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Mount Samaria State Park

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Park Type:

State Park

Region:

Central

Special Needs Access: **Rating 3** (out of 6) [more info](#)

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Set in tall, shady eucalypt forest, Mount Samaria State Park offers a cool and beautiful environment for beautiful walks, camping and picnicking. The Mount Samaria range includes a variety of scenery with spectacular vistas over the Victorian Alps, granite outcrops, waterfalls and historic remains. Explore the park by foot, mountain bike or horse and discover its tranquillity and beauty.

Things to Do

- A range of camping and picnic areas, walking tracks and lookouts provide with many opportunities to experience this semi-remote park.
- During the spring and early summer the forest is alive with brilliant displays of wildflowers.
- Year-round, it provides a haven for an array of birds and wildlife and is ideal for observation and photography.
- The high altitude of the park provides spectacular views from Mount Samaria, Rocky Point Lookout and Wild Dog Falls.
- Historic remains at Samaria Well, Spring Creek Sawmill, the timber tramway and braking station reflect past practices.

Facilities

- Camping and picnic areas are located at Spring Creek Sawmill and S with direct vehicle access.
- Walk-in campsites are at Wild Dog Creek and Camphora.
- All sites provide toilets and fireplaces, with additional picnic facilities at Point Lookout. River water is available at most sites, but may diminish periods, so it is advisable to bring your own.
- Campers need to check with the park office on water conditions and conditions during their visit.
- A range of walking tracks cater for walkers of all abilities with opportunities for walks through to full day and overnight hikes.

Heritage

During the European squatting era in the 1840s, much of the area was selected for grazing. The "Samaria" run was just north of the area now within the park, with its name possibly derived from biblical references. Later that century, the ranges were thought of as a refuge for bushrangers and their stolen stock.

Blessed with magnificent stands of timber, the Samaria Range soon came under the scrutiny of timber-getters, and the 1920's saw a large-scale timber industry. By 1928, failing yields led to the closure of the mills and logging became intermittent. An area of about 7000 hectares was declared as State Park in 1979.

Fauna

These forests shelter a host of well known Australian wildlife including kangaroos, wombats, echidnas, possums and gliders and the granite rocks provide a wide variety of lizards and snakes. In contrast, you may also notice the soil disturbance by pig populations.

From the tall canopy through to the forest floor, the Park protects a great range of rare species including lyrebirds, rosellas, currawongs, bower birds, Wonga Pigeons and the Wedge-tailed Eagle.

Vegetation

The geological evolution of this granitic range and subsequent variations in climate, aspect and fire history, has influenced the parks' diverse vegetation.

Beneath the majestic Blue Gums and Mountain Swamp Gum, the moist environment supports a dense understorey of wattles, dogwood and bracken. The drier forest of stringybarks, boxes and peppermints expose an open understorey of hardy tussock grasses. A colourful display of wildflowers at various times in the year includes trigger plants, everlasting daisies, milkmaids and orchids.

Looking After the Park

- Take your rubbish with you.
- Fires are only permitted in fire-places provided. No fires may be lit on a Fire Ban.
- All native plants and animals are protected and must not be removed.
- Dogs, cats and firearms are prohibited.

Precautions

- Campers and visitors should check water conditions and qualities prior to entering the park.
- The road north of the old mill site may become impassable in wet weather. Check its condition before planning a through journey.

How to Get There

Mount Samaria State Park is 130 km north-east of Melbourne, 28 km south of the Samaria Road via Swanpool and 14 km north of Mansfield via the Tolmie Road. The road traverses the range from north to south, and although steep and rocky, it is open all year to most vehicles. Check on the condition of the road north of the park before planning a through journey as it may become impassable in wet weather.

Accessibility

Special Needs Access Rating: 3 out of 6

Samaria Well

This picnic and camping area is mostly flat, and the ground is generally free of rocks. Facilities are basic and include picnic tables and seating, standard toilets and an informal car park. The site is in a pleasant bushland setting, although there are some views of the park. There are views and other attractions further along the park.

Nearby Parks

- Alpine National Park
- Lake Eildon National Park
- Mount Buffalo National Park
- Warby Range State Park

Guided Activities

1. [Bushwalking](#)
2. [Coach/Bus Tours](#)
3. [Four Wheel Drive Tours](#)

Publications

Park Notes / Maps

1. [Mount Samaria State Park - Visitor Guide](#)

Management Plans & Strategies

1. [Mount Samaria State Park Plan \(580 KB\)](#)