



Lakes and Craters Precinct: Mount Noorat



Mount Noorat is a large dry volcanic crater, standing 310 metres above sea level and measuring 159 metres deep and 400 metres wide. Named after local Aboriginal elder Ngoora, the Mount was a traditional meeting and bartering place for the Kirrae Wuurong people.

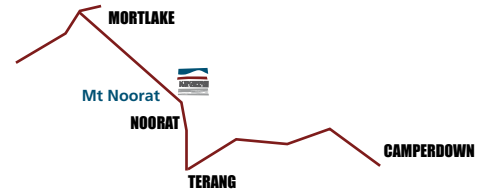
The mountain is a scoria cone with complex eruption point topography, and its central feature is an entire circular crater with a minimum enclosure depth of 85 metres, which is believed to be the deepest scoria enclosed crater in Victoria (and possibly Australia).

The base of this crater (150+ metres) is lower than the level of the surrounding plain, and the highest point on the crater rim is a mound of scoria reaching 310 metres above sea level.

A number of mounds and depressions surround the main crater, and are believed to be other eruption points. Tuff deposits are the lowermost materials exposed in the western quarries, indicating an initial maar eruption. Subsequent scoria eruptions have almost completely buried the tuff which rests on basalt lava flows.

There are some fine geological sections exposing scoria draped over tuff beds in the lower western quarries. Mount Noorat is a major locality for xenoliths.

Although located on private land, there is public walking access to the crater.



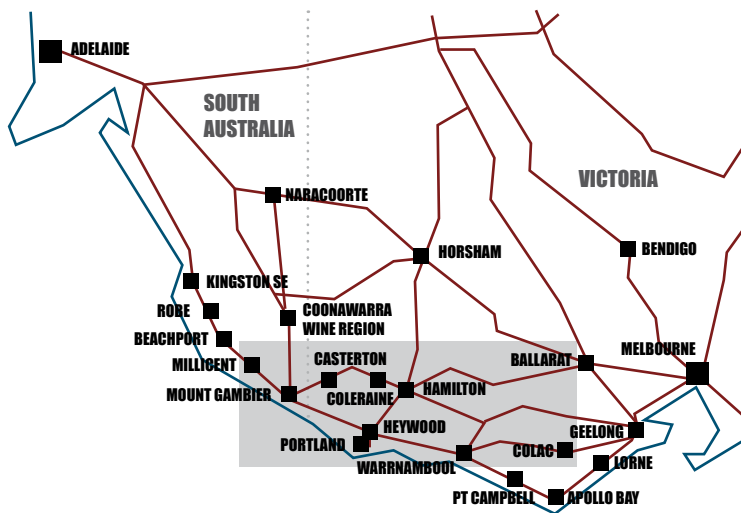
How to get there?

The mountain is approached via Noorat, which is six kilometres north of Terang.

Things to do:

- Follow the Alan Marshall Walking Track to the summit to admire spectacular views of the surrounding countryside. You can also walk around the rim of the crater.
- The Alan Marshall Precinct is located in Noorat, birthplace of popular Australian author Alan Marshall (1902 – 1984). His best known work, "I Can Jump Puddles", is said to be a thinly disguised autobiography of his early life and boyhood adventures in Noorat. Never deterred by an early disability, Marshall liked to catch eels in Mount Emu Creek, swim in Lake Keilambete and even reached the summit of Mount Noorat. The Precinct highlights particular buildings and sites in and around Noorat that are associated with Alan Marshall, including the Beehive Store, where Marshall was born, Noorat Primary School, and Mount Noorat.
- South West Victoria has the most extensive and impressive network of dry stone walls in the country. Brochures for the self-drive Corangamite Dry Stone Walls Heritage Trail are available at the Noorat Store and Post Office as well as the Visitor Information Centres in Warrnambool, Colac, Camperdown and Mortlake.
- Glenormiston College has an historic homestead with Robert Prenzel carvings and a garden walk.





Australia may be referred to as a relatively young nation, but the well-preserved ancient landscape provides many precious windows into the past. The Kanawinka Global Geopark can take you on an amazing journey through this landscape, enabling visitors to travel back in time over thousands and thousands of years.

The surface geology of South Western Victoria and South Eastern South Australia is a striking contrast of sweeping plains and spectacular mountains which are largely the product of volcanic activity. In fact, with six sites of international significance and 14 of national significance, this area is Australia's most extensive volcanic province.

The history of these geological masterpieces stretches back to the Tertiary and Quaternary eras, when great outpourings of volcanic material through vents took place. Lava flows spread evenly across the existing plains, followed valleys, flowed under water, and in some cases forced upwards into rough, stony hills called tumuli, or steeper scoria cones.

In total, the flows cover an area of some 23,000 square km, extending north to the hills beyond Ballarat, and reappearing in a small section of south-eastern South Australia. This area is known as the Newer Volcanics Province, and features nearly 400 individual eruption points, most of which occurred between 4.5 and 2 million years ago.

Many of the eruptions were witnessed by the indigenous peoples of the area who have inhabited this region for up to 45,000 years, and feature prominently in stories of the Dreamtime.

Aboriginal people also made use of the stones from the lava flow to construct channels linking the wetlands, weirs, fish-traps, wind breaks and stone huts, and excellent examples created by the Gunditjmarra people can be found around Western Victoria's Lake Condah region in particular.

Later, during the 1870s and 80s, European settlers utilised the volcanic stone cleared from the land to construct dry stone walls in order to grow crops and introduce stock. Many examples can be found surrounding Corangamite on the Dry Stone Walls Heritage Trail.

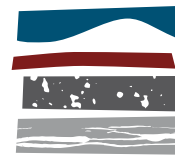
The region's spectacular and intriguing volcanic landscape also offers a range of other visitor experiences, from a 45-minute tour to the surface of Mount Gambier's Blue Lake, to the gruelling trek up Mount Schank and down to the crater floor.

In western Victoria, you can go on a chartered boat tour to Lady Julia Percy Island, which has the largest colony of Australian fur seals in the southern hemisphere. Or, take The Alan Marshall Walking Tour of Mount Noorat and the nearby township, or swim in the turquoise-coloured waters of Lake Surprise.

There are also plenty of picturesque picnic and camping spots just waiting to be discovered. Alternatively, you can take your time and spend the night in one of the numerous towns in the Kanawinka Global Geopark.

The Geopark is known as KANAWINKA GEOPARK, meaning Land of Tomorrow from the Buandik people. It is also the name of a geological fault line from Naracoorte Caves to Bass Strait at Portland and a Parish name west of Casterton about 1911 so all levels of the history, Geological, Indigenous and European are brought together in one name.

The Kanawinka Geopark was declared the 57th Member of the Global Network of National Geoparks assisted by UNESCO on June 22, 2008.



KANAWINKA GLOBAL GEOPARK

South West Victoria & South East South Australia

PO Box 860, Hamilton 3300
Victoria, Australia

PHONE +61 4 2282 1066

FAX +61 3 5597 6753

EMAIL administration@kanawinkageopark.com

www.kanawinkageopark.com



Accredited Visitor Information Centres

Victoria

Casterton

Shiels Terrace
03 5581 2070

Colac

Cnr Queen & Murray
Streets
03 5231 3730

Dunkeld

Parker Street
03 5577 2558

Hamilton

Lonsdale Street
1800 807 056

Nelson

Leake Street
08 8738 4051

Port Campbell

26 Morris Street
03 5598 6089

Port Fairy

Railway Place,
Bank Street
03 5568 2682

Portland

Lee Breakwater Rd.
1800 035 567

Warrnambool

Flagstaff Hill
Merri Street
1800 637 725

South Australia

Beachport

Millicent Road
08 8735 8029

Millicent

Mt Gambier Road
08 8733 0904

Mount Gambier

The Lady Nelson
Jubilee Hwy East
1800 087 187

Penola/Coonawarra

27 Arthur Street
08 8737 2855



Camperdown

Old Court House
179 Manifold Street
03 5593 3144

Lake Bolac

2110 Glenelg Hwy
03 5350 2204