

Langi Ghiran Walk and Overnight Camp

[Numbers will be limited on this walk because of Park regulations and tent space]

This event is intended for people wanting to combine a walk in a wild and interesting area with an overnight bush camp in a mountainous state park. Walkers new to bush camping may wish to take on this walk as a means of gaining experience for longer distance trips involving carrying a pack with all your overnight requirements. The walk is short but involves quite steep gradients on both days and low-impact camping with no toilet, washing or cooking facilities.

Langi Ghiran State Park is 30 km west of Beaufort and offers spectacular views and climbs on the two granite 'peaks' - Mt Langi Ghiran (950 m) and Mt Gorrin (770 m). The route will take us past various views and landmarks on the NW side of the park and up to camp in rocky woodland west of the main summit. On the second day we will descend to the south via Hidden Lagoon, and then down to Langi Ghiran Track and west to visit a unique Aboriginal rock-art site, before returning by bus to Beaufort. [Note that the finish point is not the same as the starting place for the walk.]

Starting place:	Langi Ghiran Picnic and Camping Area
Distance to start by road from Beaufort:	30 km
Start time from Beaufort (Bus departs):	Saturday at 8.30 am
Start walking:	Saturday at 9.30 am.
Completion:	3 pm Bus pick up from car-park near track to Rock Art Site /Langi Ghiran Track

Grade: Day 1. Short (8 km); Medium difficulty (some steep uphill); Track mainly good, some rock hopping.
Day 2. Short (9 km); Medium difficulty (some steep downhill); Minor rock-hopping and some unmarked trails.

The route

From the Langi Ghiran Picnic and Camping Area we will walk up the reservoir track along Easter Creek, past an old mill and up to Langi Ghiran Reservoir. A brief visit to the old quarry from which stone was taken to build the dam wall in the 1880s. Our route then follows Easter creek and an old channel that once carried the Ararat water supply, to the end of an amazing pipeline that still delivers water by gravity from Ararat Reservoir 9 km to the west. This is not drinking water. After lunch overlooking the Mt Cole Range we will proceed up the rather steep Easter Ck Track to an area 600 m east of the main peak of Langi Ghiran. Camp will be struck near the path in woodland among granite boulders. Later on the Saturday afternoon we will walk up the rocky path to the top of Mt Langi, take in views east to the Grampians and explore the unique flora and fauna and old water harvesting systems in this granitic area.

On Sunday we will set off around 9 am, travelling further along the main track but branching off right (west) after a few hundred metres, just after crossing a major creek (probably dry). The route is not marked here but follows the true right hand side of this creek for about 1 km to its source. We will then head south, over a small saddle, and down in a southerly direction through tall woodland to Secret Lagoon. The birdlife can be both marvellous and very noisy. From the lagoon we follow an old forest track (Billy Ck) and after 1.5 km branch right (south) to take a trail west of Mt Gorrin. Keen climbers may want to scramble up Mt Gorrin from here, if time allows. From here the track descends steeply to Langi Ghiran Track (1.5 km). We turn left on this Track and walk 2.5 km to the parking place for the walk to the Lar Ne-Jeering Aboriginal art site. The art site itself is about 1.2 km from here up a gentle gradient on the southern slope of Mt Gorrin. The bus will meet us at the parking site at 3 pm, to return us to Beaufort around 4 pm.

What to bring

You will need a good pack to carry your tent and sleeping bag, ground pad, stove, cooking gear and food etc. Bring waterproof jacket and warm clothes. We will use an informal campsite, with no toilet facilities. Bring (or share) a small hand toilet spade. Bring plastic bag to carry out all rubbish and a torch or headlamp. Otherwise try to reduce your load by cutting out excess clothes and food.

If conditions are dry, there will be no water at all at the campsite, so bring ample water for your walking and cooking needs for 2 days (minimum 5 litres each). If it has rained there may be water in rock pools but this will need boiling or treatment before drinking.

Fitness for load carrying

Although less than 20 km over 2 days, this walk requires a good level of fitness, especially for carrying a pack. You will need rubber-soled footwear (worn-in), because of some steep, rocky and unmade parts to the trail. If you are not used to carrying a loaded pack up and down steep slopes, you should do some training with a loaded pack before the event. If you have queries, contact the walk leaders.

Topo Map

The Langi Ghiran State Park is covered at a scale of 1:50 000 on the new (2007) VICMAP topographic map number 7523-S. Note that on the older 1:25 000 topo series of this area (Buangor North), both Mt Langi Ghiran and Mt Gorrin are marked incorrectly on the map.

Walk leaders: John Petheram and Ben Howell.

Contact

If you have queries you can contact John Petheram on petheram@ncable.net.au or 03 53388608.