



prehistoric path

## fly facts

- The Otway Fly is a 600 metre long walkway, 25 metres above the forest floor, made from over 120 tonnes of steel.
- There are only three other steel canopy walks in the world and both are in Australia: Illawarra Fly in New South Wales, Valley of the Giants in Western Australia and the Huon Valley in Tasmania.
- The Otway Fly was opened on September 8, 2003.
- The structure was prefabricated in Launceston, Tasmania. It was transported in 8 metre spans, where it was erected on site by cranes.
- The project took 10 months to complete.
- Don't get a shock... the walk is meant to rock.
- The structure was built to carry 400 kilograms per square metre and to withstand winds up to 260 kilometres.
- The 24 metre cantilever section can hold 28 tonnes, equivalent to the weight of 14 elephants.
- The Otway Ranges experience the highest average rainfall in Victoria at over 2000 millimetres (2 metres) per year. The highest annual rainfall of 2774 millimetres was recorded in 1971.
- The Otway Fly is located in cool temperate rainforest 500 metres above sea level.

## environmental impact

- 60% of the walk was built on preexisting logging tracks.
- All efforts have been taken to minimise the impact of the tree-top walk on the fragile rainforest. Please help us to preserve this unique environment.
- Respect our nonsmoking policy once past the Visitor Centre.
- Do not drop rubbish or other items on the ground.
- Please refrain from running and making excessive noise.
- Please remain on the walking tracks at all times.
- Enjoy your journey along the Otway Fly and remember: the forest is not always what it seems. Look for clues along the way and maybe, the forest might reveal a few of its secrets...

For further enquires or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact one of the walk staff.



OTWAY

# Fly

Treetop Adventures

walk map

The Otway Fly is a unique attraction which enables visitors to experience a 1500 metre walk through beautiful cool temperate rainforest



spiral tower



zip line eco tour





OTWAY  
**Fly**  
Treetop Adventures

Spiral Tower

Abseil Deck

# Zip Line

2.5 hours of adrenaline fuelled fun high up in the rainforest. See our Ticket Counter staff for tour availability today!

## 1 Visitor Centre/ Restaurant

Timber! Constructed from local timbers with solid Messmate supports. The forest around the restaurant is predominantly wet Sclerophyll Eucalyptus.

## 2 Old Tree Stump

Reaching for the sky. The thick undergrowth to the left of the track has recently regenerated. The forest to the right is about 60 years old. The never-ending cycle of life sees new trees grow on nutrients from decaying old trees.

## 3 Boomerang Tree

The dominant tree species here are the Mountain Ash (world's tallest flowering plant), the Otways Messmate and Blackwoods which have been used for the seats along the track. Ferns rule; dark green Hard Water Ferns and the soft Tree Ferns dominate the under storey.

## 4 Prehistoric Path

Journey back in time 280 to 65 million years, the age of the dinosaurs when rainforest covered most of our continent. Wander through this ancient fern gully but keep your eyes open.

## 5 Big tree

Big Tree. How old? You can find the age of the tree by measuring the width of the tree at chest height and convert centimetres to years. Hint: its about 180 centimetres wide.

## 6 Walkway entrance and Buggy Shelter

Prepare for take-off. The Fly is designed to have little impact on the fragile rainforest. See the trees growing through. Buggy pick up every 30mins.

Zipline Finish

Buggy pick up

Treefern Track



Prehistoric Path

Zipline Start

Fire Hydrants

Toilets at visitor centre

Visitor centre

## 7 Tower 1

Enter the Cool temperate rainforest 9 metres up. Positively prehistoric... The Myrtle Beech species is 60 million years old, the Soft Tree Fern species 150 million years old and the mosses and lichen even older.

## 8 Tower 2

Bird watch at 15 metres up. Birds are active at different levels of the canopy. Look high (Golden Whistler), low (White Browed Scrubwren) and in between (Grey Fantail).

## 9 Tower 3

On the move. See trees sway. Enormous forces in the canopy are transferred down the trunk to the root mass.

## 10 Tower 4

Forest Skyscrapers. Tallest of all eucalypts the Mountain Ash grows 1 metre per year for the first 50 years of its life and reaches well over 100 metres tall.

## 11 Tower 5

Spiral Tower. Home among the gums. Going up! Climb to the top of the spiral tower 47 metres above the forest floor and come face to face with the forest canopy.

## 12 Cantilever

A gentle sway, 33 metres up. Balancing beam - the 24 metre long cantilever is designed to hold 28 tonnes or 14 elephants. Youngs Creek flows below, fuelling the cascading Triplet Falls.

## 13 Tower 6

Shadowland, 25 metres up. Compare the filtered light of the closed canopy ahead to that of the open canopy behind. The rainforest gully ahead has less than 5% eucalyptus and the Myrtle Beech and Blackwood become the dominant canopy species.

## 14 Tower 7

Forest Recycling - Trees that die in the forest over time become majestic pillars for lichens and mosses to grow on. The cycle of nutrients is constant between the canopy and the forest floor. Trees cycle from seedlings to decay eventually feeding the forest soils where they began.

## 15 Tower 8

Mystic moods 22 metres up. Weather-beaten. The bark of large Mountain Ash changes with the weather - green and gold in the wet; grey, pink, green or yellow in the heat. Cascade! See the waterfall tree to your right, when it's raining.

## 16 Tower 9

Hidden friends, 20 metres up. Tree trunks hide behind curtains of epiphytic ferns, mosses and lichens. Epiphytes grow on other plants but don't feed on them.

## 17 Tower 10

Canopy capers, 17 metres up. Out of the shadows, into the life-giving sunlight where the dominant tree species compete for their place in the canopy. Even the dead trees are an important habitat providing hollows for owls, possums and birds.

## 18 Tower 11

Descending order, 15 metres up. Look below and see the umbrella-like growth of the Soft Tree Ferns collecting leaves and other forest litter as nourishment. Possums will even nest in the crowns.

## 19 Ancient Otways

Fern gully. Youngs Creek is a spring fed perennial stream an example of nature's efficient water treatment plant. It has been estimated that for humans to perform all the eco-system services such as air and water purification would cost twice the GDP of the entire planet.

## 20 Abseil Deck