

Grampians Drive

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Grampians Drive

Victoria's Iconic 4WD Adventures



The massive sandstone ramparts of the Grampians rear up from the western end of Victoria's Great Dividing Range, reaching more than 1000 metres above the surrounding fertile plains. Known as Gariwerd by the local Aboriginal people, it has an indigenous history stretching back for thousands of years.

This 4WD tour winds among the spectacular mountain peaks and dramatic rock formations of the Grampians National Park, and features picturesque waterfalls, panoramic views and fascinating Aboriginal rock art sites. Camping and picnic grounds, dramatic lookouts and a network of excellent walking tracks make exploring this natural wonderland easy and enjoyable.

The 286-kilometre drive is classified as Medium difficulty in dry conditions, under Victoria's new 4WD Recreational Track Classification System – see Track Classification section for details.

Halls Gap to Buandik (60 kms)

Nestled between the Mount Difficult and Mount William Ranges, the pleasant tourist village of Halls Gap is the main gateway to the park. The tour begins at Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap, where you can find out all you need about the Grampians remarkable natural environment and Aboriginal culture.

From Halls Gap, the tour heads west to the aptly named Wonderland Range, where fantastic rock formations, plunging waterfalls, wildflowers and wildlife make it ideal for bushwalking and family picnics. Walking options are plentiful, from the eerie stone corridors of the Grand Canyon and Silent Street to the rocky climb to the Pinnacle lookout for a breathtaking view over the valley and surrounding plains.

Magnificent views are a feature of this part of the drive. Take the turn-off to Boroka Lookout, which commands a fantastic view over the Wonderland and Mount William Ranges and the cosy village of Halls Gap. Stop at Reeds Lookout for panoramic views over the Victoria Valley and to Lake Wartook. An easy 2km return walk to The Balconies starts from Reed Lookout Carpark.

Take a short detour from the route along Mount Victory Road to MacKenzie Falls, where torrents of water cascade over huge cliffs into a deep pool, sending fine sprays of rainbow mist high into the air above a stunning gorge. A little further along Mount Victory Road, the early 20th century tourist site of Zumstein is a delightful setting for a picnic. Nestled on the banks of the MacKenzie River, wildlife can often be seen nearby.

Return to the tour route and continue on the unsealed Wallaby Rocks Road towards Buandik.

Buandik to Dunkeld (136 kms)

Around 80 per cent of Victoria's Aboriginal rock art is found in the Grampians, in a number of shelters that represent the most significant Aboriginal rock art sites in southern Australia. From Buandik Campsite, a 45-minute return walk leads to Billimina Shelter, a massive rock overhang featuring impressive Aboriginal art.

A nearby carpark on Harrop Track gives access to the trail to Manja Shelter, where paintings include emu tracks and handprints. Handprints such as these are found only in the northern Grampians, and many here were created by children.

Further along Harrop Track is another dramatic example of the Grampians amazing geological formations. The Chimney Pots can be reached by a steep track surrounded by rearing cliffs and rocky outcrops that leads to the remarkable sandstone chimney stacks.

The drive now winds through the Victoria and Serra Ranges to Dunkeld, an attractive small township beneath the rugged peak of Mount Abrupt and the dramatic escarpments of Mount Sturgeon at the southern end of the Grampians.

Dunkeld to Halls Gap (90 kms)

The tour now heads north on the Grampians Tourist Road before turning right onto Mafeking Road. Stop to explore the Grampians European heritage at Mafeking Picnic Area, on a leisurely self-guided walk through the overgrown streets of the former gold township of Mafeking.

Remnants and relics of this European history can still be seen at the remains of the Brownings mine site. Please keep to the track, as there are many exposed mine shafts in the area. Signage at the site helps to tell the story of the area.

A few kilometres along Mitchell Road, and accessed from the Kalymna Falls Picnic Area, is one of the park's most popular southern attractions. An easy 30-minute walk through tea tree and stringybark forest leads to Kalymna Falls, which cascades down a sheer rock face into a lush fern gully.

Continue north and enjoy superb views of the lofty plateau of Mount William on the left, joining the Grampians Tourist Road at Borough Huts Campground and returning past picturesque Lake Bellfield to Halls Gap.

Grampians Drive

Important information

FOUR WHEEL DRIVING IN VICTORIA'S PARKS AND FORESTS

- Plan ahead and obtain a detailed map before you go – this map is a guide only
- Drive vehicles only on formed roads and vehicle tracks that are open to the public – do not drive off-track
- Stay off tracks that are too wet, or have been recently graded
- Avoid wheel spin and churning up the track surface
- Remove fallen trees or limbs from roads; don't create new tracks by driving around them
- Cross rivers and streams only where river crossings are clearly marked. Check depths and drive slowly
- Use a tree protector if winching is required and use wheel chains as a last resort
- Be aware that Seasonal Road Closures exist across Victoria due to the potential for increased environmental impacts and risks to public safety during the wetter months
- Be sure to check for road closures before you go – check with Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au or the Department of Sustainability and Environment on 13 6186 or at www.dse.vic.gov.au

The best way to enjoy four wheel driving is by joining one of the many four wheel driving clubs in Victoria. Contact Four Wheel Drive Victoria for more information or visit www.fwdvictoria.org.au

OFF-ROAD DRIVING TECHNIQUES

Off-road driving demands different techniques to road driving, and every surface has its own particular characteristics. All vehicles should be in first-class mechanical condition and carry equipment appropriate to the trip.

It may be worth considering one of the training programs for touring off-roaders run by Four Wheel Drive Victoria to ensure you are properly prepared. Here are some brief pointers.

QUICK TIPS: DIRT ROADS

Driving

- Reduce speed to match tyre pressure
- Expect the unexpected
- Engage 4WD on part-time systems, and stability control for those cars that have it
- Use a slightly lower gear than normal
- Headlights on for visibility
- Don't swerve for animals; slow down
- Slow down for oncoming vehicles, especially those with dust clouds
- When following another vehicle keep well back to avoid dust
- Expect vehicles anywhere on the road
- Keep away from loose, gravelly parts of the road, follow defined wheel tracks.

TREAD LIGHTLY IN THE VICTORIAN BUSH

Please help protect the natural environment by following these guidelines:

- Keep to walking tracks. Short cuts cause erosion and disturb native habitat
- If you carry it in – carry it out! Please take your rubbish out
- Dogs, cats or other pets are prohibited in National Parks
- Firewood is limited. Please use fuel stoves for cooking, and observe fire regulations and days of TOTAL FIRE BAN.

MINIMAL IMPACT CAMPING

- Be self-sufficient with drinking water. Carry it in and/or know how to make untreated water safe for drinking
- Camp at least 20 metres from any stream, lake or reservoir
- Dispose of and dirty water away from streams and waterways. Do not use soaps, detergents and toothpaste near water sources so fish and wildlife aren't harmed
- Use toilets where provided or bring your own portable toilet. If there are no toilets, walk at least 100 metres from water sources and campsites, dig a hole 15 centimetres and cover
- Light fires in designated fireplaces. Use a fuel stove where possible as it's better for the bush.

FIRE SAFETY

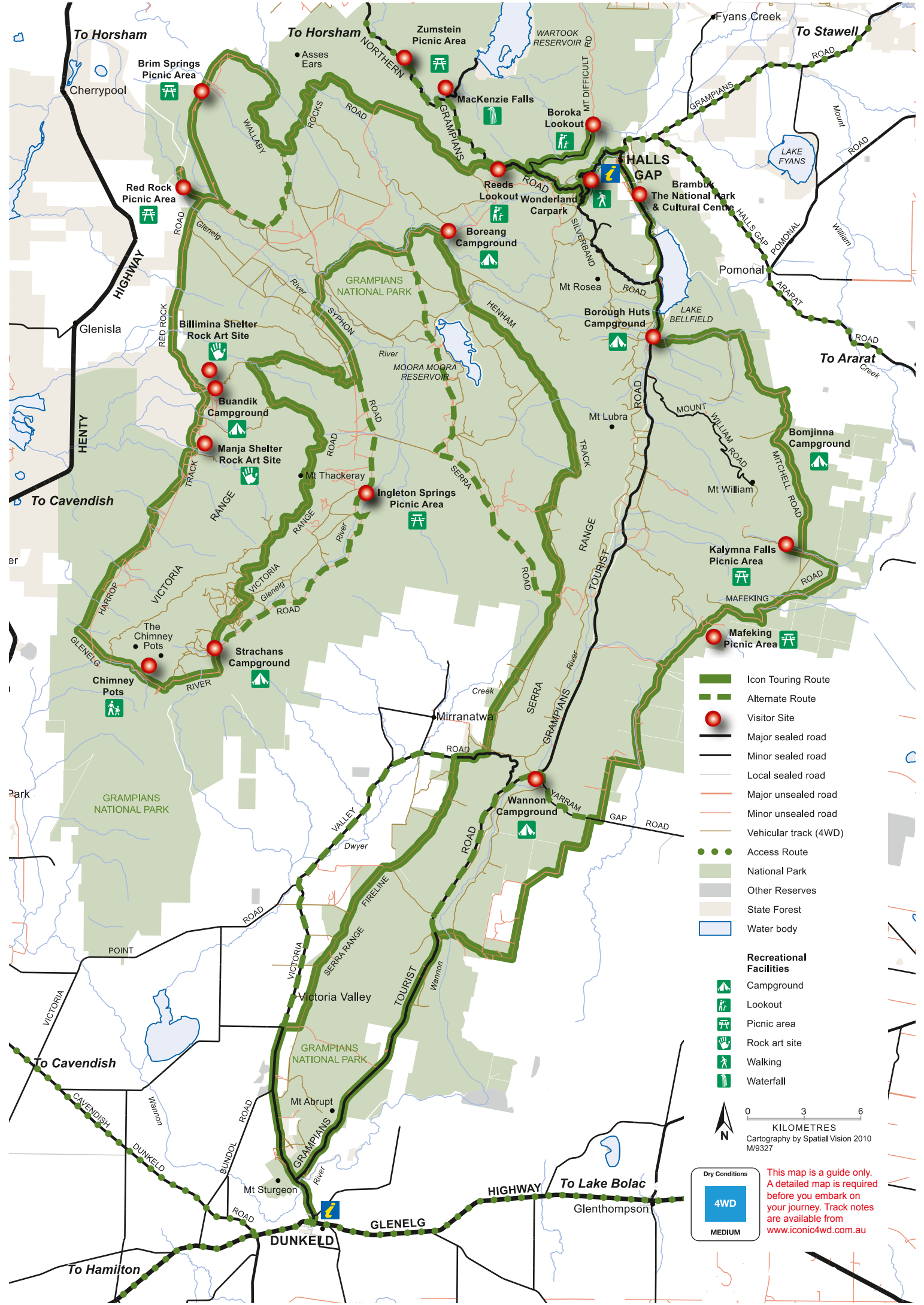
A bushfire survival plan is just as essential for drivers and campers as it is for those at home. Check the weather forecast before you go, stay aware of daily conditions and be ready to activate your bushfire survival plan.

Remember that official warnings of bushfires are not always available in remote locations, so extra effort is required to keep informed. If you are camping, take a portable radio and tune in to ABC or local outlets for weather and fire updates. Monitor conditions with updated bushfire information from the Victorian Bushfire Information Line: 1800 240 667.

Extra care must be taken with any potential ignition sources like power tools and cigarette butts. Vehicles should not be driven over dry ground cover or parked on dry grassy areas.

TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Parks Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land and recognises their rich culture and intrinsic connection that stretches back over many tens of thousands of years, including the areas now managed as parks.



- Icon Touring Route
 - Alternate Route
 - Visitor Site
 - Major sealed road
 - Minor sealed road
 - Local sealed road
 - Major unsealed road
 - Minor unsealed road
 - Vehicular track (4WD)
 - Access Route
 - National Park
 - Other Reserves
 - State Forest
 - Water body
- Recreational Facilities**
- Campground
 - Lookout
 - Picnic area
 - Rock art site
 - Walking
 - Waterfall

0 3 6
KILOMETRES
Cartography by Spatial Vision 2010
M/9327

Dry Conditions

4WD

MEDIUM

This map is a guide only. A detailed map is required before you embark on your journey. Track notes are available from www.iconic4wd.com.au



Track Classification

Medium

A new classification system for 4WD tracks on Public Land across Victoria has been developed.

A standard four level colour coded system is used to indicate the degree of difficulty of 4WD tracks and routes. Standard symbols and signage are used to show easy to very difficult tracks.

The Grampians Drive is classified as Medium

- Mainly High Range 4WD but Low Range required
- Some 4WD experience or training required
- Tracks with some steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections
- May have shallow water crossings
- Suitable for medium clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain or road tyres
- Recommended to be done in groups of vehicles
- Will be more difficult in wet conditions.

The terrain and track conditions aim to provide a general description of the likely terrain and have limited subjective comments such as boggy or rutted as these can be interpreted differently by individuals.

The suitability of a vehicle relates to high/low range capacity, ground clearance and tyres.

The recovery equipment is advisory only and in line with Tourism Adventure Activity Standards and is not mandatory.

This is to guide the inexperienced driver that it may be in their best interest to have driver training or further experience before attempting more difficult terrain.

Note: Drivers need to be aware of changing weather conditions and how this may affect tracks they are using or planning to use. The tracks have been classified in dry conditions and most medium, difficult and very difficult tracks will become more difficult in wet weather.

One of the most enjoyable ways to experience Victoria's diverse and unforgettable memorable landscapes is on a four-wheel drive tour to enjoy the peace and solitude of the bush.

Now you can experience the best four-wheel drive experiences Victoria has to offer, on a range of tours from full day to several days. Licensed Tour Operators will help you get the most out of your park visit.

Victoria's Iconic 4WD Adventures are just waiting to be discovered, with a new series of touring guides to steer your journey of exploration.


**Grampians Drive • Otways Drive • Mallee Drive
Wonnangatta Drive • Snowy River Drive • Davies Plain Drive**

Further Information

Parks Victoria: call 13 1963 or visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Department of Sustainability and Environment:
call 13 6186 or visit www.dse.vic.gov.au

Four Wheel Drive Victoria: call (03) 9857 5209 or
visit www.fwdvictoria.org.au

Look out for the distinctive blue and yellow 'i' sign  as you travel around Victoria, which identifies Accredited Visitor Information Centres.

This track is subject to Seasonal Road Closures.
Please visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au for current track information.
The map contained within is a guide only. Ensure you obtain a detailed map before you embark on your journey.

