

LORNE

WALKS & WATERFALLS



The Event!

Every year in early January the Mountain to Surf is on. Get into training by combining Lorne town to **9** to **6** to **1**.

Mountain to Surf Run

The walk or run starts in Lorne climbing up Otway Street to the roundabout then down Allenvale Road to the Allenvale Mill site, through the forest to the coast along George River, where the track can continue along the Great Ocean Road or the Tramway track to Point Grey/Pier, then back along the foreshore to Lorne Start/Finish Corner of William and Otway Street/Lorne Foreshore.

- > **Type:** Circuit
- > **Distance:** 8km
- > **Circuit Time:** 1 to 2 hours
- > **Difficulty:** Moderate

10 Sheoak Picnic Area Nature Walk

This is a short easy walk around the picnic area, taking you through ferny glades with tall manna gums overhead. It is a good walk for stretching legs after a BBQ and for learning something about the features of the forest from the interpretive signs along the way. This is also a suitable spot for a night walk, with glow worms occasionally by the bridge.

- > **Start/Finish:** Sheoak Picnic Area
- > **Type:** Circuit
- > **Distance:** 1.3km
- > **Time:** 30 minute circuit
- > **Difficulty:** Easy - stroller friendly

11 Castle Rock

This walk starts with a steep climb up from Sheoak Picnic Area before reaching the Sheoak Track surrounded by dry forest. The descent down to Castle Rock is steep and rough with a lot of steps before reaching the lookout with panoramic views over the Cumberland River and coast below.

For longer walks you can return via Sheoak Falls and Swallow Cave to Sheoak Picnic Area or the Great Ocean Road. An even longer walk takes you down into the Cumberland River valley and out to the Great Ocean Road.

- > **Start/Finish:** Sheoak Picnic Area
- > **Type:** Return
- > **Distance:** 7km return
- > **Time:** 3 hours return
- > **Difficulty:** Moderate

12 Won Wondah, Henderson Falls

From the Sheoak Picnic Area a gentle track with a couple of small rises leads past Won Wondah Falls, and onwards passing a giant eucalypt tree to finish amongst a fern gully in front of the base of Henderson Falls (8-10 metres tall). This walk can continue to the Canyon Walk.

- > **Start/Finish:** Lower car park at Sheoak
- > **Type:** Return
- > **Distance:** 1.8km each way
- > **Time:** 1 to 2 hours
- > **Difficulty:** Easy

19 Blanket Leaf Picnic Area to Allenvale Mill

This is a strenuous walk, well worth the effort. It combines the Cora Lynn Cascades Walk and the Allenvale Mill to Phantom Falls Walk (this can be done in reverse). Between the Cascades and the Cora Lynn Crossing, the track crosses the creek more than 20 times and at times it is hard to see the orange-red arrows indicating where to cross. The walk beyond Cora Lynn Cascades to Phantom Falls is recommended for experienced walkers only.

- > **Start:** Blanket Leaf Car Park
- > **Finish:** Allenvale Mill Car Park
- > **Type:** Vehicle shuttle or return*
- > **Distance:** 8km
- > **Time:** 3 hours 30 minutes
- > **Difficulty:** Strenuous

Note: This walk is only recommended for experienced walkers. It should not be attempted after heavy rain or when river levels are high.

20 Allenvale Mill to Phantom Falls

After crossing the St George River and skirting around the edge of an orchard, this walk climbs on a vehicle track above the rocky bed of the St George River before descending to a pool at the base of the scenic Phantom Falls. The vehicle track is uphill most of the way, with some steep sections of loose gravel. From the base of the falls, experienced walkers can take the strenuous walk to Cora Lynn Cascades. From above the falls there is a track leading to the Canyon and Sheoak Picnic Area.

- > **Start/Finish:** Allenvale Mill Car Park
- > **Type:** Return
- > **Distance:** 3.5km return (not 5km as described in some material)
- > **Time:** 1 hour 30 minutes return
- > **Difficulty:** Moderate

13 Upper and Lower Kalimna Falls

The Kalimna Falls walk follows the route of a timber tramway used for transporting timber to the Lorne Pier between the 1890s and 1920s. Very few trees escaped the logging.

The Lower Falls are not large, but you can get behind them and look out through the falling water to the large pool surrounded by mossy logs and rocks. The Upper Falls are a series of cascades viewed from a platform.

- > **Start/Finish:** Lower car park at Sheoak
- > **Type:** Return
- > **Distance:** Lower Falls – 6.5km return Upper Falls – 8.5km return
- > **Time:** Lower Falls – 2 hours 30 minutes Upper Falls – 3 hours 30 minutes
- > **Difficulty:** Easy

14 Sheoak Falls and Swallow Cave

This is a quick and easy walk. It is only 10 minutes from the car park to get a glimpse of the falls. While not spectacular, they are quite beautiful as they flow down the dark rock face to the deep pool below. Swallow Cave is best seen from spring to autumn, when nesting birds are present.

- > **Start/Finish:** Sheoak Falls Car Park
- > **Type:** Return
- > **Distance:** 2.2km return
- > **Time:** 1 hour return
- > **Difficulty:** Moderate

Note: There is a creek crossing on stepping stones near Swallow Cave, which should not be attempted if the water is high.

21 Allenvale Mill Car Park to Phantom Falls, The Canyon, Won Wondah and Henderson Falls.

After reaching Phantom Falls, from above the falls there is a track leading to The Canyon, a fascinating geological feature with sheer walls rising to 10 metres on either side, onwards to Won Wondah Falls and then worth diverting the short distance to Henderson Falls. From here return towards the Sheoak Picnic ground, walking back along the Allenvale road to the Allenvale Mill Site. This is one of the most diverse and spectacular loop walks around Lorne.

- > **Start/Finish:** Allenvale Mill Car Park
- > **Type:** Circuit
- > **Distance:** 8.6km circuit
- > **Time:** 3 to 4 hour circuit
- > **Difficulty:** Moderate

22 Stony Creek, Lilypond Reserve

From the Stony Creek Car Park cross the small bridge to the picnic area in a grassy eucalypt woodland. The walk ends dramatically at the base of a long cascade. This is a good walk for children, with a well-formed path suitable for wheelchairs and prams.

- > **Start/Finish:** Car park at Stony Creek Bridge on Great Ocean Road north of Lorne
- > **Type:** Return
- > **Distance:** 1km return
- > **Time:** 20 minutes return
- > **Difficulty:** Easy - stroller friendly

Note: The rocks of the cascade are slippery and potentially dangerous.

15 Erskine Falls, Lookouts 1 and 2

Erskine Falls is one of the most popular falls in the Otways. The 30 metre falls are attractive even when there is little water tumbling into the pool below. It is an easy walk to the first lookout, providing a spectacular view over the falls. The steep climb down steps to the second lookout is more strenuous, but worth it for the view from the beautiful fern gully.

- > **Start/Finish:** Erskine Falls Car Park
- > **Type:** Return
- > **Distance:** 1st lookout – 300m return 2nd lookout – 700m return to base of falls (300+ steps)
- > **Time:** 1st lookout – 15 minutes return 2nd lookout – 30 minutes return
- > **Difficulty:** 1st lookout – Easy 2nd lookout – Moderate

Note: Closest toilets are Blanket Leaf Picnic Ground.

23 Cumberland River and Cumberland Falls

This is one of the more beautiful river valleys in the Otways, with dramatic cliffs, and peaceful pools in which to cool off on a hot summer day. It is an easy walk to Jebb's Pool but beyond that to Cumberland Falls there are numerous river crossings and some scrambling over rocks.

- > **Start/Finish:** Cumberland River
- > **Type:** Return
- > **Distance:** 6km return
- > **Time:** 2.5 to 3 hours return
- > **Difficulty:** Strenuous

Note: There are several low river crossings on the Cumberland River that should not be attempted at high river levels. Slippery when wet.

Useful Phone Numbers

Parks Victoria Information
Ph: 13 19 63

Lorne Visitor Centre
Ph: 1300 891 152

The Lorne Taxi Service
Ph: 0409 892 304

* For arranging a vehicle shuttle to be dropped off and/or picked up

Bushfire Information Line
Ph: 1800 240 667

Police, Ambulance, Fire
000 for any emergency. All mobile users, including international, can be connected to Police, Fire or Ambulance by calling 112.

Dogs

Dogs are generally not allowed within the Great Otway National Park.

Dogs are permitted on a leash on walks **1** **2** **3** **5** **6** **7** **8** **9** and **22**.

The first part of walk **16** to the Sanctuary from Lorne is also permitted with dogs on a leash.

Refer to Dogs in the Otways Park note, Dog Regulations in the Surf Coast brochure and the township guidelines available from Visitor Centres.

Safety

Further safety information can be found on www.parkweb.vic.gov.au.

- > Your safety is your own responsibility. Check direction, warning and advisory signs. Let someone responsible know your plans and estimated return time.
- > Many of the walks cross creeks and streams and may be subject to flash flooding. Be especially careful on windy days in forest areas – branches may fall.
- > Check the weather forecast before leaving home.
- > Wear (or carry) sturdy non-slip footwear – even beach walking may involve an unplanned rock scramble. Rocks are slippery when wet.
- > Carry plenty of drinking water.
- > Carry a well-charged mobile phone, although reception is not guaranteed.
- > Walking near the edge or base of cliffs can be dangerous. Be careful, cliffs can be unstable. Beware of snakes in late spring and summer. If you meet one, wait quietly until it has moved on.
- > On Total Fire Ban days, no fire can be lit outdoors. This includes gas BBQs. Check with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) for advice if unsure. Bushfires can pose a serious threat. On days of extreme fire conditions some walks are closed to the public.

Seek information from Visitor Centres or the Bushfire Information Line.
Ph: 1800 240 667
Tune your radio to ABC 774AM for updates.

Difficulty Grading

Easy: Formed tracks, level or undulating terrain, boardwalks and footbridges, and a minimum of steps.

Moderate: Some climbing over rocks, river crossings on stones, soft sand, uphill or downhill sections.

Strenuous: Rough terrain, clambering over rocks, and extended uphill or downhill sections.

Closures

Up to date closures and further parks information can be found on www.parkweb.vic.gov.au under the Great Otway National Park.

More Information

The *Lorne Walks and Waterfalls Map* can be used in conjunction with *The Great Ocean Road Touring Map* and the *Lorne Town Map*. A map reference is included for each of the start points. Copies are available from Lorne Visitor Centre or Torquay Visitor Centre or online at www.visitsurfcoast.com

Accredited Visitor Information Centres

Lorne Visitor Centre
15 Mountjoy Parade, Lorne
Ph: 1300 891 152

Torquay Visitor Centre
Surf City Plaza, Beach Road, Torquay
Ph: 1300 614 219

Open 9am to 5pm, 7 days a week.

16 Erskine River Track

From the base of the Erskine Falls you cross the river a number of times as you follow the Erskine River downstream to the natural amphitheatre of the Sanctuary before reaching the Rapids and the tidal section of the river mouth at Lorne. For the first kilometre of this walk there are frequent river crossings over stones and fallen logs. This track is slippery when wet.

- > **Start:** Erskine Falls Car Park
- > **Finish:** Lorne Foreshore Caravan Park (Kia Ora)
- > **Type:** Vehicle shuttle or return*
- > **Distance:** 7.5km one way
- > **Time:** 2 to 3 hours each way
- > **Difficulty:** Strenuous

Note: This walk is only recommended for experienced walkers. There are many river crossings and this walk should not be attempted when the river is high.

17 Lemonade Creek Track

The Lemonade Creek Track takes you through open woodland, tall eucalypt forest and fern-filled creek gullies. This winding track is relatively steep in places, but you cross the creek on small bridges or boardwalks. There are some excellent views.

- > **Start:** Erskine Falls Car Park
- > **Finish:** Blanket Leaf Picnic Area
- > **Type:** Vehicle shuttle or return*
- > **Distance:** 4km one way
- > **Time:** 1 hour 30 minutes
- > **Difficulty:** Moderate

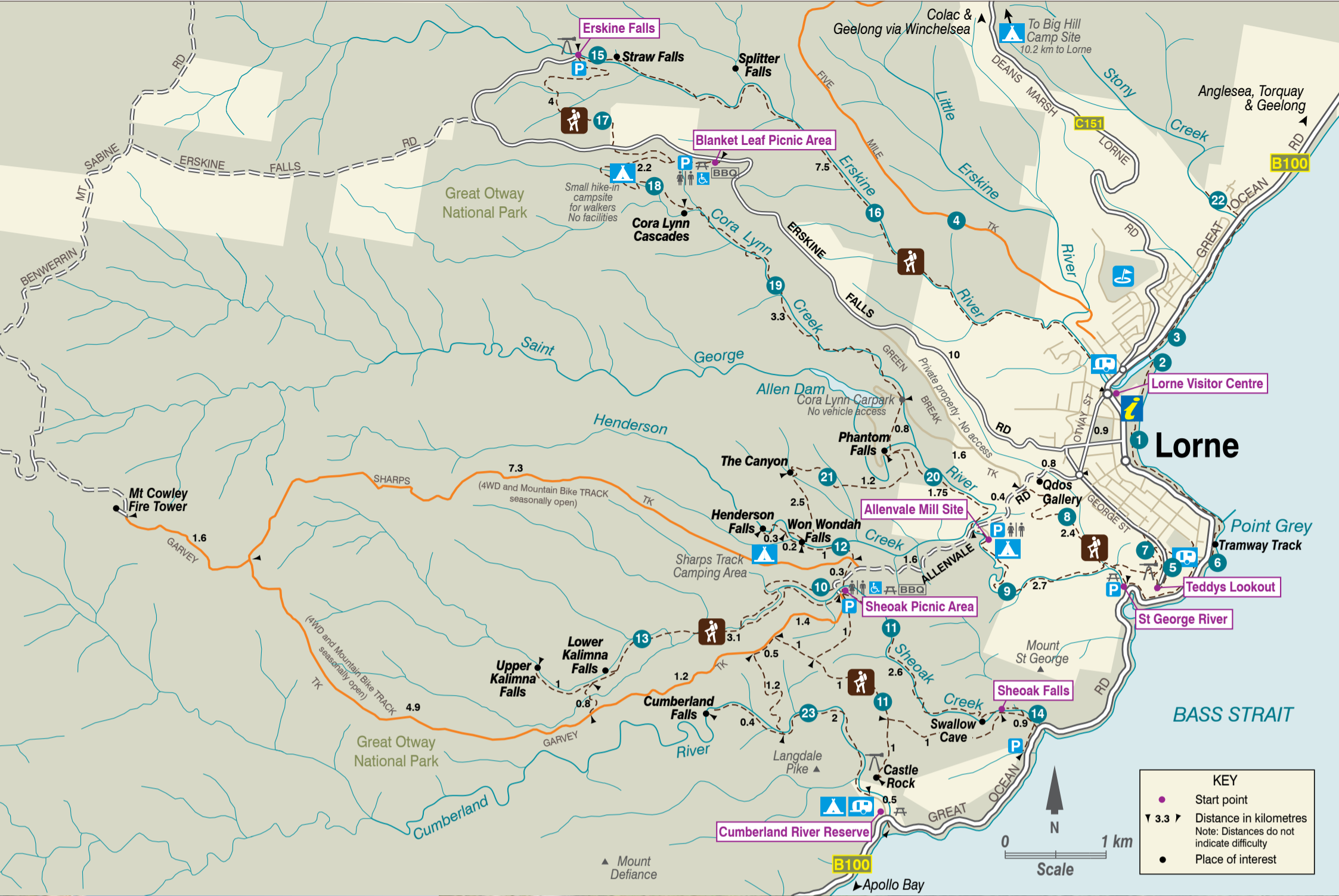
18 Cora Lynn Cascades Walk

This walk takes you through tall eucalypts and shady tree ferns to an open area at the base of stunning cascades, which flow over a series of exposed shale ledges and are framed by luxuriant ferns and mosses.

- > **Start:** Blanket Leaf Car Park
- > **Finish:** Cora Lyn Cascades
- > **Type:** Return
- > **Distance:** 2.1km one way
- > **Time:** 1.5 to 2 hours return
- > **Difficulty:** Moderate



Nature’s works of art



WALKS & WATERFALLS

Lorne walks cover a great variety of distances and environments. There are more than 70 bush and coastal walks in the Surf Coast region. Some are only short but, in 10 minutes or so, they can take you to a spectacular coastal lookout, waterfall or forest.

There are also walks of several hours along windswept beaches, through heathland and forest.

Many of the walks in this area feature waterfalls and lookouts over the rugged coastline. There are waterfalls of all shapes and sizes, and dramatic cliffs and peaceful pools along the river valleys, as well as fascinating geological features like the Canyon.

There are short nature trails, walks to ocean lookouts and along old timber tramways, and long, strenuous walks through rocky gullies filled with tree ferns.

Walks Around Lorne

There are 23 walks around Lorne featured in this map. With over 60km of marked tracks, all the walks can be joined together to make longer walks:

1 to 9 are walks that can be done from Lorne Visitor Centre and do not require transport.

10 to 23 are waterfalls and longer walks that can be joined together to create longer walks that may require transport.

1 Lorne Foreshore (South) - Shipwreck Plaques and Doug Stirling Walk

This easy walk on gravel paths and boardwalks along the Lorne foreshore takes you past a number of plaques commemorating the shipwrecks in Loutit Bay.

A separate Shipwreck Plaque Walk and Historical Walk Brochure are available from the Lorne Visitor Centre. The Doug Stirling Walk is a 1km walk along the foreshore between the Lorne Surf Lifesaving Club and the Lorne Pier.

- > **Start:** Lorne Visitor Centre (Town Map ref J14)
- > **Finish:** Shelly Beach (Town Map ref L17)
- > **Type:** Vehicle shuttle or return*
- > **Distance:** 1.5km one way
- > **Time:** 1 hour
- > **Difficulty:** Easy - stroller friendly

2 Swing Bridge Circuit

From the Visitor Centre walk through Top Bank Caravan Park to Swing Bridge. Cross the bridge and turn left along the boardwalk.

Finish by walking through the caravan park and across Erskine River Bridge to the Visitor Centre.

- > **Start/Finish:** Lorne Visitor Centre (Town Map ref J14)
- > **Type:** Circuit
- > **Distance:** 1km loop
- > **Time:** 20 minutes return
- > **Difficulty:** Easy - stroller friendly

3 Lorne Foreshore (North) - Swing Bridge and Bert Alsop Walk

From the Lorne Visitor centre walk through Top Bank Caravan Park to Swing Bridge. Cross the bridge and turn right past the memorial graves and continue along through a Melaleuca grove, finishing the walk on the beach below the car park. Dependent on the tide, the walk can be returned back along the beach to the river mouth.

- > **Start:** Lorne Visitor Centre (Town Map ref J14)
- > **Finish:** Car park on Great Ocean Road below Allen Street (Town Map ref K12)
- > **Type:** Vehicle shuttle or return*
- > **Distance:** 2km one way
- > **Time:** 1 hour
- > **Difficulty:** Easy

4 Five Mile Track

This walk is on a 4WD track seasonally closed to vehicles. Wallabies and kangaroos frequent the understorey and some rare and threatened plant species may be found along the track.

There are views across the Erskine River to Erskine Falls Road.

- > **Start:** Lorne Visitor Centre (Town Map ref J14)
- > **Finish:** Deans Marsh Road, 7km north of Lorne (SC Map ref I15)
- > **Type:** Vehicle shuttle or return*
- > **Distance:** 8km one way
- > **Time:** 3 hours
- > **Difficulty:** Moderate. Slippery when wet.

5 Teddy's Lookout and Queens Park Lookout Loop

Drive to the rotunda at the end of George Street and walk a few hundred metres to Teddy's Lookout.

The Queens Park Lookout Loop takes you through the bush of Queens Park via three lookouts with panoramic views along the coast and the Otway Ranges.

- > **Start/Finish:** Car park, corner of George Street and Francis Street
- > **Type:** Circuit
- > **Distance:** 1.6km loop
- > **Time:** 45 minutes
- > **Difficulty:** Moderate

6 Tramway Track Stage 1

This clearly marked interpretive trail mostly follows the route of the tramway used by teams of horses to haul timber from the St George River area to Lorne pier until the 1930s. Signs tell the history of the tramway and the local timber industry.

- > **Start:** Pt Grey Car Park
- > **Finish:** St George River on the Great Ocean Road
- > **Type:** Vehicle shuttle or return*
- > **Distance:** 1.5km one way
- > **Time:** 30 minutes
- > **Difficulty:** Moderate

7 Tramway Track Optional Extension (Continuation of Stage 1)

This track runs uphill on the eastern side of the St George River where there are views over the river and the grassy river flats. A steep climb with great views across the valley follows. The track loops back toward the sea as it begins the climb to Teddy's Lookout. Before the rotunda take the track to the right down through Queens Park Caravan Park and Topp Street to Shelly Beach Car Park.

- > **Start:** St George River
- > **Finish:** Pt Grey Car Park (Shelly Beach) (Town Map ref L17)
- > **Type:** Vehicle shuttle or return*
- > **Distance:** 3km
- > **Time:** 1 hour 30 minute circuit
- > **Difficulty:** Moderate

8 Ocean Walk/Cherry Tree Creek Walk

This track runs uphill on the eastern side of the St George River where there are views over the river and the grassy river flats. A steep climb with great views across the valley follows. The track divides and continues along the right hand fork, around the hill coming out on Allenvale Road a few minutes south of Qdos Gallery.

- > **Start:** St George River
- > **Finish:** Allenvale Road (Greenbreak Track Junction)
- > **Type:** Vehicle shuttle or return*
- > **Distance:** 2.4km one way
- > **Time:** 1 hour
- > **Difficulty:** Moderate

9 St George River Walk

The St George River track follows the river beside rocky pools and shady fern gullies. It's mostly flat and there are two river crossings and spectacular views of towering eucalypts.

- > **Start:** St George River
- > **Finish:** Allenvale Mill Car Park
- > **Type:** Vehicle shuttle or return*
- > **Distance:** 2.7km one way
- > **Time:** 1 hour
- > **Difficulty:** Moderate

Note: There is a low river crossing on the St George River that should not be attempted when the river is high.

This walk can be done in reverse from the St George River mouth and can be joined with the Tramway walk and coastal walks to complete a loop back to Lorne along the coast or inland along Allenvale Road.