Mount Richmond National Park

Visitor Guide to Benwerrin

With spectacular spring wildflowers and abundant wildlife in unspoilt bushland, Mt Richmond is the perfect place to have a picnic, take a walk or simply drive to the summit and enjoy the magnificent views.

Mount Richmond is an important habitat for the uncommon Long-nosed Potoroo; a small member of the kangaroo family, it is seldom seen as it lives in thick undergrowth and is only active at night.

Birds include Emus, Crimson Rosellas, Gang-gang Cockatoos and Currawongs. Smaller birds frequently seen include honeyeaters, thornbills, wattlebirds, Silvereyes, robins, finches and treecreepers. Among the less common bird species are the Southern Emu-wren, Beautiful Firetail, King Quail and Rufous Bristlebird.

Some of Victoria’s best wildflowers are found here. About 450 species of plants have been recorded in the park, including 50 orchid species. Correas, heaths, wattles and Bush Peas provide spectacular colours in spring, but there are plants flowering almost all year round.

The well-drained soils near the summit support a gum forest dominated by Brown Stringybark with small pockets of Manna Gum. Further down the slopes are Shiny-leaf Peppermint and Swamp Gum (common in the picnic area) with an understorey of grass trees and heath. The wet heathlands are dominated by Swamp Paperbark.

Great South West Walk

This internationally acclaimed walk allows for a number of short or longer walking combinations. Starting and ending at Portland, the 250km route passes through forest and heathlands, along rivers and via wind-swept coastal cliffs and beaches. A brochure covering the entire walk is available from Visitor Centres at Portland and Nelson and on-line at www.greatsouthwestwalk.com.

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 may 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.parks.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.

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How to get there
Mt Richmond is 362km west of Melbourne. Take the Princes Highway to Portland, then 18km west along the Portland Nelson Road.

1. Benwerrin Nature Walk - 1 hour
   This self guided walk is recommended for all visitors. A leaflet (at start of track) helps you discover some of the secrets of the park’s plants and animals.

2. Noels Walk - 1 hour
   Descends through tall stringybark forest to peppermint and Swamp Gum open forest at the base of the mountain. The last section is fairly steep.

Camping is not permitted in the park. Sites are available in Nelson, Portland and nearby Swan Lake.

3. West Walk - 1 hour
   Featuring good ocean views through stunted stringybarks and open heathland. The track may be wet in places in winter and spring.

4. Ocean View Walk - 1 hour
   A lookout gives good views of Cape Bridgewater and Discovery Bay. Koalas can sometimes be seen feeding on Manna Gums along the track.