Practical planner

Parks Pass, camping and huts kept separate. Lake Dobson Road check. Russell Falls / Three Falls / Tarn Shelf decision. Packing ticks and official Parks Tasmania links. From **mountfieldnationalpark.com.au** — print this page or save as PDF. No email required.

Verify before you go. Fees, Lake Dobson Road, track grades and Visitor Centre hours change. Always check **Parks Tasmania — Mount Field** and **passes.parks.tas.gov.au**. This planner is independent and unofficial — not Parks & Wildlife Service Tasmania.

1. Before you leave home

Status & weather

- ☐ Official park page / alerts checked this morning
- ☐ Parks Pass bought or ready (System A)
- ☐ If going alpine: phoned 03 6288 1149 option 3 for Lake Dobson Road
- ☐ Vehicle is not a campervan / bus / long vehicle (alpine road)
- ☐ Chains packed if winter alpine
- ☐ Someone knows your plan and leave-by time
- ☐ Emergency+ installed; offline map screenshots

Packing (day pack)

- ☐ Waterproof jacket (and overtrousers if rain)
- ☐ Warm mid-layer — Lake Dobson is ~1000 m
- ☐ Sturdy shoes (wet timber is slick)
- ☐ Water + snacks / extra food
- ☐ Map (TasMap Mount Field) or offline notes
- ☐ PLB or satellite messenger for Tarn Shelf
- ☐ Headlamp in winter or for glow-worms
- ☐ Parks Pass confirmation

2. Three fee systems — never merge them

A day trip only needs **System A**. Camping and Government Huts are extra, official-only, and never booked through this site.

A. Parks Pass

Required park-wide. No separate Russell Falls ticket. No walk permit for the listed day walks. Verify current prices.

- Daily / holiday / annual products on passes.parks.tas.gov.au
- Buy online or at the Visitor Centre

B. Campground · C. Huts

- **B.** Tyenna River campground — first-come, first-served. Separate fee + Parks Pass. Fuel-stove only.
- **C.** Government Huts — official booking only (typically two-night minimum). Keys from the Visitor Centre.

3. Pick one day shape

Half-day from Hobart

Visitor Centre → Russell Falls (1.4 km, Grade 1) → optional Tall Trees → drive home before dusk.

Full day — Three Falls Circuit
6 km, Grade 3, many steps. Anticlockwise: Russell → Horseshoe → Tall Trees → Lady Barron. Leave Tarn Shelf off this plan.

Alpine — Tarn Shelf
Only if Lake Dobson Road is open. Pandani Grove first as a weather check, then 12 km / 5–6 h or the shorter ski-field return (~3 h).

4. Half-day: Russell Falls from Hobart

- **Night before** — Parks Pass. Main stop = Russell Falls. Waterproofs even for a short walk.
- **Drive** — A10 to New Norfolk, then B62/B61 via Westerway (~70–75 km / just over an hour).
- **On arrival** — Visitor Centre. Validate pass. Ask if waterfall tracks are closed for wind.
- **Walk** — Sealed path to Russell Falls (~25 min). Optional Tall Trees if energy remains.
- **Leave** — Aim to be off park roads before dusk (wildlife).

5. Full-day rule

- **One** waterfall day (Three Falls Circuit) *or* **one** alpine day (Tarn Shelf) from Hobart — rarely both.
- If the gravel road is closed: Three Falls Circuit is still a complete day.
- Do not start Three Falls at 3 pm in winter.
- Overnight at the campground if you want waterfalls today and Tarn Shelf tomorrow.

6. Lake Dobson Road (alpine gate)

15–16 km unsealed gravel. Not suitable for campervans, buses or long vehicles. May need chains or close for snow. Phone Visitor Centre **03 6288 1149 option 3** before you leave the sealed road.

- ☐ Road confirmed open this morning
- ☐ Vehicle belongs on steep gravel
- ☐ Chains if winter
- ☐ If staff say stay down: walk Three Falls instead
- ☐ Avoid the descent in the dark

7. Overnight extras

Campground

- First-come, first-served — no online booking
- Arrive mid-morning on fine weekends
- Parks Pass still required on top of camping fee
- Fuel-stove only — no open fires

Skip if short / weather fails

- Lake Dobson Road after a late Hobart start
- Tarn Shelf in wild wind or white-out
- Grade 4–5 peaks (East, Belton/Belcher, West)
- Glow-worms if it means a night wildlife drive

8. Safety

- Waterproofs and warm layers — alpine hypothermia is a year-round risk.
- Many steps on Three Falls Circuit; wet timber is slick.
- Falling limbs in wind — tracks may close.
- Coverage inside the park is very limited. **000 needs reception.** Emergency+ and a PLB for Tarn Shelf.

- Wildlife on the road at dusk. Fuel-stove only.
- **Emergency: call 000.** This PDF cannot help with rescue.

9. Useful links

- **This guide:** https://www.mountfieldnationalpark.com.au/ — visit, walks, itineraries
- Official park: https://parks.tas.gov.au/explore-our-parks/mount-field-national-park
- Parks Pass: https://passes.parks.tas.gov.au/
- Camping: https://parks.tas.gov.au/explore-our-parks/mount-field-national-park/camping
- Government Huts: https://parks.tas.gov.au/explore-our-parks/mount-field-national-park/government-huts
- Know before you go: https://parks.tas.gov.au/explore-our-parks/know-before-you-go
- Visitor Centre: 03 6288 1149 (option 3 for the road)

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www.mountfieldnationalpark.com.au

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