

Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail

The Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail (GLDT) is a bicycle track through the Colquhoun State forest, linking the East Gippsland Rail Trail to Lakes Entrance. The GLDT provides visitors with the opportunity to ride from Bairnsdale to Lakes Entrance (65km, full day one-way). The route passes through quiet farmland and enchanting forest, retracing the route of an historic light rail tramway to arrive at Lakes Entrance and the beautiful 90-mile beach.

The ride can also be undertaken in shorter sections (Bruthen to Lakes Entrance 36km, 4hrs one-way or Forestech to Lakes Entrance 13km, 1.5hrs minutes one-way) or over a leisurely two days with an overnight stay in Bruthen.

Getting there

The Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail runs through the Colquhoun forest, which is situated approximately 10 kilometres north-west of Lakes Entrance. Points to access the trail are via the East Gippsland Rail Trail from Bairnsdale, Bruthen or Nowa Nowa. Other points of access are via Log Crossing picnic area and Forestech TAFE. Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance are located on the Princes Highway approximately 270 and 310 kilometres east of Melbourne respectively.

Cycling

Bairnsdale to Lakes Entrance

Skill level¹: Moderate
 Fitness Level: Average
 Distance: 65km one-way
 Duration: 8 hours one-way (including breaks)

Bairnsdale to Nicholson (9kms)

Follow the East Gippsland Rail Trail east from the township of Bairnsdale along the route of the old railway line. This section is very easy pedaling on sealed trail and travels through farmland paddocks.

Nicholson to Bumberrah (9kms)

Over the Nicholson River the trail becomes smooth gravel and continues through undulating farmland for 9kms until reaching a grassy woodland area, which was the old Bumberrah Railway Station.

Bumberrah to Mossiface (8kms)

The trail leads 8kms through tunnels, cuttings and over fills before reaching Mossiface, another old station site.

¹ To assist visitors in choosing riding tracks, the tracks are classified by skill level and fitness level. For a description of these classifications, refer to the Forests Note 'FS0005 - Mountain Bike Riding in State Forest'

Mossiface to Bruthen (4.5kms)

Bruthen is the last town before Lakes Entrance and a good spot to stop for lunch. Bruthen is accessed by a short detour from the trail.

Bruthen to Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail (11kms)

The Rail Trail crosses the historic railway bridge over the Tambo River then climbs gradually into the open eucalyptus forest. The Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail begins 11kms from Bruthen at Seaton Track.

Rail Trail to Mississippi Creek Quarry (4kms)

The Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail meanders for 2kms through open forest with a few manuka gullies before descending a small escarpment. Just south of the escarpment the trail crosses the first of 10 bridges over the Mississippi Creek and its' tributaries. The track leads another 2kms through undulating terrain before descending on the Mississippi Creek where it passes by the Mississippi Creek Quarry carpark and a short (100metre) detour to the historic Quarry.

From this point, the Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail follows the route of an old light rail tramway constructed in the early 1900s to move granite from a quarry deep within the forest to Lakes Entrance. The granite was used to build the permanent ocean entrance to the Gippsland Lakes as well being used in the construction of buildings in Melbourne. It is well worth a look to appreciate the historical importance of the area.

Mississippi Creek Quarry to Log Crossing picnic area (7.5kms)

From the Quarry the track follows the Mississippi Creek for several kilometres, winding through lush bush. Several bridges cross the creek, which ranges from a series of ponds to a flowing course. Native flora and fauna abound this section of rich forest. Also visible along the trail are remnants of the historical tramway.

If you look carefully you will see sections of narrow cuttings just wide enough for a tram, old bridges, light rail and sleepers on or beside the track and blocks of granite which didn't make the distance. These relics are protected by law - please do not disturb them and leave them for other people to enjoy.

Log Crossing picnic area is 50metres to your left after crossing Uncles Road. Log Crossing is a good rest spot complete with toilets and picnic facilities.

Log Crossing to Scrivener Road (1.7kms)

Past Log Crossing, the track continues for another 1.7km to Scrivener Road, where the track leaves Mississippi Creek.

Scrivener Road. to Lakes Colquhoun Road (4kms)

The Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail heads uphill for 400metres then runs parallel to Scrivener Road for 3.5 kms until it reaches Lakes Colquhoun Road.

Lakes Colquhoun Road to Lakes Entrance (8kms)

This relaxing downhill section follows the Lakes Colquhoun Rodd for an easy 8km into Lakes Entrance. Affording wonderful ocean views, this section is a steep downhill run into Lakes Entrance township (please be ready on the breaks).

Log Crossing circuit

Skill level: Moderate
 Fitness level: Average
 Distance: 20km return
 Duration: 2 hours return

This one way cycling tour is a pleasant partially signed circuit, which you can follow using this map. Starting from Log Crossing picnic area, head up Uncles Road to the north east for 8.5 kms until reaching the sealed Lakes Colquhoun Road. Turn left (head north) along Lakes Colquhoun Road for 700 metres until reaching the East Gippsland Rail Trail. Turn left (head west) along the Rail Trail towards Bruthen for 2 kms where the Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail can be followed back to Log Crossing picnic area.

Walks**1. Tramway walk**

Skill Level²: Basic Fitness Level: Low
 2kms; 1 hour return

Walk upstream (north) from Log Crossing picnic area for approximately 1 km until reaching a newly constructed bridge. You will see remains of an original 'bedlog' bridge constructed in the early 1900's for the tramway. Return to Log Crossing via the same route.

2. Forestech - Log Crossing walk

Skill Level: Basic Fitness Level: Average
 5kms; 2 hours return

From the Log Crossing picnic area cross the pedestrian bridge and head in a south westerly direction, crossing the Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail. The track climbs gently crossing a few small gullies until reaching open forest and Forestech TAFE, which is on the Princes Highway. Return to Log Crossing via the same route.

3. Discovery trail walk

Skill Level: Basic Fitness Level: Average
 15kms; 5 hours return

Walk upstream from Log Crossing picnic area for 7km until reaching Quarry Road. Just north of Quarry Road before the track heads up away from the creek is a 100 metre detour to the historic granite quarry. Return to Log Crossing via the same route.

Picnic sites

Picnic facilities are available at Log Crossing picnic area, which is on Mississippi Creek, 2km off the Princes Highway down Log Crossing Road.

² To assist visitors in choosing walks, the walks are classified by skill level and fitness level. For a description of these classifications, refer to the Forests Note 'Bushwalking in State forest – FS0020'

Flora and fauna

Some of the plants and animals found in the area:

Trees: Silver Wattle *Acacia dealbata*, Black Wattle *Acacia mearnsii*, Blackwood *Acacia melanoxylon*, Red Wattle *Acacia silvestris*, Blue Box *Eucalyptus baueriana*, River Peppermint *Eucalyptus elata*, Messmate Stringybark *Eucalyptus obliqua*, Manna Gum *Eucalyptus viminalis*.

Birds/Animals: Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae*, Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*, Swamp Wallaby *Wallabia bicolor*, Wombat *Vombatus ursinus*, Echidna *Tachyglossus aculeatus*, Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus vulpecula*, Tree Goanna *Varanus varius*.

Looking after our forests

- Don't disturb native plants and animals
- There is no rubbish collection service, so please take your rubbish home. If you have the misfortune to come across other people's rubbish, do the bush a favour and take it out with you too
- Dogs must be under direct control and on a leash at all times
- Take care with fire - observe all fire regulations and Total Fire Ban days. Use existing fireplaces and ensure fires are safe and that they are completely extinguished when you leave
- Make sure you tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return, and don't forget to let them know when you are back
- Motor vehicles including motorcycles must not be driven off formed roads. They are not permitted on the GLDT. All vehicles must be registered and drivers licensed

Horse riding

Riders are welcome to use most areas of the State Forest. The majority of riding opportunities are along existing State Forest roads. Horses are not permitted on the Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail.

Forestech

Forestech is a TAFE college based around the forest industry & resources, with displays of innovative work done by students and craftsperson local to the region.

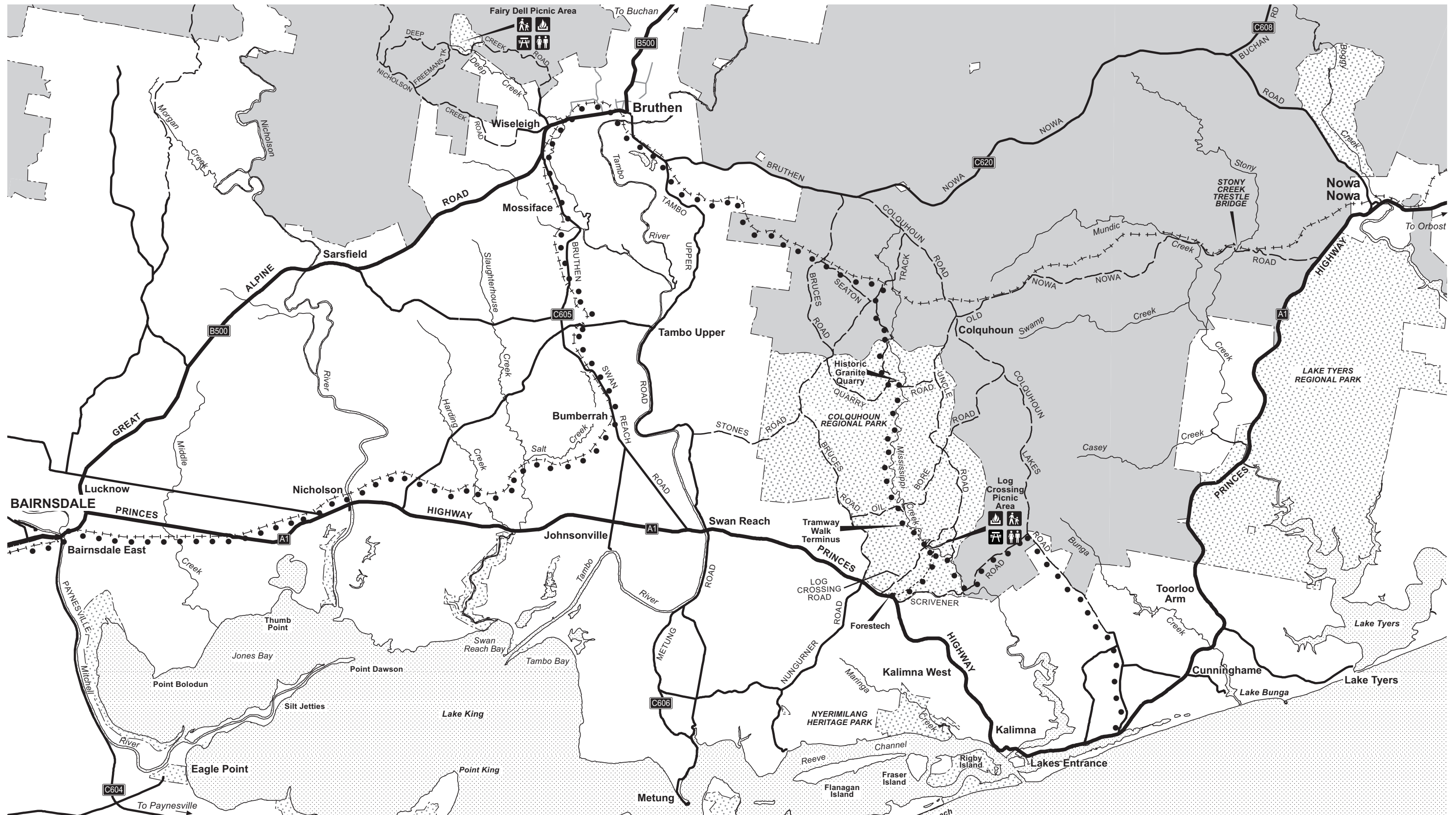
Car parking is available and canteen and toilet facilities are open during school hours.

For more information

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is responsible for managing Victoria's State Forest. For further information contact DSE's Bairnsdale office (☎ 5152 0400) or DSE's Customer Service Centre on ☎ 136 186.

Visit DSE's website

The Colquhoun State Forest is managed for a wide range of uses including catchment protection, timber production, recreation and conservation. If you are interested in how State Forests are managed, the current Tambo Forest Management Plan can be viewed on the Department's website on the Internet at <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au> then select "Forests", then select "Publications".



Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail		Recreational Facilities	
Highway	State Forest	Camping	Picnic table
Sealed road	Park / Reserve	Family walk	Toilets
Unsealed road	Water body	Fireplace	Water
East Gippsland Rail Trail		Lookout	
Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail			

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KILOMETRES
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