



The Lakes National Park



Rotamah Island Visitor Guide

Rotamah Island is a naturalists' bushland delight, surrounded by Lake Victoria and Lake Reeve to the north and the dunes of the Ninety Mile Beach to the south. Rotamah Island, along with Little Rotamah Island and Sperm Whale Head, comprise The Lakes National Park. Rotamah Island is accessible by boat via Paynesville (6 km) or Loch Sport (18 km).

Things to see and do

Picnicking

A small picnic area is located a short stroll from the jetty. A barbeque, toilets and picnic tables are available. Many kangaroos and birds frequent this area. Please do not feed them because our processed foods are not part of their normal diet.

Camping

The camping area is restricted to educational groups who book in advance. Fireplaces and toilets are provided. Campers will need to supply their own firewood and water. A small fee is charged and groups must book through the park office (see overleaf for more information).

Walking

Clearly defined tracks offer some exceptional views and bird watching opportunities. The tracks are generally sandy and gently undulating and are suitable for family outings (see overleaf for more information).

How the island was formed

The Gippsland Lakes area was once part of a large bay. Over many thousands of years, sands deposited by the sea formed a number of barriers, including Sperm Whale Head, Little Rotamah Island, The Ninety Mile Beach and Rotamah Island. These barriers, now up to 38m high, enclose the waters that make the Gippsland Lakes.

From past to present

Aborigines of the Kurnai nation were numerous at the time of European arrival. Shell middens in the sand dunes along the Ninety Mile Beach provide evidence of their existence. The abundant wildlife and mild climate of the Gippsland Lakes provided an ideal area to inhabit.

In 1840 explorer Angus McMillan reached the shores of Lake Victoria and soon cattle runs were taken up in the district. During this period much of the island was cleared and cultivated for grazing.

Rotamah Island had a number of occupants until 1975 when it was bought by the Victorian Government. In 1978 Rotamah and Little Rotamah Islands were added to The Lakes National Park.

Plants, animals and birds

Rotamah Island supports eucalypt and banksia woodland in its sandy soils. Much of the island is open woodland, a reminder of the grazing that once occurred on the island. The lower lying areas contain dense stands of melaleuca. From August to November, The Lakes National Park is at its best with a spectacular show of wildflowers. The island supports good populations of Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Swamp Wallabies, possums, echidnas, wombats, reptiles and bats.

Rotamah Island is renowned for its prolific bird life. More than 190 species of bird have been recorded on the island. Commonly sighted birds include emus, grebes, cormorants, pelicans, rosellas, robins and the graceful White-bellied Sea Eagle.

Walking tracks

90 Mile Beach Walk
(3.8 km – 1.5 hours return)

From the jetty walk along the Causeway Track, past the treehide to the beach. Return via Fenceline Track and Lake Reeve Track.

West End Walk (4.8 km – 2 hours return)
Starting at the jetty, follow the Causeway Track and West Track to the end of the island. Return via Melaleuca Track and Lake Reeve Track.

(See map and overleaf for more walks)

For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre
Call 13 1963
or visit our website at
www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Parks Victoria Sale Office
1 Lacey St
Sale VIC 3850

Sale Visitor Information Centre
Princes Hwy Sale 3850
Phone: 1800 677 520

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Camping is restricted to educational groups

Fires are not permitted on the Ninety Mile Beach

Fires may only be lit in fireplaces provided

Fires must be completely extinguished with water before leaving

Fires are not permitted on days of Total Fire Ban (Eastern District)

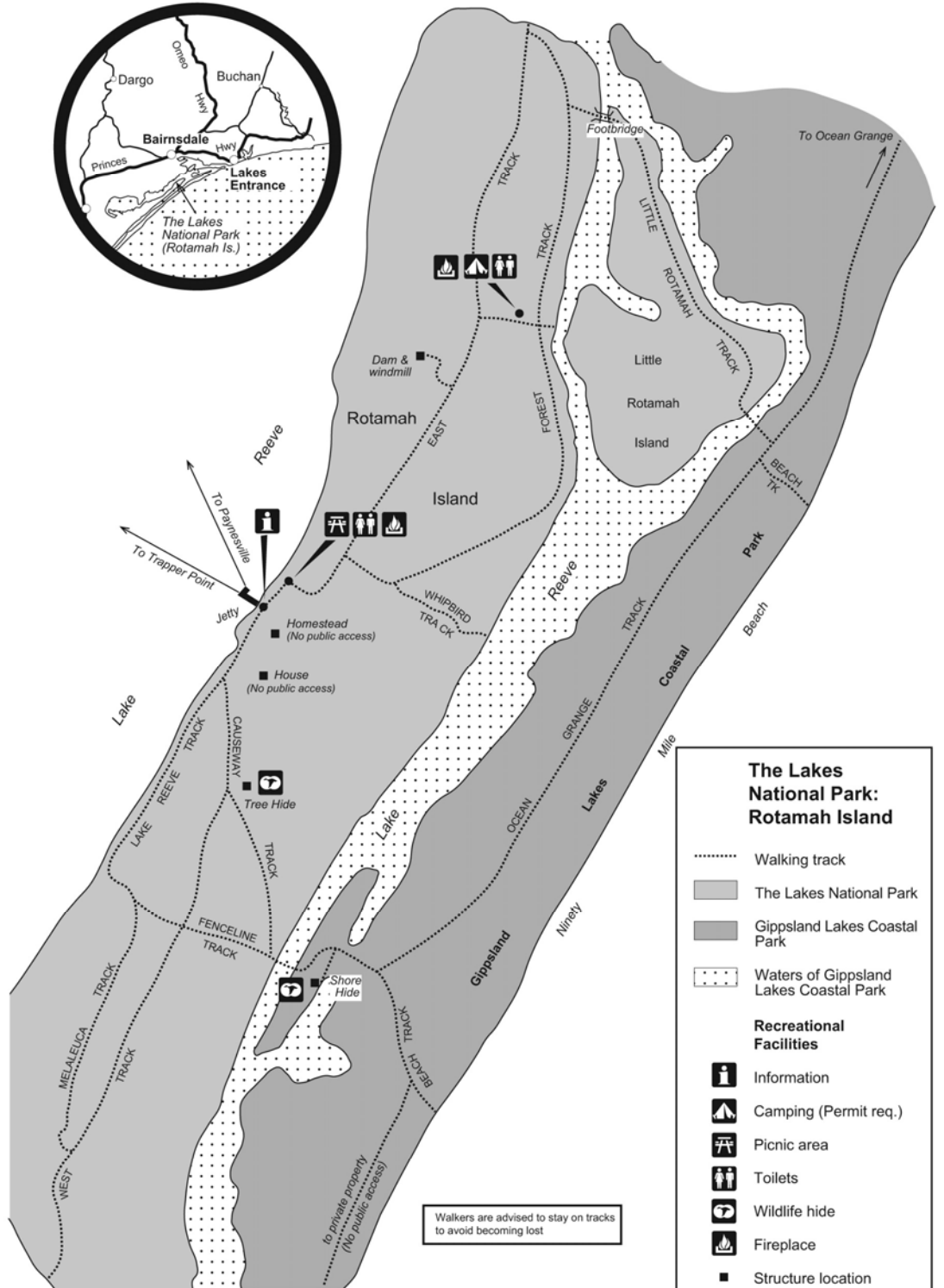
All native plants, animals and artefacts in the park are protected by law

Please take your rubbish home

Dogs, cats, firearms and generators are not permitted

The homestead and surrounding buildings are not open to the public. Visitors are asked to keep clear of the site

Please don't throw this park note away. Keep it, return it for others to use, or recycle it



Walkers are advised to stay on tracks to avoid becoming lost

East End Walk (4.6 km – 2 hours return)
Follow East Track from the jetty and picnic area. This track offers some fantastic views before heading back along Forest Track.

Rotamah Loop (7.6 km – 3 hours return)
From the jetty and picnic area, follow East Track over the footbridge onto Little Rotamah Island. Return via Ocean Grange Track or the 90 Mile Beach to Causeway Track. Alternatively visit Ocean Grange by following the track down and back (additional 4.5 km – 1.5 hour return).

Healthy Parks Healthy People

Visiting a park can improve your health, mind, body and soul. So, with over four million hectares of parkland available to Victorians, why not escape to a park today!

The Lakes National Park: Rotamah Island

- Walking track
- The Lakes National Park
- Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park
- Waters of Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park

Recreational Facilities

- Information
- Camping (Permit req.)
- Picnic area
- Toilets
- Wildlife hide
- Fireplace
- Structure location

0 250 500 METRES

Cartography by Charles Walsh
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