



## The Great Dividing Trail

Walking the Great Dividing Trail which is currently 270km long is within the capabilities of reasonably fit people who enjoy walking in quiet, historic, natural environments. Most walkers use the trail in easily manageable day or half day walks. The following tips may help you enjoy the experience.

### Beware of open mine shafts in some areas

- Camping is only allowed at a few designated spots shown in the publications. Definitely no camping along the DSE managed Lerderderg River section nor in Parks Victoria controlled property unless designated.
- No camping is allowed on Central Highlands and Coliban Water properties.
- Public toilets are at Ballarat, Creswick (Slaty Creek, shopping centre and St. George's Lake), Daylesford, Hepburn Springs, Blackwood, Bacchus Marsh, Vaughan Springs, Castlemaine and Bendigo.
- The trail is currently designated for walkers only but cyclists use some sections near towns. Some sections of the trail are unsuitable for cyclists.
- Carry a fully charged mobile phone.
- Mobile phones will operate in most, but not all parts of the trail.
- Carry a first aid kit.



[www.gdt.org.au](http://www.gdt.org.au)

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# Walking The Great Dividing Trail

## *Tips and Guidelines*

## Emergencies

**Do not walk on days of total fire ban or extreme weather conditions.**

The ABC interrupt their programs for emergency warnings on fire, flood and other natural disasters. Broadcasts:

- 774 AM Melbourne
- 91.1 FM Bendigo
- 107.9 FM Ballarat

## In Case of Emergency

**Ring 000 (or alternatively try 112)**

State clearly:

- Your location
- The nature of the emergency
- The closest vehicle access (*if possible*)

The GDTA [www.gdt.org.au](http://www.gdt.org.au) would appreciate any comments on your experience on the trail, including any maintenance requirements.

The Great Dividing Trail Association Inc., a not-for-profit community based organisation, plans, develops, maintains and markets a network of public walking trails on public land for the enjoyment of local residents and visitors.

The GDTA conducts a regular walking and other activities program for members. Membership is open to all, and further information can be obtained from the website [www.gdt.org.au](http://www.gdt.org.au) or by writing to:

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**P.O. Box 429**  
**Daylesford Victoria 3460**

## Handy Tips

- **Food is available in** Ballarat, Creswick, Daylesford, Hepburn, Blackwood, Bacchus Marsh, Castlemaine and Bendigo. There is also a hotel at Dean and one near the trail at Brown Hill. It is not possible to purchase food nor drink at Mollongghip, Wombat, Sailors Falls, Fryerstown, nor Vaughan Springs.
- **Keep a constant look out for the green GDTA direction posts** which line the trail and are erected at key places. If you think you may have missed a post go back to the last one. Although the trail is periodically checked, sometimes vandals destroy or remove posts and neither the GDTA nor the landmanagers can take responsibility for this.
- **Walk quietly and you may well see bush animals** such as kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, reptiles and many types of birds. Carry a local wildlife publication and enjoy the plant life particularly in Spring.
- **Plan the walk within your capabilities.** Generally around 20km is enough in one full day for most people carrying a day pack. Allow more time on the steep sections on Mt. Alexander (*Leanganook Track*) near the Balt camp and Whisky Creek and the section from the outskirts of Bacchus Marsh to Swans Road (*the Lerderberg Track*). Modest hills are found on most of the trail.
- **Read up on the history** of the Goldfields and the Central Highlands natural environment prior and subsequent to your walk.
- **Wear** stout bushwalking boots or shoes together with bright clothing appropriate for the weather. Wear a hat and long sleeved shirt and take a waterproof jacket and gloves for cold, wet weather. Carry sunscreen and insect repellent. NB. it sometimes snows occasionally on the higher parts of the trail, and hot conditions can be experienced in summer.

- **Carry at least one litre of water** and preferably two litres as there is no reliable drinkable water along the trail. Carry sufficient food and energy snacks for your planned walk together with some extras.
- Carry GDTA publications, Meridian publications or survey maps on your walk and carry a compass and whistle. A GPS would be useful.
- **Leave historic relics intact.**
- **Please do not enter private property.**
- Do not walk on days of total fire ban or extreme weather conditions - hot or cold. **Check local weather forecasts.**
- There are a few water courses along the trail. **Do not cross in times of flood.**
- Sections of the trail are periodically burned as part of necessary fire management and the areas affected will be temporarily closed by the land managers. This work takes place at short notice usually in Spring and Autumn. It is suggested you contact the DSE website [www.dse.vic.gov.au/fires](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/fires) to check whether burns are likely in your proposed area of walking.
- Don't walk the trail if there have been bushfires recently or if smoke is present. **If you are in any doubt, don't walk.**
- On Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) managed land in the forest, some sections are periodically harvested for wood products. The landmanagers will erect temporary deviation signs. **Walkers must keep well away from harvesting operations.**
- For advice on the Castlemaine Heritage Park contact Parks Victoria at Bendigo or Castlemaine. **Keep to the trail at all times**, particularly in mining and environmentally sensitive areas to prevent damage.