

# TRIP INFORMATION

## NIGHT OWLS

The following Trip Information will assist you to prepare for your Naturewise experience - what to bring, where and when to meet, and what you will be doing once you start your program.

### Program Overview

Victoria is home to four large forest owls including the Powerful Owl, Barking Owl, Masked Owl and sooty Owl. Three of the four species, Powerful, Masked and Sooty Owls have been recorded in the southern foothills of the Victorian Alps, a stunning landscape of international significance.

These magnificent creatures of the night are threatened and face increasing decline without ongoing monitoring and assistance. Monitoring is essential in assessing the presence of these birds, in particular to gain an idea of population numbers and territory to establish areas to ensure the protection of suitable habitat for the future.

Give a hoot and join Parks Victoria Rangers in an unforgettable natural setting and contribute to management of a threatened species. Participants will experience one of Victoria's most significant natural and cultural regions. Owl monitoring will be conducted in the beautiful surrounds of Baw Baw National Park. You will also have the chance to experience Victoria's gold rush past with a visit to the historical town of Walhalla, and have a close encounter with some of Australia's native wildlife.

### Conservation Activities

Work alongside Parks Victoria in threatened species recovery monitoring for the four large Forest Owls including: Powerful, Barking, Masked and Sooty Owl. Approximately 4-5 hours each evening will be spent out in the field. The Forest Owl Monitoring program is managed by Parks Victoria. Activities involve owl playbacks for response, listening and recording and spotlighting.

### Travel Arrangements

Participants will be travelling in a Conservation Volunteers Australia vehicle.

<b>Departs:</b>	1:00pm	Conservation Volunteers Melbourne Office – 162 Adderley St West Melbourne
<b>Returns:</b>	2:00pm (approx)	Conservation Volunteers Melbourne Office – 162 Adderley St West Melbourne
<b>Duration:</b>	3 days / 2 nights	



## What to Bring

Standard comfortable outdoor and walking gear as detailed below.

- long sleeved shirt and trousers
- casual and comfortable clothing
- waterproof hiking boots or closed toe walking shoes
- a comfortable pair of shoes to relax in after the outdoor activities
- day pack
- personal water bottle
- warm clothing (beanie, gloves, thermals, fleece tops etc.)
- waterproof jacket and pants
- personal toiletries
- insect repellent
- wide brimmed sun hat and broad spectrum sunscreen (factor 30+)
- sunglasses
- any personal medication
- any personal items you may require

## Itinerary

- Day 1** Depart Melbourne for Traralgon for an introduction to the program. Visit Thomson Dam and conduct owl monitoring activities. LD
- Day 2** Visit Walhalla Historic Village and go for a guided walk in Baw Baw National Park. During the evening participate in owl monitoring activities. BLD
- Day 3** First hand encounters with some of Australia's wildlife, followed by a return trip to Melbourne. Expected time of arrival is 14:00. BL

Meal Code: B - breakfast L - lunch D – dinner

## Fitness Levels

Medium. Conservation activities involve monitoring activities at night therefore late nights are expected. Facilitated tours involve walking on average up to 3 kilometres through bushland on unmarked tracks.

## Vehicle Transfers from Melbourne

Return transfers are provided from Melbourne city. The vehicle used for this research program is a forward facing minivan which seats up to 10 people.

## Accommodation

Village Lifestyle and Leisure Park, Traralgon - bunk room accommodation with shared bathroom facilities, in fully equipped cabins including lounge, kitchen, dining tables and chairs, television, air cooling and heating. Linen and towels provided.

## Meals

All meals are catered for during the program. The participants will be required to assist with preparing some of the meals during the trip. If you have any dietary requirements, please advise us at least 7 days in advance. If you have very specific dietary needs you may need to provide your own food; please discuss this in advance with our reservations department. You will also have the chance to buy your own drinks, snacks etc from roadside stops.

## **Alcoholic Beverages**

Alcoholic beverages are not provided as part of the package.

## **Climate and Working Conditions**

The weather in Victoria can be unpredictable. For this reason come prepared for anything. Temperatures can range from 5 degrees Celsius overnight up to 32 degrees Celsius.

## **How much luggage can I take?**

Your vehicle has limited space so please keep your luggage to a **maximum of 15 kg** in a backpack or soft overnight bag and include a small day pack to hand carry for easy access to camera, sunscreen, water etc.

## **Liability**

Whilst we make every effort to safeguard our clients and their belongings, we cannot be held responsible for personal injury or loss due to events that are beyond our control.

## **Medications**

Conservation Volunteers will not normally supply or administer medications. We recommend that people bring with them any medications they anticipate they could require during the program. It is unlikely that facilities will be available to purchase these items during the tour.

## **Travel Insurance**

Travel insurance is NOT included; we strongly recommend that passengers have their own travel insurance against illness, injury, loss/damage to personal belongings and the event of you having to cancel.

## **Smoking and Drinking**

Australian Government regulations prohibit smoking and the drinking of alcohol inside tourist vehicles in Australia. Smoking and drinking will be limited to the resort facilities.

## **Conditions of Travel**

Conservation Volunteers Australia reserves the right to alter the route or itinerary of any programs advertised if necessary. No refunds will be given in these circumstances, or in the event of any delay, curtailment or alteration of a trip resulting from any cause including severe weather conditions or mechanical failure. Conservation Volunteers Australia cannot guarantee pick-up or drop-off times and is not liable for passenger failure to connect with other services or any associated costs incurred. We accept no responsibility for loss/damage to personal belongings or baggage. Conservation Volunteers Australia reserves the right to cancel any program in the event of minimum numbers not being reached. You will receive a full refund in this instance.

## **Contact Details**

If you have any questions about the information provided or your participation please contact the Naturewise Team at Conservation Volunteers:

Phone + 61 (03) 5330 2600

Emergency contact: 24 hour contact + 61 (03) 5330 2600

Free call in Australia 1800 032 501

Email [bookings@naturewise.com.au](mailto:bookings@naturewise.com.au)

Conservation Volunteers Australia 24 hour emergency contact (03)

