



Cradle Mountain

CRADLE MOUNTAIN-LAKE ST CLAIR
NATIONAL PARK



Department of Primary Industries,
Parks, Water and Environment



Enquiries

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**Share
the wonder**

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Front cover: Cradle Mountain and Dove Lake. Photo: Garry Moore

Above: Pandani, Cradle Valley. Photo: Joe Shernesh



Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair
National Park is part of the Tasmanian
Wilderness World Heritage Area

Welcome

Welcome to Tasmania's most visited national park – Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair – in the heart of the 1.4 million hectare Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Immerse yourself in this extraordinarily beautiful alpine landscape of rugged peaks, windswept moors, glacial lakes and tarns, and deep gorges clothed in tall, ancient forests. You'll also meet a variety of wildlife, some of it surprisingly friendly.

While you're here ...

- ✓ Take the shuttle bus to Dove Lake to see (on a clear day) the iconic Cradle Mountain.
- ✓ Choose a walk or two that meets your needs (time, weather, fitness) and savour this wild place.
- ✓ Spend time in the Interpretation Centre to get to know the interesting history and some of the plants and animals that make this place so special. The centre includes a gallery and theatrette (open daily 9.00 - 4.30).
- ✓ Experience Cradle's abundant nocturnal wildlife with a tour guide (ask at the Visitor Centre).
- ✓ Spend the night in one of the local accommodation places, wake up and continue your Cradle adventure!



The golden glow of buttongrass moorland. Photo: Joe Shemesh

Facilities in the Park



Fuel is not always available – enquire at the Cradle Mountain Café at the Visitor Centre



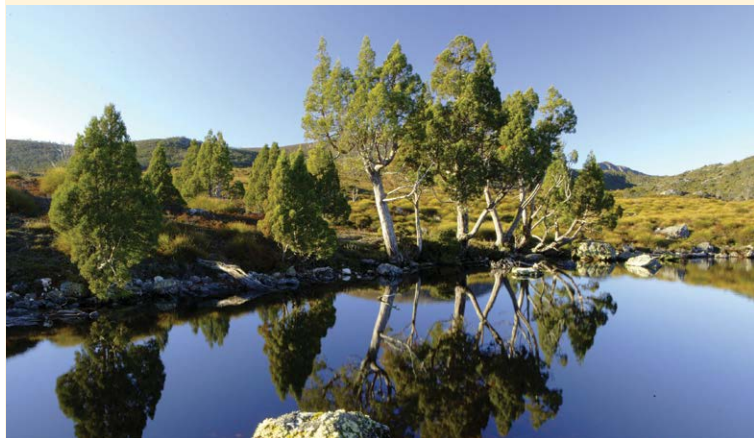
Visitor Centre, Interpretation Centre, Dove Lake and Waldheim



Picnic facilities at Visitor Centre, Interpretation Centre, Ronny Creek and Waldheim Day Shelter



Cradle Mountain Café and Hotel, Cradle Mountain Lodge and Wilderness Village. Basic grocery items are available at the Discovery Holiday Parks reception.



Pencil pines fringe a glacial lake. Photo: Joe Shemesh

Accommodation

- 🏠 Waldheim Cabins (nearest accommodation to Dove Lake) (03) 6491 2271
- 🏠 Peppers Cradle Mountain Lodge (03) 6492 2100 or 1300 806 192
- 🏠 Cradle Mountain Highlanders Cottages (03) 6492 1116
- 🏠 Discovery Holiday Parks – Cradle Mountain (03) 6492 1395 / 1800 068 574
- 🏠 Cradle Mountain Wilderness Village (03) 6492 1500
- 🏠 Cradle Mountain Hotel (03) 6492 1404 or 1800 420 155

Guided Tours

Enquire at Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre for information and bookings.

Leave No Trace

National parks and reserves are special places. They provide essential refuges for plants and animals and help to protect cultural sites. Enjoy your visit to Cradle Mountain. Its protection depends on your support.

1 Plan ahead and prepare

Walk in small groups. Split larger parties into groups of 4-6. Repackage food to minimise waste.

2 Walk and camp on durable surfaces

Durable camping surfaces include established campsites, tent platforms, rock, gravel and sand.

3 Dispose of waste properly

Pack it in, pack it out. If there's a toilet, use it. Otherwise bury all faecal waste and toilet paper in holes 15-20cm deep at least 100m from water, camps and tracks. Cover and disguise the hole when finished.

4 Leave what you find

Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them. Respect Aboriginal sites and other sites of cultural significance.

5 Minimise campfire impacts – use a fuel stove

Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park is a Fuel Stove Only Area. Fires are not permitted.

6 Respect wildlife

Keep wildlife wild. Feeding animals can turn them into pests and may make them sick.

7 Be considerate of your hosts and other visitors

Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.



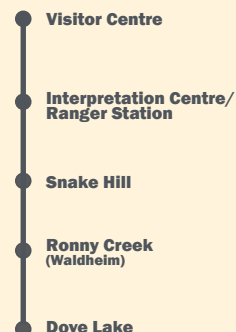
Bennetts Wallaby. Photo: Peter Grant

Visiting Dove Lake



By shuttle bus

Accessing the park is best done by utilising the Cradle Shuttle Service. Purchase or present a valid parks pass to the Visitor Centre staff to receive your complimentary shuttle pass. The shuttle service offers an efficient, environmentally friendly and safer way to explore the park by minimising the amount of traffic on the road to Dove Lake. The shuttles run regularly between the Visitor Centre and Dove Lake. You can hop on or off at the following spots:



By foot

The Cradle Valley Boardwalk starts at the Interpretation Centre and meanders alongside the Dove River to Dove Lake. It's a relaxing 3 hour walk to Dove Lake, mainly on boardwalk, with a final section along a gravel track. You can hop on the shuttle bus at a couple of spots to speed up your journey. To get to the start of the boardwalk, take the bus from the Visitor Centre, jump off at the Interpretation Centre, and start walking!



By private car

The access road from the park entrance to Dove Lake is very narrow and winding, and we recommend using the shuttle service. Caravans, campervans and camper-trailers are not permitted. Access by private car is regulated by a boom gate at the park entrance during busy periods to maintain visitor safety.

A rich heritage

Tasmanian Aborigines visited this area for more than 35,000 years, including during the last ice age. They hunted game and collected food plants, with simple bone, stone and timber tools. Because their imprint was so light on the landscape, there are few remains of their extraordinary existence.

From the 1820s to the park's declaration as a reserve in 1922, these former Aboriginal homelands were visited by explorers, prospectors, trappers, hunters, timber getters and graziers. Proposals for the area varied from large mines and railways, to farms and plantations.

However it was the vision of Austrian-born Gustav Weindorfer and his wife Kate, which ultimately led to this place being declared a national park. In 1910, from the summit of Cradle Mountain, Gustav proclaimed:

"This must be a national park for the people for all time. It is magnificent, and people must know about it and enjoy it."

On that day, he also determined to *"build a chalet and get a road and then people will come from everywhere to see this place"*. Gustav's chalet is Waldheim, a short walk from Ronny Creek.



Waldheim Chalet, built in 1912. Photo: Brett Best

Cradle's colourful flora

Along the road to Ronny Creek you will be flanked by eucalypt forest with a heathy understorey of flowering shrubs in summer and bright berries in autumn. Once at Ronny Creek, the landscape opens to the distinctive golden glow of buttongrass moorlands. As you ascend the higher peaks the moorland gives way to alpine herbfields with delicate daisies and cushion plants. To experience the cool tranquility of our ancient rainforests, head for the Rainforest Walk, Enchanted Walk, Weindorfers Forest or Dove Lake Circuit.



Wombats are often seen at Ronny Creek. Photo: Amanda Smith



















Wildlife around Cradle

Wildlife is abundant. The park's two wallaby species – Bennetts wallabies and pademelons – can be seen grazing in grassy areas, with pademelons common around Waldheim. Brush-tailed possums are nocturnal and abundant around accommodation areas. Two of the world's three surviving monotremes – the platypus and the echidna – are often seen in the area. Echidnas amble beside the road or on the walking tracks, while platypus can be spotted by quiet observers in the many lakes and rivers. The world's largest carnivorous marsupials – the endangered Tasmanian devil, the spotted-tailed quoll and the eastern quoll – are also found here. No visit to Cradle will go by without getting acquainted with our black currawongs. They are excellent scavengers and can open zips on backpacks to search for food! Their clear, ringing call complements the grandeur of the mountains.

A selection of short walks

Walks up to 3 hours duration are described below. For day or overnight walks, which travel into higher altitudes, we strongly recommend you purchase the **Cradle Mountain Day Walk Map and Notes** from the Visitor Centre.

Use the boot washing facility at the Visitor Centre to avoid introducing weeds and plant diseases into the World Heritage Area.

Walk	Time	Grade	Starts From	Warnings
1 Enchanted Walk 	20 minute circuit		Peppers Cradle Mountain Lodge	
2 King Billy Walk	30 minute circuit		Peppers Cradle Mountain Lodge	
3 Knyvet Falls	45 minute return		opposite Peppers Cradle Mountain Lodge	
4 Dove Canyon Circuit (via Knyvet Falls)	2-3 hour circuit		opposite Peppers Cradle Mountain Lodge	
5 Pencil Pine Falls and Rainforest Walk	10 minute circuit		Interpretation Centre	
6 Cradle Valley Boardwalk	2 hours one way (to Ronny Creek) 3 hrs one way (to Dove Lake)		Interpretation Centre	
7 Weindorfers Forest Walk	20 minute circuit		Waldheim Chalet	
8 Ronny Creek to Dove Lake (via Lake Lilla)	1 hour one way		Ronny Creek carpark	
9 Ronny Creek to Dove Lake (via Crater Lake, Wombat Pool and Lake Lilla)	1.5-2 hours one way		Ronny Creek carpark	 
10 Dove Lake Circuit 	2-3 hour circuit		Dove Lake carpark	
11 Marions Lookout (via Crater Lake)	3 hours return		Ronny Creek carpark or Dove Lake carpark	 



No bushwalking experience required. Flat even surface with no steps or steep sections. Suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them.



Suitable for most ages. The track has a hardened or compacted surface that may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps.



Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps.



Bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may be rough and very steep.



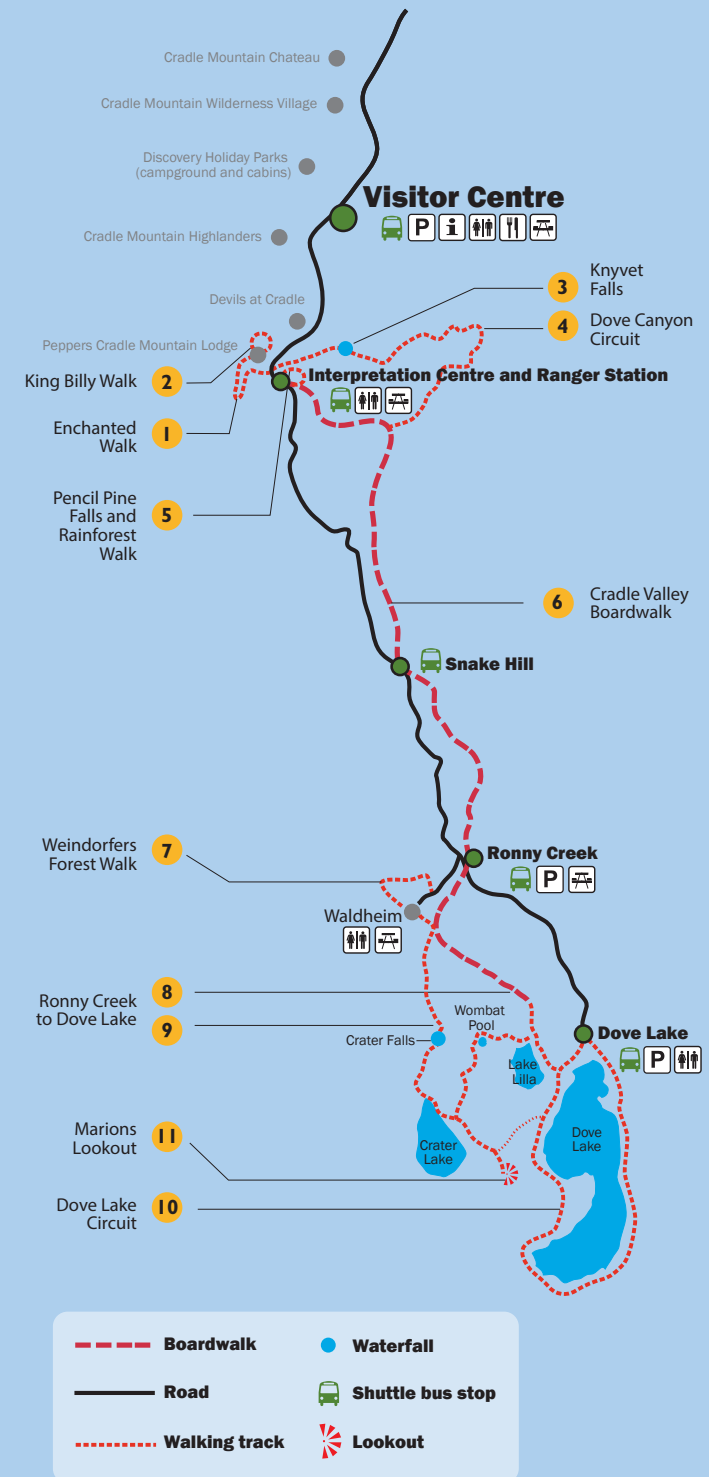
Hazardous during windy conditions



Hazardous during snow conditions



One of Tasmania's '60 Great Short Walks'. Collect your copy of the booklet from your accommodation venue or the Visitor Centre. (Also available as a free app from the iTunes store.)



Short walk descriptions

1 Enchanted Walk

Perfect for young families, featuring special places just for children.

2 King Billy Walk

A beautiful section of rainforest featuring very large and old king billy pines.

3 Kynvet Falls

A boardwalk leads you down to the base of the Pencil Pine Falls and continues to the top of Kynvet Falls.

4 Dove Canyon Circuit

Walking clockwise, this 5km circuit crosses buttongrass plains, open forest and myrtle rainforest to the deep gorge of the canyon. Numerous waterfalls on Pencil Pine Creek, including Kynvet Falls. Some short steep climbs and descents, and sections which are rocky, muddy and slippery.

5 Pencil Pine Falls and Rainforest Walk

A short, wheelchair accessible circuit through mature pencil pine/myrtle rainforest, suitable for all ages. The walk overlooks Pencil Pine Falls.

6 Cradle Valley Boardwalk

The 5.5km boardwalk meanders beside Dove River, linking the Interpretation Centre with Ronny Creek, with lovely views of Cradle Mountain along the way. Cables and pipes beneath the timber decking deliver power and phone services into Cradle Valley and pump sewage and wastewater out of the valley.

7 Weindorfers Forest Walk

Perfect for families, this lovely stroll takes you through a beautiful rainforest, where you'll see ancient king billy pines, pandani and the deciduous beech (fagus).

8 Ronny Creek to Dove Lake (via Lake Lilla)

The 3km boardwalk / gravel track travels across buttongrass moorland. Some sections can be wet underfoot. You can often see wombats grazing close to the track.

9 Ronny Creek to Dove Lake (via Crater Lake, Wombat Pool and Lake Lilla)

This 6km walk takes you past Crater Falls with its magical forest of pandani and sassafras, before climbing to the spectacular glacial Crater Lake surrounded by 200 metre high cliffs, covered with deciduous beech. Descend towards Wombat Pool with its ancient pencil pines and on to Lake Lilla. Continue down to Dove Lake or return to Ronny Creek.

10 Dove Lake Circuit

Best walked in a clockwise direction, this 6km circuit is Cradle's most popular walk – suitable for all ages. The track weaves its way through rainforest and past quartzite beaches. If you haven't time for the whole circuit, Glacier Rock is a 10 minute stroll to the east, while the historic boatshed is 10 minutes to the west.

11 Marions Lookout (via Crater Lake)

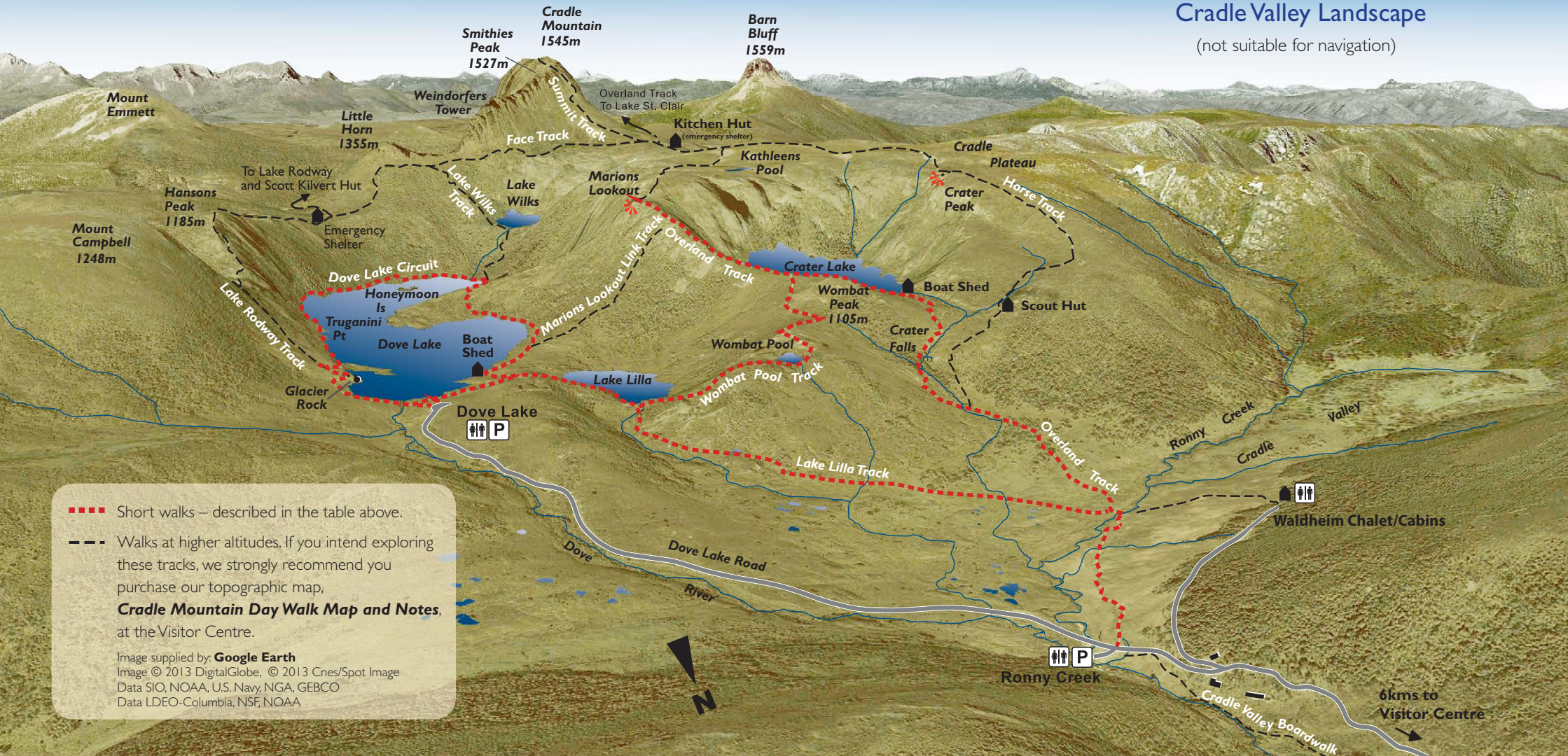
There are two recommended approaches – from Ronny Creek via Crater Falls, or from Dove Lake carpark via Lake Lilla/Wombat Pool. Both routes take around the same time (3 hours return). It's best to avoid the alternate route from the Dove Lake carpark (Marions Lookout Link Track), which is more direct, however very rough and steep.



*Climbing
Marions
Lookout.
Photo:
Peter Grant*

Cradle Valley Landscape

(not suitable for navigation)



Walk Safely

Plan to walk safely – know your way, walk within your capabilities.

Be prepared – take clothing and equipment to suit changeable weather and track conditions.

Avoid walking alone – walk with friends.

Let a reliable person know your plans, before you go – be sure to advise them of your safe return.

Record your trip intentions in a Walker Log Book – this will help searchers to locate you if you are reported overdue or missing. (Log Books are located at all trackheads.)

Be prepared to turn back – or change your plans, if the weather deteriorates or the walk is more difficult than expected.

Warning

You are in an alpine region where weather can change rapidly and frequently. Within an hour, you may experience burning sun, high winds, heavy rain and snow. Wear appropriate clothing. Death can occur when people are caught unprepared in cold, wet and windy weather. Children, older people and those with an illness or disability are at greatest risk in such conditions. Please observe all track signs – they are provided for your safety. Stay on the formed walking tracks at all times – both for your own safety and to protect the sensitive alpine vegetation.