

FALLS TO HOTHAM ALPINE CROSSING

Walk Victoria's Icons



www.victoriashighcountry.com.au/nature



Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing: 3 days / 37kms

Walking on air 2000m above sea level.

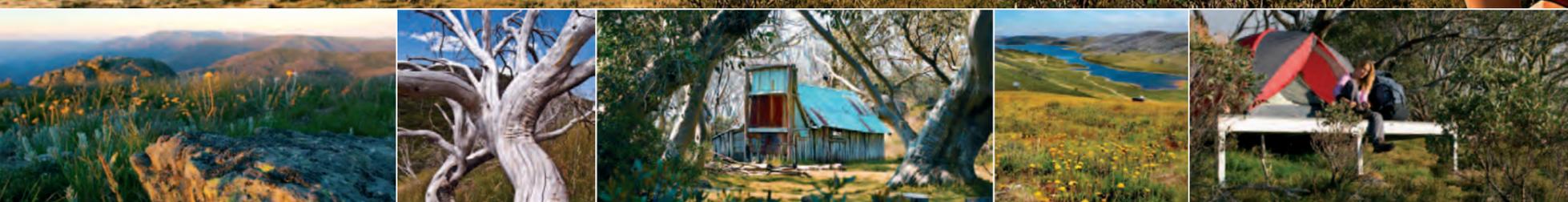
Rugged peaks and Dreamtime legends, never-ending skies, pioneer history and vibrant, changing landscapes - welcome to Victoria's spectacular alpine territory. Step out of the everyday and follow in the footsteps of generations gone by on a trek through some of Australia's most pristine mountain scenery. Nature lovers, adventure seekers and history buffs alike will revel in the sweeping views and diverse wildlife, cattlemen's huts and vivid flora found along the trail.

Sleep out under blinking stars and unwind amid the tranquil beauty of this ancient country. Walk over high alpine ridgelines, down through magical riverside valleys to wetlands brimming with life. Wander across high plains, alive with the brilliant colour of summertime wildflowers, and keep an eye out for shy native wildlife watching you pass.

Dreamtime stories, indelibly linked to the land, provide a glimpse into 2000 generations of local indigenous heritage, while historic wooden huts, built when cattlemen and bushrangers still roamed the mountains, are a place to rest and ponder.

Summer is the most popular season for walking, with wildflowers in full bloom and the cool alpine air a welcome break from the heat below. However, anytime between late spring and autumn is suitable to walk. Moderate fitness is required, with certain sections requiring stamina and plenty of easy walks in between.

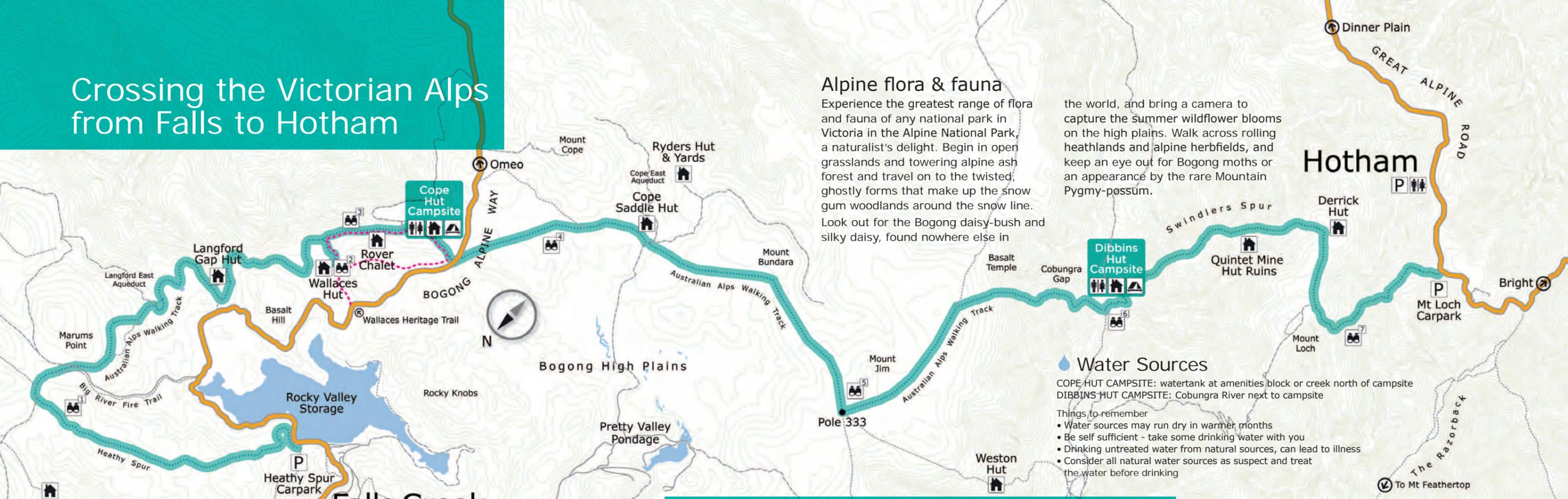
Be challenged, rewarded and changed over three inspiring days and two starry nights on this 37 km trek through Victoria's alpine wilderness.



Camping platforms

Sleep out under a legion of stars and wake to breathtaking alpine views. Try out the newly constructed camping platforms at Cope Hut, looking out over a mosaic of grasslands and snow gums, or at Dibbins Hut, nestled in a creek-side clearing along the trail. With five platforms and toilet facilities located at each of the campgrounds, there's no better way to protect yourself from the weather, simplify your setup and preserve the park's native vegetation. If camping platforms are booked you will find plenty of space for camping along the trail. Book ahead at www.parkstay.vic.gov.au or call 13 1963.

Crossing the Victorian Alps from Falls to Hotham



Alpine flora & fauna

Experience the greatest range of flora and fauna of any national park in Victoria in the Alpine National Park, a naturalist's delight. Begin in open grasslands and towering alpine ash forest and travel on to the twisted, ghostly forms that make up the snow gum woodlands around the snow line. Look out for the Bogong daisy-bush and silky daisy, found nowhere else in

the world, and bring a camera to capture the summer wildflower blooms on the high plains. Walk across rolling heathlands and alpine herbfields, and keep an eye out for Bogong moths or an appearance by the rare Mountain Pygmy-possum.

Water Sources

COPE HUT CAMPSITE: watertank at amenities block or creek north of campsite
DIBBINS HUT CAMPSITE: Cobungra River next to campsite

Things to remember

- Water sources may run dry in warmer months
- Be self sufficient - take some drinking water with you
- Drinking untreated water from natural sources, can lead to illness
- Consider all natural water sources as suspect and treat the water before drinking

The walk: 37km over 3 days

Day 1/ 14km

Heathy Spur and historic huts

Gather the troops and strap on your walking boots at the Heathy Spur car park, 3km from the Falls Creek Information Centre. Amble along the walking track through pretty alpine herb fields climbing to reach Heathy Spur, awash with the pink, white and gold of wildflowers in the summer months.

Forge ahead 4.5km under an immense sky past open grasslands and lonely snow gums. Meet the Big River Fire Trail at the iconic Australian Alps Walking Track and pause a moment for sweeping views of the high alpine ridges and peaks.

Follow the trail south for 500m and leaving the fire trail, climb past Marums Point then descend gradually through mighty snow gums, crossing alpine streams and the Langford East Aqueduct. Catch your breath and enjoy the slower pace along the aqueduct track, an easy 5km walk with views into Shannonvale and across to Mt Wills, to meet the Wallaces Heritage Trail.

Turn off the aqueduct and linger at heritage-listed Wallace Hut, built in 1889 and the oldest cattlemen's hut in the region. Back to Aqueduct Trail past Rover Chalet to arrive at Cope Hut, a ski refuge built in 1929.

Pitch your tent on the new elevated camping platforms and reward yourself with views of shimmering grasslands and gnarled snow gums.

Day 2/ 14km

High plains and volcanic temples

Wake with the morning sun and prepare to venture into High Plains country. Get the body warmed up with an easy walk through grassy alpine meadows for 4km, skirting the base of Mt Cope to Cope Saddle Hut and the Cope East Aqueduct, with its sea of summer wildflowers.

Get swept up in the open space and limitless sky as you continue across the High Plains, traversing alpine wetlands teeming with flora and wildlife to reach Pole 333 - the junction of four walking tracks.

Journey south and behold awe-inspiring views of Mt Feathertop (1922m), Victoria's second highest mountain, then get a sense of the region's volcanic history on your way to a jumble of extruding blocks named Basalt Temple. Don't trust your compass here - the magnetically charged basalt is known for its trickery.

Steady yourself for the steep descent through Cobungra Gap amid stands of snow gums and lush green meadows, before taking the short walk down to Dibbins Hut to claim your camping platform. Hang up the boots and settle into this magnificent creek-side spot looking out over the sub-alpine valley below.

Day 3/ 9km

Goldmines and possum magic

Test your mettle with a steep climb up Swindlers Spur for 1km, and then switch gears for an easier pace. Delight in all you've achieved as you take in stunning views of Mt Feathertop, across the Bogong High Plains and Basalt Temple.

Get an insight into the area's goldmining past at the abandoned Quintet Mine site, not far from the rich Red Robin Gold Mine, and keep an eye out on the rocky slopes of Mt Loch for the endangered Mountain Pygmy-possum - the world's only exclusively alpine marsupial.

Surge ahead to the top of Swindlers Spur, passing charming weatherboard Derrick's Hut and feel elation kick in as you near the end of your epic journey.

Enjoy an even ramble past Mt Loch while you reflect on your experience, noticing the signs of civilisation build - here a ski lift, there a band of day hikers - as you approach the finish line at Mt Loch car park.

Walk Legend

- Parking
- Toilets
- Huts
- Camping Platforms
- Lookouts

Travel & transport

Choose a transport option, and then set off on your grand adventure. This is a point-to-point walk, so you'll need transport to the start of the walk and a way to get home at the end. The drive between trailheads takes approximately 2½ hours.

Car shuffle

Using two vehicles in a car shuffle is a popular option. Drive in convoy to the end of the walk, drop off one vehicle, then return to the start of the walk in the other vehicle. Vehicles can be left at the Heathy Spur or Mt Loch car parks at either end.

Shuttle bus

Falls Creek will provide a shuttle bus service for hikers during the peak summer period. Contact the resort for details and to make a booking. Falls Creek Resort Management
p (03) 5758 1202
w fallscreek.com.au

Transport to/from your accommodation

If you're staying at Falls Creek, Mt Hotham or Dinner Plain before your walk, some accommodation providers can offer transport or assist with a car shuffle.





Best lookouts

1 Top of Heathy Spur

Face off with high alpine ridges and imposing Mt Bogong (1986m) in the distance. Some of the best alpine views around.

2 Wallace Hut

Get snap happy at this picturesque spot, where a historic cattlemen's hut sits proudly on a snow plain surrounded by centuries-old snow gums.

3 Australian Alps Lookout

Take in panoramic views of Mt Kosciuszko on your way along the Wallaces Heritage Trail, halfway between Wallace Hut and Cope Hut.

4 Across Pretty Valley

Witness a High Country take on the savanna – expansive alpine grassland, carpeted with wildflowers, dotted with alpine bogs, and framed by snow gums.

5 Pole 333

Catch your first close-up glimpse of majestic Mt Feathertop at the crossroads, offering views to the steep eastern face of the mountain.

6 Dibbins Hut

Enjoy the serenity of this mystical valley setting, complete with cattlemen's hut and a river running through it.

7 Mt Loch ridge

Be blown away by staggering views along the Razorback to Mt Feathertop, with Mt Buffalo looming on the horizon.

Bite-sized alpine walks

Wallaces Heritage Trail

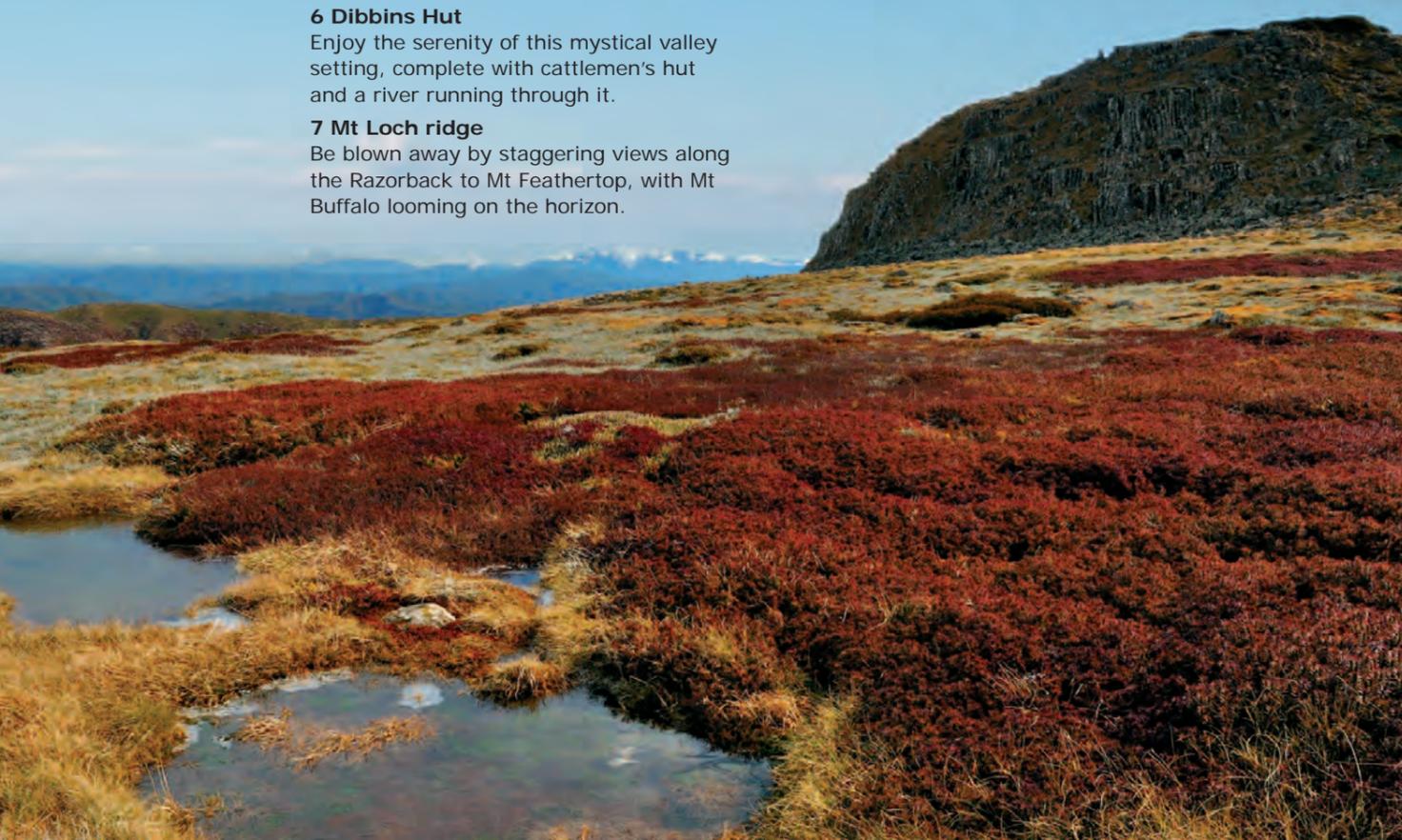
6km return

Keen for adventure but short on time? Get a taste of the rich heritage and natural wonders of the high country along Wallaces Heritage Trail. Start or finish with a picnic at Wallace Hut, the oldest hut on the high plains, wander across grassy alpine meadows, through snow gums and heath valleys, and treat yourself to stunning views across the Mitta Valley toward the Kosciuszko range.

Mt Hotham - 3 Huts Walk

9.6km return

Soak up breathtaking alpine scenery on an invigorating walk around Mt Hotham. Start at Loch car park and venture along the Loch Ridge–Machinery Spur track, surrounded by views of Mt Feathertop, Mt Buffalo and the Bogong High Plains. Make your way to pretty little Derrick Hut, originally a shelter for cross-country skiers, and picnic among ancient snow gums and postcard-perfect mountain views.



Points of interest

Wallaces Heritage Trail

Relive the days of the great Victorian cattlemen and lose yourself among the wind-swept snow gums, rugged plains and views of Mt Kosciuszko in the distance. Start your walk at Wallace Hut, built by the Wallace Brothers in 1889 from surrounding snow gums and the oldest of the cattlemen's huts in the region.

Wander along the grassy trail, past the aqueduct and Rover Chalet towards Cope Hut, originally a ski hut built in 1929 to accommodate the rising popularity of the sport. Finish up with a stroll through the heath-filled valley and back to Wallace Hut to watch the sunset.

Gold history

Get an insight into the struggles of the nineteenth century miners who tackled the harsh alpine landscape in search of gold, and learn how this adventurous generation of Victorians shaped the local culture.

From the first significant find in 1852 to Victoria's last gold rush, launched by the discovery of a rich quartz reef on Machinery Spur in 1941, the alpine wilderness was a hotbed of mining activity. Visit old mountain cottages, tour abandoned mines and spy the remains of mining machinery long since left to the elements. Be sure to adhere to local safety advice.

Cultural heritage

Hike through the spectacular Bogong High Plains and walk in the footsteps of thousands of generations of Victoria's original inhabitants.

From traditional rock formations and stone artefacts to granite tors, winding rivers and lush valleys, the region is alive with rich Aboriginal heritage. Discover the high peaks and rocky outcrops that were the site for yearly gatherings, coinciding with the Bogong moth harvest.

Tribes travelled from far and wide to take part in intertribal corroborees, settling of disputes, trading, marriages and the initiation of young men, while feasting on migrating moths, which hid among the rocks during the summer.

Planning your trip is half the fun.

Dream up your ultimate alpine experience with some early research. Start or cap off your hike with a night of luxury at a deluxe lodge in Falls Creek, Mt Hotham or Dinner Plain.



Accommodation providers can also assist with planning and some offer fully-facilitated experiences, including transport.

Camping platforms and campsites must be booked with Parks Victoria prior to your crossing at:

w parkstay.vic.gov.au or call

p 13 1963

Get inspired!

FALLS CREEK

w falls creek.com.au

p (03) 5758 1202

MT HOTHAM

w mthotham.com.au

p (03) 5759 3550

DINNER PLAIN

w visitdinnerplain.com.au

PARKS VICTORIA

w parks.vic.gov.au

p 13 1963

Leave no trace

Please respect the traditional owners and their country as well as other visitors by aiming to leave the area as you found it.

Protect yourself & the environment

Be fire and severe weather ready and stay safe when visiting the park.

For general park information and updates on park closures, call Parks Victoria on **13 1963** or visit **parks.vic.gov.au**

Safety checklist

- Let someone know where you are going before you set off
- **CARRY AND KNOW HOW TO USE A TOPOGRAPHIC MAP AND COMPASS**
- Use a fuel stove - open wood fires are not permitted on Mt Feathertop or Mt Bogong or on any of their approaches
- Take wind and waterproof jacket and overpants, woollen (or polarfleece) jumper, hat and gloves
- Wear a sun hat and sturdy shoes / boots with good grip
- Carry sunscreen and insect repellent, a first aid kit and plenty of high energy food and water
- Take a tent, sleeping bag and fuel stove for overnight camps

FALLS TO HOTHAM
ALPINE CROSSING®

Walk Victoria's Icons



Healthy Parks
Healthy People



www.victoriashighcountry.com.au/nature

Scan for website.

