



Victoria's Historic Huts Ramble 5 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-city accommodation, bus/train station or the airport if required.

Tour grading: Easy/Moderate

Maximum group size: 15

Accommodation: Ski Lodge

About the Alpine National Park

Victoria's Alpine National Park is an area of outstanding natural beauty 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 snow falls 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 plains. Daily temperatures are normally between 10 and 20o Celsius. However the weather can also be changeable and on rare occasions 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. The alpine zone has low vegetation, open grasslands, herbfields, small pools and bogs, with expanses of wildflowers.

The sub-alpine zone is characterized by 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 trees descend into lush fern gullies.

The area was inhabited by Aboriginal people in the summer months, 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 and bushrangers were also very active here. Bogong Jack had a hideout hut in a remote part of the park.

We visit the historic huts built by the mountain cattlemen on our walks. They are typically located in the most sheltered and beautiful groves of ancient snowgums and show the traditional pioneering building methods.

Wallace's Hut, over 100 years old, is classified by the National Trust. Some huts are still used at mustering and we may encounter the cattlemen on the High Plains.

The park offers a broad range of walking opportunities and excellent accommodation at the ski village of Falls Creek.

Sample Itinerary

Day 1

After meeting we drive via the Hume Highway and the scenic Ovens and Kiewa Valleys to Falls Creek, with a lunch stop en route. Having settled into the lodge we will have a short afternoon walk in the Falls Creek area.

Days 2, 3 & 4

We will drive out to our starting points (up to 20km from Falls Creek) on each day. We plan to visit the old cattlemen's huts of Wallace's (built 1800s), McNamara's, Faithful's, Cope, Edmondson's, Kelly's, and Tawonga Huts - depending on the overall walking ability of the group, and the weather.

There is a variety of walking terrain; open snowgrass plains, sheltered valleys, treeless high ridges and walks among the ancient snowgums can be covered over our short stay. The mountain scenery and the vistas over the High Plains are magnificent.

Day 5

Leaving Falls Creek, we descend to Bogong Village and complete a circuit of beautiful Lake Guy before continuing to Mt. Beauty. Some departures return to Melbourne by rail. Return to Melbourne by 6.00pm.

Included

- Return 4WD or minibus transport ex Melbourne,
- Modern Lodge accommodation, twin share. (Single room supplement available: \$35.00)
- All meals; wine with dinners,
- Professional guide/leader, and
- All entry 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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