

# Mitchell River National Park – Brabralung and Brayakaulung Country

## Visitor Guide



Mitchell River National Park protects impressive river scenery, serene rainforest gullies, rugged landscapes and some of Victoria's more unusual vegetation communities. From open forest to remote river gorges, the park is an exciting destination for outdoor activities.



### Welcome to Country

The Gunaikurnai people are the Traditional Owners of the Country featured in this visitor guide.

Through a new way of managing public land called Joint Management, the State has created an equal partnership with the Gunaikurnai people. The benefits of this partnership are many and include: the knowledge and culture of traditional owners incorporated into natural resources (land) management, cultural awareness and knowledge of local history, improved park management through knowledge-sharing and increased opportunities for new initiatives.

By conserving and protecting the natural environment and cultural values, the education and enjoyment experience is enhanced for all community members and visitors.

Mitchell River National Park is one of the jointly managed parks within Gippsland. This agreement recognises the fact that the Gunaikurnai people have always been connected to their land and are the rightful people who speak for that Country. These parks and reserves are cultural landscapes which are part of our living culture.

### Getting there

Mitchell River National Park is 320km east of Melbourne and 25km northwest of Bairnsdale. The river divides the park into two sections. From the Princes Hwy, approach the western section via Lindenow or Fernbank along the Bairnsdale-Dargo Road to Waller Road. Access the eastern section via the Glenaladale Road and Weir Lane.

### Things to see and do

#### Walking

##### Den of Nargun Loop – 3.4km, 1.5 hours circuit

Starting at the Den of Nargun picnic area, walk through the rainforest gully. The stepping stones lead into the Den itself. Tradition has it the Nargun lives there, a fierce being, half human and half stone. Absorb the eerie atmosphere of the Den of Nargun from a safe distance. The Gunaikurnai people and Parks Victoria ask you to respect this special place by not entering the cave.

From there retrace your steps and continue down Woolshed Creek. The trail features another culturally significant site, Dedcock Den and the Bluff Lookout with views of the Mitchell River Gorge.

##### Mitchell River Walking Track – 18km, 2 days one way

The walk starts at Angusvale and follows the Mitchell River as it winds its way down the gorge, ending at the Den of Nargun picnic area. Overnight camping is available at Billy Goat Bend which is located about half way along the walk.

The walk offers spectacular views from the river to gorge top as well as plenty of birdwatching opportunities.

##### Old Weir Site Lookout (Glenaladale Weir) – 300m, 20 minutes return

Starting at an informal carpark where Old Weir Track crosses a tributary of Stony Creek, this short walk takes you to a lookout. The ruins of the Glenaladale Weir, constructed in 1881 are located at the junction of Stony Creek and the Mitchell River. Stone for the weir was quarried from the western side of the river.

##### Picnics and camping

The main picnic area is located at the Den of Nargun. Toilets, picnic shelter and tables, gas barbecue and fire places are provided. Billy Goat Bend is also a popular spot with basic facilities and panoramic views of the Mitchell River Gorge and rapids.

Angusvale Camping Area has easy car and river access. Vehicle access is also available at Billy Goat Bend Camping Area. Rock Creek and Adam Track Camping areas are 4wd access only. There is basic camping along the Mitchell River Walking Track at Rock Creek, Mitchell Road, Cobbannah Creek, Billy Goat Bend and Woolshed Creek. Please camp at least 50m away from the water and take all rubbish away when you leave.

##### Canoeing and rafting

The river offers short day trips or extended touring through the tranquil pools and turbulent rapids down to the Gippsland Lakes. It provides challenging grade III and IV rapids with the best times being July to December. Check river levels before you leave.

##### Hunting

Restricted deer stalking is permitted in accordance with hunting regulations in the eastern section of the park from 15 February to 15 December. Hunting is only permitted south of Hortons Track on the eastern side of the National Park.

##### Horse riding

Horse riding is permitted only on roads and vehicle tracks open to the public. Horses are not permitted to remain overnight in the park unless prior approval has been obtained. Horse riders are asked to apply the horse rider's code to ensure minimal impact.

### Be prepared and stay safe

Mitchell River National Park is in the East Gippsland fire district. Bushfire safety is a personal responsibility. Anyone entering parks and forests needs to stay aware of forecast weather conditions. Check the Fire Danger Rating at [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://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. Do not expect an official warning. Check the latest conditions at [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au) or by calling 13 1963. For emergency assistance call Triple Zero (000). **December 2017**