

Recommended Overnight Hikes Grampians National Park

Grampians National Park is a well-known destination for overnight hiking, with numerous opportunities for walkers to explore and challenge themselves in a spectacular environment. The walks listed here are a selection of the most popular overnight hikes in the Grampians. Additionally to these track notes, please also refer to the related publication "*Preparing for your Overnight Hike*", which provides key information to help you plan and prepare for your trip.

Please note The Mt Difficult & Briggs Bluff overnight hike was extensively damaged by a bushfire in January 2014. This walk will continue to remain closed to assist with environmental recovery.

1. The Fortress and Mt Thackeray

Distance: Day 1: 4.3km, Day 2: 8km, Day 3: 15km = 27.3km total

Time: 3 days / 2 nights

Start/Finish: Harrop Track Carpark (near Deep Creek)

Grade: 4 (Very steep, rough track, many obstacles, limited signage, many steps)

Experience Required: Experienced and self-sufficient bushwalkers who are well-prepared for all weather conditions.

Elevation changes: Day 1: 560m, Day 2: 150m, Day 3: 710m

Camps:

Datum used: GDA94 Zone 54

- Deep Creek Hiker Camp GR147704
- Fortress Hiker Camp GR157698
- Mt Thackeray Hiker Camp GR184715

Topographical Map Required:

Southern Grampians Outdoor Recreation Guide

Scale: 1:50,000

Produced in 2008 by Spatial Vision

Day One

Harrop Track Carpark to the Fortress (4.3km - 2 Hours)

Starting at Harrop Track follow the Management Vehicle only Track for 600m through the banksia and heathland forest. The track turns to the right and rises sharply, offering spectacular views of the imposing Fortress buttress and surrounding mountainous terrain. Use the Deep Creek or Fortress Hiker Campsites.

Day Two

The Fortress to Mt Thackeray Hiker Campsite (8km - 4-4½ Hours)

After following a winding track along the ridge for about 1km, the track drops off the range and meets a 4WD track. Follow this 4WD track to the Victoria Range Track, turn left and continue to the Mt Thackeray carpark where you can bushcamp.

(Optional, walk to Mt Thackeray from carpark; see Southern Walks Brochure)

Day Three

Mt Thackeray Hiker Campsite to Harrop Track Carpark (15km - 5-5½ Hours)

Follow the Victoria Range Track for 7.5km. Turn left into Hut Creek Track, and follow until you reach Harrop Track. (During winter the creek is following - take care when crossing.) At Harrop Track turn left and return to the Carpark.

2. Major Mitchell Plateau

Distance: Day 1: 12.7km, Day 2: 13km, Day 3: 15km = 40.7km total

Time: 3 days / 2 nights

Start/Finish: Sheep Hills Carpark, 3km south of Mt William Road

Grade: 4 (Very steep, rough track, many obstacles, limited signage, many steps)

Experience Required: Experienced and self-sufficient bushwalkers who are well-prepared for all weather conditions.

Elevation changes: Day 1: 640m, Day 2: 850m, Day 3: 190m

Camps:

Datum used GDA94 Zone 54

- First Wannon Hiker Camp GR407683
- Jimmy Creek Campground GR331628

Topographical Map Required:

Southern Grampians Outdoor Recreation Guide

Scale: 1:50,000

Produced in 2008 by Spatial Vision

Day One

Sheep Hills Carpark to First Wannon Hiker Campsite (12.7km - 5 Hours)

This walk begins as a gentle stroll through a forest of Stringybark's and Banksias before rising steadily to a ridge where you will be rewarded with great views of the neighbouring ranges and valleys. Follow the ridge until the track intersects with the Mt William Road. Follow the sealed road towards your right until you reach the Mt William Carpark. From the Carpark follow the sealed road beyond the gate towards the summit of Mt William (Duwul). Before the summit, follow an old management vehicle track along the top of the range, the track narrows and descends to Boundary Gap (Dirag). A steep rock scramble upwards brings you onto the Major Mitchell Plateau, and the First Wannon Hiker Campsite is reached shortly after.

Day Two

First Wannon Hiker Campsite to Jimmy Creek Campground (13km - 5 Hours)

The track continues beyond the First Wannon Hiker Campsite along the Major Mitchell Plateau, revealing magnificent panoramic views. Keep watch for the track markers along the less conspicuous sections of the track. The track leaves the Major Mitchell Plateau and descends steeply to Stockyard Saddle; continue along a Management Vehicle Track that leads to a helipad. From the helipad, the walking track gradually winds downhill to Jimmy Creek Campground.

Day Three

Jimmy Creek Campground to Sheep Hills Carpark (15km - 5 Hours)

Cross the Wannon River at the footbridge and follow the track to the Ingleton Fireline. From this intersection follow the Fireline north. Cross over Serra Road and continue along the undulating Fireline, directional signage indicates the turn-off to Sheep Hills Carpark.

3. Grampians Peaks Trail (Wonderland Loop)

Distance: Day 1: 8.6km, Day 2: 13.8km, Day 3: 14.2km = 36.6km total

Time: 3 days / 2 nights

Start/Finish: Halls Gap

Grade: 4 (Very steep, formed track, many obstacles, clearly sign posted)

Experience Required: Bushwalking experience recommended – well-prepared and self-sufficient bushwalkers prepared for all weather conditions.

Elevation changes: Day 1: 840m, Day 2: 1033m, Day 3: 600m

Camps

All camps on this hike need to be booked in advance.

Datum used GDA94 Zone 54

- Bugiga Hiker Camp GR339840
- Stoney Creek Group Camping Area (for school or large groups) GR318841
- Borough Huts Campground GR366791

Topographical Map Required:

Northern Grampians Outdoor Recreation Guide

Scale: 1:50,000

Produced in 2014 by Spatial Vision

Day One

Halls Gap to Bugiga (8.6km – 5 Hours)

Starting from the carpark in Halls Gap, walk past the swimming pool, cross the road and follow signs to Venus Baths. Just before the rock pools at Venus Baths, take the track up the stairs towards Splitters Falls. Once on the track you will come to a track junction where you can take a small detour to view the falls. Return to the main track and climb up through a rocky gully to the Grand Canyon. After the canyon a steady ascent takes you through woodland and to the rocky corridor of Silent Street and then on to the famous Pinnacle. From this lookout views of Mt William, Halls Gap and Fyans Valley are astounding. Follow the GPT signs south to Lakeside Lookout and then to Sundial Carpark. Much of this track is near the ridge that provides hikers with views along the way. At Sundial Carpark take the track towards Sundial Peak for 250m. Turn right and follow the track towards Rosea Carpark, after 1.1km turn left onto the track to Bugiga Hiker Camp. Alternatively, keep following the track to the Stony Creek group Hikers Camp.

Day Two

Bugiga to Borough Huts (13.8km – 5 to 6 Hours)

Take the track to Rosea Carpark, cross Stony Creek Road to start an ascent through tall Messmate forest. On the ridge, carefully follow track markers through a maze of sandstone outcrops, to cross a bridge over the Gate of the East Wind. Continue the climb up windswept terraces to a sign posted intersection, turning left to the summit of Mt Rosea. Enjoy amazing 360-degree views over the Serra and Mt William Ranges. Follow the markers down and veer left, through a sheltered forest. Track markers will guide you down rocky outcrops and forested gullies before reaching Borough Huts Campground for your second night's stay.

Day Three

Borough Huts to Halls Gap (14km - 5-6 Hours)

From the campground, carefully cross the Grampians Tourist Road and follow the track to Bellfield Track, then continue along the Terraces Fireline. Follow this track to the Tandara Road intersection, turn left and walk to Tandara Road. Continue to the end of the road and cross over to the sealed walking track that will take you back to Halls Gap.