



The Grampians Backgrounder

The Grampians, known to the indigenous population as Gariwerd, is located in Western Victoria and spans well over 160,000 hectares from North to South and East to West.

With a range of differing activities and natural sites, a selection of dining options and accommodation, the area is a haven for hikers, families and food lovers alike. The natural beauty of the region is complemented by a plethora of activities ranging from rock climbing, camping and hiking right through to luxury escapes, high end food, local produce and boutique wineries.

The centre of the region is crowned by the Grampians National Park which boasts some of the most beautiful scenery in Victoria, and home to many significant indigenous sites and culture, whose populations have been connected with the area for more than 22,000 years.

The area is popular among tourists in all seasons, hosting over 1 million visitors from winter escapes to summer wine tours and festivals.

NORTH

The northern part of the Grampians is known for its natural beauty and charming small towns, with the renowned Halls Gap right at its heart. The area boasts many boutique accommodation options, some of Victoria's best wineries and is also home to rich indigenous culture.

ATTRACTIONS:

[Grampians Peaks Trail](#) - The Grampians Peaks Trail is one of the Walk Victoria's Icons long distance trails. The Grampians Peaks Trail provides an intimate and unforgettable experience of dramatic peaks, panoramic views and an ancient rugged landscape through the Grampians National Park. Once completed the Trail will run from the North all the way to the South peaks of the Grampians. The first section is now complete and offers a 36-kilometre, 3 day-2 night circuit walk departing from Halls Gap.

Operators such as [Grampians Peaks Walking Co.](#) can get you out walking on this track no matter what level of experience you have. You can do it on your own or let a qualified, passionate guide take you on a journey of discovery along the trail.

Planning and construction will continue on the remaining sections of the trail until late 2019 when the full 13 day-12 night experience will be fully open.

[Boroka Lookout](#) - Provides tourists with panoramic views over Halls Gap and the Grampians.

[Halls Gap Zoo](#) - Host to 160 species of native and exotic mammals. Open daily, 10am to 5pm.

FOOD:

[Harvest Halls Gap](#) - Café and Provedore that provides delicious breakfast, lunch, coffee, wine, beer and cider sourced from the local Grampians region.

[LiveFast Café](#) - Local café offering high quality coffee, craft beer as well as local produce and crafts. Vegan friendly!

[Halls Gap Hotel](#) - Family bistro surrounded by a large open veranda and offering a wide-ranging menu with quality meals. An indoor kids play room and an outdoor playground is viewable from your dining table.

[The Views Restaurant](#) - a variety of food and beverages to choose from, with views of the magnificent surrounding mountains.

WINE:

[Grampians Estate](#) - A James Halliday 'Five Red Star' winery, Grampians Estate has collected over 35 trophies for its wines. Wine tours, tastings and great food are also available. Wine tutorials \$20pp.

[Best's Great Western](#) - One of Australia's oldest continually family owned and operated wineries. Taste the wines before experiencing the original underground cellar on their self-guided tour.

[Seppelt](#) - Open seven days a week, experience the beauty of country Victoria at the historic cellar door for a tasting or to purchase wine, and step back in time with an underground tour of the heritage-listed cellars, The Drives – first excavated in 1868 and the longest in the southern hemisphere.

[Halls Gap Estate](#) - Superb views of the Grampians, this winery is known for its estate grown Shiraz, Cabernet and Riesling. Free wine tastings and share platters from \$25.

ACCOMMODATION:

[Halls Gap Lakeside Tourist Park](#) -Cabins, camping and glamping. Rated number one on TripAdvisor, unique features of the park include the backdrop of the Grampians National Park, an outdoor wood-fire, heated pool, kayaking and fishing. Camping from \$29, Glamping \$110, Cabins from \$129.

[Lake Fyans Holiday Park](#) - A unique lake front holiday park with direct access to Lake Fyans. Cabins from \$105 per night.

[DULC](#) - Designer, self-contained cabins built using rough radial sawn timber inside and out and furnished with all the contemporary goodies you could hope for. From \$280 per night.

TOURS:

[Brambuk Cultural Centre](#) - The National Park and Cultural Centre is 100% owned and operated by the Indigenous community and is the longest running Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Australia. Open daily from 9am to 5pm. Free entry (gold coin donation appreciated).

[Absolute Outdoors](#) - Abseiling and climbing with families, canoeing on Lake Bellfield at sunset, and bushwalking along the new Grampians Peak Trail with the Absolute Outdoors team.

EAST

The eastern zone of the Grampians is known for its natural beauty and for its historical sites such as Ararat, the only town in Australia to be founded by Chinese migrants. The area also boasts boutique accommodation, easy access to the Grampians National Park, the Ararat Hills Regional Park and the Mount Langi Ghiran State Park.

ATTRACTIONS:

[Ferntree Waterfall Nature Walk](#) - Pass three waterfalls, including Ferntree and Cascade Falls, and take in the many breathtaking viewing points over the fern-lined upper reaches of the Middle Creek below. 1km, 45 min return.

[One Tree Hill Lookout](#) - 360-degree views overlooking Ararat. Great spot for a picnic!

[Mt Langi State Park](#) - The Langi Ghiran State Park is 14 km drive east of Ararat in Victoria. The park covers an area of 2695 hectares and can be used for camping, walking and driving.

[Green Hill Lake](#) - situated in the town of Ararat, surrounded with picturesque mountain ranges providing the perfect backdrop, the lake is host to many recreational water sports throughout the year including swimming, fishing, boating and water skiing.

FOOD:

Fred and Bet's Café - Offers delicious homemade goods on 153 Barkly St, Ararat Victoria 3377.

[Red Rock Olives](#) - Olive grove and farm gate café produces award-winning extra virgin olive oil, table olives, olive salt, artisan vinegars and more. Free tastings are also available. Located in Pomonal.

WINE:

[Mt Langi Ghiran](#) - Continually listed as one of Australia's most acclaimed producers of Shiraz. From November to March, Langi Picnic Idyll, encourages guests to picnic or play bocce at the winery. Located just on the outskirts of Ararat.

[Montara Wines](#) - A James Halliday five-star family owned winery and vineyard. 'Wine Down Fridays' are held from 4pm on the first Friday of each month. Free wine tastings. Open Friday - Sunday 11am - 4pm.

ACCOMMODATION:

[Blue House at Mountainside Wines](#) - Bed and Breakfast located at Mountainside Wines, a vineyard and winery at Warrak, 20 minutes east of Ararat. From \$167 per night.

[Pomonal Cottages](#) - Self-contained, two-bedroom cottages for up to 6 and one three-bedroom cottages for up to 10 people. From \$140 per night.

[Grampians Pioneer Cottages](#) - A country retreat in self-contained cottages uniquely built from 100-year-old red bricks. From \$197 per night.

ARTS & HISTORY:

[Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre](#) - Tells the story of the Chinese miners and their arduous journey from Southern China to Australia. Open daily from 11am to 4pm.

[J Ward Museum](#) - Take a guided tour explaining the early history of the goldfield times and later, the incarceration of the criminally insane. Tours run every day at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm. Lantern Ghost Tours are also available.

TOURS:

[Aradale Ghost Tours](#) - Australia's largest lunatic asylum. Tours are available daily and last for up to two hours.

SOUTH

The Southern Zone is home to Hamilton, Australia's first pastoral settlement as well as a thriving farming district. Tourists can enjoy views of the Picaninny, Mount Abrupt and Mount Sturgeon as well as boutique shops, cafes, food and wine or embark on one of many hikes through the countryside.

ATTRACTIONS:

[Mount Rouse](#) - An extinct volcano accessible by vehicle. Climbing to the summit offers incredible views over the surrounding countryside.

[Dunkeld township](#) - At the foot of Mount Sturgeon, the southern tip of the Grampians and the Great Dividing Range, is the village of Dunkeld. Dunkeld's charming main street features shops, cafes and the Royal Mail Hotel which is regularly voted one of the best dining destinations in Australia. This beautiful town has a picturesque Arboretum with a walking track that meanders past hundreds of trees including many giant red gums.

[Mt Sturgeon](#) - The Mount Sturgeon walk is suitable for fit and adventurous walkers, and involves water crossings, slippery track surfaces and rock hopping. The summit offers panoramic views of the surrounding ranges and volcanic plains, and over Dunkeld. Return by the same route. The track is 7kms, the walk will take 3hrs return.

[The Piccaninny](#) - The view from the summit of the Piccaninny walk provides excellent views of Mt Abrupt and the nearby town of Dunkeld with its impressive and unique landscape. Take the gradually climbing track through open forest that provides stunning wildflower displays during Spring. This walk will take 1 – 1.5 hours.

[Mt Abrupt](#) - The steep track winds its way through healthy woodland and over rock slabs to the summit. Enjoy one of the most spectacular views of the National Park. 3hour return walk.

[Wannon & Nigretta Falls](#) - Just 20km west of Hamilton lie two exceptional waterfalls. Wannon Falls, created by lava, feature a spectacular hardened basalt lava over which water cascades into a deep plunge pool below. Nigretta Falls has excellent viewing areas, river walks, barbeque facilities with redgum picnic tables, toilets, fishing areas and a jarrah timber stairway leading to the base of the falls for the more adventurous walker.

FOOD:

[Royal Mail Hotel](#) - Awarded two hats by the Age Good Food Guide 2015, 2016 and 2017, the Royal Mail Hotel Dining Room offers nature-based cuisine focusing on the highest quality locally sourced produce.

[Roxburgh House](#) - This makeshift café, bar pizzeria operates within a beautiful two-storey bluestone building with alfresco dining.

WINE:

[Pierrepoint Wines](#) - Family owned and operated vineyard, cellar door and Bed and Breakfast. During March and October, musicians are invited to play for guests on the lawns.

ACCOMMODATION:

[Royal Mail Hotel](#) - The property features sweeping views, multi-award-winning dining and cellar with rooms from \$165 per night.

[Pierrepoint Wines B&B](#) - Farm stay/bed and breakfast style accommodation overlooking an extensive garden and a 14-acre vineyard.

ARTS & HISTORY:

[Hamilton Gallery](#) - The gallery presents a range of exhibitions, programs and events that stimulate understanding, awareness and enjoyment of the visual arts. Entrance is free.

[Ros MacArthur Art Studio](#) - Visitors are invited to wander and enjoy the gardens and studio. Entrance is free and canvas paintings are available for purchase.

[Ansett Museum](#) - A museum dedicated to transport and tourism pioneer Sir Reginald Ansett and housed in the company's first aircraft hangar.

[Volcanoes Discovery Centre](#) - Volcanoes Discovery Centre in Peshurst at the foot of the dormant Mt Rouse volcano, and be transported back thousands of years to when volcanoes were erupting right across the Western District and into South Australia.

WEST

The West of the region is home to the city of Horsham, providing excellent retail, dining and entertainment options as well as natural sites such as The Grampians National Park, Mount Zero, Hollow Mountain and Mackenzie Falls. Mount Arapiles is widely regarded as one of the top rock climbing areas in the country. The area is also host to many significant indigenous sites.

ATTRACTIONS:

[Mackenzie Falls](#) - Victoria's largest waterfalls that flows year-round.

[Lake Wartook](#) - Keen fisher folk and canoeing enthusiasts will not want to miss this little treasure surrounded by the mountains and forests of the Grampians National Park. There is a picnic area, boat ramp, and a campground located 5km from the lake.

[Mount Arapiles](#) - Known for its top rock climbing spots as well as a lookout, good walking tracks, picnic spots and camping grounds.

FOOD:

[Nourish'd Eatery](#) - Nourish'd Eatery is an eco-cafe offering a healthy, organic, seasonal and local menu of wholefoods.

[Grampians Olive Co](#) - Over 70 years of history, Grampians Olive Co is home to the historic, 100% family run Toscana Olive Plantation.

WINE:

[Norton Estate Wines](#) - A James Halliday 5 Star Wine producer, Norton Estate is located 10 minutes southwest of Horsham.

[Barangaroo Boutique Wines](#) - Offers quiet and relaxing experiences with friends, family and lovers of boutique quality wines. Sharing platters and wine tasting available.

ACCOMODATION:

[Comfort Inn Capital – Horsham](#) - 3.5-star hotel accommodation located in Halls, Horsham. Rooms from \$139 per night.

[Wimmera Lakes Caravan Resort](#) - Caravan, Camping and Cabins. Powered camping from \$30 per night.

ARTS & HISTORY:

[Silo Art Trail](#) - Celebrate the rich heritage of Victoria's Wimmera/Mallee region with a journey along the 200km Silo Art Trail, soon to become the country's biggest outdoor gallery. Start in Horsham and travel through to the final silo in Patchewollock.

[Horsham Regional Art Gallery](#) - Discover artworks by the artists that have been inspired by the Wimmera in this nationally significant collection of Australian photography.

TOURS:

[Grampians Mountain Adventure Company](#) - Friendly and professional rock climbing and abseiling guides and instructors in the Grampians National Park and Mount Arapiles. Beginner sessions start at \$120 per adult.

For more information on the Grampians and to see what events are coming up in the region, visit <https://www.visitgrampians.com.au/>.