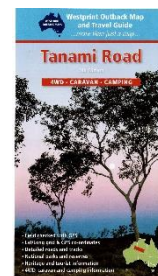
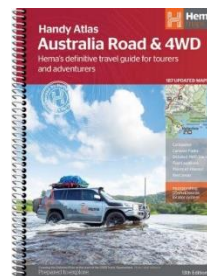
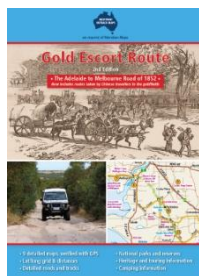
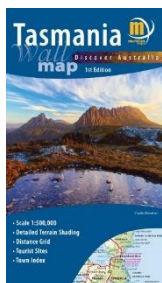


The Meridian Line - Sunday 15.09.2024

“Time is a sort of river of passing events, and strong is its current; no sooner is a thing brought to sight than it is swept by and another takes its place, and this too will be swept away.” – Marcus Aurelius



Tasmania Wall Map – from \$12.95

Discover Tasmania like never before with our 1:500,000 scale wall map – a unique and comprehensive depiction of the state. This map combines a wealth of features with a clean, easy-to-read design, making it an invaluable addition to any home or business. It includes all of Tasmania's islands in their precise geographical locations, a detailed Macquarie Island inset, clear public land use markings, and highlighted tourist sites.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/tasmania-wall-map/>

Gold Escort Route – \$32.95

The Gold Escort Route between Adelaide and Castlemaine is one of Australia's oldest interstate roads and may be the most original route still accessible today. Established in the mid-1840s, it became the first direct road between Adelaide and Melbourne, following tracks created by early settlers. The route features a mix of paved highways and sandy tracks, with maps offering alternative paths and guidance for wet weather conditions. This updated edition includes maps and information on routes taken by Chinese travellers walking from Robe, South Australia, to the Victorian goldfields.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/gold-escort-route/>

Freshwater Swimming Holes in Victoria, Australia – \$25.00

This guide is the ultimate resource for discovering swimming spots across Victoria, Australia. Each of the 50 locations has been personally tested with a swim. "Freshwater Swimming Holes in Victoria, Australia" provides detailed directions, along with stunning photographs and videos, showcasing the best waterholes, lakes, rivers, and waterfalls for swimming throughout the state. This extensive collection is the product of over 15 years of dedicated research.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/swimming-holes/>

Handy Atlas Australia Road & 4WD - \$29.95

The Hema Road & 4WD Handy Atlas features Hema's maps, including 4WD tracks, campsites, caravan parks, rest areas, 24-hour fuel stops, and key points of interest. This compact edition offers enhanced, easy-to-read maps of top 4WD destinations like Cape York, Fraser Island, the Top End, the Kimberley, the Pilbara, Central Australia, High Country Victoria, and the Flinders Ranges. It also includes a distance grid, national park guide, accredited information centres, and a complete index for efficient trip planning and navigation.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/handy-atlas-australia-road-4wd/>

Tanami Road – from \$14.95

The Tanami Track is a rugged route offering the fastest access from southern states to the Kimberley via Alice Springs. This Westprint Heritage Map captures the dynamic, arid landscapes of one of Australia's least populated regions, providing a striking introduction to its vast deserts. Renowned for its accuracy in desert mapping, this WestPrint Heritage Map includes historical notes, details on explorers, points of interest, and local flora and fauna. It features clear road distances, rest areas, caravan parks, and fuel stops, along with a Lat/Long grid and GPS coordinates for confident navigation in this challenging area.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/tanami-road/>

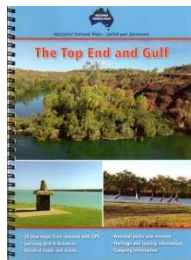
Meridian Musings

We all know that technology is a wonderful thing when it works and absolutely frustrating when it doesn't. Here at Meridian and Westprint Maps, we have been having fun and games with our emails. Even our IT guy has been scratching his head. We are hoping that the issues have been resolved but of course there is no guarantee. It has mainly impacted outgoing emails and

possibly also sending out the newsletter. The problem is that sometimes the emails have gone out and sometimes they have been bouncing back immediately. Of course, if you haven't received a newsletter, they can always be found at our website - <https://meridianmaps.com.au/newsletter/>

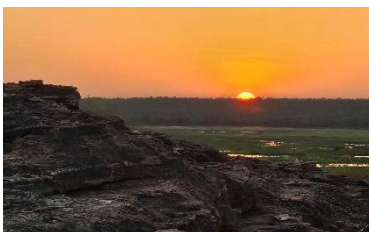


We are currently enjoying a couple of weeks in the Top End although having travelled from Melbourne, days of 37 degrees are coming as a shock to the system. We are using Westprint Top End and Gulf Atlas to help us navigate around the area - Darwin, Kakadu National Park, Katherine, Mataranka, Litchfield National Park and Berry Springs to name a few.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/top-end-and-gulf/>

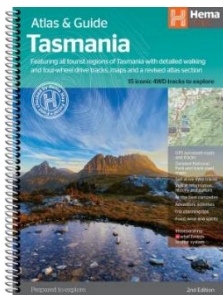
What an amazing part of the world this is to visit – the views, water holes, people, experiences, art, birds and of course the crocodiles.



What's New to the Website

Tasmania Atlas & Guide - \$49.95

The definitive guide to Tasmania, featuring the Top 15 4WD Trips and 5 top walking tracks. This guide offers 40 large-scale atlas pages at 1:150,000 and includes field-checked details of the Top 15 4WD trips, an introduction to the region, and planning tips. The guide provides in-depth information on Tasmania's distinct regions, with each 4WD trip detailed by locality, including gradings, distances, travel tips, and complete route coverage.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/tasmania-atlas/>

What's On

23 September – 3 October: School holiday activities run by Parks and Wildlife Service in Western Australia. Getting children and adults out and about exploring nature.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=912289644267520&set=a.549152340581254>

17 – 28 September: Mundaberra Blueberry Festival in Mundaberra Queensland. Swap your city shoes for some dancing boots, breath in fresh country air, and dive mouth-first into some farm fresh goodness.

<https://www.mundubberablueberryfestival.com.au/>

27 – 29 September: Desert Festival 2024 in Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. A vibrant weekend celebrating place, community, and creativity.

<https://www.discovercentralaustralia.com/events/desert-festival>

5 – 6 October: Gears and Beers Festival in Wagga Wagga NSW. Craft beer and picturesque cycling routes. Festival atmosphere, outstanding locally roasted coffee, accompanied by local regional food.

<https://gearsandbeers.org.au/>

11 – 13 October: Camp Draft, Motorbike Gymkhana & Rodeo in Noccundra Queensland. Saddle up for a weekend of buckjumping, bull riding, barrel racing and bikes on the red dirt. Dust off your boots & hat and head to this action packed 3-day event.

<https://www.explorebulloo.com.au/events/event/40/camp-draft-motorbike-gymkhana-rodeo-noccundra>

20 October: Rutherglen Annual Agricultural Show in Rutherglen Victoria. An event open to the community which features the traditional aspects of a Rural show - full horse program, cattle handling/parading, sheep and fleece exhibits, farm produce, poultry exhibits, pavilion competitions including all home crafts, photography, arts/crafts, and horticulture.

<https://www.victoriashighcountry.com.au/listing/rutherglen-annual-agricultural-show-rutherglen/>

Seasonal Updates

Please be aware that road and Park closures are constantly changing and it is always best to check for changes before you set out.

For more regular updates on closures, please check our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MeridianWestprintMaps> as we try to include warnings and advice as we become aware of them.

The latest Desert Parks Bulletin has been uploaded to our website. For this and other Desert Pass updates, please go to

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/deserts-pass-update/>

K’Gari (Fraser Island) - The Seasonal Shorebird Closure Area at Moon Point is in place each year from 1 September to 31 October. Unauthorised entry is prohibited.

K’Gari (Fraser Island) – Be aware that dingo whelping season is 1 September - 30 November. Be dingo safe and limit human/dingo interaction.

Frenchmans Cap Track in Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park is closed as a result of recent extreme weather.

Due to raised water levels at Lake St Clair in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, the following tracks are currently closed for public safety: Frankland Beach Walk, Viewing Deck to Fergy’s Paddock and Jetty to Boat Ramp. Additionally, there is no access to the starting point of Mount King William track due to fallen trees on Harbacks Road. For updates in conditions, please check <https://parks.tas.gov.au/explore-our-parks/know-before-you-go/alerts>.

Anne Beadell Highway will be closed by the Department of Defence from 21st November 2024 to 18th December 2024.

Black Hill Conservation Park in South Australia - The northern section of the Black Hill Summit Hike loop will be closed for essential electricity and track infrastructure works being undertaken from 6am Monday 16 Sept until 6am Wednesday 24 September.

Disclaimer: These events were correct at the time they were added to the Meridian Line; however, this may have been some time before the actual event. Please make your own enquiries before travelling to an event.

Reader's Stories

Do you have a story?

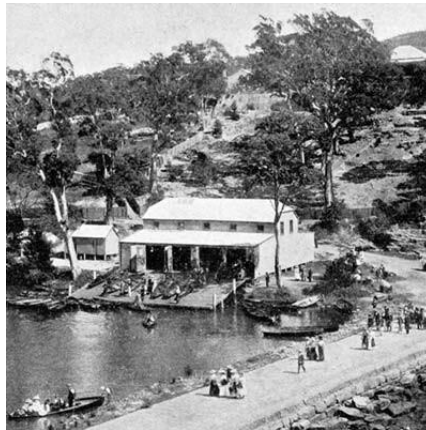
Australia's National Parks

The concept of national parks in Australia dates back to the late 19th century and were inspired by global movements toward nature preservation. They were originally formed to address public health concerns about overcrowded and unsanitary conditions in large cities. Today, however, National Parks focus more on ecological conservation. They preserve the country's diverse ecosystems, ranging from arid deserts to lush rainforests, rugged coastlines, and alpine regions. Australia's national parks are not only a haven for native wildlife but also offer visitors a chance to experience breathtaking natural beauty, adventure, and tranquillity. The idea was to protect areas of natural beauty and biodiversity from exploitation and development while making them accessible for public enjoyment and education.

The world's first National Park was Yellowstone National Park in the USA which was listed as a national park in 1872.



Australia's first national park, the (Royal) National Park was created just south of Sydney in 1879. It was the second National Park in the world.



By 1916 every other Australian State had designated at least one National Park:

South Australia – Belair National Park in 1891

Victoria – Wilson's Promontory National Park in 1898

Western Australia – John Forrest National Park in 1898

Queensland – Witches Falls National Park in 1908

Tasmania – Mount Field National and Freycinet National Parks in 1916

In 1950, the Northern Territory declared Ayers Rock (which we now call Uluru) a National Park. In 1958, both Ayers Rock and Mount Olga (now Kata Tjuta) were excised from an Aboriginal reserve to form the Ayers Rock–Mt Olga National Park. The Park's name was changed to Uluru and Kata Tjuta (Ayers Rock–Mt Olga) National Park in 1977.

In 1984, the Australian Capital Territory declared Namadgi National Park as their first National Park.

In 2021, Australia Geographic stated that there are 726 national parks in Australia. These cover over 300,000 square kilometres of land, more than 4 per cent of the total area of the country.

In recent decades, there has been a growing recognition of the cultural significance of national parks to Indigenous Australians. Many of these Parks are on traditional lands that hold deep spiritual, cultural, and historical importance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Parks like Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park which were officially renamed, reflect this shift. The Park was handed back to its traditional owners, the Anangu people, in 1985 and is now jointly managed by them and Parks Australia, allowing for the

integration of Indigenous knowledge and stewardship practices. Similarly, Kakadu National Park was established in the 1970s but it wasn't until 2022 that the majority of the park was returned to Aboriginal hands after the deeds of title were handed over to the Kakadu Aboriginal Land Trust, which is held on behalf of the traditional owners. As part of the handback arrangements, the land has been leased back to the Director of National Parks, which provides ongoing rental income to traditional owners.

From emerald rainforests to tropical coral reefs and rocky crimson deserts, Australia has a seriously jaw-dropping collection of national parks that all offer up something different.

If a survey was to be conducted to establish the most popular National Park there would be a myriad of answers and probably no consensus.

Kakadu National Park

Kakadu National Park, located in the top end of the Northern Territory, is a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its rich cultural heritage and diverse ecosystems. Covering nearly 20,000 square kilometres, the park is home to an incredible array of wildlife, including over 280 bird species, crocodiles, and numerous plant species. It features a stunning landscape of wetlands, rivers, sandstone escarpments, and waterfalls, with highlights such as the Jim Jim Falls and the ancient rock art at Ubirr and Nourlangie, which provide a window into the region's 65,000 years of Aboriginal history. Managed jointly by the Australian government and the traditional Aboriginal owners, Kakadu is not only a natural wonder but also a sacred site, deeply connected to the culture and traditions of the Indigenous Bininj/Mungguy people and 19 other clans.



Munga-Thirri—Simpson Desert National Park

Munga-Thirri—Simpson Desert National Park, located in the far north of South Australia, is the largest National Park in Australia. This vast, arid landscape, covering over 36,000 square kilometres, is characterized by its striking red sand dunes, some of which stretch for hundreds of kilometres. The Park is known for its extreme temperatures, with scorching hot days and chilly nights, and is home to a variety of unique flora and fauna adapted to the harsh desert environment, including spinifex grasses, desert wildflowers, 180 species of birds, dingoes, and reptiles. The area is of cultural significance to the Wangkangurru and Yarluyandi people, who have a deep connection to this land, reflected in the ancient Dreamtime stories and sacred sites scattered throughout the desert.



Freycinet National Park

Freycinet National Park occupies most of the Freycinet Peninsula on Tasmania's east coast. It is one of Australia's most picturesque natural reserves, known for its dramatic coastal landscapes and distinctive pink granite peaks, such as the Hazards Mountains. The park is home to the renowned Wineglass Bay, with its pristine white sand and clear turquoise waters. Rich in biodiversity, Freycinet offers a habitat for diverse wildlife, including wallabies, white-bellied sea eagles, and the rare Tasmanian devil. The Park also features a variety of unique plant life, including coastal heathland and eucalyptus forests.



Daintree National Park

Daintree National Park, located in Far North Queensland, is one of the world's most ancient and biologically diverse rainforests. It covers 1200 square kilometres and gained its National Park status in the early 1980s. This UNESCO World Heritage-listed park encompasses two main areas: the Mossman Gorge, known for its crystal-clear waters and lush greenery, and Cape Tribulation, where the rainforest meets the Great Barrier Reef. The Daintree is home to an array of wildlife, including the endangered southern cassowary, tree kangaroos, and a variety of plants, some of which are found nowhere else on Earth. The Park holds deep cultural significance for the Kuku Yalanji people, the Traditional Owners who have lived in and cared for this land for thousands of years, with numerous sacred sites and rich Indigenous knowledge of the area's flora and fauna.



Purnululu National Park

Purnululu National Park, located in the remote Kimberley region of Western Australia, is famous for the unique and striking Bungle Bungle Range, a series of beehive-shaped sandstone formations with distinctive orange and black banding. This UNESCO World Heritage-listed park spans over 2390 square kilometres and offers a landscape of rugged beauty, with deep gorges, hidden pools, and fan palms dotting the terrain. Purnululu has a rich cultural history, with the Aboriginal people, particularly the Kija and Jaru, having a deep spiritual connection to the land for thousands of years. The park contains numerous sacred sites and rock art that reflect the area's cultural and spiritual significance.



The Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park

The Grampians, also known as Gariwerd, is a National Park in Western Victoria, extending out to the state border with South Australia. It covers almost 1700 square kilometres at the western end of the Great Dividing Range. It includes Serra Range, Victoria Range, Mt Difficult Range and Mt William Range with their towering sandstone mountain peaks. The Park is known for its striking sandstone mountain ranges, dramatic cliffs, and cascading waterfalls. Famous for its diverse landscapes, the park offers a network of world-class hiking trails that lead to scenic lookouts like the Pinnacle and Boroka Lookout, which offer panoramic views of the rugged terrain. The Grampians is also rich in wildlife, where kangaroos, emus, and a wide array of native birds roam freely, and its spring wildflower season is celebrated for the vibrant blooms of native orchids and other rare species. The Park is rich in cultural heritage, with the largest number of significant and ancient rock art paintings and shelters in southern Australia, providing a glimpse into the traditions of the Jardwadjali and Djab Wurrung peoples.



Namadgi National Park

Namadgi National Park, located in the Australian Capital Territory, is a vast and diverse natural reserve that offers a striking blend of rugged mountain terrain, serene forests, and rich cultural history. Covering over 2,400 square kilometres, the Park features a variety of landscapes, including the dramatic peaks of the Brindabella Ranges and tranquil bushland. It is home to a wide range of wildlife, including kangaroos, wombats, and numerous bird species, and boasts a wealth of native plant life. The park is also significant for its Indigenous heritage, with ancient rock art and sacred sites that reflect the deep connection of the Ngannawal and other local indigenous groups to the land.



Blue Mountains National Park

The Blue Mountains, located just west of Sydney in New South Wales, is a breathtaking region renowned for its dramatic scenery, expansive eucalyptus forests, and stunning rock formations. This UNESCO World Heritage-listed area features iconic landmarks such as the Three Sisters rock formation and the vast Jamison Valley. The name Blue Mountains derives from the blue haze that envelops the region, caused by the high concentration of eucalyptus oil in the air. The park is home to diverse flora and fauna, including unique wildlife such as the lyrebird and various kangaroo species. Rich in cultural history, the area is also significant to the Gundungurra and Darug Aboriginal peoples, who have a deep connection to the land, reflected in ancient rock art and cultural sites. Among its most famous features are the Three Sisters, a trio of striking sandstone peaks that rise majestically from the Jamison Valley.



Which is your favourite National Park – would love to hear of your adventures.

Articles for this newsletter can be emailed to rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au
We cannot guarantee any item will have a particular publishing date but we do our best to keep topics and events current.

Meridian Mirth

To share your jokes, please send them to rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au.

One day, Einstein has to speak at an important science conference.

On the way there, he tells his driver that looks a bit like him:

"I'm sick of all these conferences. I always say the same things over and over!"

The driver agrees: "You're right. As your driver, I attended all of them, and even though I don't know anything about science, I could give the conference in your place."

"That's a great idea!" says Einstein. "Let's switch places then!"

So, they switch clothes and as soon as they arrive, the driver dressed as Einstein goes on stage and starts giving the usual speech, while the real Einstein, dressed as the car driver, attends it.

But in the crowd, there is one scientist who wants to impress everyone and thinks of a very difficult question to ask Einstein, hoping he won't be able to respond. So, this guy stands up and interrupts the conference by posing his very difficult question. The whole room goes silent, holding their breath, waiting for the response.

The driver looks at him, dead in the eye, and says :

"Sir, your question is so easy to answer that I'm going to let my driver reply to it for me."

Two rednecks are out hunting, and as they're walking along they come upon a huge hole in the ground. They approach it and are amazed by the size of it

The first hunter says, "Wow, that's some hole. I can't even see the bottom. I wonder how deep it is?"

The second hunter says, "I don't know, let's throw something down and listen and see how long it takes to hit bottom."

The first hunter says, "There's an old gearbox over there, give me a hand and we'll throw it in and see".

So, they pick it up and carry it over, and count one, and two and three, and throw it in the hole.

They are standing there listening and looking over the edge and they hear a rustling in the brush behind them. As they turn around they see a goat come crashing through the brush, run up to the hole with no hesitation, and jump in headfirst.

While they are standing there looking at each other, then gazing into the hole, and trying to figure out what that was all about, an old farmer walks up.

"Say there", says the farmer, "You fellers didn't happen to see my goat around here anywhere, did you?"

The first hunter says, "Funny you should ask, but we were just standing here a minute ago and a goat came running out of the bushes doin' about a hunert miles an hour and jumped headfirst into this hole here!"

And the old farmer said... "Why that's impossible, I had him chained to an old gearbox!"

Two storks are sitting in their nest: a father stork and baby stork. The baby stork is crying and crying and father stork is trying to calm him. "Don't worry, son. Your mother will come back. She's only bringing people babies and making them happy."

The next night, it's father's turn to do the job. Mother and son are sitting in the nest, the baby stork is crying, and mother is saying "Son, your father will be back as soon as possible, but now he's bringing joy to new mummies and daddies."

A few days later, the stork's parents are desperate: their son is absent from the nest all night! Shortly before dawn, he returns and the parents ask him where he's been all night.

The baby stork says, "Nowhere. Just scaring the college students!"

Jack strode into 'John's Stable' looking to buy a horse. "Listen here" said John, "I've got just the horse you're looking for, the only thing is, he was trained by an interesting fellow. He doesn't go and stop the usual way. The way to get him to stop is to scream heyhey the way to get him to go is to scream Thank God. Jim nodded his head, "fine with me, can I take him for a test run?" Jim was having the time of his life this horse sure could run he thought to himself. Jim was speeding down the dirt road when he suddenly saw a cliff up ahead "stop!" screamed Jim, but the horse kept on going. No

matter how much he tried he could not remember the words to get it to stop. “yoyo” screamed Jim but the horse just kept on speeding ahead. It was 5 feet from the cliff when Jim suddenly remembered “heyhey!” Jim screamed. The horse skidded to a halt just 1 inch from the cliff. Jim could not believe his good fortune, he looked up to the sky, raised his hands in the air, breathed a deep sigh of relief and said with conviction “Thank God.”

And finally,

- ❖ When one door closes, and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
- ❖ Age 60 might be the new 40, but 8:00pm is the new midnight.
- ❖ The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
- ❖ When I say, “The other day,” I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
- ❖ I had my patience tested. I’m negative.
- ❖ Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn’t fit any of your containers.
- ❖ When you ask me what I’m doing today, and I say “nothing,” it does not mean I am free to help you, it just means I am doing nothing.
- ❖ I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don’t know whose side I’m on.
- ❖ I don’t mean to interrupt people; I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
- ❖ When I ask for directions, please don’t use words like “East.”
- ❖ Don’t bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head, and that’ll freak you out.
- ❖ My luck is like a bald guy that just won a comb.

The Fine Print

At The Meridian Line

Wherever possible we try to acknowledge the source of all information contained in this newsletter. We offer no guarantees for accuracy, but we do our best.

Get the Word Out

Feel free to forward this newsletter to any family or friends who you feel might enjoy a good read. If they would like to receive this newsletter on a regular basis they can register at: <https://meridianmaps.com.au/newsletter/>

Using information from this newsletter

You are welcome to use information from this newsletter, but we request that you kindly acknowledge that the information is from The Meridian Line.

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