

# Kinglake National Park

## Visitor Guide



Kinglake National Park is the largest national park close to Melbourne. It has 23,210 hectares of tall forests, fern gullies and rolling hills, an extensive network of walking tracks and other facilities, as well as vantage points offering scenic views.



### Welcome to Country

The area now known as Kinglake National Park is located within the traditional land of the Wurundjeri people to the south and the Taungurung people to the north.

For many thousands of years Wurundjeri and Taungurung people inhabited this area and made use of the abundance of seasonally available plants and animals, and to carry out important cultural duties. Plants and animals served many purposes including temporary shelter, transport, food, medicine, clothing, hunting implements and many other important cultural items.

Seasonal movement within their traditional lands was determined by the availability of food and weather conditions. Present day Wurundjeri and Taungurung people still have a very strong connection with this area. Many Aboriginal sites were uncovered by the fires in 2009 including scatters and hand tools. These sites are being surveyed and recorded so that they can be protected forever.

### Getting there

Kinglake National Park is 65km north-east of Melbourne. Access from Melbourne is by three main routes: the Melba Highway from Yarra Glen or Glenburn, the Heidelberg-Kinglake Road from St Andrews and the Whittlesea -Yea Road from Whittlesea.

### Things to see and do

Kinglake National Park protects almost 600 native plant species, over 40 native mammal and 90 native bird species. Bushwalking, picnics, camping, horse riding, cycling and nature study are all popular activities in the park. In spring, keep an eye out for wildflowers in bloom. Winter is a good time to discover fungi, mosses and lichens.

#### Wombelano Falls

Located off Captains Creek Road, the 1.5km circuit walking track winds through forest with big old growth trees and leads to the falls viewing platform.

#### Masons Falls Picnic Area

This large open picnic area has gas barbecues, tables, shelter and toilets. There are several short walks that can be combined to form a full day walk of around 13km. Masons

Falls Walk (700 metres one way) leads to the Masons Falls viewing platform.

#### Jehosaphat Gully

Enjoy picturesque walking tracks or a social picnic or barbecue with family and friends here.

#### Blackwood Picnic Area

Located at the entrance to the Sugarloaf Block, this area has picnic tables, set in a grassy clearing. Mt Sugarloaf, located at the end of Mt Sugarloaf Road, offers spectacular views to Melbourne and access to Sugarloaf Ridge walking track.

#### Frank Thomson Reserve

This reserve is located at the highest point of the district between Kinglake Central and Kinglake on the Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, offers views to the Melbourne city skyline. This open grassy area is a great place for a picnic with a view and for kids to roam. Picnic tables are located close to the parking area. Dogs are not permitted in Kinglake National Park, except on a lead in the Frank Thomson Reserve.

#### The Gums Camping Area

Nestled in a bend of Island Creek and located off Eucalyptus Road, this camping area offers 18 campsites with five suitable for caravans. Bookings are required via [parks.vic.gov.au/stay](http://parks.vic.gov.au/stay).

#### Island Creek Picnic Area

Located off Eucalyptus Road, island Creek Picnic Area is an ideal spot to relax and enjoy a picnic - great for families and small groups.

#### Bowden Spur Mountain Bike Area

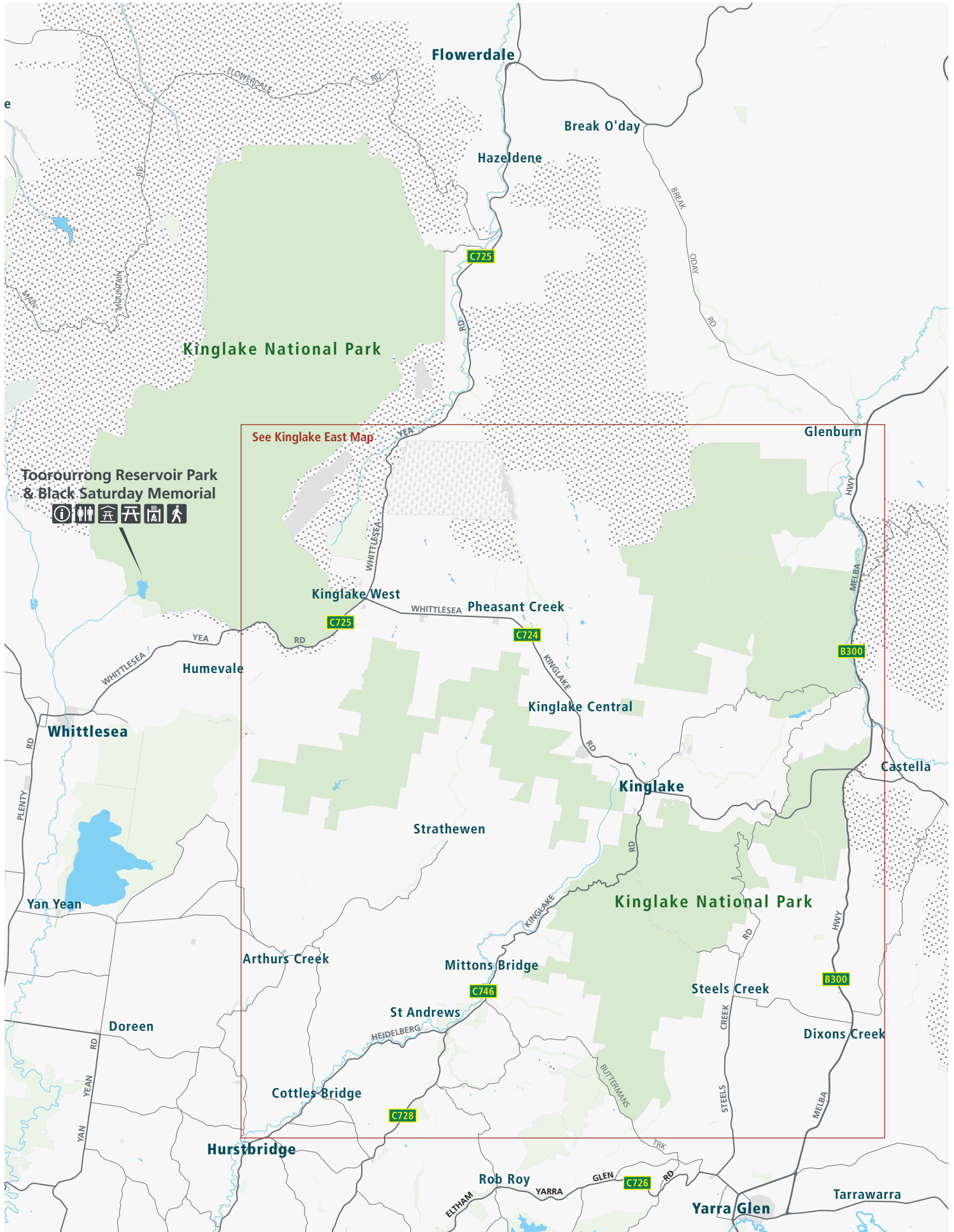
The 2km trail, named Shepherds, will delight and challenge experienced downhill mountain bike riders.

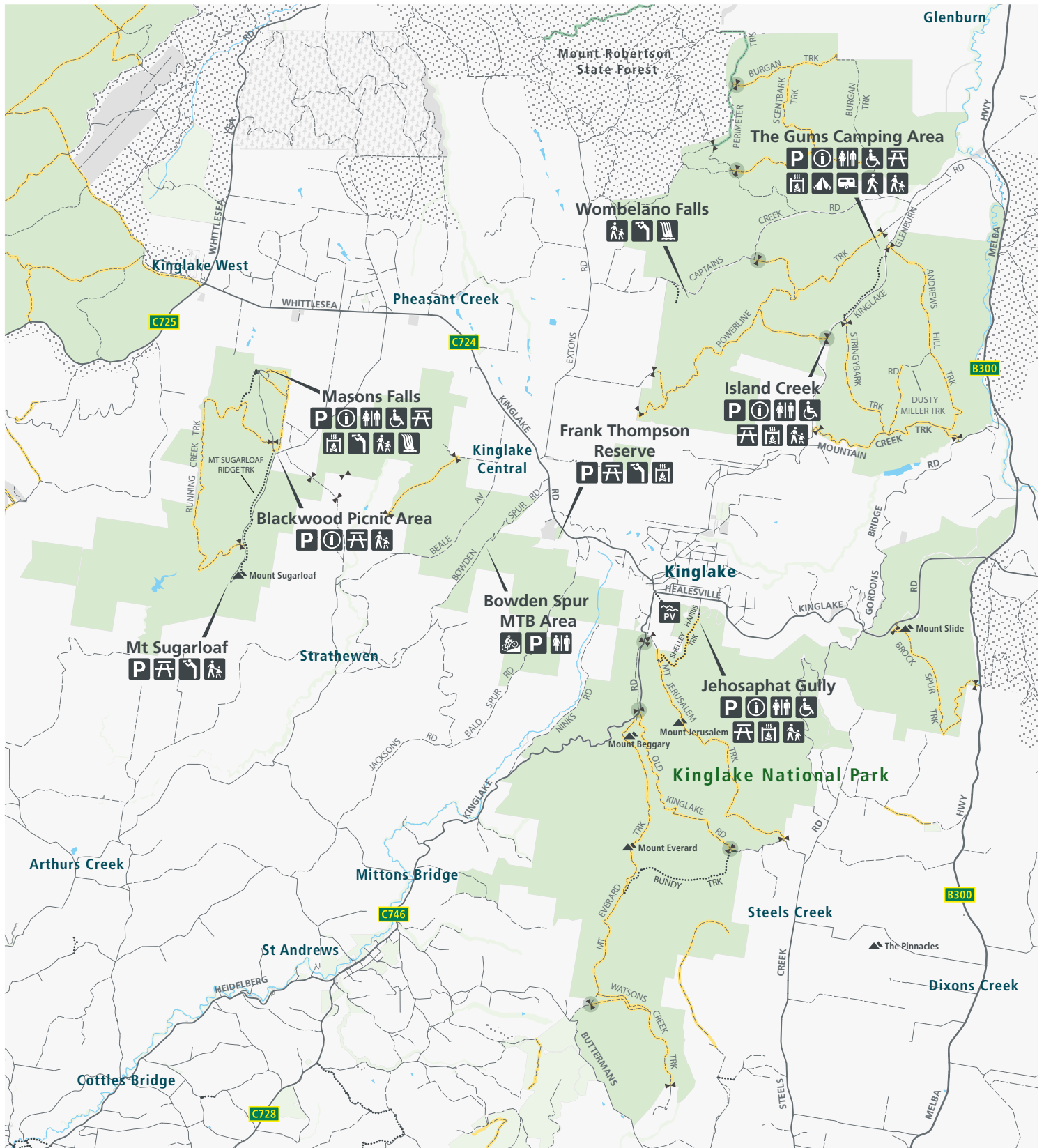
The diverse technical downhill trail has a number of dirt jumps, rock gardens, bomb holes, flowing earth berms and large sections of off-camber riding. The total drop along the length of the trail is 233 metres. The trail has the extremely difficult rating of Double Black Diamond.

The Bowden Spur Mountain Bike Area is located on Bowden Spur Road, approximately 200m from the intersection of the Kinglake-Whittlesea Road in Kinglake Central.

# Kinglake National Park

## Overview





- |                 |                 |                       |  |                    |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------|
| Parking         | Lookout         | Waterfall             | Sealed road                                | Minor river        |
| Information     | Walking track   | Parks Victoria office | Unsealed road                              | Kinglake NP        |
| Disabled access | Family walk     | Gate                  | 4WD  | Other park/reserve |
| Sheltered area  | Mountain biking | Horse entry           | Walking track                              | State forest       |
| Picnic table    | Camping area    | Highway               | Management vehicles/<br>walking track only | Plantation         |
| Barbecue        | Caravans        | Main road             | Seasonal closure                           | Public land        |



## Plants and animals

The park is home to almost 600 native plant species, over 40 native mammal and 90 native bird species.

Most of Kinglake National Park has a cover of eucalypt forest. Grass trees and ferns are also common, as are Acacias, Bush peas, Cassinias, Heath, Tussock grass and orchids.

Many birds and mammals can be spotted in the forest. Wallabies are often out and about surprising walkers; Lyrebirds are often scratching around for food. Lyrebirds are particularly active during the winter months. Early morning visitors to Masons Falls are likely to see or hear them in the picnic area.

## Caring for the park

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

- Please take rubbish with you for recycling and disposal
- All native plants and animals, historical and archaeological features are protected by law. Do not disturb them in any way.
- Wallaby Creek Designated Water Supply Catchment is a major closed catchment for Melbourne's pure water supply. It is vital that everyone helps to ensure the prevention of pollution and fire. This catchment is closed to the public to protect Melbourne's water supply. A section of this catchment in the north, the Silver Creek Buffer Area, is open to the public and has a network of walking tracks. This is accessible via Flowerdale.

- Dogs are permitted only in Frank Thomson Reserve and must be kept on a lead at all times. Dogs, cats and other pets are not permitted in the remainder of the park
- Firearms are prohibited.
- There are limited tracks available for horse riding.
- Fires are permitted only in fireplaces provided.
- Vehicles, including motor bikes, may only be used on formed open roads. Drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy.

## Be prepared and stay safe

For emergency assistance call Triple Zero (000). If there is a green emergency marker sign near you, read the information on the marker to the operator.

Kinglake National Park is in the Central 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) or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226. No fires may be lit on Total Fire Ban days.

On Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating days Masons Falls / Sugarloaf Block will be closed for public safety. Do not enter the Park. If you are already in the Park, leave the night before or as early as possible in the morning. Closure 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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