

Goldfields Track FAQs

V.4__May 2012



Track Diversions & Closures (@ May 2012)

During 2010–2011 some of the southern Track suffered significant damage.

Creswick Regional Park: Koala Park: Temporary diversion still in place.

Hepburn Regional Park: Daylesford: Tipperary section is open on East side of creek only. Bridge is still out, with minor diversion Twin Bridges-Old Ballarat Rd.

GDT Network

The **Great Dividing Trail (GDT)** network comprises: **Goldfields Track** (made up of the Wallaby, Dry Diggings and Leanganook Tracks)

- **Lerderberg Track**
- **Ararat Circuit Track.**

Other tracks are being planned or are awaiting final approval.

GDT Network maps

- Maps for the Lerderberg Track and the three tracks (above) that comprise the Goldfields Track are available from www.gdt.org.au using PayPal; from Information Victoria (80 Collins St Melbourne 1300 366 356) and several regional visitor information centres.
- Download Ararat Circuit Track map from www.gdt.org.au

Goldfields Track Walking Guide

Available from www.gdt.org.au, from Information Victoria or several regional information centres. Published May 2012

Goldfields Track (GT)

The **Goldfields Track** is the longest shared-use track in Victoria and is a key feature of the GDT network (See also: www.goldfieldstrack.com.au).

The track is shared-use for walkers and mountain bikers. Observe signs for sections that are Walkers Only or Bikes Only.

Transport

<http://www.vline.com.au> ; <http://www.travelvictoria.com.au>
<http://www.viclink.com.au>

Accommodation

Various types of commercial accommodation (motels, hotels, B&Bs, caravan/campsites) are in most townships and near the Track.

See also Goldfields Track accommodation partners @ www.goldfieldstrack.com.au and www.gdt.org.au and visitor information centres below.

Bush Camping

- DO NOT camp close to waterways or in dry creek beds.
- Camping is allowed in most national and regional parks, in state forests and at designated campsites.
- No camping on land managed by Central Highlands Water or Coliban Water.
- No camping on private property without prior permission.

Gold posts and signage

On the Track: New gold signage and gold-topped posts have replaced most dark green signage and posts. The GDT logo (above) is on green and gold GT posts.

Blue posts and signage

Near the Track and around townships: Blue signs on street posts and blue posts point the way to the track and do not feature the GDT logo.

Access

Several locations provide V-Line (train) or car access; some (but not all) have GDT or Goldfields Track entry signage.

Here's a few:

Location	Access point
Mt Buninyong summit	Car park
Buninyong	Warrenheip St
Ballarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Peel St North▪ VLine station
Creswick	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Slaty Creek campsite▪ VLine station▪ Visitor info centre▪ St Georges Lake
Daylesford	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lake Daylesford▪ Visitor info centre▪ Hepburn Springs carpark
Fryerstown	Old school car park:see Campsites
Castlemaine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Visitor info centre▪ VLine station
Harcourt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Town centre (diversion for mtb cyclists)
Mt Alexander	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Leanganook picnic ground
Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ VLine station

Parks and Forests

Sections of the Goldfields Track are in national or regional parks and state forests. From south to north, these are as follows:

- Creswick State Forest
- Creswick Regional Park
- Hepburn Regional Park
- Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park
- Mount Alexander Regional Park
- Greater Bendigo National Park & Bendigo Regional Park

For all information, including **Camping, Bushfire Safety, Park and Forest Closures, Road Closures**

- In national, state and regional parks: phone 13 1963 or check www.parks.vic.gov.au
- In state forests (including DSE Forest Explorer interactive map): phone 13 6186 or check www.dse.vic.gov.au .

Motor Bikes & Trail Bikes in Parks and Forests:

Bikes are allowed only on open roads and vehicle tracks that are open for public use.

Trail bikes must be registered and roadworthy.

All bike riders must be licensed.

Parks Vic campsites on GDTmaps (Sth-Nth)

Most have car access

- Slaty Creek. Ref 20 GDT Wallaby Tk map. OnTrack. Car. 5km Creswick. Pit toilet, fire place, no drinkable water.
- Vaughan Springs. Ref 27 GDT DryD Tk map. Car. Close Track. See also Picnic areas below.
- Chokem Flat Ref 29 GDT DryD Tk map Car. <500m along Campbells Creek Rd. 3.6km Vaughan Springs. Fire place.
- Leanganook/Koala Park Mt Alexander. Ref 9 new (2012) and old GDT Leanganook Tk map. Car. Near Track. Fire place, toilets. No drinkable water.
- Coliban Channel, nr Springs Rd Bendigo Ref 17 new 2012 GDT Leanganook Tk map; Ref 13 old map. No car access. Near Track. No water.

Other campsites: All with car access

- Dean Community Hall: Nr Track. Camping, shower, kitchen, ext water point. \$10.00/person. Contact lizkelly1967@gmail.com (03) 5334 5238.
- Mollonghip Community Hall: 2kms Track near Dean. Camping, ext water point, toilet. Kitchen. \$10.00/person. Contact viviennediamond@hotmail.com (03) 5334 5331.
- Mt Franklin: Parks Vic: 4 kms Track. Pit toilets, fireplaces. No drinkable water.
- Fryerstown Old School: On Track. Camping, ext water point, showers, toilets, wood bbq. \$10.00/person; \$25.00/family. Meals by arrangement . Contact ttodhunter@inet.net.au

Picnic areas (No camping) (Sth-Nth) Car access

Wallaby Track

- Mount Buninyong. Toilets.
- Buninyong Botanic Gardens. Toilets, water, bbq.
- De Soza Park, Buninyong. Toilets, water, shops.
- Yuille's Station Park Sebastopol. Picnic tables.
- Ditchfield Ln. Picnic tables on Yarrowee River.
- St Georges Lk Creswick. Toilets, bbq, no drinkable water.
- Sailors Falls. Off track Ballan-Daylesford Rd. Toilets, mineral water.
- Lake Daylesford. Toilets, water, elec bbqs, café.

Dry Diggings Track

- Twin Bridges. No facilities.
- Tipperary Springs. Toilets, mineral water with pump.
- Hepburn Springs Car Park. Toilets, water /mineral water, electric bbq, café.
- Vaughan Springs. Electric bbqs, toilets, giant slide.

Leanganook Track

- Chewton. Off track in main street. Electric bbq, toilets.
- Expedition Pass. East of track. No facilities.
- Harcourt Stanley Park. Near MTB riders track. Shop, hotel, electric bbq, toilets.

CHECK BEFORE you walk

Check weather, fire events and track conditions, diversions and closures:

- DSE www.dse.vic.gov.au
- CFA www.cfa.vic.gov.au
- Parks Victoria www.parks.vic.gov.au
- Bureau of Meteorology www.bom.vic.gov.au
- Bushfire Information Line = 1800 240 667
- Bushfire Information TTY = 1800 122 969

ABC warnings in emergencies and extreme weather:

Ballarat 107.9 FM; Bendigo 91.1FM; Melb 774AM.

READ... And WALK SAFELY

- Don't walk on Total Fire Ban days or in extreme weather. Don't walk in low visibility conditions, eg smoke, fog, cloud
- NOTE: Visibility may change quickly on Mt Alexander and Mt Buninyong, where it can become difficult to see posts.
- ALWAYS let a responsible adult know of your planned route and your expected time of return.
- Plan your walk to return well before dark.
- Carry a GDT map or other detailed map with GT Walking Guide, GPS or compass and look for the direction posts.
- You are walking in goldfields country. Keep to the track to avoid hidden mine shafts.
- If you think you've missed a post, retrace your steps to the last post that you found and check the map.
- Carry a fully-charged mobile phone. NOTE: Coverage is not available on all of track (see Mobile phones below).
- Do not camp close to waterways or in dry creek beds.
- Do not enter private property without permission.
- Know your limitations: Be aware that these are likely to diminish in extreme temperatures and weather.
- Drink plenty of water. See Water below.
- Carry sufficient food and energy snacks to sustain you.
- Wear appropriate clothing but always be prepared for changes in the weather conditions:
 - Always carry a waterproof coat and hat.
 - Wear gloves in cold weather.
- Take sunscreen and insect repellent.
- Wear a whistle on a cord around your neck in case of emergency.
- Read **Walksafe** on Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) website @ www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/
- Respect the environment. Prevent damage to plants and cultural relics.
- Take out all of your rubbish.

Mobile phones

- Mobile phone coverage isn't always available.
- In an emergency, dial **000**. If you don't have reception, dial **112** and your call will be carried by a GSM network if one is available. Contact may be possible even if your mobile has been blocked or your security settings have been activated. See: www.telstra.com.au
- There is no SMS text message emergency service.
- Sometimes SMS text may get through when voice doesn't but there's no guarantee of delivery. See Bushwalking Victoria tips p10, July 2011 newsletter @ www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Visitor Information Centres

- Information Victoria, 80 Collins St Melb 1300 366 356
- Bacchus Marsh: www.discoverbacchusmarsh.org 03 5367 7488 (NOTE: Bacchus Marsh VIC does not sell maps)
- Ballarat: www.visitballarat.com.au 1800 446633
- Buninyong: www.buninyong.vic.au 035341 8211.10-3 Tues-Sun
- Bendigo: www.bendigotourism.com 1800 813 153
- Castlemaine: www.maldoncastlemaine.com.au 1800 171 888
- Creswick: www.visitcreswick.com 035345 1114
- Daylesford: www.visitdaylesford.com 03 5321 6123
- Melton: www.melton.vic.gov.au 9747 7300

NB: Water: Carry plenty of water: at least 2 litres per day in hot weather.

There is no drinkable water on the track (often no water at all) except at specified campsites/picnic grounds.