



Victoria's Bogong Alpine Traverse

8 days, ex Melbourne/Wangaratta

This tour departs from central Melbourne at 10.00am or Wangaratta at 1.30pm. We can also arrange for collection from inner Melbourne accommodation, bus/train station or the airport if required.

Tour Grading: Moderate/Hard

Suitable for those with previous walking experience, preferably some with full packs. Participants should prepare with some regular walking or exercise prior to the trip.

There are two half-days and one full day of strenuous walking. There will be overnight bush camping for 4 nights, with 2 nights mid-walk in comfortable ski lodges and the chance to minimize pack weight as we collect extra food at these points.

Maximum group size: 10

Accommodation: 1 night hotel, 2 nights lodges and 4 nights camping

About the Alpine National Park

Victoria's Alpine National Park is an area of outstanding natural beauty with a rich cultural heritage located in the north east of the state, adjacent to the Kosciusko region. It is the highest part of Victoria rising to 1900 metres. In winter, it is snow covered above 1500 metres, but snowfalls to 1000 metres are not uncommon.

In summer and early autumn, when we walk here, the weather is generally fine and warm, but at least 10o Celsius cooler than the nearby plain. Daily temperatures are normally between 10 and 20o Celsius. However the weather can also be changeable and on rare occasions the temperature can vary from 0o C to 30o C. While summer can produce short dramatic thunderstorms and occasional light snow falls, bad weather usually clears quickly.

The park has three main vegetation zones, all of which are very beautiful. At the highest level the alpine zone has low vegetation, open grasslands, herbfields, small pools and bogs, with expanses of wildflowers.

The sub-alpine zone is characterized by unique snowgum woodland, where ancient trees are sculpted into fantastic shapes by wind and snow.

Lastly, the mountain forests of tall alpine-ash and mountain-ash descend into lush fern gullies. Our walk will take you through all three.

Aboriginal people inhabited the Bogong High Plains in the summer months pre European settlement, and from the 1830s, cattlemen have used the high plains for summer grazing. Gold was discovered at many locations in and around the park during the 1850 - 60s. Bushrangers were also very active.

We visit picturesque and historic relics of these cattlemen and miners on our walk, camping near some of them.

The park offers a broad range of walking opportunities including the Australian Alps Walking Track, which we follow for part of our trip. Excellent accommodation in the ski villages of Falls Creek and Mt. Hotham provide two comfortable lodge nights en route.

Our traverse route will take you to many of the highest summits in Victoria, including the three highest, Mt. Bogong (1,986m), Mt. Feathertop (1,922m), and Mt. Nelse (1884m). The route is challenging but will reward you with 360o panoramas from above the tree line into the valley bottoms and across the state border to the Kosciusko National Park.

This is one of Australia's great walks!

Sample Itinerary

Day 1

Collection in Melbourne and travel via Hume Highway and the scenic Ovens Valley to the tiny village of Harrietville, nestling at the foot of Mt. Feathertop, Victoria's second highest peak (1,922m). Collection from Wangaratta is available by arrangement. Group evening meal, orientation and briefing session at our hotel accommodation.

Day 2

An early start scheduled for a gradual ascent of Mt. Feathertop. We down packs well below the summit and walk unencumbered to enjoy the outstanding views below. Set up camp in the shelter of the snowgums.

Day 3

We follow the distinctive Razorback ridge of Feathertop, giving a 360 degree panorama all day as we walk into Hotham ski village to our comfortable lodge.

Day 4

We walk through alpine wildflowers to Mt. Loch for views onto the Bogong High Plains before descending through snow-gum forest to Cobungra Gap. Overnight camp at Cobungra Gap.

Day 5

We continue our walk across the Bogong High Plains with their distinctive open snowgrass clearings, beautiful snowgums, rustic old huts and a huge variety of summer wildflowers. Overnight in a Falls Creek ski lodge.

Day 6

We join the Australian Alps Walking Track, which we follow to Mt. Nelse before camping close to an historic cattlemen's hut.

Day 7

The most strenuous day of the walk as we descend to Big River, and then ascend Mt. Bogong. Overnight camp in a snowgum grove near Cleve Cole Hut.

Day 8

Savour the views from Bogong summit (1,986m) before descending to the picturesque river valley below. Dunk in a pristine mountain stream to celebrate the descent and meet the vehicle for transfer back to Melbourne arriving at about 7.00pm.

Tour Costs and Dates

Departure	Return	Cost (AU\$)
26/12/2006	2/1/2007	1595
10/2/2007	17/2/2007	1595
26/12/2007	2/1/2008	1695
9/2/2008	16/2/2007	1695

Included

- 4WD or minibus travel from Melbourne to walk and return,
- Backpacks,
- Double skinned 2-person tents,
- Sleeping mats,
- Group cooking & camping equipment,
- Hotel Accommodation for 1 night,
- Quality Ski Village Lodge accommodation for 2 nights,
- All meals including 1 hotel meal,
- Professional walking guide/leader, and

- All entry and permit fees.

Not included, but available from us for hire:

- Waterproof jackets (\$15.00 for the duration of the tour)
- Waterproof overpants (\$5.00 for the duration of the tour)

Our tours are led by professional leaders who will point out significant natural features and places of historical interest. A detailed gear list is forwarded on confirmation.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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