



# Information sheet

## Educational exemption for school / educational groups

### CRADLE MOUNTAIN

The following information is intended to help you plan your group visit to Cradle Mountain National Park, managed by Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service.

All visits to Tasmanian national parks require a current national parks pass; however with school/educational groups, this fee may be waived provided the activity results in bona-fide educational outcomes as part of your institution's curriculum. You will need to apply for this education exemption from park entry fees at least 4 weeks prior to visiting Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park.

If you have any questions relating to your school exemption please contact PWS Cradle Mountain on (03) 6492 1133 during business hours or email [cradle@parks.tas.gov.au](mailto:cradle@parks.tas.gov.au)

### Overland Track Exemptions

If your group is planning to walk the Overland Track from Cradle Mountain, please contact the Overland Track Administrator on (03) 6165 4254 or email: [overlandtrack@parks.tas.gov.au](mailto:overlandtrack@parks.tas.gov.au)

### Easy steps to apply for a school/educational exemption

1. Plan your trip carefully. See if your groups' planned activities will comply with the guidelines as outlined at [www.parks.tas.gov.au](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au). For walking tracks and information please refer to: "Cradle Mountain Day Walk Map and Notes" 1: 20 000. Intended activities other than bushwalking on marked walking tracks should be discussed in advance with park staff. If you require assistance in planning your itinerary, please contact us on 6492 1133 or email [cradle@parks.tas.gov.au](mailto:cradle@parks.tas.gov.au)
2. Email a copy of your completed exemption form together with a detailed copy of your itinerary to [cradle@parks.tas.gov.au](mailto:cradle@parks.tas.gov.au). Note that the application must be signed by the Principal as a declaration that Public Liability insurance cover to \$10M is current. Your approval will then be returned by email. If further information is required, then your nominated person will be contacted.
3. Check current track and weather conditions prior to your visit. From time to time it is necessary to close walking tracks to manage the safety of visitors to the National Park. This may occur when the Fire Danger Rating is extremely high or if there is a planned Fuel Reduction Burn in the area or if there are altered track conditions due to extreme weather events (such as heavy snowfall) or track maintenance works.
4. Ensure that you check in on arrival at the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre, which is located 2 km before the national park boundary. Display your approved exemption form on the dashboard of your vehicle/s and carry a copy whilst your group is in the National Park.
5. Remember to register your walk intentions in the visitor log books located within the park. Please ensure you sign out upon completing your walk.

## Park Access

From the 22 October 2018, private vehicle access between the visitor centre and Dove Lake (along Dove Lake Road) will be restricted during shuttle bus operating hours. The restriction for private vehicles will generally occur between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm each day over winter (1 April to 30 September); and 8:00am to 6:00pm over summer (1 October to 31 March). School groups will need to use the shuttle bus service during these times. Large groups (>50ppl) will be asked to provide advanced notice of intended arrival times to avoid delays.

School groups may use their own school buses to enter the park before or after the shuttle bus operating hours if they are not greater than 22 seat capacity. For road safety purposes it is requested that you carry a UHF radio on your bus, switched to Channel 15 to communicate to other users on the road network. It should also be noted that coach access beyond the park's Visitor Centre is limited; road traffic conditions and weight restrictions apply on the bridge at the entrance to the park. Trailers are not permitted into the park without prior authorisation from the Ranger in Charge.

Ample parking is provided at the visitor centre where the shuttle bus departs.

## Visiting the Interpretation Centre

This centre is open to the public 8:30am to 4.00pm daily.

The centre has interpretive displays that highlight the natural and cultural values of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Here you can find information on climate, geology, ecology, flora, fauna, and Indigenous/European history. There are static and interactive displays, an audio visual 'hut', a small library and an exhibition space. We encourage your use of centre as a learning space. If you would like to take the opportunity to showcase some of your work in the gallery, please contact us on 03) 6492 1133.

## Registering Your Walks

All park users must register their walk intentions before departing on their walks. Walker registration points are located at the Interpretation Centre, Ronny Creek, Dove Lake and Knyvet Falls Track.

Remember to sign out at the completion of your walk. Log books are not checked regularly and a search will only be mounted if you are reported overdue.

Overland Track/overnight walkers must record their intentions and walk progress in the log book at the start of the walk, and in log books along the way.

## Walking Track Group Sizes

The tracks within the park are classified according to their difficulty and altitude. Group size restrictions and student to guide/adult ratios apply. This is for the safety and convenience of all park users and to minimise the impact caused by large groups.

For walking options please see tables below - all walk times are approximate and vary depending on individual fitness levels and weather conditions.

Walk description	Group Size Limit (including adults)	Approximate Walking times	Conditions/Notes
Interpretation Centre Location: Pencil pine falls Enchanted walk King billy track Knyvet Falls	20 (2 Adult, 18 Student)	15 minutes 30 minutes 50 minutes 50 minutes rtn	Manage groups 15 mins apart – do not come together on the track
Cradle Valley Boardwalk	20 (2 Adult, 18 Student)	2 hours – 1 way	Same direction. No more than 2 groups at a time staggered 45 min apart

Dove Canyon Track	20 (2 Adult, 18 Student)	3 hours - loop	Same direction. No more than 2 groups at a time staggered 45 min apart
Dove Lake Circuit	20 (2 Adult, 18 Student)	2 – 3 hours – circuit	Clockwise direction*. No more than 2 groups at a time staggered 45min apart
Waldheim Chalet Weindorfer's Forest Walk	20 (2 Adult, 18 Student)	30 minutes	Access via Ronny Creek / Overland track
Crater Lake Circuit	14 (2 Adult, 18 Student)	2 – 3 hours - circuit	Same direction. No more than 2 groups at a time staggered 45 min apart
Marions Lookout	8 (2 Adult, 18 Student)	3 – 4 hours rtn	As above
Cradle Mountain Summit	8 (2 Adult, 18 Student)	6 – 8 hours rtn	As above
Face Track High Level Circuit	8 (2 Adult, 18 Student)	4 – 5 hrs	As above
Horse Track Kitchen Hut Circuit	8 (2 Adult, 18 Student)	4 – 5 hours	As above
Lake Rodway	13 (2 Adult, 18 Student)	4 hours - one way	Overnight walk via Hansons Peak or Lake Wilks

Not all walk options are listed here, please request further information if required.

**\*NOTE:** The “Clockwise direction” rule for the Dove Lake Circuit applies to organised groups. General public visitors to the park may walk in either direction. Expect to meet on-coming walkers. Please be courteous of other walkers, and mindful of the environment if it is necessary to step off the track to let others pass.

## Walking Safely

- **Plan to walk safely** – know the limitation of your students, walk within your capabilities. Choose walks suitable to the group's experience and fitness. Study maps and route guides and seek advice from experienced bushwalkers or local PWS staff about track conditions.
- **Be prepared** - weather conditions in Tasmania can change quickly and frequently, especially in mountain areas. Snow, rain, wind and sun are all possible at any time of the year. Ensure everyone has suitable clothing, footwear, first aid kit equipment, food and water to cope with all conditions.
- Record your trip intentions in the log books. Remember to also sign out!
- **Be prepared to turn** back or change your plans if the weather deteriorates or the walk is more difficult than expected.

## Facilities

### Amenities

Toilets are located at the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre, Interpretation Centre and Dove Lake. Please ensure you use toilets where provided. If no toilet facilities are available (which is the case for many walking tracks around Cradle Mountain) waste and toilet paper must be buried in holes 15-20cm deep and at least 100 meters away from water sources, campsites and tracks. Be sure to cover the hole with dirt and disguise the area.

### Water

Limited supply of drinking water is available at the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre. Rain water tanks are also located at Interpretation Centre and Dove Lake bus shelter but can be unreliable over summer. It is therefore recommended that groups bring in all their water. Any water taken from streams, rivers & lakes on walking tracks cannot be guaranteed to meet drinking water standards and should be treated by boiling for 3 minutes or using purification tablets.

### Picnic shelters

Undercover picnic shelters with electric BBQs are located at the Interpretation Centre.

## Leave No Trace Principles

These principles are applicable in all National Parks in Tasmania. As part of the terms and conditions of your students/group receiving an Education Exemption we ask that your students adhere to the following seven principles of Leave No Trace.

### 1. Plan ahead and prepare

- Know the regulations and special concerns of the area you will visit
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use
- Walk in small groups. Split larger parties into smaller groups
- Repackage food to minimise waste
- Take maps and compass or GPS and know how to use them

### 2. Walk and camp on durable surfaces

- Durable camping surfaces include established campsites, tent platforms, rock, gravel and sand
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary. If you use rocks to secure tents, return them to their place when you leave.
- Protect water sources – camp at least 50 metres from lakes and streams
- Protect plant life – avoid spread of phytophthora and other soil-borne diseases by keeping boots, camping equipment clean (vehicle tyres if applicable)
- Concentrate use on existing tracks. (campsites if applicable)
- Always walk on tracks, even when wet or muddy, so damage is kept to a narrow band

### 3. Dispose of waste properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Check your rest areas for rubbish and spilled food. Pack out all rubbish and leftover food.
- If there's a toilet, use it. Otherwise bury all faecal waste and toilet paper in holes 15-20cm deep at least 100m from water, camps and tracks. Cover and disguise the hole when finished
- Carry out any sanitary pads, tampons and condoms
- Wash up using hot water, preferably without soap or detergent. Strain and scatter washing up water 50 metres away from water sources
- Wash your body at least 50m from water sources

### 4. Leave what you find

- Respect Aboriginal sites and other sites of cultural significance
- Preserve our past: examine but don't touch cultural or historic structures and artefacts
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them

### 5. Minimise campfire impacts – use a fuel stove

- Cradle Mountain National Park is a 'fuel stove only area' therefore no outdoor fires of any kind are permitted. This is to prevent damage to sensitive vegetation through collection of wood and also to prevent wildfires. Please ensure you carry and use fuel stoves for cooking and water treatment.

## **6. Respect wildlife**

- Keep wildlife wild. Feeding animals can turn them into pests and may make them sick
- Store food and rubbish securely to prevent wildlife finding it
- Observe wildlife from a distance

## **7. Be considerate of your hosts and other visitors**

- Respect Aboriginal culture and country
- Respect the wishes and regulations of all hosts (eg Aboriginal, pastoral, land managers and locals)
- Only visit places where you have obtained appropriate permission
- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience
- Let natural sounds prevail – avoid loud voices and noises.

