

Tower Hill Reserve

Visitor Guide



Tower Hill Wildlife Reserve sits in a large volcanic crater. It is one of Victoria's most fascinating and significant geological formations, and home to some of Australia's best loved wildlife. It's a short detour from the Great Ocean Road and offers ample walking opportunities for people of all abilities – from easy boardwalks to scenic climbs.



Getting there

Tower Hill Reserve is 270km west of Melbourne, or 18km west of Warrnambool, and can be accessed via the Princes Highway.

Facilities

The picnic area has picnic tables, electric barbecues and accessible toilets. There is no drinking water or rubbish bins available. Please take your rubbish home for recycling or disposal. Staying overnight in campervans, caravans or tents is not permitted.

Things to see and do

Wildlife

Tower Hill is home to some of Australia's best loved wildlife. Emus, kangaroos, koalas, swans, ducks and blue wrens all live inside this magnificent dormant volcano.

Please admire but do not feed the animals. This may cause them illness and pain putting their health at risk, and may cause annoyance, behavioural change or injury to park visitors.

Tower Hill Visitor Centre

Located in the picnic area, the Visitor Centre was designed by celebrated Australian architect Robin Boyd.

The Visitor Centre is currently CLOSED as we plan for its future operations following a major program of conservation works. The building's roof, walls and floors have recently been restored, and its lighting, cooling and heating have been updated to provide a contemporary experience inside the 50-year-old building.

Volcano

Tower Hill is a dormant volcano with remarkable geological landscape features visible from lookouts around the reserve and when walking in the park. These include conical hills, large and small craters, basalt outcrops from lava flows, and layers of ash from eruptions long ago.

Walking

Walk across wetlands, craters and bushland and learn about the Traditional Owners of 'Koroitj', the Koroitj Gundidj, and the ongoing connection Aboriginal people have with this landscape. Take in the geological sights and learn how the park was exploited by early settlers before being lovingly restored by volunteers.

All walks start near the Visitor Centre in the picnic area.



Wagon Bay Loop

1.5km, 30 minutes circuit

This gentle walk circles Wagon Bay pond, home to bird life and with views back to the Visitor Centre. The walk is mostly flat with some steps along the way.



Lava Tongue Boardwalk

1.6km, flat, 30 minutes circuit

This gentle walk passes the remnant rocky outcrop of an old lava flow and crosses the wetlands to Fairy Island. This walk has some of the best natural habitat in the park. It provides excellent opportunities for spotting birds, reptiles, koalas and echidnas.



Journey to the Last Volcano Loop

1.9km, some steep hills, 1 hour circuit

This moderately strenuous, undulating walk leads up to and around the most recently active volcano crater and provides good views of the park.



Peak Climb

1.5km, steep hills, 30 minutes return

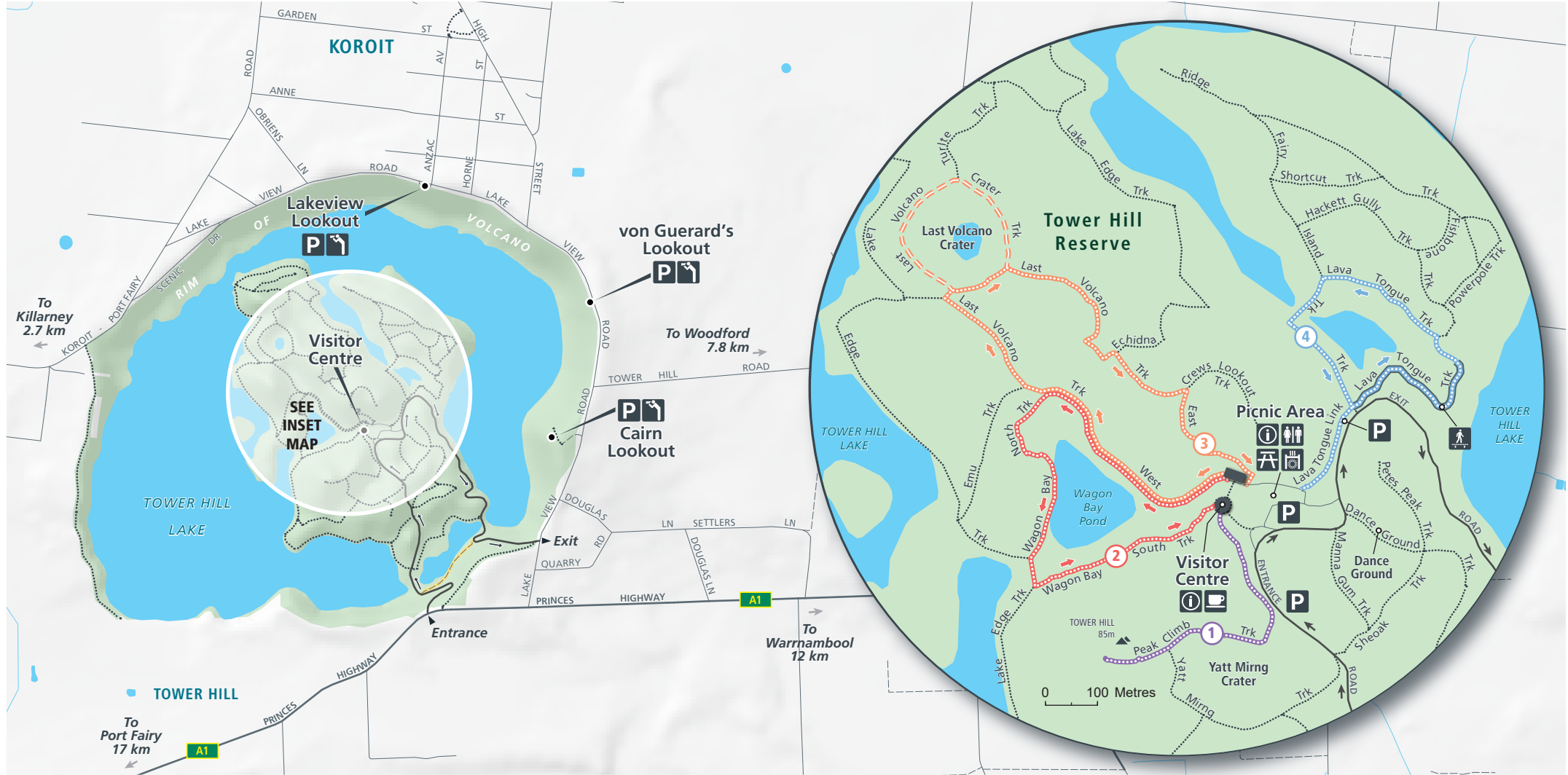
This steep walk goes via the Yatt Mirng Crater and provides panoramic views of the park and the coast.

Be prepared and stay safe

For emergency assistance call Triple Zero (000).

Tower Hill Reserve is in the South West Fire District. Bushfire safety is a personal responsibility. Anyone entering parks and forests during the bushfire season needs to stay aware of forecast weather conditions. Check the Fire Danger Rating and for days of Total Fire Ban at [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au), on the VicEmergency smartphone app or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226. No fires are allowed in the reserve at any time.

The reserve is closed on days of extreme weather, including Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating days. Warning signs may be erected, but do not expect a personal warning. Check the latest conditions at [parks.vic.gov.au](https://www.parks.vic.gov.au) or by calling 13 1963.



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|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| P Parking | Barbecue (electric) | Building | — Sealed road |
| i Information | Boardwalk | One-way driving directions | - - - Unsealed road |
| Toilets | Lookout | Reserve entrance & exit road | Walking track |
| Table | Refreshments | Highway | — Management vehicles only |



Tower Hill Reserve feature walks

- 1** **Peak Climb** Return 1.5 km | 30 mins | steep
 - 2** **Wagon Bay Loop** Circuit 1.5 km | 30 mins | easy
 - 3** **Journey to the Last Volcano** Circuit 1.9 km | 1 hr | moderate
 - 4** **Lava Tongue Boardwalk** 1.6 km | 30 mins | easy
- Preferred walking directions
- Tower Hill Reserve
- Waterbody

Note: Distances refer to starting & finishing at the Visitor Centre