Glenelg River Guide

Lower Glenelg National Park

The Glenelg River offers excellent opportunities for flat water canoeing and motor boating along the 75km from Dartmoor to its mouth, near Nelson. For much of its distance the river flows through the Lower Glenelg National Park, enabling boating enthusiasts to observe wildlife in their natural environment.

Enjoying the river

The river and adjoining Lower Glenelg National Park offer a range of activities for visitors. Walking, water skiing, fishing, canoeing, swimming, or just sit back and relax – the choice is yours.

This guide describes facilities available along the river and introduces some of the boating rules that protect the natural environment and help ensure that you and other users have a safe journey along the Glenelg River.

Canoeing - Dartmoor to Nelson

Allow about four days to complete the canoeing trip from Dartmoor to Nelson. If you are travelling downstream, the last day of canoeing can be affected by incoming tides and winds, which may slow progress.

Camping

Camping is available to all boat users on the river. Fireplaces, toilets and water are available at all sites. The best campsites for canoeists are the eight special canoe camps along the river. Vehicle access is only available to Dartmoor, Pines Landing and Moleside.

Power boat operators may use any site normally set aside for vehicle based campers. During quiet times of the year, power boat operators may use the canoe campsites (subject to approval by the Ranger).

Camping permits are required. Bookings can be made at www.parkstay.vic.gov.au

Refer to the map in the centre for detailed information about campsites and facilities.

River cruise

Relax by taking a river cruise from Nelson and discover the wide variety of wildlife and plants on your way.

Boating

The river caters for a variety of boat-based activities including fishing, water skiing and general pleasure cruising.

Great South West Walk

Experience some of Australia’s most beautiful scenery and wildlife on this great 250km giant loop walk. A separate brochure covering the entire 250km walk is available or visit the website www.greatsouthwestwalk.com.

Princess Margaret Rose Cave

Take a tour and explore the beauty of the Princess Margaret Rose Cave, often referred as “the jewel in the crown” of the Lower Glenelg National Park.

Holiday

for a night or a week in our unique on-site cabins nestled in the bushy surrounds of Princess Margaret Rose Cave Visitor Centre.

Photography

The river is an outstanding subject for photography, changing scenery and colour provides fantastic opportunities.

Be fire ready and stay safe

Many parks and forests are located in high fire risk areas. On days of forecast Code Red Fire Danger this park will be closed for public safety.

If you are already in the park you should leave the night before or early in the morning for your own safety.

Closure signs will be erected and rangers will patrol when possible, however you may not receive a personal warning that the park is closed so check the latest conditions by calling 13 1963 or visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

For up to date information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.

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The Glenelg River

On August 1st, 1836, the Surveyor-General of NSW, Major Thomas Mitchell, launched his boats during his “Australia Felix” expedition, at present day Dartmoor on a river he named Glenelg.

“It was, upon the whole, considering the fullness of its stream, the character of its banks and the uniformity of width and depth, the finest body of fresh water I have seen in Australia,” he wrote.

River Regulations

Water skiing and power boating zones

Times permitted for water skiing and power boating in the Taylors Straight and Sandy Waterholes water skiing and power boating zones are as follows:

- **Dec – Feb:** 8am - 8pm (summer time)
- **Nov:** 8am - 6pm (standard time)
- **March – April:** 8am - 6pm (standard time)
- **May:** 9am - 6pm (standard time)
- **Aug – Oct:** 9am - 6pm (standard time)
- **June – July:** 9am - 5pm (standard time)

Please note: 9am - 7pm when summer time applies in November and March.

**Boats not engaged** in water skiing/power boating when passing through the water skiing/power boating zones must travel in the marked transit channel, without stopping and no faster than 8 knots.

**Transit channels** are 15m wide and extend along one bank of the river for the entire length of the water skiing/power boating zone. Yellow buoys mark the entry and exit of the ski zone transit channel.

Canoes must use the transit channels when passing through the water skiing/power boating zones.

**For your boating safety**

- Power boats must observe the speed limit signs marked in knots. These are as follows:
  - **8 knots** – generally applies from the river mouth to the upstream end of Sandy Waterholes water skiing/power boating zone, except in the two water skiing/power boating zones and during the hours set aside for water skiing and power boating.
  - **10 knots** -from the upstream end of the Sandy Waterholes water skiing/power boating zone to Wild Dog Bend.
  - **5 knots** - from Wild Dog Bend to downstream of Crawford River at Dartmoor.

- **Canoeing safety**

  - Notify the park office of your intended trip
  - Know your group’s abilities and plan stages accordingly - choose sensible daily distances
  - Do not canoe alone
  - Ensure that all participants can swim, and are wearing life jackets
  - Do not overload your canoe
  - If you do capsize, pull the canoe into the bank
  - Do not mix alcohol and canoeing

**Park closures**

Be prepared to leave early as extreme weather may cause the closure of some park areas for public safety.

**Caring for Country**

“Ngatanwarr warteepa kanyak teen Gunditjmara mirring”; Welcome brothers and sisters to Gunditjmara Country.

Our spirit is in this Country, its land, trees, rocks, plants and sky... it flows from Budj Bim to Tyrendarra and beyond to Koonang (the sea). It is a part of us and who we are, and we ask that you care for it when you visit. - Gunditjmara Elders.

**Healthy Parks Healthy People**

Visiting a park can improve your health, mind, body and soul. So, with over four million hectares of parkland available to Victorians, why not escape to a park today!