

# Snowy River National Park



## Visitor Guide

Snowy River National Park, now 114,505 ha, is dominated by the river that gives its name to the park. Reserved as a national park in 1979, it offers spectacular river scenery, magnificent deep gorges, old growth alpine ash forests of Mt Gelantipy, distinctive pine woodlands in the valley, undisturbed catchments of the Rodger River and breathtaking wilderness areas.

## Location and access

The Snowy River National Park is located 390 kilometres north-east of Melbourne, almost half way to Sydney and can be approached from a number of directions. From the south, access is via the Princes Hwy and either Buchan or Orbost. From the north, the Barry Way through Jindabyne and the Bonang Main Road from Bombala, NSW give the best access.

## Car touring

An ideal way to discover some of the park's special features is by spending a few days touring the area by vehicle with all major roads suitable for 2WD vehicles. Many roads are unsealed, narrow and winding and some unsuitable for caravans, particularly from Little River Gorge to McKillops Bridge. Allow plenty of time for touring.

The descent into the Snowy River Valley from Little River is one of Victoria's most stunning drives marked by great scenery and spectacular vertical drops on one side.

It's advisable to check road conditions if visiting the park after rain or bad weather. Drive carefully and watch out for wombats, kangaroos and wallabies! Be aware of log trucks if you are travelling along the Bonang Main Road, Yalmy Road or Tulloch Ard Road.

## By 4WD

To protect the environment and for your safety, many of the 4WD tracks in the park are closed during the wetter winter months. To check road conditions at any time of the year please contact one of the information outlets listed on the back.

Due to its very steep and rugged terrain, the Deddick Trail should only be traversed in a northerly direction and in dry weather conditions. This 3 hour drive commencing from Yalmy Rd to McKillops Rd, includes the scenic Roger River, Mountain Creek and Ash forests of Mount Gelantipy.

Before embarking on your 4WD trip always:

- Check current road conditions,
- Carry a chainsaw or sharp axe as roads may be blocked by fallen trees,
- Carry recovery gear including a winch, tree protector and shovel, and
- Leave details of your trip intentions with a responsible person.

## Walking

To get the most from your visit come prepared to walk. The park has walks to suit most interests and times.

Raymond Creek Falls in the south of the park can be reached all year round from Orbost along Moorsford Road. A short 30 min walking track leads to a view of Raymond Creek Falls plunging 20 metres into a deep, clear pool.

Tulloch Ard Gorge Lookout (1.6km, 1.5hr return) takes you through diverse vegetation culminating in the observation lookout offering spectacular views of the Snowy River country and Tulloch Ard Gorge. It's a medium grade walk and is quite steep in sections.

The Silver Mine Walking Track (18km) and the short Snowy River Nature Trail both leaving from McKillops Bridge.

Little River Gorge, Victoria's deepest gorge can be viewed by following the 400 metre walking track which leads to breathtaking cliff-top views over the gorge. If you are planning a walk remember to:

- Be clear about where you are going and carry a detailed map and compass if necessary;
- Carry plenty of drinking water;
- Wear comfortable sturdy footwear, thongs or sandals are not recommended; and
- Always remember to let someone know before you go and when you return.



## For further information:

Parks Victoria  
Information Centre  
13 1963  
or visit the website  
[www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

Parks Victoria Orbost  
171 Nicholson Street  
Orbost VIC 3888

Buchan Caves Reserve  
Caves Road  
Buchan VIC 3885

Parks Victoria Bendoc  
Nichol Street  
Bendoc VIC 3888  
(Located 19kms along the  
Bendoc –Orbost (Gap) road)

## Caring for the environment

Help us care for our parks by remembering these guidelines:

Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the park

Please do not disturb or remove any native plants, animals or rock formations

Vehicles including trail bikes may only be driven or ridden on formed roads open to the public, and must be fully road registered. Drivers and riders must hold a current licence

No fires, including BBQs may be lit on a day of Total Fire Ban (East Gippsland Total Fire Ban District)

Use a portable stove instead of lighting a fire

Camp at existing camp sites. If none exists, camp at least 30m from any water. Use existing toilets or bury waste at least 100m from any water

Do not pollute streams and rivers with refuse, detergents or human wastes

Take your rubbish home with you

## Healthy Parks Healthy People

Visiting a park can improve your health, mind, body and soul. So, with over four million hectares of parkland available to Victorians, why not escape to a park today!



## Wilderness

The Snowy River National Park was expanded by 16,000ha due to the State Government's commitment to preserving old growth forest for future generations.

To maintain the wilderness experience, tracks in wilderness areas are closed to public vehicles, including trail bikes, bicycles and horses.

## Camping

The camping areas and other attractions in the park are some distance from towns and shops. When you visit, carry all the fuel, food, drinking water and equipment you will need during your stay.

Bush camping areas offering basic facilities are provided at Balley Hooley, at the junction of the Snowy and Buchan Rivers; McKillops Bridge, Raymond Creek Falls, Jacksons Crossing, Waratah Flat and Hicks camp site.

Dispersed camping for bushwalkers is allowed. Please ensure you are at least 30 metres from any river or stream. Wherever you camp, please respect the environment, the area's cultural heritage and other visitors by aiming to leave as little trace of your visit as possible.

## Canoeing and rafting

McKillops Bridge is one of the few places in the park with access to the Snowy River by conventional vehicle making it the best canoe-launching place for experienced adventurers wanting to explore the gorges downstream.

The Snowy River offers thrilling canoeing and white water rafting opportunities with rugged gorges, rapids, flat sections with sand bars and beautiful scenery. The gently sloping sand bars make ideal camp sites for extended trips.

The most popular section is from McKillops Bridge to the Buchan River junction at Balley Hooley. This trip takes three-four days to complete.

Prepare carefully for any river trip. Consult guide books or speak to the Victorian Canoe Association. Better still, include in your group someone with canoeing or rafting experience or someone who knows the river. Remember to check river levels and weather conditions with the Bureau of Metrology before you leave.

Always leave details of your itinerary with a responsible person.

## Silver Mine Walking Track

Explore relics from early 1900s silver mining operations adjacent to the Snowy River in this 18km loop walk. The track passes through quite extensive stands of native White Cypress-pine (*Callitris columellaris*).

The broad ridge separating the Deddick and Snowy River valleys, provides truly spectacular views of the rivers and surrounding mountains. The Pilot and Mt Cobberas can be seen to the northwest, Mt Tingaringy on the state border is the big plateau to the east. Nearby peaks include the massive Mt Bulla Bulla and the triple topped Mt Deddick. The Silver Mine Walking Track is quite a challenging walk but the experience and the views of the wilderness are certainly worth all the effort.

## Human history

The park contains some of Victoria's oldest and most significant aboriginal cultural sites. The Gunaikurnai people occupied this land more than 21,000 years ago. Their scar trees, middens and stone artefacts depict life as they travelled the bountiful river corridor which connected the Monaro plains with the coastal lowlands.

Mining for gold, silver and copper, cattle farming and honey production supported a number of small settlements in and around the park since Europeans arrived in the 1830s. Bridal trails and blaze trees stand as evidence to this by-gone era.

## The natural background

In this area mountains were worn down and dissected by weathering and the constant action of flowing water, including that of the Snowy River, which has been carving out its present course for over 20 million years. All this activity has created the shape of the land you see today.

Geology, landform and climate play important roles in determining flora and fauna. The variety of combinations of these elements in Snowy River National Park has resulted in a spectacular diversity of plants and animals including the Snowy River Daisy.

A large number of vegetation communities occur in the park, including warm temperate rainforest and rainshadow woodland.

This diversity is reflected in the fauna which includes more than 30 mammal species (from common wombats and kangaroos to the endangered Long-footed Potaroo, Brush-tailed Rock-Wallaby, Tiger Quoll and about 150 species of birds. Reptiles, amphibians, insects and other invertebrates are also numerous.

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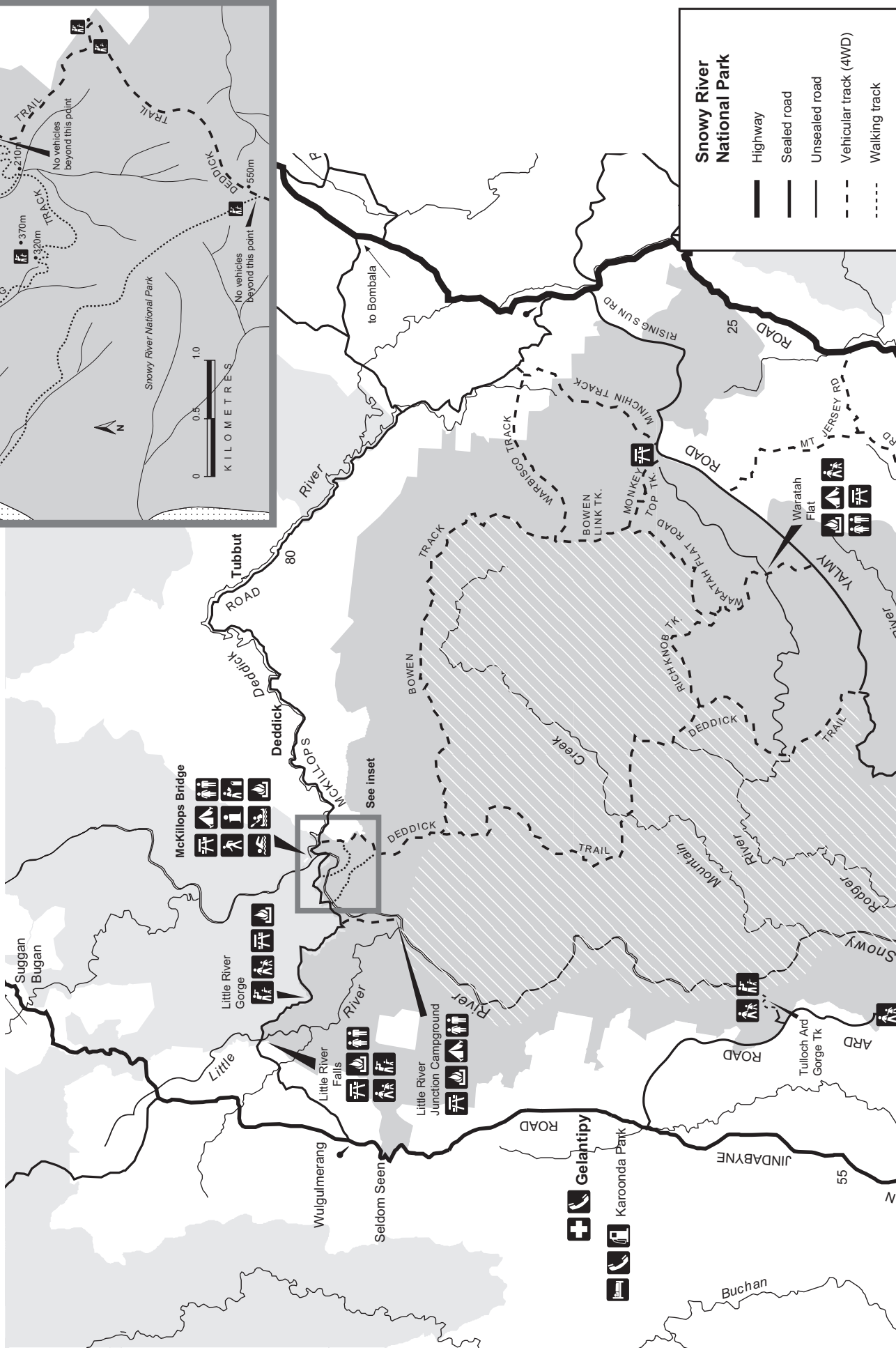
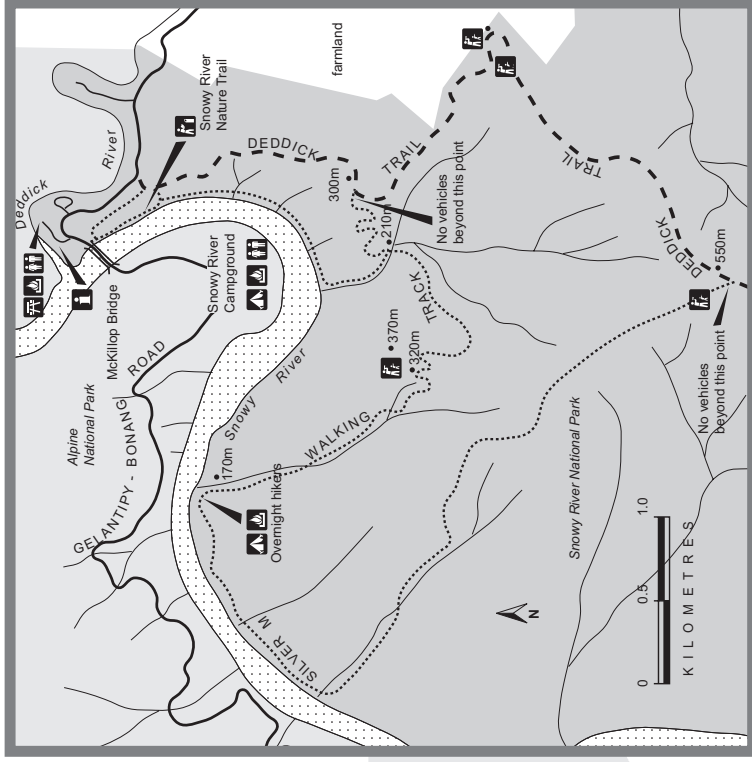
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# McKillops Bridge / Silvermine Walking Track Inset



Snowy River National Park

Wilderness area

Other conservation reserve

Camping

Canoeing

Family walks

Fireplace

First aid

Fuel

Hiking

Information board

Lookout

Parks Vic office

Picnic tables

Self guided walk

Swimming

Telephone

Toilets

Accommodation

Caravan park

Recreation facilities

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KILOMETRES

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