

Central Grampians Highlights

Some of the most popular attractions in the Grampians can be visited in one day, by taking in the Central Grampians Highlights.

Starting in the Halls Gap township, a short drive on the Mt Victory Road, will take you via the unique and aptly named rock formation - the Elephants Hide, to the spectacular Boroka Lookout. The walk to the lookout from the carpark is short and easy. Boroka Lookout provides some of the most amazing expansive views of the Mt William Range, Wonderland and the township of Halls Gap.



From Boroka Lookout, another short trip will take you to Reed Lookout which offers views over Victoria Valley, Lake Wartook and the Mt Difficult Range.

From the carpark you can stretch your legs and take the gently climbing 2km walk to The Balconies lookout where even more panoramic views await. A pretty drive from Reed Lookout will get you to the next highlight - MacKenzie Falls. No visit to the Grampians would be complete without a visit to the famed waterfalls. MacKenzie Falls are noted as one of Victoria's largest waterfalls and flow year round. There is a strenuous track for the fit and energetic walker to the base of the Falls or an easy walk along the bluff



that will reward you with spectacular views of the Falls and MacKenzie River Gorge. A popular picnic spot & wildlife viewing area called Zumstein is the next stop. The area also features a short historic walk. From here you can return to Halls Gap, or continue on to one of the other towns & villages of the Grampians.

For a detailed guide or more information or to book accommodation in the area contact Halls Gap Visitor Information Centre 1800 065 599

East Grampians Scenic Route 31

The East Grampians Scenic Route 31 provides magnificent views along the eastern edge of the Grampians National Park.

At Ararat, take a short drive to One Tree Hill Scenic Lookout, famed for its 360-degree views of the Grampians and the Pyrenees Ranges. Resume travelling along the Ararat – Halls Gap Road. At Moyston, the monument to Thomas Mills, co-founder and captain of the Melbourne Football Club (1859), commemorates the birthplace of Australian Rules Football.



Pomonal, originally the centre of a thriving tobacco and farming area, now attracts tourists with its plant nurseries, antique, art and craft shops, stone fruit and apple orchards, and its farm gate sales of locally grown berries, lavender and olives.

Enjoy a quiet cappuccino, a wine tasting, a relaxing massage or a stroll through a wildlife park. Accommodation in the Pomonal area ranges from camping, family units, cabins, and bed and breakfasts to five-star retreats for couples. This picturesque town also hosts a Native Plant Show in October and a township market on the last Sunday of each month.



After a visit to Halls Gap and the National Park, make your return journey through Stawell for a different perspective. Enjoy the Stawell Historic Town Tour, Stawell Gift Hall of Fame, antique shops and tempting cafés and bakeries. Next

stop en route is Great Western with its renowned wineries as well as a gallery. The East Grampians Scenic Route 31 adds up to a great area to stay, sample and savour!

For more information, contact Ararat and Grampians Visitor Information Centre on freecall 1800 657 158.

Desert to Wetland Country

Experience deserts alive with wildflowers, wetlands abundant with wildlife, and expansive grain fields under vast skies. Explore the diversity of all-age attractions in Victoria's western border country. Enjoy exhilarating water sports throughout the shire and the excitement of country racing at Edenhope. Be entertained by top name country music entertainers at Lake Charlegrark.



Tour the Big Desert wilderness region, Red Bluff, Little Desert National Park and feast your eyes on Grass Trees, Yakka plants, numerous species of native birds, orchids and other flora and fauna.

The many lakes and wetlands of the West Wimmera feature enough bird species to rival Kakadu. Catch sight of the aviary bred Red-tailed Black Cockatoo at the Kaniva Fauna Park.



Cultural tourism abounds, be it antiques and collectibles, rural pastoral and agricultural shows, or sporting history and the commemoration of the Aboriginal Cricket Team of 1868 at the Johnny Mullagh Cricket Centre in Harrow. Visit historical and quirky museums such as Harrow's Brown's House of Memories, the Kaniva Footwear Collection and Kaniva Car Museum with its displays of Monaro cars and memorabilia. Taste

mouth-watering products by Lockhart Almonds, Kaniva Chicks, Pistachios, Homestead Harvest. Visit a cellar door at either Apsley Estate Wines or Bringmoor Estate.

For more information, contact Kaniva Visitor Information Centre (VIC) on 03 5392 2418, Edenhope VIC on 03 5585 1509, Harrow VIC on 03 5588 1387, or www.visitwestwimmera.com.au.

Great Grampians, Little Desert Touring

Enjoy natural heritage attractions and majestic mountain ranges with a Great Grampians and Little Desert tour. Discover



picturesque Wartook Valley and Mount Arapiles, Victoria's Ayer's Rock. Wildflowers are spectacular from July to November and form a kaleidoscope of colour. Wartook Valley offers mountain views and native wildlife, secluded creeks and spectacular waterfalls.

Olive groves, famous for their gourmet produce, dot the northern face of the Grampians, opening up the plains and distant views of Mount Arapiles. This fascinating rock is world famous as a rock climbing destination, although visitors can also walk, cycle or drive to the top to experience the breathtaking views.



The remarkable Little Desert offers many surprises including the amazing Mallee Fowl, along with much of Australia's flora and fauna. Horseshoe Bend in the east is where the desert meets the Wimmera River.

Horsham, a lively city centrally located in the Wimmera, is the perfect base to stop and explore, with excellent opportunities for shopping, dining, entertainment and accommodation. Renowned for its dynamic arts community, including a superb art gallery, Horsham features unusual festivals, an excellent golf course, and spacious parks for a picnic or barbecue.

For more information, contact Horsham Visitor Information Centre, 20 O'Callaghan Parade, freecall 1800 633 218, or visit www.grampianslittledesert.com.au.

Grampians, Gardens and Grandeur Southern Grampians Touring Route

This touring route combines the spectacular scenery of the rugged Grampians mountain range with the rich pastoral heritage of the Southern Grampians region.



Along the route, experience the tranquillity of the Dunkeld Arboretum or spring wildflowers and excellent views from the Grampians' Piccaninny, Mount Sturgeon and Mount Abrupt.

Historic Peshurst features quaint bluestone buildings and is home to the Volcanoes Discovery Centre. From the peak of extinct volcano, Mount Rouse, view the splendid landscape of the surrounding volcanic plain.

Discover the treasures from local homesteads at the renowned Hamilton Art Gallery and visit the outstanding Hamilton Botanic Gardens. View the spectacular Wannon and Nigretta Falls en route to Coleraine, sample fine handmade chocolates at



Glenelg Fine Confectionery and wander along the paths of Australia's Official Eucalypt Collection at the Points Arboretum.

Cavendish's numerous open gardens feature diverse and colourful displays of roses set amongst interesting garden designs. The Settlers Walk on the banks of the Wannon River provides a glimpse into the past. Take the scenic Victoria Point Road up into

the Grampians, crossing the Mirranatwa Gap before heading south back to the township of Dunkeld.

For more information, contact Hamilton Visitor Information Centre, Lonsdale Street, Hamilton, freecall 1800 807 056 or website www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au/tourism.

OFFICIAL TOURING MAP

THE GRAMPIANS

VICTORIA • AUSTRALIA

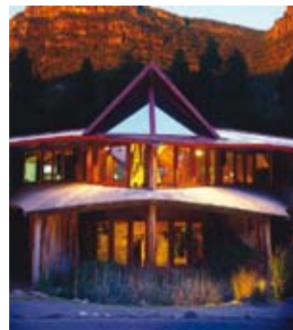


..SPACE TO THINK



Arts and Cultural Heritage

Beyond the natural splendour of the Grampians National Park lies a wealth of cultural history that makes this region as fascinating as it is visually stunning.



Aboriginal rock art is found throughout the Grampians and Black Ranges. Brambuk The National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap features Aboriginal artifacts and displays, and a bush tucker restaurant.

In Harrow, the Johnny Mullagh Cricket Centre is a tribute to the Aboriginal Cricket Team of 1868, while the Stawell Gift Hall of Fame houses memorabilia of the town's world famous foot race.

Steeped in the history of the pioneering pastoralists, the region's grand homesteads, fine art galleries, fascinating museums and historic buildings provide a glimpse into our illustrious pastoral heritage.

The outstanding collections of the Hamilton, Ararat and Horsham Art Galleries make them three of Victoria's finest regional galleries.

The Botanic Gardens of Horsham and Hamilton, both designed by William Guilfoyle, are among the

earliest regional botanic gardens in Australia. Open gardens are also popular throughout the region with many exquisite private gardens opening to the public.

The influence of the Far East is strong in Ararat, home to the Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre, which tells the story of the town's Chinese goldminers in the late 1800s. J Ward, also in Ararat, is a former asylum for the criminally insane, featuring chilling accounts of the prisoners and their crimes.

For more information, see website www.visitgrampians.com or drop in to your nearest Visitor Information Centre.

Bushwalking, Wildlife and Wildflowers

The parks in the Grampians region offer rugged, awe-inspiring sandstone escarpments with panoramic views of surrounding plains and unique ancient rock art shelters.



Whether you prefer sightseeing, picnicking, camping, walking, cycling, fishing, rock climbing or simply relaxing, the Grampians has something to offer everyone.

The beauty and mystery of the Grampians parks lie beyond the extensive road network and can easily be explored on foot. There are many kilometres of walking tracks ranging from short, easy walks to challenging overnight expeditions for the experienced bushwalker. Walking in the Grampians region allows you to discover a variety of wonderful sweeping views, secluded bush settings, rugged rock formations, waterfalls, Aboriginal rock art sites and fern gullies.



Well known for colourful spring wildflowers, the Grampians is a showcase of many of the state's finest plants. About a third of Victoria's plants are found here, including many endemic plants found nowhere else in the world.

Home to over 200 bird species, the low, open shrubby woodlands, heath lands, tall open forest, lakes and wetlands make this region a natural haven for many species of wildlife. Kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas and gliders are common. Lizards and other reptiles can also be found sunning themselves in open areas during warmer months.

For more information on walking, camping or touring in the park, call into Brambuk National Park and Cultural Centre, Halls Gap, or call the Parks Victoria information line on 13 19 63.

Food and Wine

The Grampians region offers a vast range of tasty delights to excite your palate and tempt your inner gastronome.

Wine from the Region - Grampians

Against the backdrop of the spectacular Grampians National Park mountain ranges is one of Australia's most historical and acclaimed wine regions. The region is best known for its sparkling and table wines, especially shiraz.

Today, established wineries such as Seppelt, Best's, Mt Langi Ghiran and Montara are being joined by the new generation

contemporary wineries Kimbarra, Westgate, Garden Gully, The Gap, Grampians Estate and Clayfield.

Visitors to cellar doors in the area can experience first hand the flavours of the region.

Henty

Located in the south-west corner of Victoria, the Henty wine region's first commercial vineyard was established in 1964. Discover how its cool climate pinot noirs complement the excellent local cheese, beef and lamb, and seafood.

Local Produce

The fertile soils of the region have fostered a diverse range of food producers – you can sample a selection of these in local restaurants and cafés, or at farm gate sales, where friendly locals will show you the fruits of their labours.



Olive oil, lentils, sheep milk yoghurt, venison, lavender products, wine-based jams, chocolates and prime lamb are just a few of the gourmet delights produced here and available to you fresh from the region.

National, State Parks and Reserves

Caring for our Parks together:

Help us look after our Grampians parks by following these simple guidelines:

- Keep to the walking tracks as short cuts cause erosion and disturbs native habitat.
- Please take your rubbish home. If you carry it in, carry it out.
- All plants, animals, artefacts and historic relics are protected.
- Dogs, cats and other pets are not allowed in National and State Parks.
- Please do not feed wildlife.
- Keep all vehicles, including four wheel drives, motor bikes and bicycles on formed roads open to public vehicles.
- Use fuel stoves for cooking as firewood is limited.
- Remember that TOTAL FIRE BAN days mean that no fire can be lit in the outdoors. This includes gas barbecues and portable camping stoves even if used inside a tent.

Be Safe – Be Prepared

- Please follow directions and advice on signs.
- Always carry drinking water and food when walking.
- A hat and sunscreen are essential in summer.
- Supervise children at all times and stay on walking tracks.
- Ongoing maintenance, fire recovery or seasonal storm damage can alter track and road conditions.
- Total Fire Ban details are available by calling the Bush Fire Information Line or tune into a local ABC radio station
- Remember that being aware of Total Fire Bans is your responsibility.
- Mobile phone coverage can not be guaranteed.
- Take care of wildlife crossing roads.

Emergency Numbers

- Emergency-Police, Ambulance, Fire: 000
- Victorian Bushfire Information Line: 1800 240 667

Healthy Parks Healthy People

For further information on Parks in the Grampians region call into Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap, phone Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or visit the website www.parkweb.vic.gov.au.

Visitor Information Centres

Ararat and Grampians Visitor Information Centre
91 High Street, Ararat 3377
Email tourinfo@ararat.vic.gov.au, Freecall 1800 657 158

Dunkeld and Grampians Visitor Information Centre
Parker Street, Dunkeld 3294, Phone 03 5577 2558

Halls Gap Visitor Information Centre
Grampians Road, Halls Gap 3381
Email hallsgap.info@ngshire.vic.gov.au
Freecall 1800 065 599

Hamilton and Grampians Visitor Information Centre
Lonsdale Street, Hamilton 3300,
Email hvic@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au, Freecall 1800 807 056

Horsham Visitor Information Centre
20 O'Callaghan Parade, Horsham 3402
Email tourism@hrcc.vic.gov.au, Freecall 1800 633 218

Kaniva Visitor Information Centre
Windmill Café, 41 Commercial Street, Kaniva
Email kanivawindmill@gmail.com Phone 03 53922418

Lake Bolac Information Centre
Glenelg Hwy, Lake Bolac 3351
Email: LBiBC@bigpond.com. Phone 03 5350 2204

St Arnaud Tourism
4 Napier Street, St Arnaud 3478
Email starnaud.info@ngshire.vic.gov.au, Freecall 1800 014 455

Stawell and Grampians Information Centre
50-52 Western Highway, Stawell 3380
Email stawell.info@ngshire.vic.gov.au, Freecall 1800 330 080



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