

# Werribee Gorge State Park



## Visitor Guide

Displaying 500 million years of geological history, Werribee Gorge retains a wild, rugged natural beauty. The 575 hectare park protects native flora and fauna, offers spectacular views and has great opportunities for bushwalking and rock climbing.



*Peregrine Falcon*

### Go for a walk

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

1. **Circuit Walk** - 10km - 4.5 hrs  
Grade - Medium - Hard

Start at the Quarry or Meikles Point Picnic Area and walk in an anti-clockwise direction. Excellent views along the gorge rim, steep in places with some rock scrambling along the river section of the track. The track along the river may become impassable after heavy rain.

2. **River Walk** - 3km return - 1.2 hrs return  
Grade - Medium

Start at Meikles Point Picnic Area and follow the old aqueduct upstream to a point where you need to climb around the base of a cliff. This is the end of the River Walk. A wire rope attached to the rock wall assists navigation of this section for those wanting to continue further along the gorge.

3. **Falcons Lookout** - 3km return - 2 hr return  
Grade - Medium

Panoramic views of the gorge and beyond. Walk in from the Ballan-Ingliston Road through the picturesque Ironbark Gorge.

Falcons Lookout offers a fantastic rock climbing experience. It is currently the only area in the park available for rock climbing.

4. **Centenary Walk** - 4km return - 2.5 hrs return  
Grade - Medium - Hard

Start at Quarry Picnic Area and follow Circuit Track 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.

### Have a picnic

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

### A rich human 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.

### A haven for plants and wildlife

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 and 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, groundsel 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.

### How to get there

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

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For further information  
 Parks Victoria  
 Information Centre  
**Call 13 1963**  
 or visit the  
 Parks Victoria website  
[www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

Parks Victoria Office  
 219a Main Street  
 Bacchus Marsh 3340  
 Ph: (03) 5366 0000

### Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

### 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 where 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](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

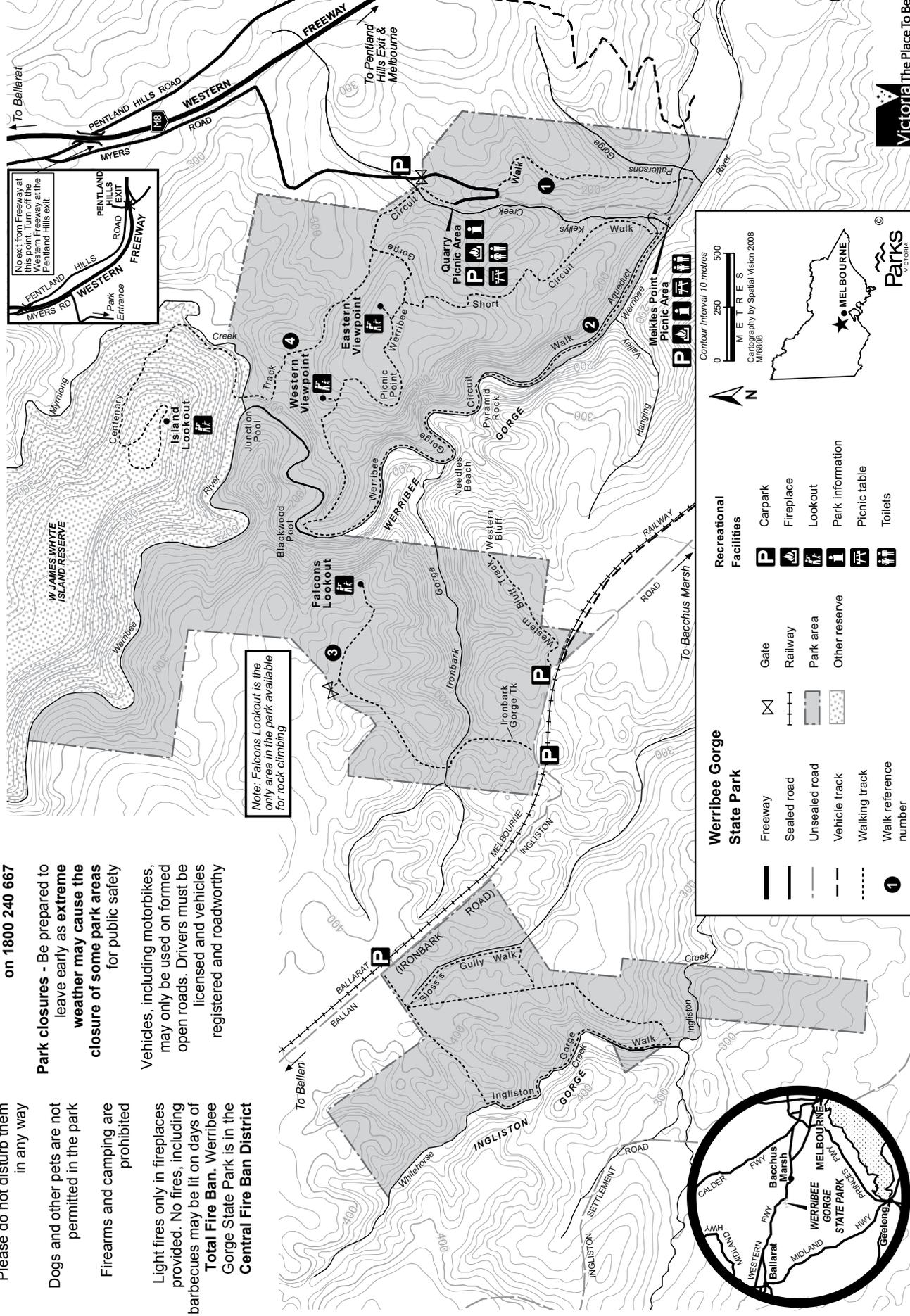
For up to date information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.

It is your responsibility to know if it is a day of Total Fire Ban. If in doubt call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667

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

Vehicles, including motorbikes, may only be used on formed open roads. Drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy

- Please take rubbish away with you for recycling and disposal
- All native plants and animals are protected by law. Please do not disturb them in any way
- Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the park
- Firearms and camping are prohibited
- Light fires only in fireplaces provided. No fires, including barbecues may be lit on days of Total Fire Ban. Werribee Gorge State Park is in the Central Fire Ban District



Note: Falcons Lookout is the only area in the park available for rock climbing