

# Let the Adventure begin

The Wimmera Mallee region is Victoria's "Wild West", and offers exciting desert 4 wheel driving experiences within half a day's drive from either Melbourne or Adelaide.

There are easy tracks for beginners and tracks to challenge the more experienced. First timers can get off the beaten track and treat the family to a bit of excitement for an hour or two of 4 wheel driving. The more experienced 4 wheel drivers can hone their desert driving and camping skills on an extended trip before launching head-first into the remote Central Australian deserts.

Whatever 4 wheel drive experience you are looking for, Victoria's "Wild West" is the best place to start.

Explore Victoria's Wild West



Lake Hindmarsh

## Before You Go

To get the most out of your 4 wheel driving experience, we suggest doing a little bit of planning:

- **Familiarise yourself with your vehicle and equipment** – you don't want to be searching for your jack or spare tyre lowering point for the first time whilst stuck with a flat in the middle of nowhere; nor do you want to have the new tent half up then realise you forgot the pegs!
- **Obtain detailed maps and/or up to date GPS mapping**, as this map is only a guide to give you an idea of what's on offer in the area.
- **Contact Parks Victoria** for current information on track conditions, seasonal closures, planned burns etc. (See "Important Contacts" section of this brochure).
- **Stick to formed tracks**, do not drive off-track or on any closed/management only tracks
- **Inform a responsible person** (family, Police, local Parks office) of your travel plans. Develop a communications plan: who will you contact, where and when you will call, when are you expected back.

**NOTE: All Wyperfeld NP and Little Desert NP tracks are CLOSED on days declared "Code Red" Fire Danger Rating by the Bureau of Meteorology.**

## 4WD Driving Tips

The biggest attraction of Victoria's "Wild West" 4WD tracks is their ease of access. The start of most tracks can be reached within a 4 to 5 hour drive from Melbourne or Adelaide.

A true sense of isolation, remoteness and "the outback" can be obtained within an hour of leaving a major road or highway. Off-road driving requires different techniques to driving on sealed roads. Your vehicle will behave and respond differently depending on the changing surfaces and weather conditions!

The key message is:

*Do not rush and do not panic!*

The tracks in this area give you a great opportunity to take your time and learn how your vehicle reacts to different conditions.



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## Sand Driving

You won't travel far off-road in this area without meeting some challenging sand driving – this after all is probably the main attraction!

- **Keep a steady and constant momentum.** It is a common (although perhaps natural) mistake to attack soft sand with speed – this often gets you into more trouble!
- **If wheel slippage occurs: stop, reverse and try again** – maybe a different gear or different line of approach. **SPINNING THE WHEELS IN SAND WILL ONLY DIG YOU DEEPER!**
- **If stuck, stop and dig away any sand that has built up in front and behind the wheels.** You may find that sticks or a tarp laid down behind the wheels may give you enough traction to back out of trouble.
- **Engage 4WD BEFORE you get into trouble.** The traction provided by 4WD is much more effective at getting you through soft sand than getting you out once you've stopped and lost momentum.
- **Lowering your tyre pressure (15 psi for medium to large 4wd) will greatly assist in sandy situations by creating a larger 'footprint' with the tyre surface. NOTE: this will significantly increase the chance of sidewall damage to your tyres, so pay particular attention to sharp objects such as rocks and tree roots. Always REMEMBER to re-inflate your tyres to the correct pressure once re-turning to gravel or sealed roads. You may decide to carry a portable battery-powered compressor for this purpose. ONLY TRAVEL AT SLOW SPEEDS WHILST TYRES ARE DEFLATED.**

## Mud Driving

Mud driving can turn from exhilarating to disaster within seconds! Here are a few tips that may help.

- **Not all mud is the same**, treat each situation with care no-matter how much mud driving experience you have.
- **ENGAGE 4WD BEFORE YOU GET INTO TROUBLE.**

### TIPS FOR SLIPPERY (SURFACE) MUD:

- **Avoid speed**, aim for smooth and steady momentum.
- **Steering and throttle control are the key.** In slippery conditions the rear end of the vehicle will try and pivot around the front wheels (i.e. the back-end slides out). To correct this you need to steer in the direction of the slide, which is opposite to your natural reaction! Slowly decelerating may help the tyres to gain traction and help control the slide.
- **Avoid braking** – it will probably get you into more trouble!

### TIPS FOR DEEP MUD:

- **Momentum (NOT speed) is the key**, approach similar to sand driving.
- **Lowering tyre pressure** may help to give more traction.
- **Rocking your steering from side-to-side** can help clear mud and get more traction from the aggressive tread on the edge of your tyres.
- **Choose your approach carefully**, aim for high points – but be prepared to slip down into the ruts.
- **Spinning your wheels once stuck will only dig you in deeper** – and make recovery harder.

Do Not Over-Estimate Your Vehicle's Capabilities!

The tracks described in this brochure should only be attempted with vehicles that have both high and low range 4WD, and appropriate ground clearance.



## Supplies and Contacts

### Supplies

Food, fuel, and basic camping supplies are available at most of the regional towns listed on this map.

Visit [www.wimmeramalleetourism.com.au](http://www.wimmeramalleetourism.com.au) to find more information about the region's towns and services, and other attractions to see while you're visiting the area.

Please support local businesses and services whilst visiting the Wimmera Mallee.

### Important Contacts

**Wimmera Mallee Tourism**  
Email: [info@wimmeramalleetourism.com.au](mailto:info@wimmeramalleetourism.com.au)

**Parks Victoria: 131 963**  
Website: [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)  
Email: [info@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@parks.vic.gov.au)

POLICE / FIRE / AMBULANCE 000  
VICTORIAN SES (State Emergency Service) 132 500  
RACV Roadside Assist 131 111  
Victorian Bushfire Information Line 1800 240 667  
Nurse-On-Call 1300 606 024

**NOTE: Although few tracks listed here could be considered truly remote, there may be many areas without mobile phone coverage. Check coverage maps with your provider.**

## The Tracks...



Pella Track

### 1 Border Track **DIFFICULT**

One of the most challenging tracks in the region, should only be attempted by well-prepared people with previous sand driving (sand-dune crossing) experience. Must be traversed North to South through the Ngarkat Conservation Park section. Access via the Mallee Hwy.

### 2 Red Bluff Track

The Red Bluff Track is a fantastic drive giving access to the picturesque Red Bluff area from the Western Highway or Murrayville Track and Big Desert tracks. The Red Bluff Track gives you a taste of the longer and more challenging Border Track along a short section which is the only part of the track on which you are allowed to travel north.

### 3 Murrayville Nhill Track

**EASY (in dry weather conditions)**

A favourite route for those with less experience, though still presents some sandy challenges. **NOTE:** this track contains some clay surfaced areas that can become very boggy after rain. Access via the Western Hwy, Nhill.

### 4 Milmed Rock Track

**MEDIUM (west to east recommended)**

An adventurous drive through the middle of Wyperfeld NP linking the Murrayville Nhill Track to the Lake Albacutya area. It passes the small rocky area known as Milmed Rock. Can become muddy and impassable after rain (particularly near the Lake Albacutya end).

### 5 Chinaman Well Track

**MEDIUM (west to east recommended)**

A challenging sandy track through the southern end of Wyperfeld NP. It passes a well which was used by the Chinese gold diggers who established an overland route through this area in the 1850's as they travelled from South Australia to the Victorian and NSW goldfields. Access via Murrayville Nhill Track (west) or from Nhill or Rainbow using the Pella Track (east).

### 6 Pella Track

**EASY (though some sandy patches)**

A good introduction to sand driving and the desert environment without getting too far off the beaten track. Access via Rainbow past the historical Pella Church then continue onto the Chinaman Track to the Murrayville Nhill track, or head south to Nhill.

### Wyperfeld North-South Route

**MEDIUM**

Access via the Mallee Hwy (north) or Lake Albacutya (south), linking the Gunners Track, Plain and Millers Track, and the Freeway Track provides a great sand driving experience through the north western section of Wyperfeld NP.

**Incorporating:**

### 7 Gunners Track

### 8 Wirrengren Plain and Millers Tracks

passing dry lakes distinctly different from the south-western part of the National Park.

### 9 North-South Track

### Little Desert NP tracks

**ALL MEDIUM**

### 10 Mt Moffat Track

Giving a northern access to the western section of the Little Desert NP as an alternative to the Border Track. Access via the Western Hwy, links with the East West Track.

### 11 East West Track

An adventurous track in the western section of the Little Desert NP. Access via the Border Track or Moffat Track (west), or the Edenhope-Kaniva Rd (east).

### 12 McDonald Highway

A horrendously misnamed sandy track (it's no highway!) continuing an east-west traverse through the central section of the Little Desert NP. Access via the Edenhope-Kaniva Rd (west), or the Nhill-Harrow Rd (East). Linking with the East West Track and the Eastern Block tracks creates a great extended east-west traverse of the entire National Park.

### Little Desert 'Eastern Block'

**MEDIUM**

**13** The Nhill-Harrow Rd provides easy access to a number of tracks heading into the eastern section of the Little Desert NP. These provide a fantastic opportunity to experience the challenges of sand driving and can give a great sense of the desert environment without venturing too far off a sealed road.

**14** Further east still there are some enjoyable tracks leading through the desert from Dimboola to Wail.



Red Bluff Track



Wyperfeld NP, from Hermans Hill Lookout



## 4x4 Outback Adventure Guide



Explore Victoria's Wild West

[www.facebook.com/wm.tourism](http://www.facebook.com/wm.tourism)  
[www.wimmeramalleetourism.com.au](http://www.wimmeramalleetourism.com.au)



**Wimmera Mallee Tourism**  
[www.wimmeramalleetourism.com.au](http://www.wimmeramalleetourism.com.au)  
[info@wimmeramalleetourism.com.au](mailto:info@wimmeramalleetourism.com.au)

Wimmera Mallee Tourism is supported by Buloke, Hindmarsh, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack Shire Councils.

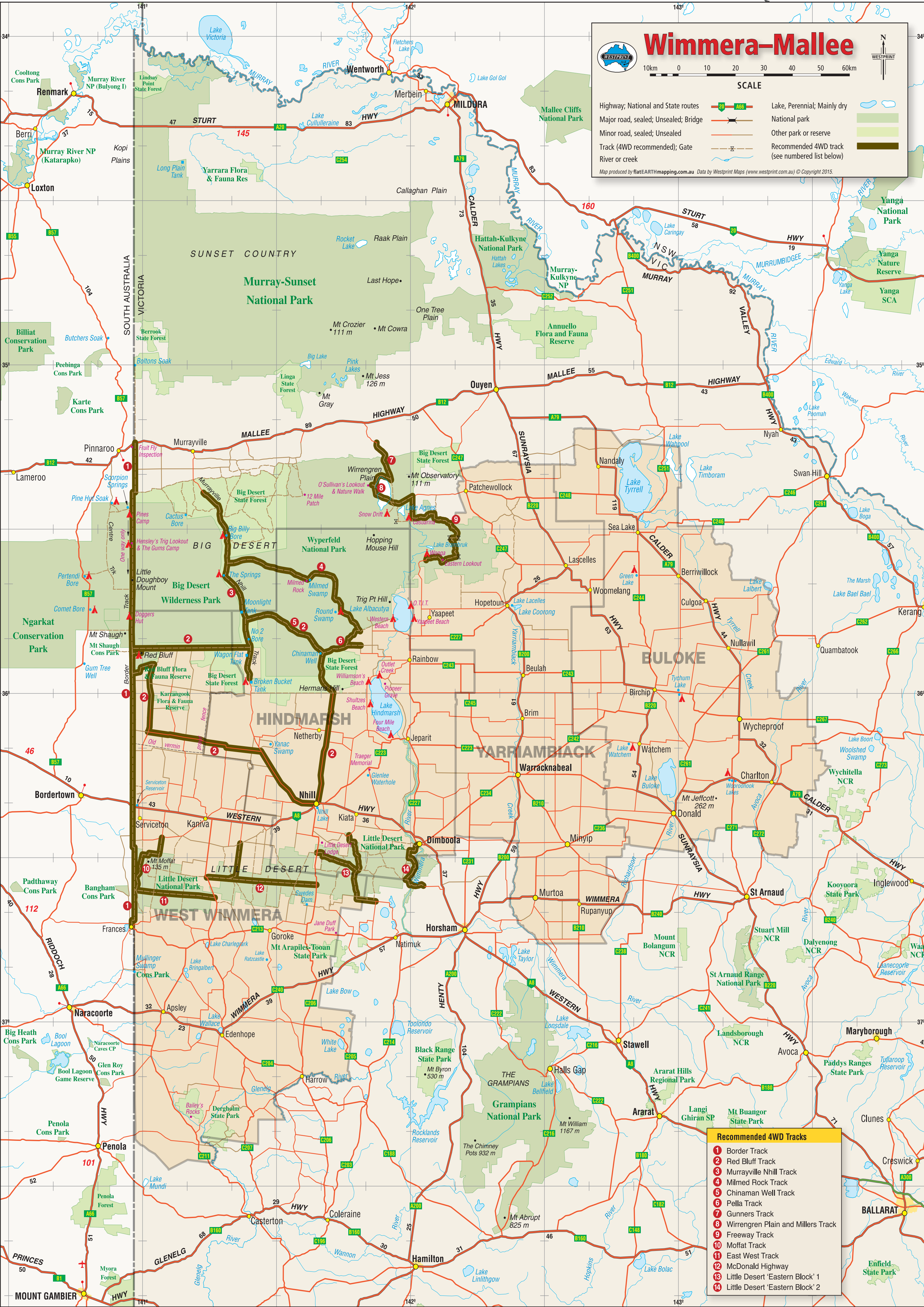
# Wimmera-Mallee

10km 0 10 20 30 40 50 60km

SCALE

<p>Highway; National and State routes</p> <p>Major road, sealed; Unsealed; Bridge</p> <p>Minor road, sealed; Unsealed</p> <p>Track (4WD recommended); Gate</p> <p>River or creek</p>	<p> Highway</p> <p> Major road</p> <p> Minor road</p> <p> Track</p> <p> River or creek</p>	<p> Lake, Perennial; Mainly dry</p> <p> National park</p> <p> Other park or reserve</p> <p> Recommended 4WD track (see numbered list below)</p>
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- Recommended 4WD Tracks**
- 1 Border Track
  - 2 Red Bluff Track
  - 3 Murrayville Nhill Track
  - 4 Milmed Rock Track
  - 5 Chinaman Well Track
  - 6 Pella Track
  - 7 Gunners Track
  - 8 Wirrengrain Plain and Millers Track
  - 9 Freeway Track
  - 10 Moffat Track
  - 11 East West Track
  - 12 McDonald Highway
  - 13 Little Desert 'Eastern Block' 1
  - 14 Little Desert 'Eastern Block' 2