

GREAT OCEAN WALK

Walk Victoria's Icons

FACT SHEET - CONSTRUCTION

Track facts

- The alignment of the Great Ocean Walk was designed after review of the extensive environmental, cultural, geotechnical, risk and cost investigations spanning five years, referring to past track marking and involving hundreds of hours of fieldwork.
- 22km of new walking track has been built between 2002 and 2005 by expert track builders.
- Nearly the entire walk has been constructed by hand with basic tools such as mattocks, shovels and crowbars adding greatly to the natural feel of the walk and ability of the track to blend into the surrounding environment.
- Over 25km of track previously built has been cleared.
- Over 1200 rock steps have been laid in the new sections of track from local and imported stone. Rock steps have all been hand built with stone moved around the track by power carriers and Tirfor winches. Rocks weighing over 300kg have been moved by the crews.
- Two major elevated sets of steps were constructed at Ryans Den (2 flights 45 steps) and Cape Volney (7 flights 131 steps).
- Rock stepping stones and small rock bridges have been used to cross small water courses and a timber bridge was built to cross a creek near Cape Volney.
- 454 timber on-ground and elevated steps have been built in steeper terrain along the walk. Timber has been carried in by hand and power carrier for up to 1.5km. Harnesses have been used by the crews to work safely in steep areas.
- Over \$1.2 million dollars has been spent on the construction of tracks along the walk.
- 300 volunteer days have supported recent track clearing and construction work from Conservation Volunteers Australia, international volunteers, Greencorps, Deakin University and the Regional Employment and Education Program.
- More than 300 new signs have been installed along the walk.
- Fallen logs have been repositioned and re-used as low boardwalks.
- Two hygiene stations have been built at Blanket Bay and Parker Inlet to reduce the potential spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Walkers are asked to clean down their gear and footwear at these points.
- 1km of informal tracks have been closed and rehabilitated around station beach to protect sensitive sand dunes and cultural sites.
- Sections of disturbed land are being revegetated with indigenous species along the walk.
- The track crews spent over 100 nights camping out in and nearby the park.

GREAT OCEAN WALK

Walk Victoria's Icons

Campsite facts

- There are seven dedicated Great Ocean Walk hike-in camps on the walk at Elliot Ridge, Blanket Bay, Cape Otway, Aire River, Johanna Beach, Ryans Den and Devils Kitchen.
- Approximately \$0.5 million dollars has been spent on constructing the campsites.
- Each campsite has been carefully selected after an exhaustive planning process taking into account environmental cultural, geotechnical, experiential, risk, cost and community interests. Over 30 sites were investigated during the planning phase.
- Each campsite has between 8 and 15 camping pads, a toilet, untreated rainwater tanks, camp benches and shelter (not at Blanket Bay).
- The Clivus Multrum toilets are a self-contained, waterless, odourless continuous composting system catering for 40000 visits each a year. They have been sized above their capacity taking into account climatic factors. Waste material and wood shavings compost in the tanks and the vent pipe extracts any smells away.
- Recycled Red Gum posts have been sought from demolished wharfs at Docklands and are used as feature posts for the toilets and shelter.
- Radial sawn yellow stringybark timbers from East Gippsland have been used for cladding of the buildings. This form of saw log creates minimal waste and features the natural curves of the tree.
- Native Cypress from northern New South Wales and Queensland has been sourced for posts and framing to provide resistance to termites and rot.
- 14 tonnes of materials were flown into the campsites at Ryans Den and Devils Kitchen by helicopter. Over 75 drops were completed in just over two days by the pilot.
- The jetranger helicopter carried a maximum load of 600kg which accounted for the single 7m long Red Gum Posts.
- Each campsite has taken on average six weeks to build.

For more information please contact:

Alysia Brandenburg

Strategic Tourism Adviser

Parks Victoria

Telephone: 13 1963

Email: abranden@parks.vic.gov.au

Updated May 2010