

Australian Walking Track Grading System

Every Club walk is graded according to this system. Below is a guide to help members work out which walks are suitable for them. Everybody is encouraged to read the information on this website carefully: <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/recreation-and-tourism>

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Distance	Less than 5km.	Less than 10km.	Less than 20km.	May be greater than 20km. Distance does not influence grading.	May be greater than 20km. Distance does not influence grading.
Gradient	Suitable for a person in a wheelchair.	Generally no steeper than 1:10	May exceed 1:10	May have arduous climbs and steep sections. May include long steep sections exceeding 1:10.	May have very arduous climbs and steep sections. May include long steep sections exceeding 1:10.
Quality of path	Broad, hard surfaced track of path suitable for wheelchair use.	Generally a modified or hardened surface.	Formed earthen track, few obstacles. Generally a modified surface, sections may be hardened.	Generally distinct without major modification to the ground. Encounters with fallen debris and other obstacles are likely. Walkers may encounter natural obstacles (eg tides).	No modification of the natural environment.
Quality of markings	Track head signage and route markers at intersections.	Track head signage & route markers at intersections.	Track head signage and route markers at intersections and where track is indistinct.	Track head signage and route markers.	Signage is generally not provided.
Experience required	Users need no previous experience and are expected to exercise normal care regarding their personal safety.	Users need no previous experience and are expected to exercise normal care regarding their personal safety. Suitable for most ages and fitness levels.	Users need no bushwalking experience and a minimum level of specialised skills. Users may encounter natural hazards such as steep slopes, unstable surfaces and minor water crossings. Responsible for their own safety.	Users require a moderate level of specialised skills such as navigation skills. Users may require maps and navigation equipment to successfully complete the track. Users need to be self-reliant, particularly in regard to emergency first aid and possible weather hazards.	Users require previous experience in the outdoors and a high level of specialised skills such as navigation skills. Users will generally require a map and navigation equipment to complete the track. Users need to be self-reliant, particularly in regard to emergency first aid and possible weather hazards.
Steps	Steps with ramp access	Minimal use of steps.	Steps may be common.	Steps do not influence grading.	Steps do not influence grading.

Current May 2011