



USAGE GUIDELINES

In 2005 a management system was introduced to manage use of the Overland Track (OLT) in response to serious environmental and walker experience issues resulting from the increasing popularity of the Track. The system involves regulating departures, having all walkers travel north to south and a fee for use. Central to it is the principle of 'sustainable use'.

The system was developed in consultation with, and had the agreement of, all stakeholders. There were exceptions to the general rules, such as walking in to Mt Ossa via Arm River Track and return. These recognised traditional use to balance local needs against those of the majority of walkers (85 per cent) from outside Tasmania.

Several years on, the benefits of this management approach are evident. The PWS track condition assessments indicate steady improvement; the PWS campsite condition surveys indicate a significant reduction in environmental damage; and exit surveys with OLT bushwalkers indicate significant improvement in the experience across all measures.

Although the system has been successful, some uncertainty prevails in the bushwalking community over which walks using only part of the OLT can be undertaken freely and in the spirit of the management system.

In response, PWS has developed the Overland Track Usage Guidelines.

We all have a part to play in looking after the Overland Track and the area it traverses to ensure that future generations of walkers can observe and experience the remarkable values of this place. All bushwalkers are asked to respect the Overland Track Management system and apply these guidelines in the spirit of the system.

These guidelines are designed to guide walker intentions during the booking season (1st October – 31st May) for use of the Overland Track. They help ensure the quality of the Overland Track (OLT) experience is maintained for all users. All walkers are asked to respect and apply these guidelines.

The OLT should be walked in a north-south direction from Cradle Mountain to Lake St Clair. Exceptions to this are the sections of the track from Waterfall Valley to Cradle, Cynthia Bay to the Pine Valley turn-off, Pelion to Pelion Gap and Pelion to West Pelion.

Bushwalkers intending to use part of the OLT, and who do not pay the Overland Track Fee, should, in most cases, not walk more than one overnight segment. The exceptions are entry onto the Overland Track from the Never Never, Traveller Range and Ducane Range. If entry is made via these routes, walkers should if practicable complete their walk on the OLT in a north-south direction.

For the most part, applying these guidelines will ensure your walk is consistent with the spirit of the system in place for management of the OLT. The following overnight walks are examples of walks that are consistent with these guidelines:

- i Cradle ➤ Rodway (O/N) ➤ Cradle (day walk to Barn Bluff / Waterfall Valley)
- ii Arm River ➤ Pelion (O/N) ➤ Arm River (day walks to Ossa, Pelion East, Pelion West, Oakleigh)
- iii Lake St Clair ➤ Pine Valley (O/N) ➤ Lake St Clair (Lake Marion, Labyrinth, Acropolis)
- iv Cradle ➤ Lake McCrae or Mt Inglis ➤ Cradle
- v Mersey Valley ➤ Junction Lake ➤ Never Never Lees Paddocks
- vi Lake St Clair/Narcissus ➤ Byron, Cuvier, Traveller Range, Ducane Range, Olympus

Walkers intending to do walks iv, v, vi or other walks are asked to notify, as a courtesy, the Overland Track Administrator or the Visitor Centre at Lake St Clair.

Please advise a contact name and phone number, number in party, route, departure and return date.

Overland Track Administrator
email: overlandtrackadministrator@parks.tas.gov.au
phone: 6165 4254

Lake St Clair Visitor Centre
phone: 6289 1172

Further information on these guidelines and advice is available by contacting the Ranger in Charge for the Overland Track on 6492 1133.