaud Range National Park
- Illawarra Nature Conservation Reserve
- Jallukar Nature Conservation Reserve
- Morri Morri Nature Conservation Reserve

How to get there

Ararat is 202 km west of Melbourne. You can reach the Ararat Hills block from the Western Highway just north of Ararat.

