

DOVE LAKE VIEWING SHELTER

January 2023



FAQ

Q1. What is happening at Dove Lake?

Construction of the Dove Lake viewing shelter is part of a \$26.8 million investment by the Tasmanian Government to enhance the Cradle Mountain visitor experience with new infrastructure and amenities. This is the second stage following completion of the new Gateway precinct as stage 1.

The viewing shelter has been designed to blend into the landscape and features a low profile, earthy colours, undercover seating and floor-to-ceiling glass panels providing an expansive view of Dove Lake and Cradle Mountain. The building fits within the existing car park footprint minimising the impact on the natural environment.

The structure is complimented with a new shuttle bus shelter, amenities, parking, bus turning circle and boardwalk connections to the Dove Lake walking tracks and Glacier Rock viewing platform.

Q2. When can I see the Shelter?

Construction commenced in April 2020 and will be publicly accessible from now (30 January 2023).

Q3. What facilities are housed in the viewing shelter?

The viewing shelter includes weatherproof rooms for viewing Cradle Mountain and Dove Lake, and interpretation signage. Discovery Rangers will also be on hand to assist in the visitor experience over summer periods.

A separate building beside the main structure provides shelter for shuttle bus passengers along with an amenities block including male/female ambulant access, unisex accessible toilets, and baby change room.

Q4. Can I get food or drink there?

No, there are no café facilities at the Viewing Shelter, you will need to bring in anything you wish to consume, ensure you follow our 'Leave no Trace' principle in the park, take out any rubbish with you. There is a café located at the Gateway Visitor Centre and restaurants located within short distance from the Gateway area.

Q5. What hours is the Viewing Shelter open? Can I sleep there?

The viewing shelter is open 24hrs year-round. Visitors are not permitted to stay overnight in the shelter.

Q6. How will private vehicles access and park at Dove Lake?

From 1 February 2023, private vehicles will be able to access and park at Dove Lake outside of shuttle bus operating hours. Ten private vehicle parking spaces will be available, including one Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) space. Overflow parking will be available at the Ronny Creek car park.

Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service will actively monitor visitor access to Dove Lake (including parking), and additional measures may be implemented, if necessary, to ensure safe access for visitors.

Q7. So, if I take my car in before the shuttle service starts, will I be able to drive out at any time?

Yes. The boom gate will prevent inbound access after the shuttle service starts, but cars already in the park will be able to leave at any time during the day on the proviso that they exit with shuttle bus escort if departing before the end of the daily service.

This is to ensure that they do not meet a shuttle bus unexpectedly, and/or where passing is not possible. The shuttle buses are in constant radio communication to ensure they safely pass each other at designated passing bays.

Q8. So, the number of vehicles allowed into the park will be reduced because parking spaces are being reduced.

To ensure the maintenance of consistently safe and efficient traffic flow into and out of the park, the number of vehicles entering the park is carefully managed. The shuttle bus service is the safest and most effective way to access the park for most visitors.

A high-capacity carpark provided at the Gateway Visitor Centre ensures secure and stress-free parking and ease of access to the shuttle bus. The elimination of a large visually intrusive carpark at Dove Lake has enhanced the visitor experience and provides a very significant positive sense of arrival to this beautiful, iconic place. It also ensures critical views from numerous vantage points around Dove Lake and Cradle Mountain are not adversely visually impacted.

Q9. Will I still be able to park at Ronny Creek or Waldheim?

Yes. The car parks and existing spaces are to be retained at both these sites. Ronny Creek offers 22 spaces, and Waldheim offers 27 spaces.

Q10. What if I have booked to stay at Waldheim, Blandfordia or Baden Powell Memorial Lodge?

Access to the Waldheim Cabins, Blandfordia and the Baden Powell Memorial Lodge is strongly encouraged outside of shuttle bus operating hours to ensure public safety; however, access will be permitted through the boom gate via authorised swipe cards which are programmed for set time periods if access is required during shuttle operating hours. If entering during operating hours, guests must only enter and exit the park with shuttle bus escort.

Q11. What about walker safety? If I take the shuttle bus in to do a long day walk and find I don't get back in time to catch the last bus, I could be stranded at Dove Lake.

The shuttle service system has been developed over time, and strategies are in place to ensure no visitors are left stranded in the park at the end of the day. The system in place to manage this aspect has proven to be successful.

Q12. Will shuttle hours be extended to better meet the needs of all visitors?

If demand increases for services later in the evening or after dark, then consideration will be given to providing this service.

Q13. Will I be able to get my kayak to Dove Lake?

Yes. Paddlers will be able to access and park at Dove Lake outside of shuttle bus operating hours. 10 private vehicle parking spaces will be available, including one Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) space. Overflow parking will be available at the Ronny Creek car park.

Q14. I am a Commercial Tour Operator – what does this mean for me?

Nature based Tour Operators (NBTO's) will be able to access and park at Dove Lake. There will be 3 parking spaces available for NBTO's to park at Dove Lake. These spaces are available on a first-in basis, and no prior booking arrangements can be made. There are no designated parking spaces for NBTO's at the Ronny Creek carpark. Particularly during peak periods, operators are encouraged to park at the Cradle Gateway and use the shuttle service to access Dove Lake.

Commercial operators are required to comply strictly with the Cradle Mountain Road Traffic Policy, if entering during shuttle operating hours, operators must only enter and exit the park with shuttle bus escort; or use the shuttle bus service.

Q15. How do school and community groups access Dove Lake for educational activities?

School and community groups have access to the shuttle service.

Q16. If I wish to have a wedding ceremony in Dove Lake, how do I arrange access?

Cradle Mountain offers a unique setting for your wedding ceremony. If you wish to hold a ceremony, a booking application is required. Approvals for access and parking within the National Park will be assessed during your application process.

All guests, including those getting married, are required to hold a valid park pass.