

Dargo

Approximately four hours drive from Melbourne and one and a half hours drive north of Sale lies the beautiful township of Dargo. The town and its surrounding forests is a popular destination for four-wheel drive enthusiasts, bushwalkers, deer hunters, as well as trout fishers.

Getting There

From Melbourne, drive along the Princess Highway turning left after Stratford onto the Fernbank – Glenladale Road. Travel along the Fernbank – Glenladale Road (13km) and turn left onto the Bairnsdale – Dargo Road. Follow this road approximately 60km to the township of Dargo.

History

Aboriginal people have a rich history of use in the Victorian Alps and a vast knowledge of the cultural sites, oral history and ancestral stories that relate to the alpine region of Victoria. Throughout the Alps their custodianship still endures.

Traces of gold were found around Dargo in the early 1960's. A minor gold rush was experienced and the township was primarily used as a resting place and later a supply town for miners on their way to the Grant, Talbotville and Crooked River goldfields.

Today Dargo is a timber and cattle town and the surrounding area is noted for its huge walnut trees. Dargo now supplies Victoria with about 10 per cent of its walnuts.

Walking Tracks

Black Snake Creek Walking Track



Return 3.8km | 2 - 2.5 hours
Gentle Hills | Formed track, some obstacles
Clearly signposted | Occasional steps
No bushwalking experience required

This historic walk starts from the car park at the end of the Black Snake Creek Track. From here the walk meanders up the gully, crossing the creek and passing numerous old abandoned mine shafts and old house sites along the way. Old bridle trails can be observed along the walk and at the end of the walk is an abandoned steam engine and battery from the gold mining days. Walkers are advised to take care if they leave the walking track as there are a number of old, unmarked mine shafts in the area.

Camping Areas

The Upper Dargo Road, north of Dargo runs alongside the Dargo river and has several spectacular camping areas that are free to the public. These include:

Two Mile Flat

The camping area at Two Mile Flat is located 1.9km along the Upper Dargo Road where two Mile Creek flows into the Dargo River. Ease of access and a toilet at this camping area make it a good option for an overnight stop.

Italian Flat

The camping area at Italian Flat is located 2.7km along the Upper Dargo Road beside the Dargo River. This camping area is large and has plenty of picnic tables and fire places as well as a toilet.

Jimmy Iversons

Jimmy Iversons camping area is located 3.9km along the Upper Dargo Road beside the Dargo River. This is another great camping area that has plenty of room for campers right beside the Dargo River.

Ollies Jump Up

Ollies Jump Up is another lovely camping area located 6.5km along Upper Dargo Road. The camping area is set right beside the Dargo River and has plenty of picnic tables and fire places as well as a toilet.

Black Flat

Located 10.4km along the Upper Dargo Road, Black Flat is a well sheltered bush camping area with plenty of room as well as picnic tables, fire places and a toilet.

Collins Flat

Collins Flat is the last of the main camping areas along the Upper Dargo Road and is located 15km from the Dargo High Plains Road turn off.

Other key camping areas in State forest in the Dargo area include:

Black Snake Creek

Approximately 25km north-west of Dargo is the Black Snake Creek camping area. Anglers will appreciate its location at the junction of two watercourses, the

Wonnangatta River and the Black Snake Creek. Head up the Wonnangatta Road from Crooked River Road to reach this site.

Meyers Flat

Meyers Flat camping area is located adjacent to the Dargo Road approximately 15km south of the township of Dargo. This camping area is set on the Wonnangatta river and has basic camping facilities including a toilet.

Castleburn Creek

Castleburn Creek camping area is located 20 kilometres south of Dargo and is set on the Castleburn creek.

Flora and Fauna

The forests around Dargo are quite diverse and vary dramatically with changes in elevation. The lower elevation areas generally comprise a mix of Shrubby Dry forest, Herb-rich Foothill Forest, Grassy Dry Forest, with Riparian Forest along many of the waterways.

Some common eucalypt species you may see include Messmate Stringybark, Silvertop Ash and Mountain Grey Gum. As the elevation increases the forests transition into Montane and Alpine vegetation. The spectacular Mountain Ash trees you may see as you head north of Dargo show why Dargo has been a key area for timber harvesting over the years.

The Dargo area supports a vast range of native wildlife such as the Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Black Wallaby, Agile Antichinus and Black Wombat, amongst many others. There are also a number of game species in the area including Sambar, Hog and Rusa Deer. The waterways in the Dargo forests are inhabited by many species of fish including brown and rainbow trout as well as the threatened Dargo Galaxis and Maquarie Perch.

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 DEPI (see below).
- **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.**
- **Campfires are prohibited on days of Total Fire Ban.** Only gas or electric appliances that have been designed and commercially manufactured exclusively for cooking

may be used for meal preparation on a Total Fire Ban Day provided:

- the ground and airspace within 3m of the appliance is clear of flammable material
- a minimum of 10 litres of water is on hand
- it is in a stable position when in use

It is your responsibility to know if a Total Fire Ban is declared. If in doubt, do not light a campfire.

- 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.
- Forest roads are public roads and normal road rules apply. Drive as if you were expecting a vehicle to come around the next bend.
- Road conditions change seasonally. For current road conditions contact the DEPI at Dargo.

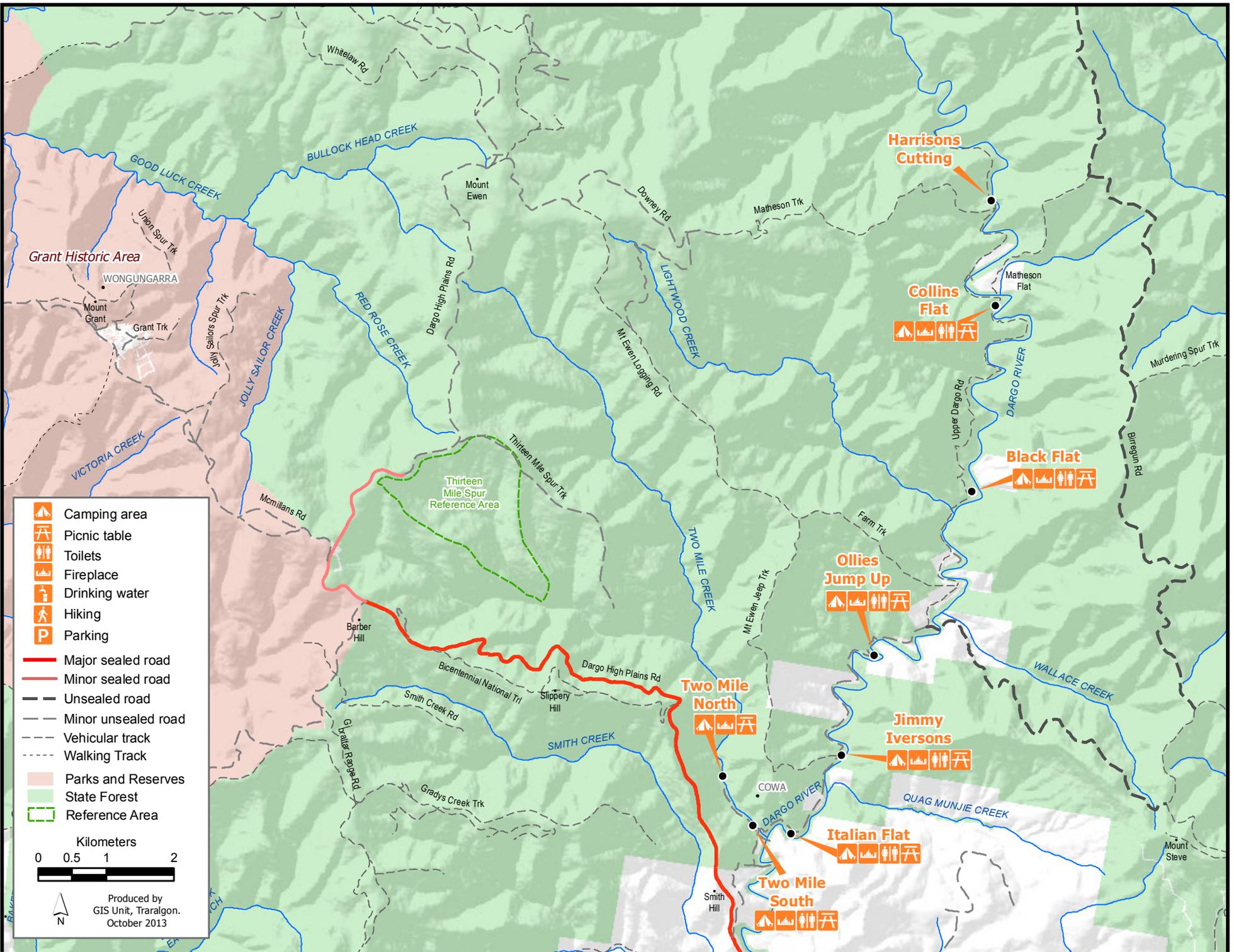
General Information

- Pit toilets are common at State forest sites but hand washing facilities and toilet paper may not be supplied. Come prepared.
- Be careful camping under trees – they can drop their limbs (particularly during high winds).
- 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.
- Motor vehicles including motorcycles must not be driven off formed roads or on walking tracks. All vehicles must be registered and drivers licensed.
- This area is dotted with many mine shafts. Exercise care while walking through the bush and keep dogs on a leash.
- Avoid polluting streams with refuse, detergent and human waste.

For more information

The Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) is responsible for managing Victoria's State Forest. For further information contact DEPI's Customer Service Centre ☎ 136 186 (TTY: 1800 555 667) or visit DEPI's website at <http://www.depi.vic.gov.au>

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