

Dandenong Ranges National Park



TrailRider Visitor Guide

Journey among the tallest flowering plants in the world, the Mountain Ash. Picnic with the melodious song of the Superb Lyrebird in the background. Discover rare orchids and marvel at the tree ferns with their link to ancient Gondwanaland. A TrailRider all-terrain wheelchair is the perfect way for park visitors with significant mobility limitations to explore the magnificence of Dandenong Ranges National Park.



Planning your walk

Before setting off it is important to plan and organise your day – know where you are going and what you might need to take. Use this guide to assess the demands of a particular track against your own personal needs and capability.

The trails listed range in difficulty from easy for first-time TrailRider users to more advanced trails for TrailRider users who have some experience and a reasonable level of fitness. These trails vary in distance and steepness but do not have any steps.

Refer to Parks Victoria's TrailRider advisory guide as to what trail conditions to expect. A key to the trail gates is required for access to the Hardy Gully Nature Walk and the Sherbrooke Loop Walk.

TrailRider chair safety

- The TrailRider must be operated with a minimum of two inducted operators.
- Have a bike helmet ready for the passenger.
- The chair passenger must always have their seat belt fastened while in the chair.
- The chair has a weight limit of 113kg; total of the rider and gear.
- When stationary, ensure the chair is on level ground and the kickstand is on.
- The chair is not designed to go in water deeper than 100mm.

Things to see and do

Walking

Margaret Lester Forest Walk – 300m, 30 minutes return, beginner, 2 chair operators

Located within Grants Picnic Ground, this walk follows a steady gradient weaving through spectacular Mountain Ash forest. The first half has been specially designed for all abilities access and is a good easy walk for first-time TrailRider users.

The returning path consists of an unsealed gravel path that runs parallel to the visitor car park. This walk has several viewing areas, each offering picturesque views of the majestic Mountain Ash trees and large tree ferns.

Hardy Gully Nature Walk – 700m, 45 minutes return, intermediate, 2-3 chair operators

This is a very picturesque short walk that takes you through a beautiful rainforest gully of very old Mountain Ash trees and tall tree ferns.

Start at the trail gate opposite the bus car park and follow the signs to the Hardy Gully Nature Walk. It is recommended that TrailRider chair users take this walk in an anticlockwise direction to avoid a steep hill. Follow Hardy Gully Nature Walk down into the gully. At

the next intersection, turn left onto Lyrebird Track which will lead you back to Grants Picnic Ground.

Sherbrooke Loop Walk – 4km, 2 hours circuit, intermediate, 4 chair operators

Thrilling song and a glimpse of a Superb Lyrebird may reward along this scenic walk through Mountain Ash forest.

Start at the trail gate opposite the bus car park and follow the Lyrebird track. At the end, turn right onto Hall Track and follow it until the track intersects with Neumann Track (vehicle track). Turn right onto Neumann Track and follow it all the way until it reaches Lyrebird Track. Turn left on Lyrebird Track and follow it back to where you commenced at Grants Picnic Ground.

Plants and animals

The Mountain Ash forests at Dandenong Ranges National Park provide the perfect habitat for wildlife such as the Superb Lyrebird, Ring-tailed and Brush-tailed Possums.

Treecreepers, small birds that cling to the sides of trees looking for a meal of grubs and insects, can be seen foraging among the tree trunks. The beautiful and elusive Blue-winged Parrot has also been sighted in Sherbooke Forest.

A major feature of the park is the magnificent Mountain Ash trees of Sherbrooke. Most of these trees grew after the severe forest fires of the 1920s. Mountain Ash are the world's tallest flowering plants, growing some 100m and living up to 500 years.

Be prepared and stay safe

The Dandenong Ranges National Park is closed when there is a Total Fire Ban or strong winds. Signs may be erected but do not expect a personal warning.

Dandenong Ranges National Park is in the Central fire district. Bushfire safety is a personal responsibility. Anyone entering parks and forests during the bushfire season needs to stay aware of forecast weather conditions. Check the Fire Danger Rating and for days of Total Fire Ban at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

The latest park information is available at www.parks.vic.gov.au or by calling Parks Victoria on 13 1963.

For emergency assistance call Triple Zero (000). If there is a green emergency marker sign near you, read the information on the marker to the operator.