



Trip Review: Bimbi Park, Cape Otway, *by Richard*

Bimbi Park is a wonderfully secluded camping and caravan park, set among shady manna gums just a few kilometres from Cape Otway. It provides the perfect base for daywalks during the hot summer months.



Station Beach, courtesy John Siseman/John Chapman

If going for a weekend and you drive down Saturday morning, a perfect afternoon circuit walk is from Bimbi Park, to Rainbow Falls and return via the Cape Otway lighthouse. Follow your nose along the maze of tracks out of Bimbi Park, and turn right onto the Great Ocean Walk track. Not too far along here you follow a side track down to the beach. Turn left along the wild Station Beach, which is not safe for swimming. Just around a rocky headland, which should not be crossed if the seas are high or at

high tide, are Rainbow Falls. These tumble over the cliff to the rocky base. Limestone deposits similar to those found in caves give the falls their rainbow appearance. This is a great spot for a break, and a chance to fill your water bottles from the falls.

Now retrace your steps around the headland, back to the Great Ocean Walk track. Turn right to retrace your steps again, but follow the track all the way to the lighthouse. There are lighthouse tours, but more importantly the kiosk sells icecreams! From here a track returns directly to Bimbi Park.

Sunday's walk is one of contrasts: from magnificent huge eucalypts, through fern gullies to scenic coastline. Leave cars under the shady trees at Parker Hill, near the corner of Blanket Bay Road and Red Hill Track. For an optional shorter walk, do a car shuffle to Blanket Bay.

Walk along Blanket Bay Road for 2 km, then follow closed 4WD tracks in a circuit; Parker Spur Road-Johnson Track-Blanket Bay Track. Now you meet the walking track that descends to Blanket Bay. These closed 4WD tracks are perfect for easy mountain biking.

Blanket Bay is safe for swimming, and has toilets and water facilities. Now follow the new section of walking track, not marked on any maps, to Parker River. From here you can either walk along the beach or the coastal walking track, to meet Red Hill Track, from where it is a short distance back to the cars at Parkers Hill.

Books for notes and maps on this and other walks include:

Day Walks Victoria by J & M Chapman & Siseman
Walking The Otways by The Geelong Bushwalking Club.

Bimbi Park has powered and un-powered sites, on-site vans, cabins, and backpacker rooms.

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www.bimbiPark.com.au