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Hiker Self Assessment Form Northern Section Hikers

Most of the northern part of Wilsons Promontory National Park is classified as a wilderness zone. In order to preserve the area's natural values there are few facilities and maintenance is kept to a minimum. The **Chinaman Creek route** is particularly demanding and should only be attempted by experienced, physically fit and well-equipped hikers.

All hikers intending to use this route should be aware that:

- sections of Chinaman Creek are poorly defined and difficult to follow
- moving through the dense and prickly heath vegetation can be tiring and debilitating
- Chinaman Creek must be crossed and can be up to 1.5 metres deep in some places
- flagging tape should NOT be relied upon for navigation
- there are limited natural land features that are visible to navigate from
- vehicular access is not possible which may cause delay if assistance is required in an emergency situation
- complete self reliance is essential as there are few facilities in the area
- water availability is dependent on the natural flow of rivers and creeks and should not be relied on.
- minimal impact principles must be used

The following criteria <u>must</u> be satisfied by at least one member of any group following this route and should be considered the <u>minimum requirement</u>:

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- □ significant experience in self reliant camping
- □ competence in the use of a map and compass
- □ significant experience in off-track navigation
- □ ability to navigate in the absence of obvious land features
- □ properly equipped for all weather conditions
- have sufficient supplies in case of an emergency
- have knowledge of basic first aid and carry a first aid kit
- provided emergency contact details.
- □ leave details of party and planned itinerary with an independent emergency contact
- D plan exit routes in case of an emergency

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