

KANAWINKA

GLOBAL GEOPARK

South West Victoria & South East South Australia

Visitor Guide



www.kanawinkageopark.com

What is a Geopark?

A Geopark can be one contained area or several related geological areas (a serial Geopark), nationally protected through Local Government Planning laws, State Planning laws, National Parks, National Trust, private treaty with owners and Heritage Overlays.

The area/s will contain a number of geological heritage sites (Sites of Significance) of particular importance, rarity or aesthetic appeal.

These Earth Heritage Sites are part of an integrated concept of protection, education and sustainable development. A Geopark achieves its goals through a three-pronged approach:

Geotourism, Education and Conservation



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** takes you on a surprising journey through this amazing 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 cones that are the result of volcanic activity. In fact with six Geosites of International Significance, this area is Australia's most extensive volcanic province. The history of these geological masterpieces stretches back over thousands of years, 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 places forced upwards into rough stony hills called tumuli.

In total the area covers 26,910 square kilometres with 58 Geosites. 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 the Dreamtime Stories.

Indigenous people also made use to the stones from the lava flows to construct channels linking the wetlands, weirs, to make fish traps, wind breaks and stone huts. Excellent examples were created by the Gunditjmarra people and can be found around Lake Condah. Later in the 1870's and 1880's 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 Camperdown on the Dry Stone Wall Heritage Trail.

The Geoparks spectacular and intriguing volcanic landscape also offers a range of visitor experiences from a 45 minute tour of the surface of Mount Gambier's Blue Lake to a self guided walk to the summit of Mount Elephant.

Red Rock



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Mount Elephant

Lakes and Craters Precinct:

This Precinct encompasses the Eastern section of the Kanawinka Global Geopark and contains a good proportion of the significant volcanic features, as well as the vast majority of the Geoparks water bodies formed by volcanic activity.

Towns of the Lakes and Craters Precinct:

Colac
Camperdown
Lismore

Derrinallum
Terang
Skipton

Mortlake
Lake Bolac
Darlington

Red Rock (51)

Up to 30 eruption centres have been mapped in an area measuring 4 km by 3 km just south of the township of Alvie, and there are several smaller eruption points just north of the township. The eruption sequence includes an initial extended phase of maar and tuff ring formation with minor intervening scoria phases when phreatomagmatic activity declined due to depletion of groundwater. Ash deposits formed around the craters and lava jets shot hundreds of metres into the air creating the hills of Red Rock.

There are nine entire craters up to 75 metres deep, some containing lakes including Lakes Purdiguluc, Werewrap and Coragulac.

Things to do:

You can visit Red Rock lookout, about 17 kilometres north of Colac, near Alvie, for magnificent 360-degree views. On a clear day you can spot the Western Plains, Mount Elephant and Derrinallum from the lookout, along with Mounts Porndon and Sugarloaf.

Take the signposted left past the Alvie picnic area (which has toilets, a gas barbecue, water, and a playground, a shelter with a fireplace, picnic tables and benches).

An intersection beyond the picnic area features a branch road on the left, which will take you to Eastern Lookout.

Lake Corangamite (50)

Lake Corangamite is Victoria's largest inland lake. With a surface area of 234 square kilometres and a circumference of about 150 km, this spectacular body of water stretches for 32 km in a north-south direction.

The lake's name is said to be Aboriginal for 'bitter' - a reference to its extreme salinity (three times saltier than seawater). The volume of the streams, which feed the lake, is insufficient to cause an overflow, and prevents ongoing interchange or flow of waters. Being a rather shallow basin, the water merely evaporates, causing an accumulation of salinity.

Lake Bookar (54)

Lake Bookar is located in a State wildlife reserve and has been listed as a wetland of international significance under the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran 1971).

The lake features a wide range of native plants and bird life and offers sailing and other boating, spectacular photography, picnicking, walking, duck hunting in season, camping, and has a recreation reserve and interpretive centre on its southwest side.

Dry Stone Walls (56)

Surrounding Corangamite has the most numerous and most significant dry stonewalls in the country. Most of the existing walls were built in the 1870s and 80s, and were seen as a sensible and practical way to utilise the volcanic stone cleared from the land in order to grow crops and introduce stock.

Corangamite Arts has developed the Corangamite Dry Stone Walls Heritage Trail, which takes in 10 of the most important sections of walls with interpretation and brochure. The trail can be picked up at any location. For more information, you may also like to read the Corangamite Arts publication 'If these walls could talk', which is available at most VIC's.

Lake Terang (57)

Lake Terang is a dry crater lake of State significance. Access off Princes Highway in the centre of Terang. Walking track all the way around the lake. Golf, bowls and croquet nearby. Also Caravan Park, toilets and BBQ facilities nearby.

Lake Keilambete (38)

Lake Keilambete is a near perfectly very saline circular lake of national significance.

Lake Bullen Merri (39)

Lake Bullen Merri is a 490ha lake enclosed in a volcanic crater located on the outskirts of Camperdown, and is part of the Western District Lakes system in Victoria. This is a large and complex multiple maar and is the deepest such feature in the Kanawinka Global Geopark.

Things to do:

Lake Bullen Merri offers spectacular views, fishing, sailing, photography, boating, and swimming. Sealed road access with boat ramp, toilets and BBQ.

Camperdown Caravan Park is nearby, offering excellent views of both Lake Bullen Merri and Lake Gnotuck.

Visit the Botanic Gardens overlooking Lake Bullen Merri and Lake Gnotuk.





Mount Sugarloaf

Mount Leura (42)

The Mount Leura complex is one of the largest maar and tuff ring volcanoes in Victoria. Featuring a scoria cone surrounding a 100m-deep dry crater, Mount Leura is the central and most obvious component of a larger volcanic complex southeast of the town of Camperdown known as the Leura Maar.



Mount Leura

Mount Sugarloaf (43)

Mount Sugarloaf is basically a steep conical accumulation of scoria rising as a high point on the same crater rim as Mount Leura. It formed as a result of lava fountaining from the same point in the crater, continuously building an ever-increasing pile of scoria. Scoria volcanoes can achieve height quickly and Mount Leura could have been built in less than 20 years.

A strong revegetation program has been underway in recent years, including the reintroduction of flora and fauna.

Things to do:

Mount Leura has vehicle access and from the Lookout views of 20 volcanic features can be seen.

Mount Sugarloaf has a walk.

The picturesque town of Camperdown is at the foot of the Mountain, with a VIC, motels, restaurants and shops.

Lake Purrumbete (43)

South of Princes Highway, east of Camperdown has one of the best displays of base surge structures in Australia, and is an important teaching location. Public land on lake with sealed road to Caravan Park. Has a boat ramp and jetties, public toilets, fishing, bird life, abundant wetlands and educational value.

The lake system is of international significance and has a richly documented Aboriginal Heritage.

Mount Elephant (49)

Mount Elephant is one of the most obvious volcanoes in Australia, and is often referred to as the 'swagman's lighthouse' of Victoria's western district. The well-known icon is listed by the National Trust of Australia on the Register of the National Estate as "One of the highest and one of the major scoria cones in the largest homogenous volcanic plains on earth". It is of geological, historical, cultural, landscape value, and national scientific importance.

Featuring a classical conical form with steep sides and a crater, which drops 90 metres into the mountain, Mount Elephant is the best example of a breached scoria cone in Victoria and possibly Australia.

Today, public access is available on the First Sunday of each month and other times by appointment designated days, with the summit providing a spectacular panoramic view of the basaltic plains and other eruption points, as well as a rare view of a crater not associated with a phreatomagmatic eruption.

Lake Bolac (46)

A large lake with many facilities for water sports.

Mount Porndon (44)

Mount Porndon is a perfect cone south of the Princes Highway between Colac and Camperdown. Access by appointment only.



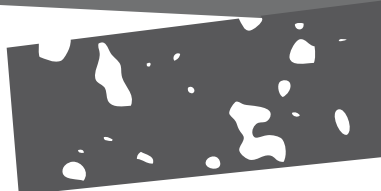
Mount Noorat (37)

Mount Noorat is Australia's largest 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.

Although located on private land, there is public walking access to the crater. Follow the Alan Marshall Walking Track to the summit to admire spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.





Turnbull

Lava Flows Precinct:

This Precinct features include a series of volcanic systems that link a number of volcanic cones with the ocean via extensive lava flows.

Towns of the Lava Flows Precinct:

Hamilton
Penshurst
Macarthur

Hawkesdale
Woolsthorpe
Caramut

Heywood
Koroit
Port Fairy

Byaduk Caves (27)

The Byaduk Caves in Mount Napier State Park are the most extensive and accessible set of lava caves in Australia. Being so young (only 8,000 years), they are largely unweathered and in their natural state.

They were formed when a spectacular lava fountain several hundred metres high roared up from a lava lake in Mount Napier's crater approximately 8,000 years ago. The lava rose from a depth of over 30km and its temperature was about 1200 degrees Celsius. It flowed in four directions, and the westerly flow, down Harman's Valley, extends for approximately 24km. The combined length of these lava flows makes it one of the longest in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Byaduk Caves provide many opportunities for nature study and walking. The Caves support a sizeable Bent-winged Bat population, and Bats tagged at the Naracoorte (South Australia) and Warrnambool maternity sites have been sighted at Byaduk.

Location:

The Byaduk Caves are part of the Mount Napier State Park and are 18km south of Hamilton on the Port Fairy Road.

Things to see and do:

Lava tubes, sinkholes and unique flora and fauna can be observed from the many viewing points situated on the cave edges of Harman's caves 1 and 2 and Bridge cave.

The walking track starts and ends at the car park.

Mount Napier State Park (28)

Mount Napier is one of the highest volcanic points of the Kanawinka Global Geopark. It is a composite volcano with two parts – a broad lava shield and a central cone of scoria.

Aborigines of the Gunditjmara tribe called Mount Napier Taa puuk or Tapoc.

Major Thomas Mitchell first climbed Mount Napier on August 28, 1836, during his exploration of “Australia Felix”.

Tumuli (25)

Near the limits of the Harman’s Valley flow at Wallacedale, 13 kilometres west of the Byaduk Caves, are a number of unusual clusters known as lava tumuli. The tumuli are circular mounds or hummocks of rock up to 10 metres high and 20 metres in diameter, and are considered to be not only unique in Australia, but also most likely rare on a world scale.

When the surface of lava flow quickly crusts over, pressure in the liquid lava beneath can cause the crust to rise. Generally, it forms irregular broad mounds and hollows known as Stony Rises, but occasionally, it creates smaller, steep-sided domes called tumuli. These are believed to have formed where the pressure was localised, or there was a small soft spot in the crust.

Lake Condah (32)

Large wetlands were created from these lava flows in an area known as Lake Condah where the Gunditjmara people harvested eels and fish. They used stones from the lava flows to construct elaborate channels; weirs wind breaks and stone huts. Tours can be arranged through the Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation in Heywood.

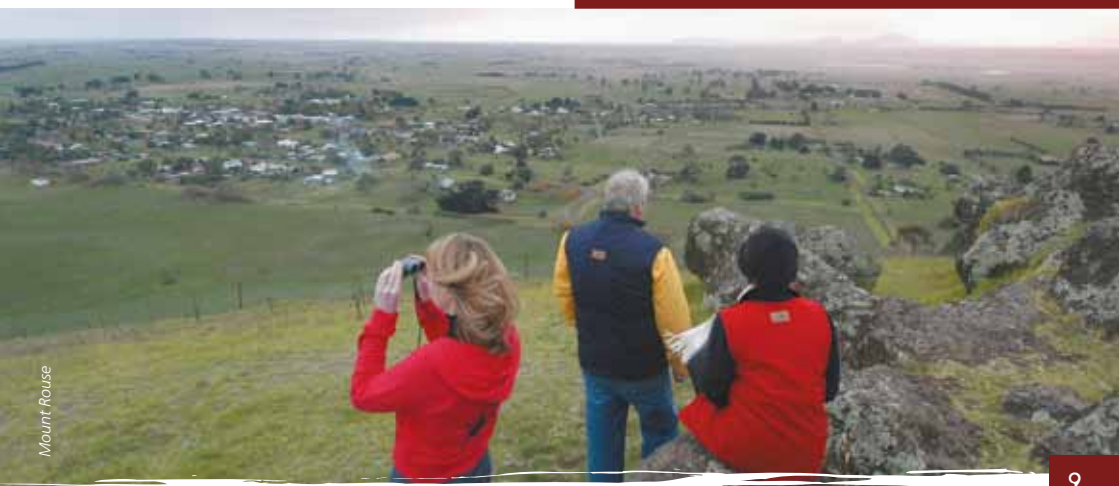
It is an area of local and national significance as it is considered to be Australia’s earliest and largest aquaculture venture and the only place in Australia where indigenous people built permanent housing. The Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape was National Heritage listed in 2004.

Mount Rouse (29)

Twenty minutes east of Hamilton, lies the town of Peshurst, home to the dormant volcano Mount Rouse. The mountain is a massive accumulation of scoria, rising 100 metres above the surrounding volcanic plain. It is a point of high relief in the area and is an important vantage point to view the lavas and adjacent volcanoes of Mount Eccles and Mount Napier.

The Mount Rouse summit has track access and provides panoramic views of the lava plain and surrounding district. At its base is a deep circular crater and lake rimmed with blotchy spattered basalt.

The Volcanoes Discovery Centre in Peshurst displays the volcanic history of the Geopark.



Lava Flows Precinct

Tower Hill (34)

Tower Hill formed at least 30,000 years ago when lava from beneath the earth's crust came into contact with the subterranean water table. The violent eruption that followed created the main funnel-shaped crater, which later filled with water to form a lake. Further volcanic activity within the centre of the crater formed the islands and cone-shaped hills that can be seen today.

The formation of Tower Hill is known as a nested maar. Measuring 3.2km by 2.4km wide, it is the largest of its type in Australia.

Little was known about the original vegetation until the discovery of a painting of Tower Hill by noted Victorian artist Eugene von Guerard, dating back to 1855. The painting is so detailed that some individual plant species can be identified, and a revegetation program based on these began in the late 1950s.

The revegetation of Tower Hill has provided new habitats for many animals, and you may see koalas, emus, kangaroos, magpie geese, echidnas and possums. Boardwalks, nesting boxes and a bird hide have been constructed to enable bird watchers to catch a glimpse of chestnut teal, musk ducks, spoonbills and other water birds.

Things to do:

- There are three main self-guided walks at Tower Hill, and each starts from the picnic area.
 - Peak Climb (orientation and geology - 30 mins, steep)
 - Lava Tongue Boardwalk (wetlands - 30 mins, easy)
 - Journey to the Last Volcano (geology - 1 hour, moderate)
- A bird hide enables you to have a closer encounter with wildlife.
- The outstanding Natural History Centre designed by the late Robin Boyd has interesting displays including Worn Gundidj's local Aboriginal art and craft.
- Barbecues, picnic tables and toilets are provided. (Open-air fires are not permitted, along with dogs and other pets).



How to get there:

Tower Hill is just off the Princes Highway 15 km northwest of Warrnambool and 275 km west of Melbourne. The reserve is open all year round except on days of Fire danger.

Lady Julia Percy Island (33)

Lady Julia Percy Island, located just off the coast of Port Fairy, is a low, flat island built of submarine basalt flows up to 7.8 million years old. Ringed by cliffs, with a flat treeless top, the island is 2 km long and 1 km wide at the southwestern end, with a plateau surface averaging 30 – 40 metres above sea level.

This is the only major basalt island off the western Victorian coast, and although not readily accessible, the volcanic sequence is unusual and clearly exposed.

While the Island is home to mutton-bird colonies, fairy penguins, lizards, sea birds, crayfish and sharks, it is seals, which clearly dominate. Parks Victoria has counted 23,000 seals, making it the largest colony of Australian fur seals in the southern hemisphere.

The seals swim about 30 kilometres to feed on squid along the edge of the undersea continental shelf for a week at a time before returning to the island to digest, or feed their young or sun themselves.

Things to do:

Shore platforms and reefs prevent boat landings apart from a sheltered cove on the northern side. Boat charters to the island are available (dolphin and whale sightings are also common).

Mount Eccles (30)

The Mount Eccles area is one of the youngest volcanic structures in Australia and has a remarkable variety of volcanic features in an excellent state of preservation.

Beginning about 20,000 years ago, volcanic eruptions opened the earth's crust and poured out thousands of tonnes of molten lava, forming Mount Eccles and the surrounding landscape.

Mount Eccles National Park, 6120 ha in size, stands at the western edge of the volcanic plains that stretch from Melbourne to Port Fairy, extending northwards to Hamilton and Ararat.

The first European sighting of Mount Eccles was probably by Matthew Flinders. During his Terra Australis sea voyage in 1802, he noted "a round hill" visible from the sea. Originally named Mount Eeles after a war veteran, an error by a mapmaker in the 1850s saw the volcano recorded as Mount Eccles, and the name has remained.

Things to do:

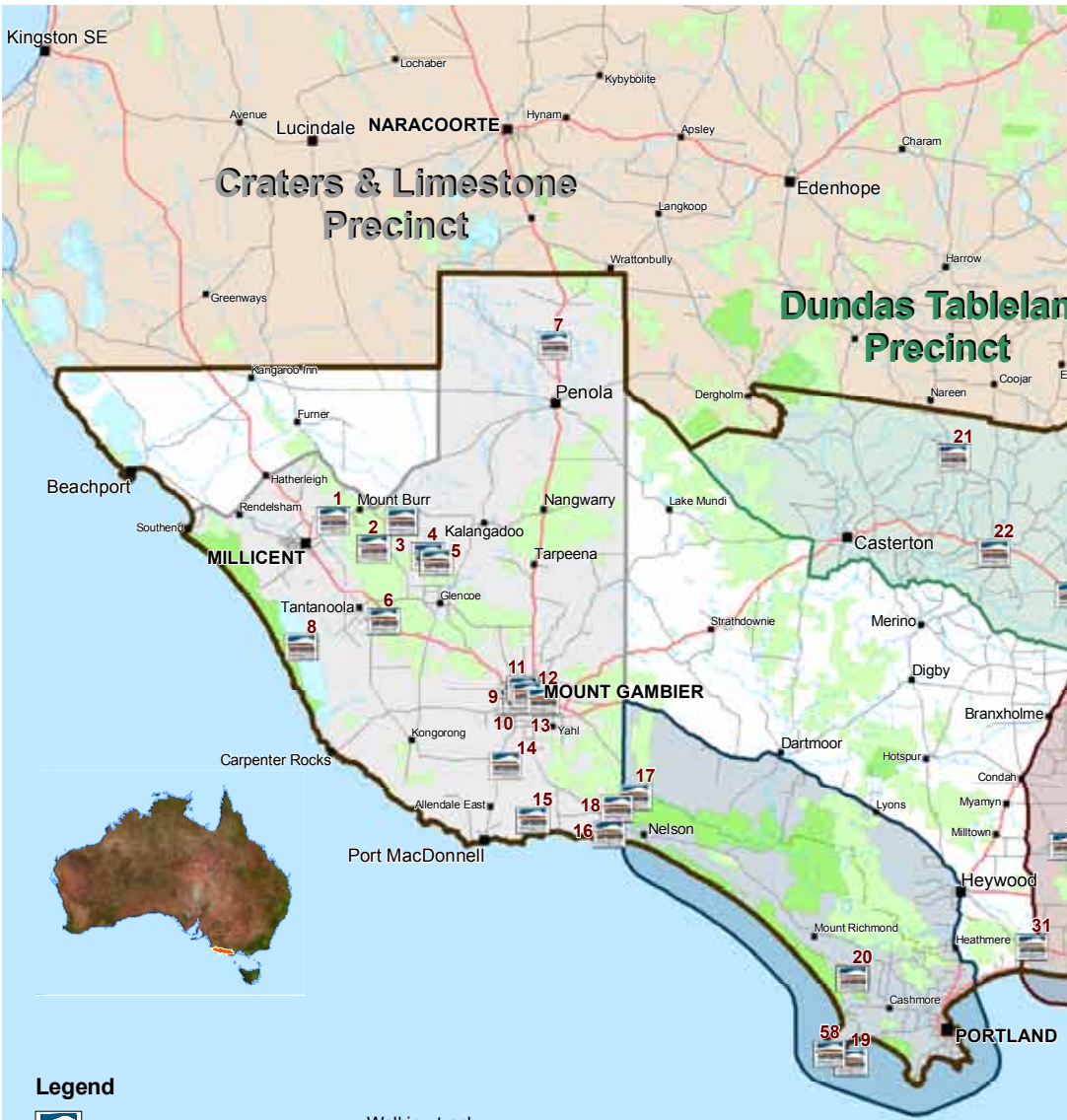
- You can discover the wonders of this volcanic landmark along the self-guided Crater Rim Nature Walk, which takes you around the rim and then inside the crater and along the shoreline of the lake. If you look closely at the walls of the crater, you can see cracks, which separate the different flows of the lava during eruptions.
- Explore the inside of a lava cave – allow time for your eyes to adjust to the light, before seeing flow lines and stalactites.
- Swim in the crater of a volcano. The turquoise-coloured Lake Surprise has a maximum depth of 14 metres.
- Listen to the wildlife; try to spot a koala.
- The picnic ground at Mount Eccles National Park has fireplaces, tables, toilets, a picnic shelter and an Information Centre.
- Camping grounds have basic facilities including fireplaces, tables, hot showers and toilets. Sites for larger groups and one for people with disabilities are also provided. Booking is required during holiday periods and fees apply.












Mount Eccles

How to get there:

Mount Eccles National Park is 300 km southwest of Melbourne, 45 km south of Hamilton (Melway ref: 507 C10). At Hamilton, take the Hamilton-Port Fairy Road and turn off at Macarthur. It can also be reached via the Princes Highway, turning off at Port Fairy and Macarthur.



Legend

-  Geosite
-  Geopark Boundary
-  Highway
-  Other Sealed Road
-  Walking track
-  Major watercourse
-  Waterbody
-  National / State Park
-  State Forest / Public Land

Coast & Caves Precinct

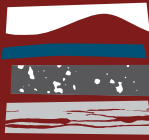


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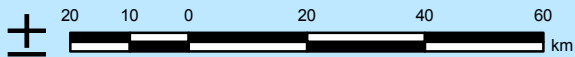
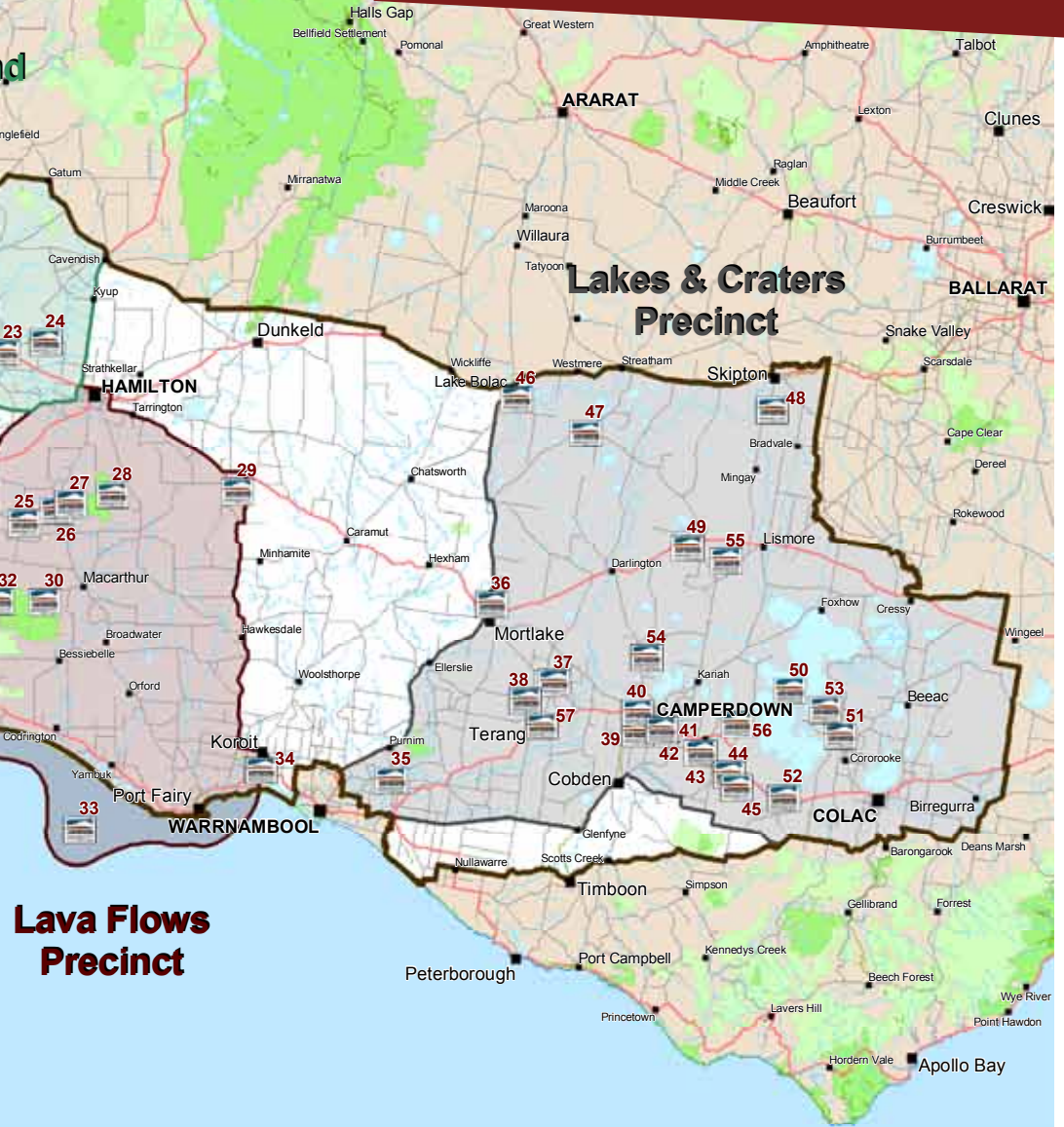
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Precincts and Geosites





Nigretta Falls

Dundas Tableland Precinct:

Towns of the Dundas Tablelands Precinct:

Casterton

Coleraine

Nigretta Falls (24)

Nigretta Falls is a small waterfall set in outstanding scenery. The waterfall is considered more spectacular than Wannan Falls, due to its clearer features. It has excellent river walks and viewing areas with barbecue facilities and red gum picnic tables and a jarrah timber stairway leading to the base of the falls. The turn-off to the falls is signposted off Nigretta Road, 5 kilometres west of Hamilton along the Glenelg Highway.

Casterton

Casterton is a relatively small rural centre of about 2000 people located on the banks of the Glenelg River in a valley surrounded by rolling hills. Situated 352 km west of Melbourne and 63 km west of Hamilton on the Glenelg Highway, it is a service centre to a large pastoral, mixed farming, timber-producing and dairying district near the South Australian border. Casterton has a golf course, a racecourse, a caravan park, a sports and leisure centre and there are numerous sporting facilities in Island Park, off Murray St. There are a number of scenic attractions in the area.

The Casterton Kelpie Muster attracts people to the town which is known as the Birthplace of the Kelpie.

Things to see:

Mickle Lookout

Mickle Lookout is located on the northern side of town. Head off the highway along Robertson St and turn left into Moodie St. The lookout proffers fine views over the town.

Warrock Homestead Complex

The 'Warrock' station was established in 1841 and was taken over, in 1843, by Scottish cabinet-maker George Robertson. By 1860, when he obtained free-hold title to the land, he had erected about 40 buildings which constituted something of a private village. He initially lived in a cottage which he constructed of Tasmanian timber, handmade nails and blackwood shingles.

33 of Robertson's well-preserved buildings remain. Principally designed after mid-19th century pattern book sources, they typically feature Gothic effects such as steeply-pitched roofs with pronounced gables, fretted bargeboards and finials and are spread out over two acres. They include the original cottage, the homestead (built from 1848 to 1853 and retaining the hand-made original timber furniture), the fine woolshed, a smokehouse, a slaughtering shed, the shearer's quarters, a belfry (the bell was used to summon hands to meals), a dairy, a grain store, a baking house, the stables, a blacksmith's and the brick dog compound which housed the canines used to hunt the local dingoes to extinction. It is argued that Robertson bred the first kelpie at Warrock.

The architectural and historical value of these buildings is recognised by the National Trust which considers it the "most important pastoral station complex in Victoria". Robertson's descendants lived on the property until 1991 and there is much in the way of antique equipment and tools (steam engines, treadle lathes, chaff cutters etc). There is a picnic area and it is open daily from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. An admission fee is charged.

To get to Warrock homestead you can head east of Casterton along the Glenelg Highway for 6 km and turn left onto the Chetwynd Rd. After 15 km take the signposted left into Warrock Rd and it is several kilometres to the complex. Alternatively, if you are travelling north of Casterton along the Apsley Rd turn right into Warrock Rd 24 km north of Casterton, tel: (03) 5582 4222.

Bilstons Tree

About 10 or 15 km further north along the Chetwynd Rd is a signposted turnoff on the left to Bilstons Tree which is considered to have the largest volume of millable river red gum in the world. It is thought to be 800 years old and stands over 40 m high with a girth of seven metres, consisting of 9100 cubic feet of timber.



Baileys Rocks and Dergholm State Park

Baileys Rocks are a series of enormous and unusual green-coloured granite boulders in a dry creek bed within the northern section of Dergholm State Park. Follow the Apsley Rd (aka the Naracoorte Rd) north-west for about 39 km (about 6 km beyond the settlement of Dergholm) and a signposted turnoff on the right leads to the Baileys Rocks Picnic and Camping Area where there are toilets, fuel barbecues, picnic tables, drinking water and two walking tracks. A short (3230-metre) loop track leads to the boulders while the Rocky Creek Trail (5 km return) starts further upstream. It is clearly marked by blue arrows and is about 5 km return.

There are also driving tracks in the park which features a diversity of vegetation (woodlands, open forests, heath and swamp communities and spectacular spring wildflowers) and fauna (red-tailed black cockatoos, swift parrots, echidnas, koalas, grey kangaroos and a range of reptiles). A spotlight walk at night may afford a glimpse of nocturnal animal life such as sugar gliders.

The park covers 10400 ha and is divided into two blocks which are separated by the Dergholm-Edenhope Rd. Once occupied by the Kanal gundidj clan (part of the Jardwadjali language group), it was declared a Park in 1992. Phone (03) 5581 2427 for further details.

Carmichael Track

The Carmichael Track is signposted off the Casterton-Penola Rd (the Glenelg Highway), west of Casterton. The main picnic area (which has barbecue and toilet facilities) is readily accessible by car but a 4WD is required to venture further at certain times of the year. The walking track leads through an abundance of wildflowers in season, though it is pleasant at any time of the year.

Longlead Swamp Track

Longlead Swamp Track is further west (about 11 km from Casterton) along the highway (signposted to the right). It is another bush track with wildflowers and barbecue facilities. There are waterbirds, kangaroos and emus.

Peter Francis Points Arboretum

The Peter Francis Points Arboretum, or 'The Points', is a native Australian plant collection, located on the edge of the town of Coleraine. Situated on 37 hectares, the collection contains in excess of 10,000 plants, and includes 63 rare and endangered native species.

The Points contains a collection of Eucalypts (registered with the Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia Inc), and features a range of walking trails. It is a beautiful location for a picnic, as well as an amazing botanical reference.

Visit the Points, and marvel at one of the largest collections of Eucalypts in the Southern Hemisphere, as well as extensive collections of other Australian plants.



Wannan Falls

Wannan Falls (23)

The Wannan Falls were created by lava flows that surged upstream to the Wannan River. The water which cascades over a 30-metre vertical precipice into a deep plunge pool below is actually flowing over hardened basalt lava. Further downstream, rapids wind their way around large blocks of basalt, dislodged over time down the embankments of the narrow valley.

The beauty of the falls has also attracted many influential artists over the years. During the 1860s, the Western District had become a well-established area and many artists came to capture images of the surrounding landscape on paper and canvas. Some of the more notable artists included Nicolas Chevalier, Eugene von Gerard, Thomas Clark and Swiss Oil painter, Louis Buvelot. Renowned as 'the father of Australian Painting', Louis Buvelot pioneered

'plen air' (open air, or on location) impressionist painting and painted many scenes around Coleraine and the Wannan and Nigretta Falls during the 1880's.

Today, a cantilevered viewing platform at the Wannan Falls offers spectacular views. A nearby rotunda features interpretative signage for visitors, covering geology, flora and fauna, Koori history and details of colonial artists who painted in the area. Camping facilities are available at the Wannan River.

The turn-off to the falls is 19 kilometres west of Hamilton on the Glenelg Highway.

Nigretta and Wannan Falls, which are linked by a scenic road and best viewed between June and October.



Cape Bridgewater

Coast and Caves Precinct:

The coastal formations, Glenelg River Gorge and caves in the vicinity of Portland are the main volcanic features of this precinct; Geosites include Cape Bridgewater, Cape Nelson and Princess Margaret Rose Caves.

Towns of Coast and Caves Precinct:

Portland
Nelson

Dartmoor
Cape Bridgewater

Cape Bridgewater and Bridgewater Bay (19)

Cape Bridgewater is the deepest natural exposure of volcanic material in Australia and an outstanding example of internal volcanic structure.

The Great Cliff of Cape Bridgewater gives a fascinating view into the inside of a volcano because a fault line has split the lava vents down the middle.

Did you know Cape Bridgewater was once an Island?

A wide variety of flora can also be found along this stretch of coastline, including coastal wattle, nal-a-wort, pigface, cutwort, bower spinach, muntries, and sea-berry saltbush – to name a few.

The area also has strong Aboriginal significance. Aboriginal groups whose territory included part of the coastline had access to a rich and varied diet including shellfish, fish, mutton-birds, penguins, and even beached whales on rare occasions. Behind the dunes, sheltered swamps and lagoons teemed with bird life, fish and crayfish as well as the water plants and berries, which were staple foods. Shell middens can still be found along the coast from Cape Bridgewater to the South Australian border, which was also a source of flint for stone tools.

Cape Bridgewater is located near the popular tourist destination of Portland, on the Discovery Coast. The Cape Bridgewater area attracts large numbers of holiday tourists.

Petrified Forest (58)

A walk from The Blowholes leads past the 'Petrified Forest' which is thought to have developed when a Moonah forest was smothered by a large sand dune, creating unusual sandstone formations around the decaying tree trunks.

Glenelg River Gorge (18)

The Glenelg River rises in the Grampians and winds 400km to the sea, over its last 15 km has carved a 50m deep spectacular gorge through limestone. The river offers excellent opportunities for flat water canoeing over the 75 km from Dartmoor, to its mouth near Nelson. For much of this distance, the river flows through the Lower Glenelg National Park, enabling water enthusiasts to observe wildlife in its natural habitat. This area is great for single or multi day canoe camping trips or is an excellent place to camp in one of the many riverside camp sites. Swimming, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, power boating, walking, bird watching opportunities abound.

The Great South Walk

The Great South Walk constitutes more than 250 km of circular walking track which starts and finishes at Portland. Constructed by community groups it initially heads north through farmland, veering westwards through native forests and the Lower Glenelg National Park, following the southern bank of the Glenelg River to its mouth near Nelson, and then returning eastwards along the coastline through Discovery Bay National Park, with optional detours past Lake Monibeong and to Mount Richmond. It then leads to Descartes Bay and around Cape Bridgewater, past The Springs, the Petrified Forest, the seal colony, Bridgewater Bay, Cape Nelson, Point Danger and back to Portland. Sections are accessible by car to allow shorter day or weekend walks. The best times are from October to December or late March to early June. A detailed brochure is available from Parks Victoria offices. There are canoeing opportunities and numerous camping spots.



Princess Margaret Rose Cave (17)

Of the many limestone caves in Lower Glenelg National Park, the Princess Margaret Rose Cave is the most attractive and the only cave suitable for public use. It contains excellent examples of actively growing stalactites, stalagmites, helictites and other spectacular limestone formations.

For current tour times and prices go to www.princessmargaretrosecave.com

Cave Tours

- Guided tours lasting about half an hour are conducted on most days. The number of tours per day varies according to the season: contact the Caves Information Centre for details on (08) 8738 4171. Tours are not conducted on Christmas Day or during maintenance of the cave. An admission charge applies.
- School groups, provided they book in advance, will be admitted for the child rate (under 14). Bus tours should advise the cave ranger in advance.
- Tours are limited to a maximum of 85 people.
- A comprehensive display and audio-visual presentation in the Information Centre at the cave entrance tells the story of the cave. Souvenir booklets and other publications are available.
- Commercial boat tours operate to the caves from Nelson. Small boats can be moored at the caves jetty.

Facilities

- A large picnic area has been developed among the trees near the cave. Wood barbecues, picnic tables and toilets are provided.
- A limited number of sites are available for overnight camping. Arrangements must be made with the ranger before 5:00 PM.
- Three motor cabins are available for overnight accommodation. For booking details and fees contact

How to get there

The caves are two kilometres east of the South Australian border and can be reached by a sealed road from Mount Gambier or unsealed roads from Nelson and Dartmoor.



Princess Margaret Rose Caves

Mount Richmond (20)

Mount Richmond was named after Richmond Henty, one of the first European children born in the Portland area. It is an extinct volcano surrounded by low, flat land. Noted for its flora and fauna, the park is covered with forest, open heath, and scattered swamps.

Vegetation gradually became established on Mount Richmond and many hardy native plants now grow successfully on the infertile sandy soil. About 450 species of plants have been recorded in the park, including 50 orchid species. Correas, heaths, wattles and Bush Peas provide spectacular colours in spring, but there are plants flowering in Mount Richmond at almost any time of the year.

The well-drained soils near the summit support a forest dominated by Brown Stringbark with small pockets of Manna Gum. Further down the slopes, the main eucalypts are Shiny-leaf Peppermint and Swamp Gum (common in the picnic area) with an under-storey of grass trees, heath and many colourful annual and perennial plants. The wet heath lands are dominated by Swamp Paperbark.

Salt-laden winds have a marked effect on the vegetation in exposed areas, as you will discover on the Benwerrin Nature Walk. The national park was established in 1960, as a result of the dedication of

local naturalists. The park's varied habitats support a wide range of wildlife including eastern grey kangaroos, koalas, red-necked wallabies, echidnas and the southern potoroo.

There are no creeks on Mount Richmond - rainwater fills depressions to form swamps and wet heath lands which are favourable habitats for many birds and other animals.

Things to do:

A variety of walks are available, including:

- Benwerrin Nature Walk - one hour.
- Noels Walk - one hour (the last section is fairly steep).
- West Walk - one hour (may be wet in places in winter and spring).
- Ocean View Walk - one hour (views of Cape Bridgewater and Discovery Bay).

The park is ideal for a picnic lunch. Wood barbecues and picnic tables are provided in the picnic grounds, but use of private gas barbecues is encouraged.

A lookout tower at the summit gives spectacular views of Discovery Bay and the surrounding countryside.

Camping is not permitted in the park. Sites are available in Nelson, Portland and nearby Swan Lake.



Craters and Limestone Precinct:

Dreamtime legends of the local Booandik Tribe tell of the giant Craitbul and his family who wandered around the south-eastern region looking for a place to settle and live in peace. They camped and made ovens at Mount Muirhead and Mount Schank, but were frightened away from both sites by the moaning voice of a bird spirit. Moving to Mount Gambier, they managed to escape from the spirit and there they lived for a long time. Again they made an oven, but one day, water came up from below and put out their fire. They made others, until they had four, which are now the craters of Mount Gambier.

Towns of the Craters and Limestone Precinct:

Mount Gambier

Millicent

Penola

Port Macdonnell

Coonawarra

Allendale East

Tantanoola

Glencoe

Mount Burr

Mount Gambier's Blue Lake (9) and Crater Lakes Complex (10)

The Blue Lake is one of the most significant Geosites within the Kanawinka Global Geopark. It is the most well-known of the three maar craters within the crater lakes area which were formed 5000-4300 years ago, and is world famous due to its mysterious colour change from winter grey to brilliant turquoise blue each November. Many theories have been advanced about this mystery.

With average depths of 80 metres, the lake is estimated to contain 36,000 million litres of water. A relatively small portion of that is pumped annually into holding tanks which gravity-feed water to the city and surrounds, and for this reason, no swimming or diving is permitted. Visitors can, however, take a 45-minute tour, which includes a ride in a glass-paneled lift down the original dolomite well shaft for a closer view. You will also learn about the hydrology of Mount Gambier's water supply and the aquifer system, and

hear interesting stories about local history, European settlement, and folklore and aboriginal legend.

The 3.6km road and walking track around the circumference of the lake provides access to many viewing points, the most popular being the underpass between the Blue Lake and the Leg of Mutton Lake.

Did you know that the Blue Lake is entrenched in Australian folklore?

Legend has it that Australian poet Adam Lindsay Gordon leapt over the crater rim on his horse Red Lancer, and landed on a 1.8m wide ledge below. The Adam Lindsay Gordon Monument was erected at the scene in 1887 to commemorate this amazing feat, which has never been repeated.

This volcanic area incorporates Browne's Lake, Valley Lake, Leg of Mutton Lake and the Blue Lake, and is estimated to have been formed some 28,000 years ago.

The Crater Lakes area offers many holiday and recreational experiences, with its significant network of walking and mountain bike trails, fully accessible by motor vehicle and foot. Complete range of public services including public toilets with disabled access, BBQ's car parks, and public telephone.

The Valley Lake, situated in the largest of the three craters, is very popular year-round thanks to its excellent playground and recreational area. Within the delightful, well-kept picnic areas are 16 free gas BBQ's and covered shelters.

The Wildlife Park and Boardwalk is a major development presenting indigenous species of flora and fauna in an environment very similar to that, which would have originally been found in the area. With lookouts, nature walks and a boardwalk over the Valley Lake surface, the area is an ideal place for families to spend many hours of pleasure. Free entry.

There is an adjacent public 18-hole golf links and Caravan Park.

The 1.6km Leg of Mutton Lake Walk starts at the car park near the tunnel under the road. Walk down the access road to the lake area. Near the second bend in the track is the area once used as a tree nursery. Follow the track around the circumference of the now dry lakebed. Other walks of the area include the Mountain trail, Rook Walk/Pepperpot Trail, Valley Lake Walk, Blue Gum Walk and The Oaks Walk.

For further information, a Crater Lakes Walks booklet is available at "The Lady Nelson Visitor & Discovery Centre" in Mount Gambier.



Blue Lake

Craters and Limestone Precinct



Mount Schank

Mount Schank (14)

Mount Schank is a highly prominent volcanic cone located 10 minutes south of Mount Gambier, which protrudes above the limestone plain, providing panoramic views.

Early explorer Lieutenant James Grant named this fascinating remnant volcano after a friend of his called Captain Schank.

Things to do:

Two steep walking trails offer a great geological experience. The Viewing Platform Hike (900m return) begins at the car park and goes to the crater rim. From the top, overlooking the nearby quarry, evidence can be seen of the lava flow and changes in the rock formation caused by heat and steam. On the southern side of the mountain, a small cone can be seen which is believed to have been formed by the first of two main stages.

The Crater Floor Walk (1.3km return) also begins in the car park, and winds down to the crater floor and back.

Interpretive signage, car park, climbing path steps, observation board walks, toilets with disabled access, picnic area with tables and wood BBQ's (BYO wood) are also available. Access is by bitumen road to the car park.

Mount Burr Range (2)

Mount Burr Range contains 15 volcanic eruption points, and is the most westerly point of the Kanawinka Global Geopark. The Mount Burr range volcanics are much older than the nearby Mount Gambier and Mount Schank. They range from 20,000 to two million years old.

The Booandik Aboriginal people of this region hold the memory of the eruptions in their legend of a giant ancestor, Craitbul, who fled from the Mount Schank area only to have his ovens extinguished by the rising waters four times, (the four craters near Mount Gambier), and Mount Muirhead was another oven of the giant.

Mount Muirhead is privately-owned, and public access is not permitted, however spectacular views can be obtained at the Mount Muirhead lookout located approximately 6km from Millicent on the right hand side of the Mount Burr/Penola Road. The lookout is a great place to view the surrounding Millicent flats, the Mount Burr Range and Forestry South Australia pine plantations.



Mount Muirhead (1)

Mount Muirhead lookout is also the starting point for the Mount Burr Heritage Trail which encompasses the historic township of Mount Burr.

Situated 5km from Glencoe are the volcanic Geosites of Lake Edward (5) (accessible only by permit) and Lake Leake.

Mount McIntyre (3)

Mount McIntyre is another member of the Mount Burr group.

Many of the volcanic features in this area are managed by Forestry SA and are used for commercial timber production. Bushwalkers, cyclists and horse riders use the forest roads and track network extensively. Permits are needed for Horse riding, Caving, Wildlife studies and Firewood Collection. There are a number of beautiful picnic spots in the forest, but camping is not permitted. Roads are maintained to a suitable standard for logging, and fire protection, but may not be suitable for all vehicles. All Forest Reserves are closed to the public on Total Fire Ban Days.

How To Get There

Millicent is 412 kms south of Adelaide via the Princes Highway (Highway 1). It is 50 kms north of Mount Gambier via the Princes Highway (Highway 1).

To get to Mount Muirhead follow the signs to Mount Burr at the Roundabout in the main part of town. Mount Muirhead is 7kms east of Millicent and excellent viewing opportunities are available at the lookout on the opposite side of the road.

Lake Leake (4)

Lake Leake is open to the public all year round. Fishing, boating, windsurfing, power boating and water skiing are permitted, there are boat-launching facilities, and it is used by an Aquatic Club from time to time for races. Toilets and sheltered picnic facilities are also provided.

Coonawarra (7)

Coonawarra is renowned as one of Australia's finest wine regions and is particularly known for producing world class red wines especially Cabernet Sauvignon. Its secret lies in a magical marriage of rich red terra rossa soil, limestone, pure underground water and a long cool ripening season for the grapes.

Today, Coonawarra vineyard land is prized like a precious gem. The cigar-shaped strip of 'terra rossa' is finite, only 12km long and 2km wide, and is all but taken up by vineyards. More than 24 Coonawarra wineries have cellar door sales outlets, mostly open seven days a week (except Christmas Day) and you will be warmly welcomed for tastings.

There is something for all visitors to experience when making the journey to Coonawarra in the Kanawinka Global Geopark.



Global Network

What is Geopark Tourism?

Geopark tourism means the tourism emphasizing the features of Geopark of a tourist site. Besides geoheritage, natural scene, tourism economy and geoscience popularization, the features of Geopark contain the human, historical and cultural factors of local community.

As for common tourists, the Geopark tourism is focused on the following aspects:

- First, utilizing the geoheritage of a Geopark with special scientific value during sight-seeing to acquire the scientific knowledge of formation and evolution of the earth and to boost the consciousness and ability of tourists to protect the geoheritage consciously;
- Second, taking advantage of some landscapes of a Geopark such as grotesque peaks, fantastic caves, high mountains, deep valleys, waterfalls, flowing springs, glaciers, volcanoes, deserts and lakes as well as changing and colourful stones to enjoy the beauty of the nature;

- Third, sufficiently experiencing the unique human and historical landscapes and regional culture of the region of a Geopark in the process of tourism. In a word, a tourist can feel the integration of science, aesthetics, history and culture indeed during Geopark tourism and thereby gain awareness during sight-seeing.

As for governmental agencies of tourist sites, the Geopark tourism is centred on the combination of scientific, economic and cultural factors relative to the tourism and the overall influence of tourism on local community.

Geoparks around the World

Australia

Kanawinka Geopark

Austria

Nature Park Eisenwurzen

Brazil

Araripe Geopark

China

Danxiashan Geopark

Fangshan Geopark

Funiushan Geopark

Hexigten Geopark

Huangshan Geopark

Jingpohu Geopark

Leiqiong Geopark

Longhushan Geopark

Mount Lushan Geopark

Mount Taishan Geopark

Songshan Geopark

Stone Forest Geopark (Shilin Geopark)

Taining Geopark

Wudalianchi Geopark

Wangwushan-Daimeishan Geopark

Xingwen Geopark

Yandangshan Geopark

Yuntaishan Geopark

Zhangjiajie Sandstone Peak Forest Geopark

Zigong Geopark

Croatia

Papuk Geopark

Czech Republic

Bohemian Paradise Geopark

France

Park Naturel Régional du Luberon

Reserve Géologique de Haute Provence

Germany

Geopark Bergstrasse - Odenwald

Geopark Harz Braunschweiger Land Ostfalen

Geopark Swabian Albs

Mecklenburg Ice age Park

Nature park Terra Vita

Vulkaneifel Geopark

Greece

Petrified Forest of Lesvos

Psiloritis Natural Park

Iran

Qeshm Geopark

Italy

Rocca Di Cerere Geopark

Adamello Brenta Geopark

Parco del Beigua

Madonie Natural Park

Geological and Mining Park of Sardinia

Malaysia

Langkawi Geopark

Norway

Gea-Norvegica Geopark

Portugal

Arouca Geopark

Naturtejo Geopark

Republic of Ireland

Copper Coast Geopark

Romania

Hateg Country Dinosaur Geopark

Spain

Cabo de Gata Natural Park

Maestrazgo Cultural Park

Sobrarbe Geopark

Subeticas Geopark

United Kingdom

Geo Mon Geopark - Wales

Forest Fawr Geopark – Wales

Marble Arch Caves & Cuilcagh Mountain Park – Northern Ireland

North Pennines AONB Geopark

North West Highlands – Scotland

Lochaber Geopark – Scotland

English Riviera Geopark



Abberley Malvern Hills UK





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www.kanawinkageopark.com



For Further Information:

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Lady Nelson Visitor and Discovery Centre

35 Jubilee Highway East, Mount Gambier 5290

Phone 1800 087 187 **Fax** (08) 8723 2833

www.mountgambiertourism.com.au

Millicent Visitor Information Centre

1 Mount Gambier Road, Millicent 5280

Phone (08) 8733 0904 **Fax** (08) 8733 3205

www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au

Port MacDonnell Visitor Information Outlet

5 Charles Street, Port MacDonnell 5291

Phone (08) 8738 2380 **Fax** (08) 8738 2576

www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au

Penola & Coonawarra Visitor Information Centre

27 Arthur Street, Penola 5277

Phone (08) 8737 2855 **Fax** (08) 8737 2206

www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au

VICTORIA

Portland Maritime Discovery Centre and Visitor Centre

Lee Breakwater Road Portland 3305

Phone 1800 035 567 **Fax** (03) 5521 7687

www.glenelg.vic.gov.au

Nelson Visitor Information Centre / Parks Victoria

Leake Street Nelson 3293 **Phone** (08) 8738 4051

Fax (08) 8737 4356 www.glenelg.vic.gov.au

Casterton Visitor Information Centre

Shiels Tce, Casterton 3311 **Phone** (03) 5581 2070

www.glenelg.vic.gov.au

Port Fairy Visitor Information Centre

Bank Street Port Fairy 3284

Phone (03) 5568 2682 **Fax** (03) 5568 2833

www.moyne.vic.gov.au

Warrnambool Visitor Information Centre

Merri Street Warrnambool 3280

Phone 1800 637 725 **Fax** (03) 5559 4624

www.warrnamboolinfo.com.au

Penshurst Volcanoes Discovery Centre

23 Martin Street Penshurst 3289

Phone (03) 5576 7233 Open Friday – Sunday 10am – 4pm

www.penshurstvolcano.org.au

Hamilton Visitor Information Centre

Lonsdale St Hamilton 3300

Phone 1800 807 056 www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au

Port Campbell Visitor Information Centre

25 Morris Street Port Campbell 3269

Phone (03) 5598 6089 **Fax** (03) 5598 6088

www.visit12apostles.com

Colac Visitor Information Centre

Cnr Murray St & Queen St Colac 3250

Phone (03) 5231 3730 **Fax** (03) 5232 2764

www.visitotways.com



Camperdown Visitor Information Centre

Old Court House, Manifold Street, Camperdown, Victoria

Lake Bolac Visitor Information Centre

Glenelg Highway, Lake Bolac, Victoria

