



Suitable for

Active participants wanting a challenge with big rewards.

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Active Families | ✓ |
| Seniors & Strollers | |
| Pleasure Walkers | |
| Super Striders | ✓ |
| Circuit | ✓ |
| Seating | ✓ |
| Dogs Welcome | |
| Trail Type | Natural Heritage |



Walk Overview

Bushwalk leading to a spectacular hill top view. Steep grades but worth every step.

Time

1.5–2 hrs

Distance

5 kms

Difficulty

Advanced

Accessibility

Unsuitable

Manningham City Council

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Location

Wittons Reserve, Reserve Road, Wonga Park.

Melway Reference

24 K6

Public Transport

Bus to corner of Jumping Creek Road and Homestead Road, 2 kms from Wittons Reserve.

Metlink: t 131 638

www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au

Parking

Wittons Reserve, Reserve Road, Wonga Park.

A Mighty View Mt Lofty Hill Walk



This walk is one of the best in the City of Melbourne. The track meanders through gums and tea-trees, over creeks and along the Yarra River before rising to the summit of Mt Lofty. Birdlife, riverside environment, bush tracks, exposed ridgeline and magnificent views are just some of the treats that await you—all to the gentle sound of the Yarra River.



Facilities

The park is managed by

Parks Victoria: 131 963

Hazards

Beware of snakes in summer

Steep descent may be slippery

Beware of deep water and rapids.

Be Prepared

There are no toilets

Carry water

Sun protection recommended.

Days of total fire ban

Check the fire risk warning before embarking on this walk:

www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Additional Walks

There are 20 walks in the series to choose from. If you liked this walk, you might like the ones listed below:

Wine Time Heritage Wander

Historic Wonga Park Walk

Car Race Hill Climb

Templestowe Hill Climb Walk.



Wheelchair Access

We have developed three walks specifically for wheelchairs. Look for **A Wheel Pleasure** pamphlet.

P Parking (incl. disabled parking)

A Picnic area

👤 Playground



Your walk begins at Wittons Reserve Carpark next to the relaxing sound of the Yarra River. You'll often see canoes or kayaks launching from this point.

The track to Mt Lofty begins at the north-east end of the car park.

1 The gravel path takes you across a bridge over Bushy Creek. Look for evidence of wombats—they leave almost square droppings—a strange product from such a rotund animal. There are also wombat holes near the sides of the path.

2 This is one of several Yarra River viewing spots, perfect for a quick respite. Watch for water birds here including herons, cormorants and ducks. Currawongs, kookaburras and rosellas can be heard in the trees.

3 The trail continues over a couple of bridges and through Burgan, *Kunzea ericoides*. Mt Lofty was grazed until 1995. Since then regrowth of native Burgan has been prolific. In spring the thickets are covered in white flowers and provide habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife.

The track now undulates and crosses a couple of creeks. It then opens into grasslands.

4 This is beautiful grassland where you will find wildflowers and orchids amongst tussocks of Wallaby and Kangaroo Grass. There is a seating area opposite an ancient steep escarpment cut by the river.

5 An unsealed management track will appear on your right. You can take this shortcut if you like, but it is steep and does not reduce the time by much.

6 A short path to your left leads down to the water's edge. This is yet another picturesque point to rest and relax. Picnic table and seats are located here.

The path widens to a vehicle track.

7 Now for the climb! Your path takes you up a steep ridge, but every step is worth it with stunning views waiting at the top, all the while the sounds of the river can be heard way below. Wedge-tailed Eagles have been known to circle the mount—keep an eagle eye out for them.

8 The summit. You are surrounded by views to Mt Dandenong, Lilydale and Warrandyte. The Yarra you can see bordering Mt Lofty is the start to the Warrandyte Gorge. Turn your gaze to the gentle hills to your right, these are the Yarra Valley Flood Plains—an area providing nutrient rich soil and perfect for a range of farming and market gardening.

A steep side-path descends to the river if you want a quiet place to fish, read or just sit.

Keep to the right of the fork ahead and walk towards the homestead.

9 *Veer to the right at the old homestead. The track now begins a steep descent. Take care here—the gravelly track can be slippery, especially after rain.*

10 When you find yourself back in bushland you are almost home.

Turn left at the main track to return to Wittons Reserve car park.

This finishes your walk. Time to relax and plan your next adventure.