



## TOP 10 SIGHTS & EXPERIENCES IN MOUNT GAMBIER

### 1. **Mount Gambier Visitor Information Centre and The Lady Nelson Visitor and Discovery Centre**

Provides a warm welcome, with qualified staff ready to assist you with getting the best out of your visit to Mount Gambier, long or short. The Lady Nelson Discovery Centre interprets the pre European history of the Limestone Coast, walk through the wetlands, caves, see ghosts and learn about the voyage of discovery undertaken by Lieutenant James Grant.

### 2. **The Blue Lake and Aquifer Tours**

The Blue Lake is situated in one of three extinct volcanic craters and exposes the crystal clear water that has filtered underground through the limestone, passing slowly beneath the city. Beautiful all year round, in November the lake starts to change colour from winter steel blue to brilliant turquoise blue and then in March changes back to steel blue. The fascinating Aquifer Tour takes you down the original dolomite well shaft in a glass-panelled lift. Learn about the hydrology of Mount Gambier's water supply and the aquifer system and hear the interesting stories of local history, European settlement, folklore and Aboriginal legend. Fee applies. Café on site.

### 3. **Valley Lake Precinct**

Drive down into the Valley Lake area and enjoy the free Wildlife Conservation Park, Centenary Tower, nature walks, free BBQs and adventure playground. It is an ideal place for families to enjoy many hours of fun and discovery.

### 4. **Umpherston Sinkhole**

The lush beauty of the Umpherston Sinkhole, also known as the sunken garden, has to be seen to be believed. Appreciate its size and depth from the viewing platforms at the top of the sinkhole. The resident colony of possums makes an appearance at dusk and enjoys being fed fresh fruit. There is an on-site kiosk with a large undercover shelter including group seating and free BBQs provided.

### 5. **Engelbrecht Cave**

Deep underneath Mount Gambier is this unique cave with its interesting local history. Take a guided tour to learn about the underground water system and how and why qualified cave divers swim through the water filled passages under the streets and roads of Mount Gambier. Fee applies. Café on site.

### 6. **The Main Corner and Riddoch Art Gallery**

The historic dolomite building connects us to Mount Gambier's history, with interactive displays, diorama and touch screens that appeal to adults and children alike. Chocolate can be purchased from the iconic South Australian chocolatier Haigh's Chocolates mini outlet. The Riddoch Art Gallery, South Australia's premier regional gallery features a collection of artworks that depicts the people and history of the Limestone Coast, a significant collection of Aboriginal art from Utopia and a large collection of 20th Century Australian art. The gallery also showcases local artists, community groups and both state and national touring exhibitions.

### 7. **Volcano**

The Volcano movie is the story of Earth, Fire and Water. Starting, with the Aboriginal Dreamtime story of the Craitbul and his giant ovens, this big screen cinematic experience wows the senses as it weaves its way through an incredible story. This exciting adventure takes you through the spectacular history of eruptions that shaped Mount Gambier and the Kanawinka region.

### 8. **Sound and Light Exhibits**

Every evening, historic local photos and pictures are projected onto the back of the buildings within the Cave Garden, followed by stories of our local dreamtime legends. The windows of the Main Corner also feature dramatic vision of volcanic eruptions and cave divers.

### 9. **Cave Garden**

The Cave Gardens features a beautiful sinkhole, with several lookouts and a suspended viewing platform. The rose gardens are a stunning feature of the famous Cave Garden which is a State Heritage area.

### 10. **Mount Gambier Library**

The Library is a dynamic space for people of all ages to connect, play, learn, socialise or sit, read and enjoy. Named as the best small public library in the world it offers free Wi-Fi, access to computers, children's play area featuring a fantasy world of caves and underwater adventures for children to explore. Café on site.

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## TOUR TO THE EAST CAVES, SINKHOLES, RIVERS, COAST

### 1. **Penambol Conservation Park**

Caroline Sinkhole is located a short walk from the car park and the viewing platform provides a birds eye view of the area which was once used by Aboriginal people. Enjoy the two walks, Wombat Walk or the Butterfly Walk.

### 2. **Hell's Hole**

Where a viewing platform provides awesome views of the water filled sinkhole and where divers enter to explore its crystal clear water. Entry into forest areas is prohibited on days of total fire ban.

### 3. **Princess Margaret Rose Cave**

Come and wonder at Mother Nature's gifts, see stalactites, stalagmites, helictites, rimstone pools, cave coral and many other amazing formations in an 'underground wonderland'. Fee applies

### 4. **Donovans**

A small township on the South Australian section of the Glenelg River. Fishing, boating, picnic and BBQ facilities.

### 5. **Lower Glenelg National Park**

The Glenelg River is renowned for up-river snags, living bushland, limestone gorges and sweeping estuary. Heathlands and forests offer great walks. Camping sites are available for bushwalkers, canoeists and vehicle-based campers.

### 6. **Piccaninnie Ponds**

A world renowned diving sinkhole for the trained and experienced diver, with crystal clear water to 85 metres and enjoy the walk to the beach. A permit must be obtained to dive or snorkel.

### 7. **Cape Bridgewater**

Enjoy the safe swimming beach. Walk to the seal colony or join a Seals by Sea Tour to see the seals close up in the Southern Ocean near the spectacular volcanic cliff line and lava tubes. Bookings essential.

### 8. **Portland/Portland Visitor Information and Maritime Discovery Centre**

Victoria's first settlement, Portland has much to offer including whale watching, cable train, beaches, fishing and history. Tour the Maritime Museum or obtain details of local attractions and history of the area.

### 9. **Jackass Fern Gully**

Walk through ferns and scrubland near the Fitzroy River or visit The Inkpot, a nearby swamp.

### 10. **Dartmoor**

Visit the carved statues in the "Avenue of Honour".





**TOUR TO THE EAST  
CAVES, SINKHOLES,  
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## TOUR TO THE NORTH CAVES, WETLANDS, HISTORY, WINERIES

### 1. **Telford's Scrub Conservation Park**

Take a walk along the forest canopy boardwalk to experience the remaining native forest within the park. This provides a unique birds-eye view of the forest.

### 2. **Tarpeena**

Provides a lovely playground with sheltered area, free BBQ, picnic and toilet facilities.

### 3. **Nangwarry Forestry & Logging Museum**

The museum collection includes old logging machinery including the first ever log harvester in the south-east, old swing saws, and original log truck and photos and documents that give you an insight into the culture of the times. Open Sundays and public holidays, or by appointment.

### 4. **Penola/Coonawarra Visitor Centre**

Founded in 1850, Penola is steeped in history, rich in tradition and full of hidden treasures and was the home of Saint Mary of the Cross, Australia's only saint. Visit the Coonawarra Visitor Centre to learn more about her work and that of Julian Tenison Woods.

### 5. **Yallum Park**

Is a magnificent two story Victorian mansion, built in 1880. It is open for inspection by appointment.

### 6. **Penola Conservation Park**

Discover wetlands, woodlands and open heaths along the boardwalk trail. A great birdwatching opportunity.

### 7. **Mary MacKillop Centre**

Learn about the life of Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop in this centre dedicated to her life and work. The life of her friend Father Julian Tennyson Woods, and the founding of the Order of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. View the original School House.

### 8. **Coonawarra Wine Region**

On the northern outskirts of Penola, Coonawarra is famous for its full bodied red wine grown in the highly prized Terra Rossa soil over limestone. 22 cellar door sales outlets are very closely situated, almost gate after gate along the highway.

### 9. **Bool Lagoon**

A wetland of international importance. Birds can be observed from the bird hides. Water levels and wildlife vary depending on seasonal conditions.

### 10. **Naracoorte**

A large rural town with good shopping and many attractions.

### 11. **Naracoorte Caves National Park & Wonambi Fossil Centre**

This World Heritage site provides a range of facilities and experiences for all ages and interests.

Bringing to life a time when megafauna roamed the earth. Located within the Naracoorte Caves National Park which provides a full range of experiences, bats, fossils, stalactites, stalagmites, self-guided and adventure cave tours.

### 12. **Naracoorte's Sheep's Back Museum**

An exciting historical interpretation of the wool industry and information on local attractions.

### 13. **Mini Jumbuk**

For over 30 years Mini Jumbuk has designed and manufactured the worlds best wool bedding products in Australia. Overlook production from the viewing gallery or choose from the many wool products available at the factory retail outlet.

### 14. **Naracoorte Tiny Train Park**

Fun for all the family. Smaller guests can enjoy a tiny train ride around the scenic pond and over the bridge, while visitors of all ages can enjoy a round of mini golf.

**TOUR TO THE NORTH  
CAVES, WETLANDS,  
HISTORY, WINERIES**



**9, 10, 11,  
12, 13, 14**

To Naracoorte  
Bool Lagoon  
Naracoorte Caves National Park & Wonambi Fossil Centre  
Naracoorte's Sheep's Back Museum  
Mini Jumbuk  
Naracoorte Tiny Train Park

Coonawarra Wine Region **8.** **Coonawarra**

Penola Conservation Park **6.**  
Coonawarra Visitor Centre **4.** **Penola**

Yallum Park **5.**

**7.** Mary MacKillop Centre

Nangwarry Forestry & Logging Museum **3.** **Nangwarry**

**2.** Tarpeena

Telford's Scrub Conservation Park **1.**



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City of  
Mount Gambier





## TOUR TO THE SOUTH LIMESTONE, SINKHOLES, VOLCANOES, COASTLINE

### 1. **Little Blue Lake**

Due south off Bay Road to the right is one of the many water filled sinkholes which provide a “window” into the underground water system.

### 2. **Mount Schank**

A dormant volcanic crater approximately 12 kilometres south of Mount Gambier. Climb the 900 metre limestone trail to the crater rim and enjoy the wonderful views of the coast and nearby countryside. Picnic and toilet facilities are available for use.

### 3. **Adam Lindsay Gordon's Cottage**

Also known as Dingley Dell, the cottage displays some of Gordon's personal belongings and other mementos. Enjoy the natural bushland surrounds.

### 4. **Port MacDonnell**

Proclaimed “The Southern Rock Lobster Capital of Australia”, interesting to all ages with its history, beaches, walks, fishing and surfing. Walk through the remnant vegetation or observe bird life at Germein Reserve or BBQ or picnic at Clarke's Park. At the Old Lighthouse view interesting rock formations, at dusk view Little Penguins return to their nesting cove in the rugged cliffs near Cape Northumberland. A must see is the Maritime Museum, which interprets the many shipwrecks along the rugged coastline, and early life in a seaside village. You can view the community mural.

### 5. **Feast's Classic Car Collection and Memorabilia Museum**

Take a walk down memory lane, this museum has something for everyone and a terrific display of classic cars and memorabilia. Open when the signs are out.

### 6. **Port MacDonnell Historic Trail and Woolwash Interpretive Site**

Walk or drive this Historic Trail to discover historic homes, businesses and natural wonders of significance to the local area including the interpretive signs that will enlighten you about the woolwash process and history.

### 7. **Browns Bay**

A beach popular with families, day trippers, interstate visitors, surfers, wind surfers, recreational surf fishers, boaties, 4WD drivers and horse riders. Toilet facilities are available.

### 8. **Ewens Ponds**

The underground water bubbles upwards through its underwater garden. A popular place for experienced snorkelers and divers.

### 9. **Canunda National Park**

Is the southern entry point into the National Park and can only be accessed by 4WD. The Mount Gambier Visitor Information Centre can provide more information on 4WD tracks within the coastal parks.

### 10. **Pelican Point**

This rocky point is popular for discovering the coastal environment. Drive on to Blackfellows Caves, a small fishing village, the road back to Kongorong is a 10 kilometre unsealed road.

### 11. **Carpenter Rocks**

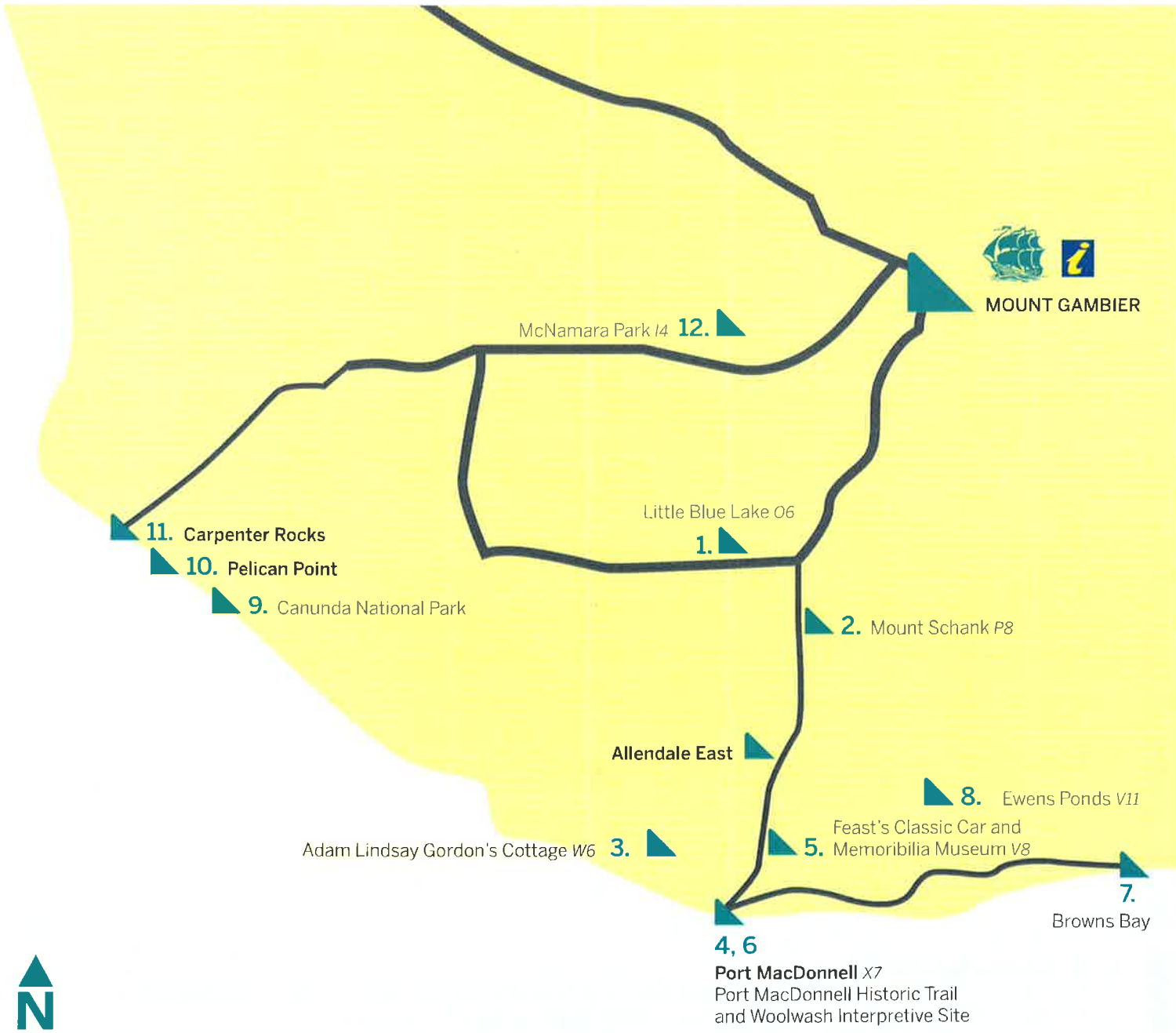
A safe swimming beach which is also a haven for the local fishing fleet. Continue a short drive west to Cape Banks Lighthouse where a memorial has been erected in memory of the 89 lives lost when the trading vessel Admella came to grief in 1859.

### 12. **McNamara Park**

Set in a natural bushland, the site for the City of Mount Gambier Master of Mac Park Motor Cycle Championships.



**TOUR TO THE SOUTH**  
LIMESTONE, SINKHOLES,  
VOLCANOES, COASTLINE



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## TOUR TO THE WEST CAVES, COASTLINE, FORESTS, PARKS



### 1. ▲ **Glencoe**

Learn the history of the wool industry at the National Trust Old Glencoe Woolshed. Keys can be collected from the General Store.

### 2. ▲ **Tantanoola Cave**

A guide introduces the cave, and then you are free to wander and take in the natural beauty of this cave. This highly decorated dolomite cave is popular for those who do not usually enjoy the underground experience as the entrance opens up into a huge single chamber. Wheelchair access is provided.

### 3. ▲ **Woakwine Range Windfarms**

Can be seen on the southern horizon. Map available from the Millicent Visitor Information Centre.

### 4. ▲ **Millicent National Trust Living History Museum / Millicent Visitor Information Centre**

Soak in the local history, features Australia's largest collection of horse drawn vehicles and extensive historic clothing collection and much more. A must see. Enter via the Visitor Information Centre and obtain details of local attractions and history of the area.

### 5. ▲ **Lake McIntyre Reserve**

View the birdlife on the walking trails, boardwalks, viewing platforms and bird hides. BBQ's and toilet facilities provided.

### 6. ▲ **Canunda National Park**

The beautiful sculptured sand is accessible by 4WD either via Carpenter Rocks, Millicent or South End, where there are several walking trails. 2WD access is provided to some areas. Camping available.

### 7. ▲ **Beachport / Beachport Visitor Information Centre**

Boasting one of the longest jetties in South Australia, Beachport is a popular fishing and holiday destination. Enjoy the history in the National Trust Museum. For details of other local attractions and history visit the Information Centre.

### 8. ▲ **Beachport Conservation Park**

Secluded beaches and spectacular rugged coastline and lakes.

### 9. ▲ **Woakwine Cutting**

Spectacular manmade excavation between 1957 and 1960 this cutting drains "The Big Swamp" into Lake George.

### 10. ▲ **Robe / Robe Library and Visitor Information Centre**

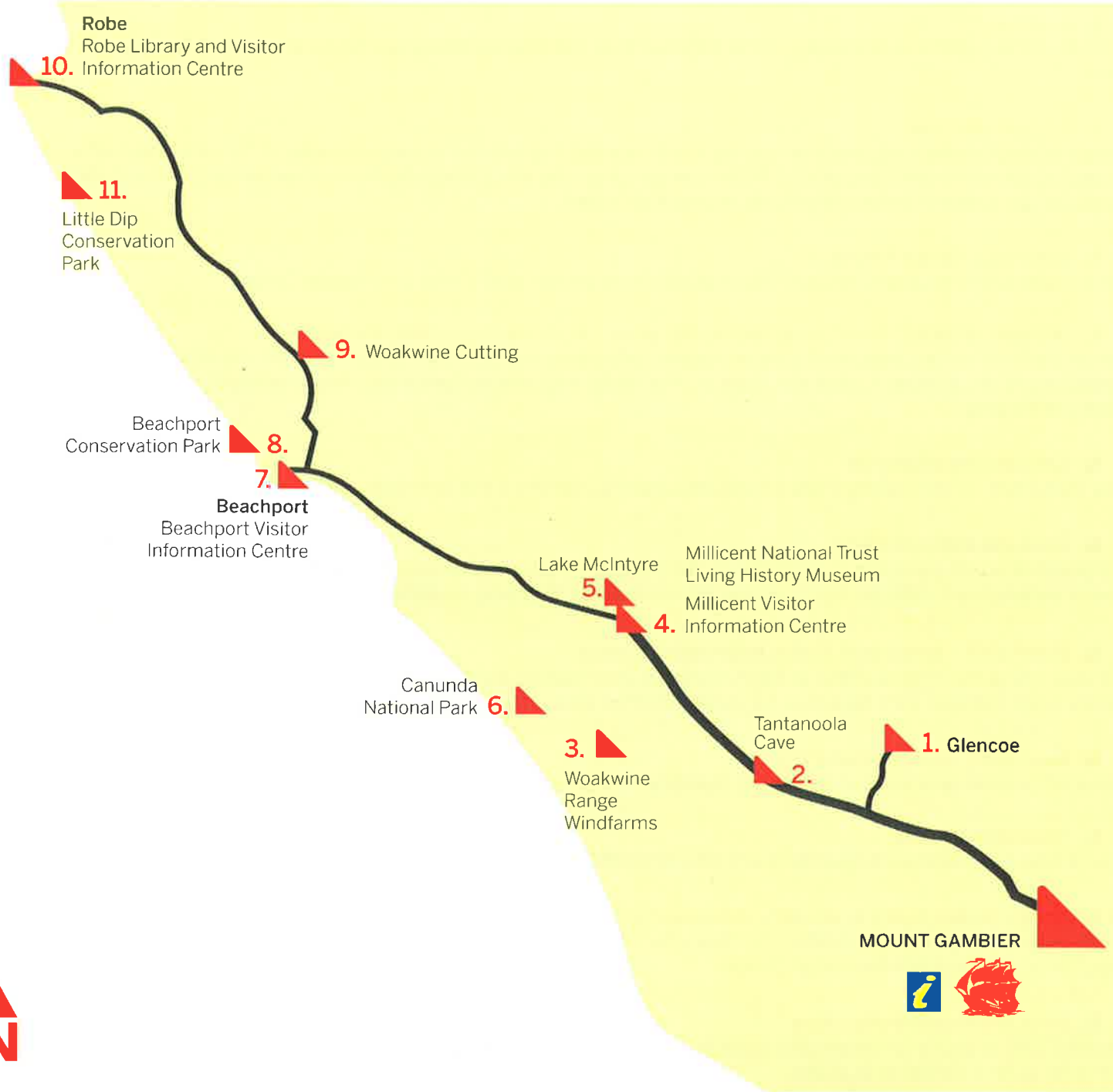
The popular holiday destination offers the character and charm of yesteryear with all the conveniences of today. Visit the Robe Library and Visitor Information Centre.

### 11. ▲ **Little Dip Conservation Park**

Provides 2WD access into some of the more popular picnic and fishing spots, although entry into the heart of the park is only 4WD access. Camping available.



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