Mt Alexander Regional Park

Visitor Guide

Rising 350 metres above the surrounding area, Mt Alexander Regional Park (1400ha) lies within the Harcourt granite intrusion which is estimated to be 367 million years old. With steep slopes, tall trees and rocky outcrops, the Park is a prominent landmark offering magnificent views and a natural forest setting for picnics and bushwalking. It is also an important habitat for several rare or threatened species.

Womin-dji-ka (Welcome)

Mount Alexander is part of the traditional lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung People.

The Dja Dja Wurrung People’s rights were recognised through a Recognition and Settlement Agreement with the State of Victoria in March 2013. The Dja Dja Wurrung People maintain a close and continuing connection to Djandak, their traditional Country.

Djandak is a cultural landscape that includes both tangible objects such as scarred trees, mounds, wells and stone artefact scatters; and intangible stories. Djandak is a living entity, which holds stories of creation and histories that cannot be erased. Mount Alexander was known as Lanjanuc, and was important as a sacred ceremonial ground and high vantage point.

Parks Victoria pays our respects to Dja Dja Wurrung Elders, past, present, and future, and asks visitors to do the same. Aboriginal artefacts are protected by law, and it is prohibited to disturb them in any way.

How to get there

Mount Alexander Regional Park is 120km northwest of Melbourne on the Calder Highway, 3km east of Harcourt (Melway Ref: 509 E6).

An outstanding history

Major Thomas Mitchell was the first European to climb the mountain in 1836. The rapid occupation of the region by graziers followed.

In 1851 gold was discovered nearby and tales of “Mount Alexander” as the new “Eldorado” swept around the world. It became the richest shallow alluvial goldfield the world has ever known and one of the largest goldrushes of the nineteenth century. The goldfield was later known as Forest Creek or Castlemaine.

In the 1860s the first quarries had opened to provide stone for the Northern Railway. Since then Mount Alexander granite has been used for buildings in Melbourne and monuments such as the base of the Burke and Wills memorial.

By the 1870s the mountain was stripped of vegetation to provide timber for the goldfields.

Enjoying the park

Picnicking - Enjoy the natural beauty and surroundings at one of the lookouts and rock outcrops, or at Leanganook where there are barbecues, toilets and tables.

Camping - Dispersed foot based camping is permitted throughout the park.

Walking - The West Ridge Walking Track is 4km in length and links all major lookouts and points of interest. See map overleaf.

Animals - You may find a koala if you are patient and look carefully. Keep your eyes on the upper branches of the Manna Gums with their distinctive smooth textures and hanging ribbons of bark.

Other animals you may encounter are Black Wallabies, Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Echidnas, Brushtail and Ringtail Possums, Sugar Gliders and the rare Tuan or Brush Tailed Phascogale.

Plants - Mt Alexander has a native vegetation overstorey of Manna Gum, Messmate, Long-leaved Box and Yellow Box. Below the canopy are native grasses, herbs and wildflowers.

How to get there

Mount Alexander Regional Park is 120km northwest of Melbourne on the Calder Highway, 3km east of Harcourt (Melway Ref: 509 E6).

An outstanding history

Major Thomas Mitchell was the first European to climb the mountain in 1836. The rapid occupation of the region by graziers followed.

In 1851 gold was discovered nearby and tales of “Mount Alexander” as the new “Eldorado” swept around the world. It became the richest shallow alluvial goldfield the world has ever known and one of the largest goldrushes of the nineteenth century. The goldfield was later known as Forest Creek or Castlemaine.

In the 1860s the first quarries had opened to provide stone for the Northern Railway. Since then Mount Alexander granite has been used for buildings in Melbourne and monuments such as the base of the Burke and Wills memorial.

By the 1870s the mountain was stripped of vegetation to provide timber for the goldfields.

Updated September 2019
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.parks.vic.gov.au

For up to date information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226 or go to www.emergency.vic.gov.au.

Caring for the environment
Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish home with you for recycling or disposal

Prospecting is permitted in designated areas. Prospectors must hold a current Miner’s Right. Refer to the Prospecting Guide for more information

Light fires only in fire places provided. No fires, including barbecues, may be lit on a day of Total Fire Ban. Mount Alexander Regional Park is in the North Central Total Fire Ban District

It is your responsibility to know if it is a day of Total Fire Ban. If in doubt call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226

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

Collect only dead wood from the ground for campfires

All native plants, animals, archaeological features are protected by law

Dogs must be on a leash

Firearms are prohibited

Vehicles, including motor bikes, may only be used on roads open to the public. Drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy