

Snowy River National Park



Visitor Guide

Snowy River National Park 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 and diverse forests in the most rugged and remote country in Victoria.

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. Touring at night is often a great way to meet the local wildlife. 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.

The Deddick Trail and Bowen Track access some of the most diverse and remote areas in the park. These challenging yet rewarding 4WD tracks are suitable for well equipped, experienced drivers. The Deddick Trail takes approximately 3 hours from its start at Yalmy Road to McKillops Road, not inclusive of a refreshing picnic stop at Mountain Creek.

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 Moresford Track. A short walking track leads to a view of Raymond Falls plunging 20 metres into a deep, clear pool.

The Silver Mine Walking Track (18km) and the short Snowy River Nature Trail offer self guided walks, 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.

Wilderness

Much of the park is reserved as wilderness to provide opportunities for solitude, inspiration and appropriate self-reliant recreational activities. To maintain the wilderness experience, tracks in wilderness areas are closed to public vehicles, including trail bikes, bicycles and horses.



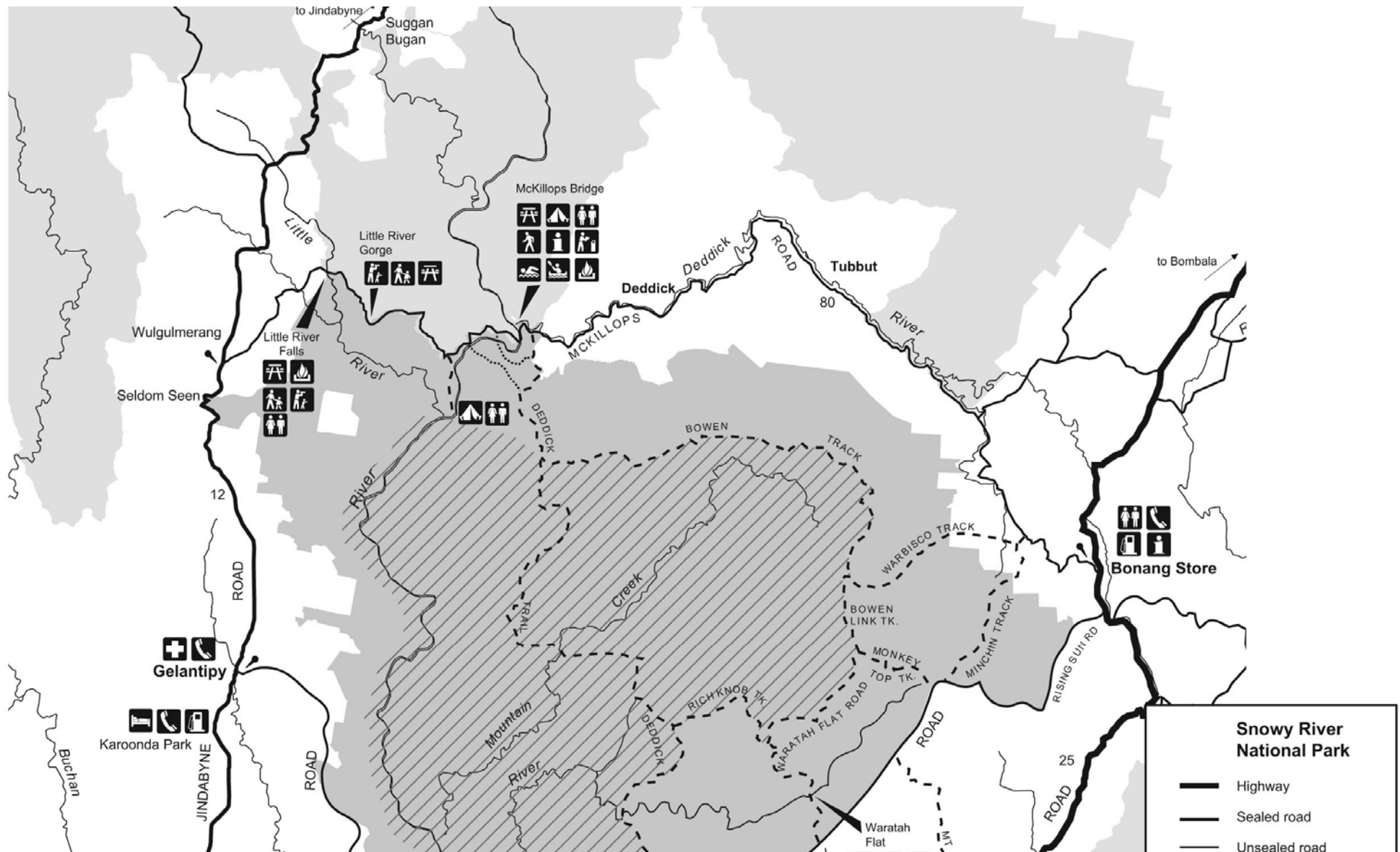
A two day tour

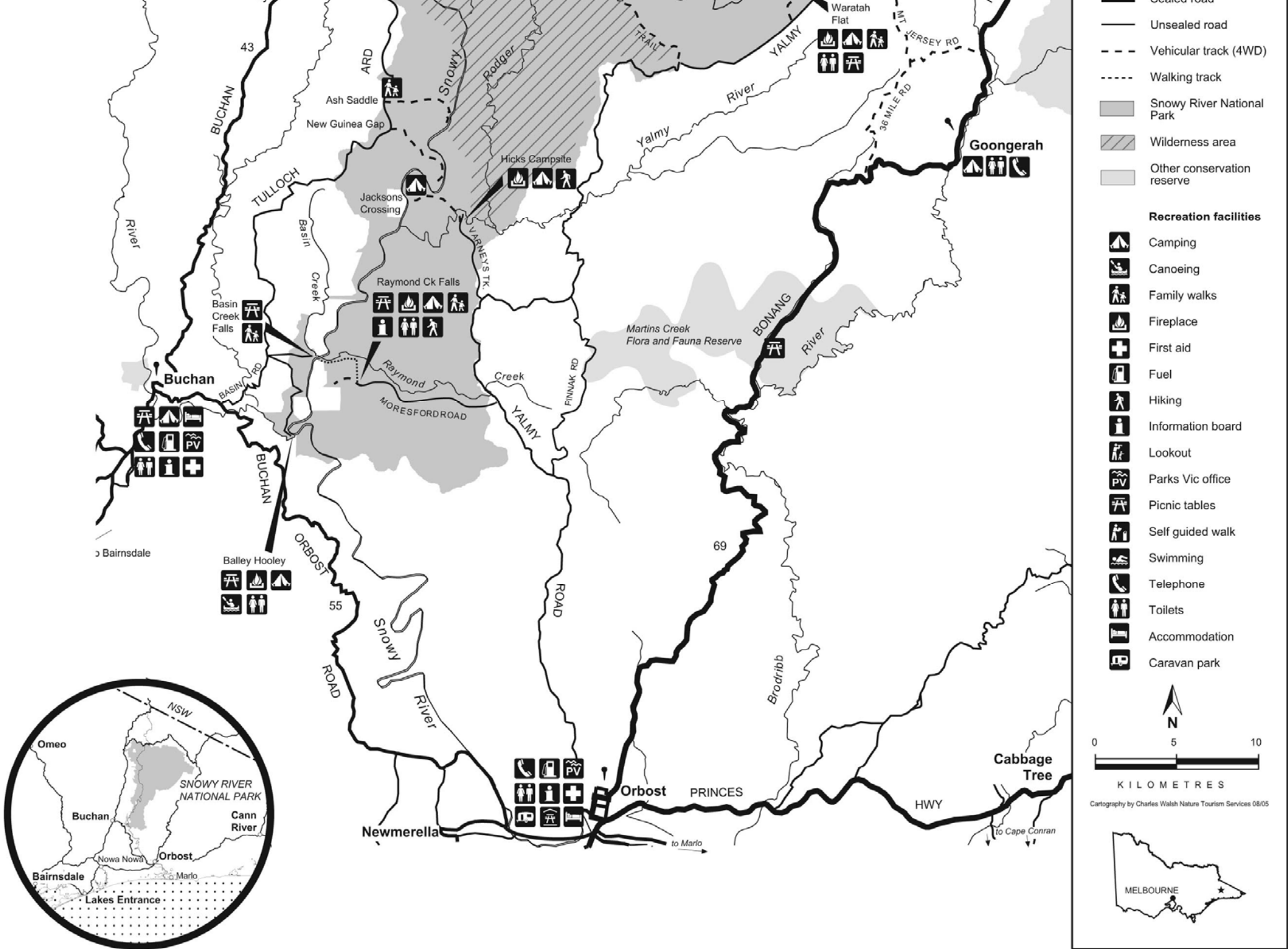
Snowy River National Park is a remote area that rewards those who make the effort to visit. An ideal way to discover some of its special features is to spend a few days touring the area by vehicle.

An interesting two day trip is to travel north from Buchan along Tulloch Ard Road, pausing at New Guinea Gap to take in the view over the Snowy and Rodger River catchments.

Stop on McKillops Road to walk to the lookouts that give spectacular views of Little River Falls and Gorge. Camp at McKillops Bridge and walk the nearby nature trail, or paddle in the refreshing waters of the Snowy River. Early next morning, continue to Bonang and then along the Yalmy Road.

Stop to explore the imposing mixed age Mountain Ash forest at Waratah Flat. Finally take a detour out to Raymond Creek Falls before finishing your tour in Orbost. The climate is ideal for a visit any time of year, the best times depend on what you plan to do. Spring is ideal for canoeing and rafting, summer for camping and autumn for vehicle touring.

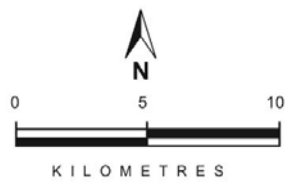




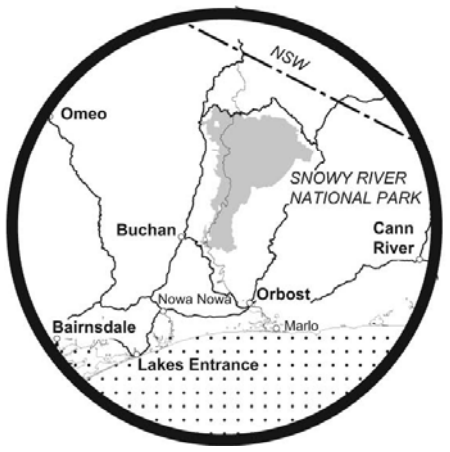
- Unsealed road
- - - Vehicular track (4WD)
- - - - Walking track
- Snowy River National Park
- ▨ Wilderness area
- Other conservation reserve

Recreation facilities

- ▲ Camping
- ☎ Canoeing
- 👨‍👩‍👧 Family walks
- 🔥 Fireplace
- 🏠 First aid
- ⛽ Fuel
- 🚶 Hiking
- ℹ Information board
- 🔍 Lookout
- 🏠 Parks Vic office
- 🍷 Picnic tables
- 🚶 Self guided walk
- 🏊 Swimming
- ☎ Telephone
- 🚻 Toilets
- 🏠 Accommodation
- 🚐 Caravan park



Cartography by Charles Walsh Nature Tourism Services 08/05



For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre
13 1963
or visit the website
www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Parks Victoria Bendoc
Nichol Street
Bendoc VIC 3888

Parks Victoria Orbost
171 Nicholson Street
Orbost VIC 3888

Buchan Caves Reserve
Caves Road
Buchan VIC 3885

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 (Eastern 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; most rubbish will not burn or rot

Please do not throw this park note away. Keep it, return it for others to use, or recycle it

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, Waratah Flat and Hicks camp site.

Dispersed camping for bushwalkers is allowed. Please ensure you are at least 20 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.



Black-tailed Wallaby © MT

Human history

The park contains some of Victoria's oldest and most significant aboriginal cultural sites. The Gunai/Kurnai 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.

About the park

The 98,700 hectares of this park are full of interest. It has the sandbanks and deep gorges of the Snowy River, the old growth forests of Mt Gelantipy, distinctive native pine woodlands in the Snowy River valley and the undisturbed catchments of the Rodger River. Add extensive wilderness areas, significant plant and animal species, important archaeological sites and spectacular landscapes and you have an outstanding national park.

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.

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 rare Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby) and about 150 species of birds. Reptiles, amphibians, insects and other invertebrates are also numerous.