

Goldfields Track Q&A's

V.11__Aug 2014



Track Diversions & Closures? June 2014

GOLDFIELDS TRACK: Diversion at St Georges Lake, Creswick, Wallaby Tk section. See notice on website.
LERDERDERG TRACK: Walkers should take care between Bacchus Marsh and Daylesford because of issues with signage and track disrepair. Only experienced walkers with GPS and superior navigation skills should attempt to use the track.

The **Great Dividing Trail (GDT)** network comprises:

- **Goldfields Track** (comprising the Wallaby, Dry Diggings and Leanganook Tracks; and the University of Ballarat Circuit Track at Mt Helen Campus)
- **Lerderderg Track**
- **Ararat Circuit Track.**

Maps?

- Buy maps for the three tracks of the Goldfields Track from <http://www.gdt.org.au>, some visitor information centres (see below) or selected sales agents (see website).
- Download Ararat Circuit Track map and Federation University (Ballarat) circuit map @ <http://www.gdt.org.au>
- The Lerderderg Track map has been withdrawn from sale.

Goldfields Track Walking Guide?

Available from <http://www.gdt.org.au>, some visitor information centres (see below) or sales outlets (see website).

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: <http://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 accommodation (motels, hotels, B&Bs, caravan/campsites) in most townships and near the Track.

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.

Posts and signage?

On the Track: **Gold** signage and gold-topped posts have replaced most dark green signage and posts.

Near the Track and around townships: **Blue** signs on street posts and blue posts point the way to the track.

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?

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

- 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 <http://www.parks.vic.gov.au>
- In state forests (including DEPI Forest Explorer interactive map): phone 13 6186 or check <http://www.depi.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.

... WATER ...

CARRY plenty of water -

AT LEAST 2 litres per day in hot weather.

There is NO drinkable water on the Track - sometimes no water at all except at specified camp/picnic sites.

Parks Vic campsites on GDTmaps? (South-North) 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 with car access?

- Dean Community Hall: Nr Track. Camping, shower, kitchen, ext water point. \$10.00/person. Contact lizkelly1967@gmail.com 0412 674 827.
- Mollonghip Community Hall: 2kms Track near Dean. Camping, ext water point, toilet. Kitchen. \$10.00/person. Contact rhonnie_dryne@hotmail.com (03) 5334 5201.
- Mt Franklin: Parks Vic: 4 kms Track. Pit toilets, fireplaces. No drinkable water.

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

Wallaby Track

- Mount Buninyong summit. 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. Mineral water. No toilets.
- 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:

- DEPI <http://www.depi.vic.gov.au>
- CFA <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au>
- Parks Victoria <http://www.parks.vic.gov.au>
- GDTA <http://www.gdt.org.au>
- Bureau of Meteorology <http://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.

WALKING 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 the GT Walking Guide, GPS or compass and look for the 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 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.
- Carry a First Aid kit and know how to use it.
- Read **Walksafe** on Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) website <http://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: <http://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 <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au>

Visitor Information Centres?

- Bacchus Marsh: 03 5367 7488 (NB: is not a sales outlet)
- Ballarat: <http://www.visitballarat.com.au> 1800 446633
- Buninyong: <http://www.buninyong.vic.au> 035341 8211.
- Bendigo: <http://www.bendigotourism> 1800 813 153
- Castlemaine: <http://www.maldoncastlemaine.com.au> 1800 171 888
- Creswick: <http://www.visitcreswick.com.au> 035345 1114
- Daylesford: <http://www.visitdaylesford.com> 03 5321 6123
- Kyneton: <http://www.visitmacedonranges.com> 03 5422 6110
- Melton: <http://www.melton.vic.gov.au> 03 9747 7300
- Woodend: <http://www.visitmacedonranges.com> 03 5427 2033