

Wombat Forest 4WD Tour

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The Wombat Forest 4WD Touring Route starts at Gisborne and takes in the scenic sites of the Wombat State Forest managed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). The route is approximately 100 km and will take a full day to complete if you wish to explore some of the points of interest along the way. The route ends at Ballan. It can also be driven from Ballan to Gisborne. If you have time to spare there are many opportunities to camp in the forest and extend your stay in the Wombat State Forest.

4WD Touring Route – Getting started



Grade: Easy to Medium 100 km full day

Track grade applies to dry conditions. Will become more difficult in wet weather.

From Gisborne take the Gisborne to Bacchus Marsh Road (C704) and travel approximately 11 km. Turn right into Carrolls Lane which joins Finger Post Road and leads you into the forest. Follow the tracks indicated on the map to get to the points of interest.

Points of Interest



Pol 1: Firth Park

Firth Park was established by Joseph Firth who in 1881 became the superintendent of the State Nursery at Macedon. In 1890 Firth obtained 100 hectares here, cleared some of the land, dammed the creek and built a small house. He then planted the many exotic trees seen here today. There is a pleasant picnic area, camping and toilets.

Leaving Firth Park the route travels through the forest crossing many creeks and gullies.



Pol 2: Yankee Mine Site

Located beside Yankee Road two kilometres from the junction of North Blackwood Road this old mine site has many relics of the bygone mining era.



Pol 3: Rat Hole Mine

Returning to the main route an interesting drive brings us to Rat Hole Track. On this track is Rat Hole mine, an example of a recently worked mine in the district.



Pol 4: Balt Camp

Balt Camp was built in 1946 to provide accommodation for young refugees from war torn Europe who became forestry workers. The only ruins remaining today are the chimneys and concrete slabs on which the huts were built.



Pol 5: Mt Hope

This is one of the highest points in the forest at 878 metres. There is a trig station here but views are very limited by the surrounding forest.



Pol 6: Werribee River Picnic Area

This pleasant small picnic area is located close to the bridge over the Werribee River.

Werribee River Walk



Return 5.1km	1.25 hours
Short steep hills	Formed track, some obstacles
Sign posted	Occasional steps
Some bushwalking experience recommended	

The walk begins at the picnic area and follows the eastern side of Werribee River. A river crossing is required at the northern end of the walk before the walk returns via the western side of the river back to the picnic area.

Leaving the forest

The route leaves the forest at the Daylesford to Ballan Road. From this point you could proceed on to Ballan or to the Western Freeway if you are heading for Melbourne. Alternatively you could travel north to Daylesford.

4WD Touring

Here's some information to help you 'tread lightly' in the bush and to help us keep tracks open for your enjoyment.

Vehicles may only be driven on open formed roads and vehicle tracks.

Stay on the track. Drive your vehicle only on roads that are open to the public. Never "bush bash" or drive on closed roads. Off-road driving is a major cause of erosion and vegetation loss. Off-road driving is illegal and some roads may be closed seasonally for reasons of safety, weather, or to minimise erosion. They are usually signposted or enforced by barriers.

Drivers must be licensed and vehicles must be road registered and roadworthy.

Remove fallen trees or limbs from roads or report the obstruction to DELWP – don't create a new track by driving around it.

Forest use guidelines

- There is no rubbish collection service so please take your rubbish home.
- Dogs are allowed in State forest but must be under direct control at all times and are expected to be on a leash in picnic and camping areas or when near other visitors.
- Use toilets where provided. At some sites hand washing facilities and toilet paper may not be supplied. Come prepared.
- **Campfire safety** – Use fireplaces where provided. The fire must be attended at all times by a person with the capacity and means to extinguish it. For solid fuel fires, the ground and airspace within 3m of the outer perimeter of the fire must be clear of flammable material. Ensure the fire is extinguished with water before leaving. **If it's cool to touch it is safe to leave. It is your responsibility to know if a Total Fire Ban is declared. If in doubt, do not light a campfire.**

Safety information

- On Code Red Fire Danger Rating days, parks and State Forest are closed to the public. Do not enter

parks or forests on Code Red Days. If you are already there when a Code Red day is announced, you should leave the night before or early in the morning. For more information contact DELWP (see below).

- Be responsible for your own safety. Be aware of extreme weather events, carry your own first aid kit and let someone know before you go.

Seasonal road closures

Some roads within the forest are seasonally closed each year from the Thursday after the Queen's Birthday holiday through to the Thursday before Melbourne Cup. This is to protect track surfaces and the environment, and for public safety. Road closures may be extended beyond these dates, depending on weather conditions. These closures are enforced by a gate. Contact DELWP for information on road closures.

Join a 4WD club

We hope you enjoyed your drive in the Wombat State Forest. Maybe you would like to do more four wheel driving with like-minded folk. If you are available during the week the Offpeak 4WD Club offer day trips, week long camping trips, base camps with daily trips and outback trips. Their meetings are also held during the day. They support the aims of Four Wheel Drive Victoria www.fwdvictoria.org.au and the Four Wheel Drive Victoria Code of Ethics. If you are interested check out their website at www.offpeak4wd.com or contact them on offpeak4wd@hotmail.com for more information.



For more information

The Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) is responsible for managing Victoria's State Forest. For further information contact DELWP's Customer Service Centre ☎ 136 186 (TTY: 1800 555 667) or visit DELWP's website at <http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au>

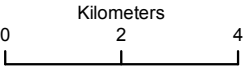


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Forest Notes Map
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