

Yarra Ranges National Park

Healesville, Mt Donna Buang and Warburton

Visitor Guide

A haven for walkers and nature enthusiasts, Yarra Ranges National Park features majestic Mountain Ash forests with understories of tree ferns and gullies of cool temperate rainforest.



Opening hours

Yarra Ranges National Park visitor sites are open every day, including weekends and public holidays. Numerous picnic areas and walking tracks are open to the public, however sections of the park are designated closed water catchments and are not publicly accessible.

Gates at Badger Weir, Donnelly Weir and Maroondah Reservoir Park open at 8am. Closing times vary throughout the year – check www.parks.vic.gov.au or park entry signs.

Getting there

Yarra Ranges National Park is approximately 65km east of Melbourne. The Healesville visitor sites are accessed off the Maroondah Hwy, and visitor sites in the Warburton area can be accessed via the Warburton Hwy.

Things to see and do

Walking

From short easy walks around Badger Weir and Maroondah Reservoir Park to long and challenging hikes spanning from Healesville to Warburton, Yarra Ranges National Park offers plenty of opportunities to create your own adventure.



Badger Weir – 1.1km - 1.4km, 30-40 minutes one way

There are three alternative routes to Badger Weir from the picnic area. Lyrebird track follows Badger Creek for 1.1km (there are a few stairs) beneath towering Mountain Ash trees and through spectacular treefern rich riparian vegetation. Slip Creek Track is slightly longer (1.4km) and more challenging, including many stairs making it unsuitable for prams and strollers. Coranderrk Track is 1.1km long following a vehicle track and aqueduct.



Graceburn Weir – 1.3km, 30 minutes one way

Follow the Graceburn Aqueduct along an easy walk to the Graceburn Weir and picnic area. Graceburn Weir provides part of Healesville's domestic water supply. Access this walk from Maroondah Hwy near Healesville, 900m past Selovers Lookout.



Condons Track – 6.5km, 3.5 hours one way

This walk is for experienced bushwalkers only and is very steep. Beginning on Donnelly's Weir Road at the Road 17 Gate, the track climbs the slopes of Mt Monda through ancient fern gullies and Mountain Ash forest. At Monda Track, either return to Donnelly's Weir Road via Condons Track, or follow the sign posts to Donnelly Weir via Mt St Leonard.

The entire circuit from Donnelly Weir via Condons, Monda Track and Mt St Leonard Track is 21km and takes seven to eight hours.



Mt St Leonard Track – 8km, 3.5 hours one way

Starting at Donnelly Weir and incorporating part of the Bicentennial National Trail, this steep track passes through mixed eucalypt forest and offers magnificent views across the Yarra Valley from the summit of Mt St Leonard. Alternately the Mt St Leonard summit and lookout can be accessed along a shorter (900m), but still steep, walk from Monda Rd. Park at the Road 10 gate.



Mount Victoria Track – 6.5km, 3 hours one way

Starting from the O'Shannassy Aqueduct north of Warburton, this very steep walking track ascends 1000 vertical metres leading to Mt Donna Buang summit via Mt Victoria. It is a challenging walk particularly when wet. Sections of the track are extremely steep and slippery. Access to the start of the walking track is from Dee Road picnic area (4.8km) or Yuonga Road carpark (2km).



Mount Donna Buang to Dom Dom Saddle – 21km, 10 hours one way

The Mount Donna Buang to Dom Dom Saddle hike is set in the Yarra Ranges forest between Warburton and the Black Spur, starting at the top of Mt Donna Buang and finishing at Dom Dom Saddle. A car shuffle is required, although it is possible to do shorter sections of the walk and return, such as Mt Donna Buang to Mt Boobyalla (2.5km, 45min one way) or Mount Donna Buang to Acheron Gap (9.4km, 4 hours one way).

The track is very challenging with some very steep climbs and descents. The peaks covered in the walk include Mt Boobyalla (1224m), The Knobs (1113m) and Mt Vinegar (1020m). The track is not well marked, so ensure you carry a good map and a GPS.

The reward is the breathtaking scenery with spectacular views over the Cathedral Ranges and Yarra Ranges.



Morley Walking Track – 8km, 4 hours one way

Starting at Dom Dom Saddle and finishing at Fernshaw Picnic Ground, this walking track descends into the Watts River valley through the iconic Mountain Ash forest of the Black Spur and follows the Watts River to Fernshaw. A car shuffle is recommended.



Monda Track – 20km, 10 hours one way

This picturesque track follows the historic route that connects Mt St Leonard with the Dom Dom Saddle.



Mount Juliet – 8.7km, 4-5 hours one way

At 1120m, Mount Juliet is one of the higher peaks in the Yarra Ranges region, with a very steep walking track leading to the summit.

The hike commences at Road 3 - a management vehicle track off the Maroondah Highway (7km east of Healesville). Follow this track east for approximately 2km to the junction with Road 5. Take the walking track from the junction for a 4.5km steep ascent to the summit, where a stone cairn is located.

This walk is among the most difficult in the park walking through a variety of vegetation types, with a rise in altitude from 211m to 1120m and the final section over rocks. A high level of fitness is required.



Mount Riddell Walk - 6km, 3 hours one way

This trail follows a management vehicle track to the summit with spectacular views towards Melbourne along the way. The track steadily ascends, gaining 600m of elevation to an ultimate height of 800m.

Badger Weir

Nestled in the Coranderrk valley, 6km (10 mins drive) from Healesville, lies the Badger Weir Picnic Ground.

Picnic alongside the refreshing waters of Badger Creek. Facilities include toilets, barbecues, picnic tables and all-weather shelters. Enjoy being serenaded by the resident Lyrebirds, particularly during cooler months, and meander through the ancient fern gullies.

Donnelly Weir

Located 3km northeast of Healesville, Donnelly Weir is a secluded, peaceful picnic ground, as well as the start or end of the Bicentennial National Trail.

Situated beside the clear waters of the Donnelly Creek, Donnelly Weir Picnic Ground is a great place to relax with friends and family. Toilets, picnic tables, a shelter and gas barbecue are available for your convenience.

Fernshaw

Fernshaw Picnic Area is located 11km north-east of Healesville at the foot of the Black Spur amid Mountain Ash and planted conifer trees. There are toilets, picnic and barbecue facilities, as well as the sweeping grass footprint of the historic former village site.

This area was once the main street of the township of Fernshaw. In the 1860s the town was a vital rest and stabling point for those journeying to the Woods Point goldfields and beyond and boasted several hotels, a school, houses and shops.

Dom Dom Saddle

Dom Dom Saddle, at 500m above sea-level, rests atop the Black Spur. This ridgeline forms the divide between the Yarra and Goulburn River catchments. The picnic ground is set among large oaks and elms. Toilets and picnic tables are available.

Mount Donna Buang

At an elevation of 1245 metres, the summit features a 21m high lookout tower offering panoramic views over Melbourne, Port Phillip and Western Port Bays, the Yarra Valley, Dandenong and Cathedral Ranges, Mount Baw Baw and the Alps. It is also a popular picnic area and starting point for walks on the mountain.

The picnic area has a gas barbecue, a fireplace, picnic tables, toilets and a lookout.

In winter, the summit area occasionally transforms into a family friendly snow playground. Four toboggan runs open when there is adequate snow, but be aware that it can be extremely busy and long delays in reaching the summit may be experienced.

Car parking is available at the summit through the day, however the summit gate is locked when there is snow. At these times car parking is available at the gate and the summit can be accessed by a 300m walk along the road.

Rainforest Gallery

Walk among the treetops on the 40m long observation platform, then descend to the gully floor via a steep stairway and along the 350m elevated walkway.

Be immersed in the breathtaking beauty of this ancient cool temperate rainforest, where you will see towering old-growth Mountain Ash trees, ancient Myrtle Beech (many of which are upwards of 350 years old), ferns and mosses. There are several viewing spots along the walkway where you can pause and enjoy the roar of Cement Creek flowing past on its descent to the Yarra River.

Caring for the park

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

- Yarra Ranges National Park encompasses major closed catchments for Melbourne's pure water supply. It is vital that everyone helps the prevention of pollution and fire. Take notice of signs stating No Public Access.
- Please take rubbish 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 Yarra Ranges National Park, Donnelly Weir or Badger Weir.
- Feeding of birds and other wildlife is not permitted.
- Firearms and other weapons are prohibited.

Be prepared and stay safe

Yarra Ranges National Park is in the Central, North Central and North East fire districts. 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 may 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.