



# Grampians National Park

The 'Grampians' as they're known by locals are a stunning set of sandstone ridges, found 235 kilometres west of Melbourne in Victoria. This National Park is a very popular holiday destination for locals and tourists alike for its beautiful rugged landscape of peaks and valleys, pretty waterfalls, unique aboriginal art sites, a multitude of native flora and fauna and for the many outdoor activities on offer.

Different styles of accommodation are available when visiting the national park, including camp grounds, a backpacker hostel, hotels, motels and bed'n'breakfasts. While driving yourself through the Grampians can be a great way to visit, there are many budget tour companies that will stop at this beautiful national park en route between Melbourne and Adelaide (or vice versa.)

## Sights & Attractions

The Grampians offers activities and interests for all types of traveller. The Grampians National Park is the fourth largest national park in Victoria (167,000 hectares) and is renowned for its flora and fauna. The natural beauty of the Grampians is spectacular and entices keen bush walkers, photographers, artists, adventure enthusiasts and those keen to get back to nature and away from the city to see some of Australia's outback. For those after a physical challenge, there are some spectacular hiking tracks also great for mountain biking and horse riding. The rocky crags throughout the park are fantastic for rock climbing and abseiling and the Lakes Bellfield and Wartook provide a haven for fishermen and canoeing enthusiasts. You can even try your luck at Mount Difficult Golf Course, or just take in the spectacular grounds. If you are up for a more relaxing experience there are many great spots for camping or picnicking.

From August to October, the Grampians are home to a rich and colourful spring wildflower display. Heath lands come to life with colourful shows of Boronia, Blue Pin-cushion Lily, and many other herbs and shrubs. There are over 970 native plant species in the Grampians and with 200 species of birds and an abundance of native animals, including kangaroos, koalas, emus, wedge-tailed eagles and more, the wildlife spotter will love this national park.

Another major reason to visit the Grampians is its impressive collection of native Aboriginal art sites. Aboriginal people have a long association with the Grampians and there are many shelters in the park where you can see ancient art work including Billimina Shelter, Gulgurn Manja Shelter, Manja Shelter and Ngamadjidj Shelter. Brambuk Cultural Centre is located in the main town of Halls Gap and is a great place to learn about the aboriginal history and natural features of the Grampians National Park.

## Climate

The weather in the Grampians is warm and dry in summer with temperatures in the mid to late 20's (°C), followed by a cooler autumn and wet winter with daily temperatures down to the low teens. Winter is when the Grampians receive most of its rainfall and the advent of spring brings mild days and a carpet of wildflowers and fine.

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