

# Grampians National Park



Grampians National Park is a place of spectacular natural beauty in western Victoria. Aboriginal people have lived in the area for thousands of years and it is one of the richest Indigenous rock art sites in south-eastern Australia. The park is renowned for its rugged beauty and spectacular spring wildflowers. The drama of the landscape is enhanced by numerous rock formations, waterfalls and clear streams, lookouts with panoramic views over forests, woodlands, wetlands & fern gullies. Geological processes have sculpted sweeping slopes, craggy peaks and massive sandstone cliffs.

The Grampians support over 975 native plant species, including more than 75 orchid species, representing over one third of the total Victorian flora. Many of these species are only found here. This incredible biodiversity is due to the wide variety of rock and soil types and environmental niches.

The variety of vegetation, topography and habitats provides shelter and food for at least 230 bird species. The low open shrubby woodlands in the park support many different nectar-feeding birds, and the tall open forests are important for species that live in hollows, such as the powerful owl.

The Grampians wetlands, particularly those in the south of the park, support a diverse community of waterbirds, including the great egret. The numerous cliff faces provide nesting sites for the peregrine falcon, and large populations of emus are found throughout the lowland areas. The diverse habitats throughout the park also support a wide range of animals, reptiles, amphibians, native fish, huntsmen spiders, butterflies & water beetles.

Many threatened species of plants and animals are found in the Grampians, including the Grampians pincushion lily and the southern pipewort. Nationally threatened animals recorded in the park include the endangered red-tailed black cockatoo, and smoky mouse. There is also the vulnerable swift parrot, warty bell frog, brush-tailed rock wallaby, long-nosed potoroo & heath rat.

## More Information

[Australian Heritage Database record for this place](#)  
[Location/Boundary plan \(PDF - 823 KB\)](#)

# Great Ocean Road



Stretching for 242 kilometres along the south-west coast of Victoria, the Great Ocean Road is an outstanding coastal journey. Its rugged natural beauty, shipwreck stories, and surfing culture makes the Great Ocean Road a popular tourist destination, with more than 7.5 million visits to the area each year.

In the early 20th century the rugged south-west coast of Victoria was accessible only by sea or rough bush track. By the end of the First World War, a road was planned to connect the area's isolated settlements and simultaneously provide work for returned servicemen. Work began in 1919 and lasted to 1932. More than 3000 returned servicemen worked on the Great Ocean Road—an enormous undertaking often conducted under very difficult living and working conditions. Construction was done by hand, using explosives, pick and shovel, wheel barrows, and some small machinery.

The frequently changing landscapes and views from the Great Ocean Road have made it Australia's most famous coastal drive. Formed 150 million years ago when the great southern land mass known as Gondwana began to break up, the area today includes rare polar dinosaur fossil sites and, with natural erosion, further discoveries are expected.

Rock formations found along the dynamic Port Campbell limestone coast include the world famous Twelve Apostles, a collection of limestone stacks 45 metres high. Originally 12 structures, the stacks are susceptible to further erosion from the waves. In 2005, a 50 metre tall stack collapsed, leaving eight remaining. Other examples of the dynamic nature of this coast include London Arch, formerly known as the London Bridge until part of the structure collapsed unexpectedly in January 1990, and Island Arch that collapsed in June 2009.

The iconic Bells Beach has a prominent place in Australia's surfing history and is highly valued by the world's surfing community for the distinctive quality of its surf. It is the home of the world's longest-running surfing competition.

## More information

[Australian Heritage Database record for this place](#)  
[Location/Boundary plan \(PDF - 393 KB\)](#)

# Anglesea Heathlands



## **What is so special about the Anglesea Heathlands?**

- The heathlands cover 6500 hectares, protect more than 700 native plant species (about a quarter of Victorian flora), including over 100 orchid species.
- Listed on the Register of the National Estate for their biodiversity value, both in terms of their highly diverse flora and abundance of native wildlife. An ecological asset of international significance.
- One of the few remnants of natural vegetation in south-western Victoria to have escaped farming and urbanisation.
- Different from any other Australian heathland and are the richest and most diverse vegetation community recorded in Victoria.
- Significant flora include eight rare or threatened species at the national level, and 20 at state level. Two species, the Anglesea Grevillea and the Anglesea Slender Sun Orchid, are endemic to the area.
- Orchids are an outstanding feature, from the tiny Helmet Orchid to the Great Sun Orchid. The heathlands are one of the most orchid-rich sites in Australia.
- They are home to more than 100 species of native birds, including the Powerful Owl and Rufous Bristlebird.
- 29 mammal species, including the critically endangered New Holland Mouse and rare species such as the Swamp Antechinus and White-footed Dunnart, have been recorded in the heathlands.