The Complete Forrest Experience:

Don’t leave town without crossing these off your list, or before planning your return trip!

- Explore the wonder of an Otways waterfall
- Experience our world class mountain bike trails
- Try a locally brewed craft beer
- Sample the best of paddock to plate
- Discover Forrest’s fascinating history
- Come face-to-face with native wildlife
- Take home some Otways produce

Wines and Camping

Mountain Biking

Forrest’s mountain bike trails are among the best in Australia, hosting a number of premier mountain bike events throughout the year. The mountain bike trails in Forrest are not just a must-do activity, they are worth a trip in their own right. With over 60km of signed mountain bike trails, there are two main trailheads – Yaugher to the north and one on the main road at the south end of the town.

Graded mountain bike trails and micro fibre maps are available from local businesses and Visitor Information Centres. All the dollars raised from the sale of the micro fibre maps goes towards the trails fund!

Detailed information about the MTB trails, the Forrest MTB Club, the Forrest MTB Strategic plan and the trails fund can be found at www.rideforrest.com.au

Fungi

Forrest Fungi Forays in Australia’s Otway Ranges operate from March to September, which is the main Australian fungi season. Join a fascinating guided fungi foray from Forrest where you are likely to identify more than 10 fungi species!

To make the most out of your visit, contact the Colac Otway Shire Visitor Information Centres.

P: 1300 OTWAYS (689 297)
W: www.visitotways.com
www.visitapollobay.com
www.forrestvictoria.com

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Wildlife

Wildlife spotting includes bird watching, platypus tours, fishing and horse riding. Birdwatching species have been seen and recorded in the Otways region – experience cockatoos, gang-gang cockatoos, parrots, rosellas, frogmouths, kookaburras and many more. Canoe tours on Lake Elizabeth offer a rare opportunity to spot the elusive egg laying platypus in the wild. With dense, short brown fur, a leathery bill and webbed feet, the platypus swims with its eyes closed underwater, through weak electromagnetic pulses. Mainly active at dusk. You also have a good chance for a koala, kangaroo or echidna sighting on any of the trails.

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Historical Forrest & District Society

The hiking trail ends at a viewing platform at the base of the falls.

Take the shorter 500m return walk from the day carpark via the second bridge (20 min return, easy) or start the longer 4.6km return walk from the campground (1.5hr return, easy).

The camping area at Stevensons Falls is perfect for fifty free camping sites are available with about half pear, plum and apple trees. All sites are level but surrounded by beautiful steep forest. The camp sites are also well grassed and maintained by the local kangaroo population. Wood barbecues and picnic tables are also on site for visitor convenience.

West Barwon Reservoir (2km return, easy):

Take a cool climate rainforest walk on the Fern Gully Track or take the path from the picnic area and explore the waterways of one of Geelong’s most important reserves. There is an information centre at the entrance to the reservoir reserve is on the Forrest–Apollo Bay Road, south of Forrest.

The downhill ride back to Forrest from the lake offers some of the best single track mountain bike trails on the east coast of Australia.

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WALKS AND CAMPING

- Sample the best of paddock to plate
- Try a locally brewed craft beer
- Explore the wonder of an Otways waterfall
St. James Anglican Church - like the school nearby, St. James Anglican Church was originally located at Yaugher on the Forest History Trail. It was dedicated in February 1889 but unfortunately lost in a bushfire in 1906.

Methodist Church - site of the old Methodist Church.

Original community site - the site of the original Lodge provided sickness and funeral benefits for members of its Catholic Church which could no longer be sustained. The sawmill companies built loading skids, store sheds and locomotive service facilities in the yard. Timber trams, in use from 1892 to 1939, delivered large quantities of sawn timber to the railhead from the bush to the south and west. Bullock wagons also conveyed timber by road and, after 1934, motor trucks performed this function. The sawmill companies made a profit from the provision of sawmill services to other contractors.

The railway from Birregurra to Forrest was the largest traffic generator on the line for six timber tramways, in use from 1892 to 1939, delivered sawn timber in use from 1892 to 1939, delivered large quantities of sawn timber to the railhead from the bush to the south and west. Bullock wagons also conveyed timber by road and, after 1934, motor trucks performed this function. The sawmill companies made a profit from the provision of sawmill services to other contractors.

Sports ground and cow paddock - the annual sports day attracted hundreds of people from the district and others coming by special train. Down at the river was the Blacksmith shop also accommodating coaches and carts. In earlier days passengers transferred from the train to coaches which took them on the journey to Apollo Bay. The Blacksmith shop also accommodated coaches and carts. In earlier days passengers transferred from the train to coaches which took them on the journey to Apollo Bay.

Terminus Hotel - Rail facilities were the most elaborate on the line. There was a four road layout, dead end siding for the split timber traffic, a siding for a locomotive turntable, a 60 metre passenger platform with office, parcels shed and waiting room, a goods platform, two goods sheds and a six tonne crane. The Post Office was operated from the railway station building, with the main road aptly named "Station Street". This sounded the charge for settlers, who under section 32 of the Lands Act 1884-90 took up their acreage for the great expense of tuppence an acre. Sadly the local lands department permitted to clear dead or useless timber.

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