



# Mt Field

NATIONAL PARK



Department of Primary Industries,  
Parks, Water and Environment



Mt Field National Park is one of Tasmania's oldest and most loved national parks. From the tall forests and waterfalls of the lower sections to the glaciated mountains, windswept moors and tranquil lakes of the highlands, the park encompasses an amazing diversity of landscapes, plants, animals and history. You can enjoy parts of it in a brief visit and yet not run out of things to discover in a lifetime. Welcome to wonderful Mt Field!

## Activities

Activities include walking, picnicking, skiing and birdwatching. The 30 minute drive to Lake Dobson takes you through rainforest, past towering swamp gums and up to the high country of snow gums, alpine moorlands and glacial lakes. In summer the high country can be a blaze of colour with flowering waratahs, boronias and heath, and in early autumn Tasmania's deciduous beech – fagus – displays its golden foliage. Use the walk planner to find a walk that suits both you and the weather of the day. Cross-country and limited downhill skiing is possible in winter. Access to the downhill ski area is by a 30 minute walk from Lake Dobson via the Urquhart Track.

After dark, the park comes alive with nocturnal animals. Take a torch and walk through the day area. You might see possums, wallabies, quolls, or perhaps an owl.

Russell Falls is also home to glow worms, and there is a self-guided night time walk with interpretation signs on the Russell Falls track.

## Day visitor facilities

The park can generally be divided into two visitor sections. The first, around the park entrance, includes picnic facilities, short walks and Russell Falls. The second is centred at Lake Dobson and includes the long day walks and skiing areas. The two areas are linked by a 16km unsealed road. In winter, depending on snow conditions, vehicles using this road may require snow chains. At times the road may be closed.

During summer and other busy times, park staff offer a variety of activities such as walks, talks and slide shows for both adults and children.

## Campfires

In the past fires have destroyed large areas of forest in the park, including ancient pencil pines. Please light fires only in the constructed fireplaces in the day use area, and use a fuel stove when in alpine areas.

## Camping

There is one campground catering for vehicle-based campers located near the park entrance and visitor centre. Facilities include camp kitchen with barbecues, shower block and laundry, powered and unpowered sites. The campground is managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service. For further information phone (03) 6288 1149.

## Accommodation

There are five accommodation huts located in the alpine area of the park. The government huts are accessible by vehicle in most conditions, however visitors should be prepared for snow in winter and spring. The huts are basic with running water, a wood heater, and six bunks with mattresses. Visitors should come prepared as if camping. These huts are popular and bookings are essential. Call Mt Field Visitor Centre on (03) 6288 1149.

**Be a volunteer** – there are many community groups whose members volunteer in national parks: the Parks and Wildlife Service also has volunteer projects on offer each year. Check [www.parks.tas.gov.au](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au) for a list of groups and activities, or talk to the local ranger about volunteering opportunities.

**Make a tax deductible donation to support reserve management** – complete a WILDCARE Giving Form available from park visitor centres and Service Tasmania shops or donate on-line at [www.wildcaretas.org.au](http://www.wildcaretas.org.au)

## Walks Planner

	Easy	Moderate	More difficult
Short – under 2 hrs return	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Russell Falls (1)</li> <li>Tall Trees Walk (3)</li> <li>Pandani Grove (4)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seagers Lookout (C)</li> <li>Snow Gum Track (E)</li> </ul>	
Medium – 2-4 hrs return	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Russell Falls/Horseshoe Falls/ Tall Trees Circuit/Lady Barron Falls (2)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake Nicholls (A)</li> <li>Start of Tarn Shelf (F)</li> </ul>	
Long – 4-8 hrs return. Alpine walks may require cross-country skis during winter		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tarn Shelf Circuit via Lake Newdegate, Twilight Tarn and Lake Webster (G)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mt Field East Circuit (B)</li> <li>Lake Balcher (D)</li> <li>Rodway Range - Tarn Shelf Circuit (H) via K-Col and Newdegate Pass</li> <li>Mt Field West (D)</li> </ul>



Lake Seal Photo: Joe Shemesh/Stormfront Productions



## Walk safely

Many of Mt Field National Park's walks are at high altitude, and the weather can quickly change. Make sure that you carry appropriate clothing.

**Plan to walk safely** – know your way and walk within your capabilities.

**Be prepared** – take clothing and equipment to suit changeable weather and track conditions.

**Avoid walking alone** – walk with friends.

**Let a reliable person know your plans before you go** – be sure to advise them of your safe return.

**Record your trip intentions in the log books** – this will help searchers to locate you if you are reported overdue or missing.

**Be prepared to turn back, or change your plans, if the weather deteriorates or the walk is more difficult than expected.**

## What to bring

- drinking water: Note: we recommend treating water from streams and tarns within the park.
- hat, sunscreen and sunglasses
- sturdy walking shoes or boots
- warm jacket – mountains can be cool and windy
- waterproof coat – weather here is unpredictable.



Please note these walks are considered to be 'challenging' for the elderly, the unfit or those not accustomed to bushwalking.



This symbol indicates one of Tasmania's '60 Great Short Walks'.

## Short walks



**1 Russell Falls** – 25 minutes return. The walk to one of Tasmania's best known scenic attractions is level, sealed, and suitable for wheelchairs and prams. Ferns line the track edges, while giant eucalypts and myrtles tower overhead. You can return from the falls via the same track or follow the creek back after crossing the bridge below the falls.



**2 Russell Falls/Horseshoe Falls/Tall Trees Circuit/Lady Barron Falls** – 2 to 2½ hour circuit. This track connects three waterfalls and the Tall Trees Walk. There are two short steep sections of track – one of which is a staircase. Moderate fitness required.



**3 Tall Trees Walk** – 30 minutes return. This easy walk will take you through forest that features the world's tallest flowering plants – the swamp gums. The walk starts close to a small carpark, about a two minute drive up the Lake Dobson Road.



**4 Pandani Grove Nature Walk** – 40 minute circuit. If time is limited this is an ideal way to experience the sub-alpine region of the park. The track skirts Lake Dobson and passes through groves of ancient pencil pine and tall pandani. The walk is in the high country, so be prepared for cold and wet weather.



## Longer day walks

**A Lake Nicholls** – 2 hours return. A gradual climb through woodland and heath to picturesque Lake Nicholls. In winter the lake is often ice-covered. The track starts from a signpost about 9km up the Lake Dobson Road.

**B Mount Field East Circuit** – 4 to 5 hours return. A gradual uphill climb from the Lake Dobson Road through sub-alpine forest and open moorland. A final steep section leads to the summit of Mt Field East, which offers superb views on a fine day. Return by the same route, or across open moorland and light forest to Lake Fenton. Note: if doing the full circuit you must either walk back down the road or arrange a car shuffle.

**C Seagers Lookout** – 2 hours return. A short steep walk which offers spectacular views of the Derwent River valley and the South-west.

**D Lake Belcher** – 5 to 6 hours return. The track leaves from Wornbat Moor and crosses open moorland. Good views are obtained to the south and south-west just before the track descends into the Humboldt Valley. Be prepared for muddy sections.

**E Snow Gum Track to Lake Seal Lookout** – 1½ to 2 hours return. Gnarled snow gums border a rocky track up to an alpine plateau with excellent views of Lake Seal and the Broad River Valley.

**F Start of Tarn Shelf** – 3 hours return. This walk passes a series of tarns (small glacial lakes). It is particularly colourful in autumn when the deciduous beech turns golden. Access via the Snow Gum Track and Rodway Hut.

**G Tarn Shelf Circuit via Lake Newdegate, Twilight Tarn & Lake Webster** – 5 to 6 hours return. A long circuit walk that will take you across the Tarn Shelf, returning via the lower lakes. The tarns are often frozen in winter. The rustic Twilight Tarn hut contains skiing memorabilia from earlier decades.

**H Rodway Range-Tarn Shelf Circuit via K Col and Newdegate Pass** – 6 to 7 hours return. This walk has some of the park's best views. Ascend from Rodway Hut through the rocky Lions Den to K Col. Turn north along the Rodway Range before descending via Newdegate Pass to Lake Newdegate. Return via Tarn Shelf.

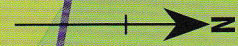
**I Mt Field West** – 8 to 9 hours return. This is a long walk which takes you over the Rodway Range to the edge of the national park. Mt Field West is the highest mountain in the park and the views from the top are superb. The entire route can often be skied in the winter months. Be prepared for wet and windy conditions and low visibility. Note: Use of the full 'Mt Field National Park Map and Notes' is recommended for this walk.

## Other walks

If you require more detailed information than is provided by this brochure, please check at the park office for further information on tracks and weather conditions. A good map is also essential.

# Mt Field NATIONAL PARK

- KEY**
- Camping Area
  - Caravan Sites
  - Carpark
  - Disabled Access
  - Showers
  - Information
  - Park Shop
  - Day Use Picnic Area
  - Toilets
  - Waterfall
  - Lookouts
  - Nature Walk
  - Bushwalks
  - Huts
  - Park Boundary
  - Roads
  - Walking Tracks



### Park Entrance Area

Map of the Park Entrance Area showing the Visitor Centre, Playground Area, and various walking tracks. Key features include:

- Visitor Centre** and **Playground Area** near the Tyenna River.
- Staircase** with 239 steps leading to the **Campsite Registration Booth**.
- Gate 1** and **Gate 2** on Lake Dobson Road.
- Walking Tracks:** Russell Falls, Horseshoe Falls, Tail Trees Circuit, and Lady Barron Falls Circuit.
- Lookouts:** Russell Falls, Horseshoe Falls, and Tail Trees.
- Other features:** Viewing Platform, Nature Walk, and a Residence (Private).

### Drinking Water Catchment

The Lake Dobson Rd and walking tracks pass through the Lake Fenton Water Catchment, which supplies 20% of Hobart's drinking water. Please protect water quality by avoiding contact with Lake Fenton, all creeks and ground water and by not disturbing the soil or leaving behind waste.

High country walks are subject to snow cover during winter and may not be passable without the use of skis or snowshoes.  
A good map is essential for these walks.

