

Kosciuszko

National Park

Southern Kosciuszko Walking tracks

Photo: Murray Vanderveer



nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

WALKS IN THE ALPINE AREA

When the winter snow melts you will discover an ancient landscape worn down by millions of years of wind rain and ice and where summer wildflowers now thrive. Be prepared though as snow can fall at any time of year covering the tracks and bringing cold conditions.

01 Snow Gums Boardwalk 400 metre loop – 15 mins



Gentle hills; formed track; clearly sign posted; no experience required; many steps

This summer walk starts at Charlotte Pass lookout. You will see many of Australia's highest peaks and learn how climate affects alpine life. The boardwalk traverses sub-alpine woodland on the Guthrie Range.

02 Mt Stilwell Walk 3.8km loop – 2 hours



Plan with weather and track conditions in mind

Short steep hills; formed track, some obstacles; clearly sign posted; no experience required; many steps.

Charlotte Pass to lookout:
850 metres one-way

During summer, walk from the turning circle at Charlotte Pass or take the chairlift from Charlotte Pass Village during peak periods (cost applies). The lookout at the top of Kangaroo Ridge Chairlift has views of the Main Range and Mt Kosciuszko. The walk to Mt Stilwell from the here is currently along an undefined route. Return the same way.

03 Main Range Walk 22km loop – 8 hours



Plan with weather and track conditions in mind

Very steep; formed track, some obstacles; clearly sign posted; some bushwalking experience recommended.

Charlotte Pass to Blue Lake Lookout:
5km one-way

The Main Range Track and Summit Walk are linked as a loop walk. During spring, walk the Main Range Track as described below. If the stepping stones across the Snowy River are covered this walk is not recommended.

After rock-hopping across the Snowy River below Charlotte Pass, the track climbs through alpine herbfields past Hedley Tarn Lookout to Blue Lake Lookout.

It then climbs Carruthers Peak which provides spectacular views to the west. It continues along the exposed ridge of the Main Range above Club Lake and Lake Albina until it meets the Summit Walk between Rawson Pass and Mt Kosciuszko. Turn right to climb Kosciuszko before returning via the old road to Charlotte Pass (see Summit Walk and Trail).

04 Summit Walk 9km one-way – 3 hours



Plan with weather and track conditions in mind

Short steep hills; formed track; clearly sign posted; no experience required; occasional steps.

Charlotte Pass to:
Snowy River – 4.5km one-way
Seaman's Hut – 6km one-way
Rawson Pass – 7.6km one-way
Mt Kosciuszko – 9km one-way

This summer only walk or mountain bike ride passes through snow gums, heath and herbfields and has extensive views of the Main Range. The trail follows the old road to Mt Kosciuszko. In 1976 the NPWS closed the road to public vehicles because of safety and environmental concerns.

After crossing the Snowy River the track climbs gradually to Rawson Pass. From here, walk to Mt Kosciuszko's summit.

05 Kosciuszko Walk 5km one-way – 2 hours



Plan with weather and track conditions in mind

Very steep; formed track; clearly sign-posted; no experience required; many steps.

Thredbo to:
Kosciuszko Lookout – 2km one-way
Rawson Pass – 5km one-way
Mt Kosciuszko – 6.4km one-way

This summer only track begins at the top of the Kosciuszko Express chairlift at Thredbo (cost applies). It runs beside the rocky outcrops of Rams Head Range and passes through alpine herbfields and heath to Kosciuszko Lookout. It then crosses the headwaters of the Snowy River, climbs to a saddle above Lake Cootapatamba and continues past Etheridge Range to Rawson Pass.

It is then a gradual climb for a further 1.4km (40 mins) one-way along the Summit Walk up to Mt Kosciuszko's summit. Return to Thredbo along the same tracks.

06 Dead Horse Gap Track 5km one-way – 2 hours



Plan with weather and track conditions in mind

Very steep; formed track, some obstacles; clearly sign-posted; some bushwalking experience recommended; many steps.

This summer only walk is best begun from the top of the Kosciuszko Express chairlift (cost applies). The track passes through alpine herbfields and heath below the craggy peaks of the Rams Head Range.

It then winds down a ridge through snow gums until the Thredbo River is reached near Dead Horse Gap on the Alpine Way. You can then follow the Thredbo River Track (see Alpine Way Walks) to Thredbo.

KOSCIUSZKO ROAD WALKS

The first three walks listed below are suitable all year. The higher you go though, the more chance snow will cover the track during the winter months – always check with one of our visitor centres before setting out on your walk.

07 Sawpit Walk 2km loop – 1 hour



Gentle hills; formed track, some obstacles; clearly sign-posted; no experience required; occasional steps.

You can start this walk from the southern end of the Kosciuszko Education Centre or from the Sawpit Creek picnic area.

The track follows Sawpit Creek downstream through woodland. The thick shrub growing beside the creek is predominantly woolly tea tree. After about one kilometre, a track junction is reached. The Sawpit Track takes a sharp turn to the right while the Pallaibo Track continues following the creek. The Sawpit Track climbs back to the Kosciuszko Mountain Retreat (cabins/camping area). Walk through this complex to return to the picnic area.

08 Pallaibo Walk 5.6km one-way – 2 hours



Short steep hills; formed track; clearly sign posted; some bushwalking experience recommended; many steps

This track starts at the Sawpit Creek picnic area and finishes at Thredbo River picnic area. Most visitors arrange to be picked up from the Thredbo River picnic area.

The first part of the walk follows the Sawpit Track. When the Sawpit Track branches off to the right, continue along the creek down past two small cascades (locally known as Sawpit Falls and Charlie's Cascades).

As the track drops down towards Thredbo River it crosses former grazing land.

After crossing Sawpit Creek the track follows the river downstream to the picnic area.

09 Waterfall Walk 6km loop – 2 hours



Gentle hills; formed track, some obstacles; clearly sign-posted; some bushwalking experience recommended; occasional steps.

This track starts at the Sawpit Creek picnic area and passes under the road. It runs roughly parallel to the left of Sawpit Creek until it crosses the creek below a small waterfall.

The tall trees with fibrous bark growing near the falls are alpine ash. Alpine ash was logged in this area late in the 19th century.

The track passes between huge granite boulders before returning to the picnic area.

10 Rennix Trail 13km loop – 5 hours



Gentle hills; formed track, some obstacles; clearly sign-posted; some bushwalking experience recommended; occasional steps.

This walk through sub-alpine woodland provides views over the Snowy River to the west and Lake Jindabyne to the east. There are some steep sections.

Turn back at the Snowy Hydro radio repeater tower and return the same way.

This walk may be covered by snow during winter – contact one of our visitor centres.

11 Rainbow Lake Trail 3km loop – 1 hour



Short steep hills; formed track, some obstacles; clearly sign-posted; some bushwalking experience recommended; occasional steps.

Begins at Dainer's Gap downhill from the chainbay on the left side of the road towards Perisher from Sawpit Creek, 1.7km past Sponar's Chalet. The walk winds through snowgrass and snow gums to Rainbow Lake. Return the same way.

The lake is created by a dam which was built to supply water to the Hotel Kosciuszko. Sponar's Chalet had been the staff quarters for the hotel which was built in 1909 and burnt down in 1951. The old fences near a large boulder just before you descend to the lake are a reminder of the period when this area was leased for grazing.

This walk may be covered by snow during winter – contact one of our visitor centres.

12 Porcupine Walk 5km loop – 1 hour 40mins



Short steep hills; formed track, some obstacles; clearly sign-posted; some bushwalking experience recommended; occasional steps.

This summer walk starts at the Perisher Valley reservoir. To reach the start of the track, turn left beside the Man from Snowy River Hotel if you're heading up the mountains, take the first turn right and follow the road until you reach the reservoir.

The track wanders through snow grass and snow gums until a large group of granite boulders is reached. These boulders provide extensive views of the Main Range and Thredbo Valley. Return the same way.

This walk may be covered by snow during winter – contact one of our visitor centres.

13 Perisher-Blue Cow Walk 8km loop – 3 hours



Short steep hills; formed track, some obstacles; clearly sign-posted; some bushwalking experience recommended; many steps.

You can walk from Perisher to Blue Cow terminal during summer where there are views of the Main Range. Return along the same management trail. Watch for traffic.

GUTHEGA ROAD WALKS

The cultural heritage of the Snowy Mountains comes alive in this area. You will discover historic huts previously used for grazing, the hydro-electric scheme and ski-touring set among snowgums.

14 Illawong Walk 5km loop – 3 hours



Plan with weather and track conditions in mind

Short steep hills; formed track, some obstacles; clearly sign-posted; some bushwalking experience recommended; many steps.

Starting from Guthega Village, this is an intimate summer only walk following the Snowy River Valley through alpine heath and majestic snow gums to one of the oldest buildings in the park – Illawong Hut (formerly Pounds, Pounds Creek, Tin Hut 1).

15 Schlink Hut Overnight Walk 22km loop – 2 days



Plan with weather and track conditions in mind

Very steep; formed track, some obstacles; no directional signage; experienced bushwalkers; occasional steps.

Munyang (1320m above sea level) to:
Horse Camp Hut (1560m) – 4km one-way
White's River Hut – 8km one-way
Schlink Hut (1780m) – 11km one-way

Take maps Geehi Dam 1:25 000,
Scammells Lookout 1:25 000 and
Youngal 1:25 000 OR
Rooftop's Jindabyne-Khancoban

From the Guthega Power Station (Munyang) the road zig-zags steeply for about 2.7km. Take care as vehicles may use this road to service infrastructure. After another 1.3km an unmarked track to the left leads to Horse Camp Hut – built in 1950s by the Snowy Mountains Authority to house surveyors and abandoned in the 1960s. This is a good place to camp overnight if starting late. You will need to take your own tent though as huts are now for emergency use only.

From here it is approximately 4km to White's River Hut – built as a shepherd's hut in 1934 then used by ski tourers. There is a track to the left over a shallow river. From here head back up Schlink Trail for 3km to Schlink Hut. Schlink Hut, also called the 'Hilton' because of its size, was built in 1960-61 by the Snowy Mountains Authority to house maintenance workers. You may see galaxias, a small native fish, in the creek that runs by the hut. You may see these fish climbing on the rocks.

Camp overnight then return the same way or veer left onto Disappointment Spur Trail below White's River Hut. Walk past Disappointment Spur Hut (no toilet facilities) and down to Guthega Power Station. Disappointment Spur Hut was built as a survey shelter by the Snowy Mountains Authority in the 1950s.

This walk may be effected by snow during winter – contact one of our visitor centres.

ALPINE WAY WALKS

Stroll beside a cool mountain river or walk to historic huts. Some walks can only be enjoyed when the area is clear of snow – always check with one of our visitor centres before setting out.

16 Bullocks Track 4.5km loop – 1 hour 30 mins



Short steep hills; formed track, some obstacles; limited signage; no experience required; many steps.

This track begins from either Thredbo Diggings camping area or from the western side of the Bullock's Flat car park (car park 'C') opposite the Skitube terminal. Both routes are signposted.

The main track goes to Bullock's Hut which was built in 1934 as a holiday cottage for Dr H. Bullock. The walk can also be shortened to 3.3km (loop) by bypassing Bullocks Hut.

17 Thredbo Valley Track



Bullocks Flat to Thredbo Diggings:
2.4km one-way – 30 mins
Thredbo to the Old Ranger Station:
6.5km one-way – 1.5 hours

Short steep hills; formed track; clearly sign-posted; some bushwalking experience recommended; no steps.

Parts of this multi-use track are currently under construction, however, you can access two sections. The first section begins at either Thredbo Diggings camping area or from the western side of the Bullock's Flat car park (car park 'C') opposite the Skitube terminal. Both routes are signposted.

The second section of the track begins at Thredbo Village and goes to the Old Ranger Station past Bullocks Yard.

18 Thredbo River Walk 4km one-way – 2 hours



Gentle hills; formed track, some obstacles; clearly sign-posted; some bushwalking experience recommended; many steps.

This track begins opposite the Cascade trailhead near Dead Horse Gap. It crosses the Thredbo River several times on bridges as it follows the river downstream to the Thredbo golf course. Along the way it passes cascades and still pools which provide habitat for both introduced trout and native platypus.

19 Cascade Hut Trail 18.8km loop – 5 hours



Plan with weather and track conditions in mind

Short steep hills; formed track, some obstacles; limited signage; experience bushwalkers; occasional steps.

Alpine Way to Bob's Ridge—4.8km one-way

From the Alpine Way the Cascade Hut Trail follows the Thredbo River upstream before

crossing it and climbing to the top of Bob's Ridge, where there are views over the Murray River valley into Victoria.

Continue to Cascade Hut, built in 1935. The hut is in the Pilot Wilderness Area so mountain bike riders will need to stay on the designated trails. You can camp overnight near the hut (toilet facilities only) then return the same way.

This walk may be covered by snow during winter – contact one of our visitor centres.

20 Geehi Huts Walk 5km one-way – 1 hour



Gentle hills; formed track; clearly sign-posted; no experience required.

Geehi to:
Keeble's Hut—1km one-way
Old Geehi Hut—3km one-way

Take maps Scammells Lookout
1:25 000 and Youngal 1:25 000
OR Rooftop's Jindabyne–Khancoban

From the Geehi campground and Geehi Hut wade across the Swampy Plain River (do not attempt in high water) and walk or mountain bike ride across Behrs Flat to Keeble's Hut. There are magnificent views back to the Main Range. If you don't want to get your feet wet, follow the 4WD trail downstream from the southern end of the bridge across the Swampy Plains River at Geehi.

You can walk or ride along the trail to another crossing on the same river that leads to Old Geehi Hut, restored after the 2003 wildfires. Return the way you came or continue on a loop to the Geehi Walls Trail junction where a right turn takes you through montane forest back to the Alpine Way 2km from Geehi campground, a total distance of approximately 8km.

STAYING SAFE

The Australian Alps may not be as high or steep as mountain ranges overseas but strong winds, rain and low temperatures can make our exposed alpine areas dangerous. Weather can change quickly so always be realistic about the current and approaching conditions as well as your own abilities.

It is best to travel with others and tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back. Always check the weather before leaving and change your plans if bad weather is approaching – at any time of year.

Take layers of warm, waterproof clothing – even in summer and even on day trips – as well as plenty of food as it helps provide heat for the body. Think about hiring a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) from one of our visitor centres as phone coverage in the park is patchy and cold can affect batteries.

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksafety

KHANCOBAN TO CABRAMURRA WALKS

On the doorstep of Jagungal Wilderness Area these walks take you to high country historic huts in snowgum woodland.

21 Paton's Hut Walk 5.2km loop – 1 hour



Plan with weather and track conditions in mind

Short steep hills; formed track, some obstacles; no directional signage; some bushwalking experience recommended; occasional steps.

Take maps Scammells Lookout
1:25 000 and Youngal 1:25 000
OR Rooftop's Jindabyne–Khancoban

From the trailhead car park at Tooma Reservoir you can follow the Dargals Trail for 2.6km to Paton's Hut. The walk takes you through montane forest and alpine ash stands before emerging on to the open country of the Toolong Plain.

Paton's Hut lies on the edge of this plain. It was originally built on a grazing lease in 1934 from bush poles, sawn timber and corrugated iron. Destroyed in the 2003 bushfires, it was rebuilt in 2008 as part of the Kosciuszko National Park Huts Conservation Strategy.

Return the same way. The Dargals Trail beyond Toolong Plain leads to the Tooma River within the Jagungal Wilderness Area.

This walk may be effected by snow during winter – contact one of our visitor centres.

22 Round Mountain Walk 4km loop – 1 hour



Plan with weather and track conditions in mind

Very steep; rough track, many obstacles; no directional signage; some bushwalking experience recommended; occasional steps.

Take maps Scammells Lookout
1:25 000 and Youngal 1:25 000
OR Rooftop's Jindabyne–Khancoban

From the Round Mountain trailhead and car park, walk or mountain bike ride through sub-alpine habitat at 1600 metre elevation for 1.5km to the junction with the Farm Ridge Trail.

Turn left here and descend a further 0.5km to Round Mountain Hut. There are extensive views south along the Toolong Range to Mount Jagungal. Return the same way.

A steep descent beyond the hut leads to the open valley of the Tumut River headwaters.

This walk may be effected by snow during winter – contact one of our visitor centres.

TO FIND OUT MORE

For further information, including detailed maps and directions, contact Snowy Region Visitor Centre 02 6450 5600, Khancoban Visitor Centre 02 6076 9373 or visit:

nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/kosciuszko-national-park

