

AUSTRALIA: VICTORIAN HIGH COUNTRY

5-day / 4-night small group guided walk in Victoria's Alpine High Country



Walking in Victoria's High Country, surrounded by the vastness of the Australian Alps, is incredibly rewarding – fresh mountain air, expansive views, historic cattleman's huts, and picturesque stands of twisted snow gums among delicate alpine meadows dotted with wildflowers. On this guided walking tour, we base ourselves in the historic former gold-mining town of Bright, allowing easy access to three of Victoria's best-known alpine walking areas: Mt Buffalo National Park, the Bogong High Plains near Falls Creek, and the iconic Razorback Ridge walk from Mt Hotham to Mt Feathertop.

Explore Mt Buffalo National Park, one of Victoria's oldest national parks, with an afternoon wander around its lower trails and waterfalls. We tackle the Big Walk, hiking from the base of Mt Buffalo to the plateau of the massif, gaining some 1000 metres of elevation over 11.5 kilometres. We walk among the snow gums, alpine meadows and historic huts of the Bogong High Plains. And, in the crowning achievement of our walking tour, we hike the Razorback Ridge to the summit of Mt Feathertop, for 360-degree views over the Australian Alps.

Spend each night in comfortable guest house or chalet accommodation and relax with pre-dinner nibbles while the guides prepare delicious, home-style meals ideally suited to walkers. Each day you are transported to the start of the walk and accompanied on your walk by knowledgeable guides. Carry only a day pack, while morning tea and a substantial healthy lunch are provided for you.

Cost from: **\$2300** per person twin share Single room supplement from \$380

Departs: 16, 30 September; 14, 28 October; 25 November 2023
 20 April; 8, 13, 27 October; 23 November 2024

Prices are based on twin share accommodation. Single travellers may share with another single traveller of the same gender at no extra cost. Single use rooms are available at extra cost.

Included: Return transfers from and back to Melbourne CBD; 4 nights' chalet/guest house accommodation; most meals (except lunch on the last day) including trail snacks and pre-dinner nibbles; transfers to and from the walks; expert guides with a satellite phone, full first aid kit and emergency support.

Grade: Moderate to Challenging with 5km to 22km per day. Walking up to 7 hours per day with ascents and descents and across uneven ground and rocky terrain. The Big Walk and Mt Feathertop summit have some steeper sections. A good level of fitness is required, best acquired by regular walking.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Depart Melbourne - Mt Buffalo - Bright

walk @ 5km

Meet in Melbourne CBD early this morning to head for beautiful Bright in North East Victoria, our base for the next four nights. Please come dressed in your hiking clothes, with day pack, ready to walk (your main luggage will be transferred). Around lunch time we arrive at Mt Buffalo National Park to explore some of the walks in the lower section of the park. In early spring Eurobin Creek and Crystal Brook tumble over boulders and sluice down the granite slabs of the massif to create impressive and picturesque waterfalls. Weather permitting you may like to have a refreshing dip in the swimming hole at Ladies' Bath Falls. Afterwards we take the short drive to Bright and settle into our accommodation.

Day 2: The Big Walk at Mt Buffalo

walk @ 11.5km

Back to Mt Buffalo to tackle the park's signature hike – The Big Walk. We ascend the granite massif of Mt Buffalo to the plateau, 11.5km of uphill walking (around 1050 metres of ascent) through several peppermint eucalypts, Alpine ash and snow gums. Keep an eye and an ear out for birds and wildlife, including wallabies, wombats and lyrebirds. We criss-cross the access road and zig zag up the granite slabs of the massif, with expansive views across the Victorian Alps. The Big Walk finishes at the Gorge, where tiny Crystal Brook has carved out sheer 300-metre walls – look for daring adventurers crossing the Gorge on a slackline or rock climbers tackling the granite walls. The viewpoint near the historic Mt Buffalo Chalet offers fantastic views of Mt Bogong and Mt Feathertop, for a preview of our walking over the next few days. After the walk there's time for a drive around the plateau to admire spectacular granite formations and precariously balancing boulders.

Day 3: Falls Creek & the Bogong High Plains

walk @ 14km

An easier day, starting with a drive through Mt Beauty to Falls Creek and the Bogong High Plains. Our walk follows part of the 650-kilometre Australian Alpine Walking Track, through snow gums and the delicate alpine meadows of the Bogong High Plains. At certain times in the spring and summer these meadows are covered with wildflowers including paper daisies and billy buttons. We summit Mt Nelse for great views and visit one of the picturesque historic mountain huts of the Victorian High Country.



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Day 4: Razorback Ridge, Mt Feathertop

walk @ 19km + optional 3km

The Razorback Ridge hike is one of the iconic walks of Victoria. This classic track traverses the high ridge linking Mt Hotham to Mt Feathertop. Razorback is mostly above the treeline so we have wonderful views of the surrounding Alps. In early spring we may encounter patches of snow. Over undulating and sometimes rocky terrain, we make our way to The Cross, where we stop under snow gums for lunch and to rest our legs before the optional walk to Mt Feathertop summit. It's a fairly steep climb to the top of Victoria's second-tallest peak, but very rewarding, with 360-degree views of the mountains and hardly a sign of human habitation. After our walk we dine out tonight, either in Bright or the neighbouring gold-mining village of Wandiligong.

Day 5: Walks around Bright & return to Melbourne

optional walk @ 7km

Follow up the challenging Razorback walk with a morning at leisure in Bright. Perhaps stroll the banks of the Ovens River on the Canyon and Cherry Walks, where you'll see much evidence of the area's gold-mining history. Or wander around the town centre, visiting one of the many local boutiques, artisan shops or cafés. We head back to Melbourne in the late morning, stopping for a take-away lunch (at own expense) on the way back, arriving in the city CBD by late afternoon.



Other Australian walks available from **Outdoor Travel** include the **Larapinta Trail**, Freycinet Peninsula in Tasmania, **Cape to Cape** walk in Western Australia, the **Flinders Ranges** and Wilpena Pound in South Australia, as well as New Zealand's Milford Sound Track, **Abel Tasman walk**, Queen Charlotte Walk and Hollyford Valley Walk.

Contact **Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd** direct for more details, travel brochures and reservations:

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