

Mount Buffalo National Park



The Big Walk

Appropriately named, The Big Walk is a great way to ascend Mount Buffalo at your own pace. The Big Walk is 11.3 km, or 16 km with a side trip to Rollasons Falls, quite steep and takes about 4 - 5 hours one way from Eurobin Creek Picnic Area to the Gorge Day Visitor Area. Hikers will pass through several vegetation zones as the altitude increases, while enjoying spectacular views of the Australian Alps and The Gorge from numerous lookouts.

Are you ready for a big walk?

Hikers should be reasonably fit and have strong footwear as The Big Walk ascends over 1000 metres in only 9 kilometres! Water and snacks should be carried along with a jacket as it is often cooler at the top. Stop and enjoy some rests along the way and admire the beauty of the bush.

These notes are written for hiking uphill, but are useful for doing the walk in either direction. For hikers starting from the Gorge Day Visitor Area, read these notes in reverse beginning with No. 11 and use the second set of distances for descent.

1. Eurobin Creek Picnic Area: 0 or 11.3 km

Start from the trail head sign at the north end of the picnic area, shortly after crossing Eurobin Creek on a swing bridge built in 1998 for the Park's Centenary. Over the creek the track becomes quite steep climbing 370 metres, initially through tall moist and then drier foothill forest of mainly peppermint eucalypts with a Hop Bitter-pea understorey. After 2 kilometres, a 4WD track is reached, turn left and continue uphill for 700 metres to meet the main road at Eurobin Point, elevation 680 metres.

2. Eurobin Point: 2.7 or 8.6 km

The hardest part is over! While resting notice the sandstone rock in the cutting. This forms when sand is compressed by the massive weight of rock on top of it. Continue up the main road for 100 metres and cross over back onto the track. While climbing this gentle spur, look out for wombat scratchings and burrows with tell tale cube shaped droppings marking their territory.

3. Rollasons Junction: 3.9 or 7.4 km

Now at 810 metres and back on the main road it's only 400 metres down the road to Rollasons Falls Picnic Area which has a toilet, fireplaces and picnic tables. From the picnic area down to Rollasons Falls, the return walk is another 4 kilometres or 1.5 hours.

4. Majestic Candlebarks

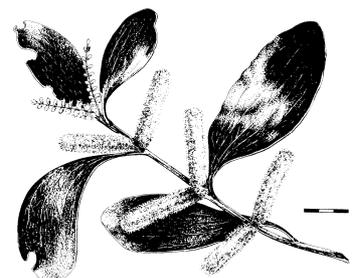
The going is easier along here through an open montane forest of majestic Candlebark Gums and a Bracken Fern understorey. Look out for the shy Swamp Wallaby and listen to the abundant birdlife here, especially Grey Fantails and Thornbills. Cross the main road again, continuing past an old gravel pit reaching the road once more, turn left then 100 metres up to Mackeys Lookout.

5. Mackeys Lookout: 5.6 or 5.7 km

Halfway up! And at 920 metres there is a clear view of the Australian Alps. The forest has given way to granite slabs which form Mount Buffalo. Here only hardy Brittle Gums, heath and endemic Buffalo Sallow Wattle can grow in the poor thin soil. Beyond here take care on the track. It is wet and slippery, and watch for sharp Saw Sedge plants along side. This section was part of the original track up Mount Buffalo called the 'Zig Zag'. Follow the orange arrow track markers and please don't cut corners!

6. Marriott's Lookout: 6.8 or 4.5 km

Take a short 100 metre side trip to Marriott's Lookout for amazing views into the Gorge past Queen Victoria Pinnacle. Back on the track and again the bush soon changes. At 1150 metres, and near the snowline, Alpine Ash, often called 'Woollybutt', is common with a shrubby understorey of peas and grevilleas. Look out for the elusive Superb Lyrebird scratching in the leaf litter.



*Buffalo Sallow Wattle - Acacia phlebophylla.
Illustration by John Truscott*



For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre
Call 13 1963

or visit our website at
www.parks.vic.gov.au

**Camping permits,
booking and information**

Mount Buffalo Entrance Station
and Park Office
PO Box 72
Porepunkah, VIC 3740
Phone: 13 1963

Relevant maps

Mount Buffalo Plateau 1:30,000
topographic by Geoff Lawford
Eurobin & Buckland 1:25,000
topographic from Vic Map

Relevant codes

Car Camping Code
Bush Camping Code

Relevant guides

Mount Buffalo Visitor Guide
Alps in Flower Field Guide
Camping in Victoria Guide

Caring for the
environment

Help look after your park by
remembering these guidelines:

Take rubbish home with you

All native plants, animals and
landforms are protected

Dogs, cats and other pets are
prohibited within the park

Firearms are prohibited

Camping is permitted only in
the designated areas

Camp fires are permitted only in
fireplaces provided

**No fires, including gas and
fuel stoves, in the open on
days of Total Fire Ban**

This park is in the North East
Total Fire Ban District

Do not use soap, toothpaste or
detergents near lakes or
streams

Leave the park as you found it

Healthy Parks Healthy People

Visiting a park can improve
your health, mind, body and
soul. So, with over four million
hectares of parkland available
to Victorians, why not escape
to a park today!



7. Snow Gum Country: 8.1 or 3.2 km

At 1250 metres the Alpine Ash gives way to a mixture of Snow and Mountain Gums with thickets of Woolly Teatree in the creeks.

8. Manfields Junction: 9.3 or 2 km

The highest part of The Big Walk at 1350 metres! From here consider a side trip to Manfields Lookout or Reeds Lookout, both about 500 metres. From Reeds continue on a loop returning further along back onto The Big Walk. Buffalo Sallee grows here, another endemic tree similar to Snow Gums, but with narrow leaves.

9. Gorge Heritage Walk: 10 or 1.3 km

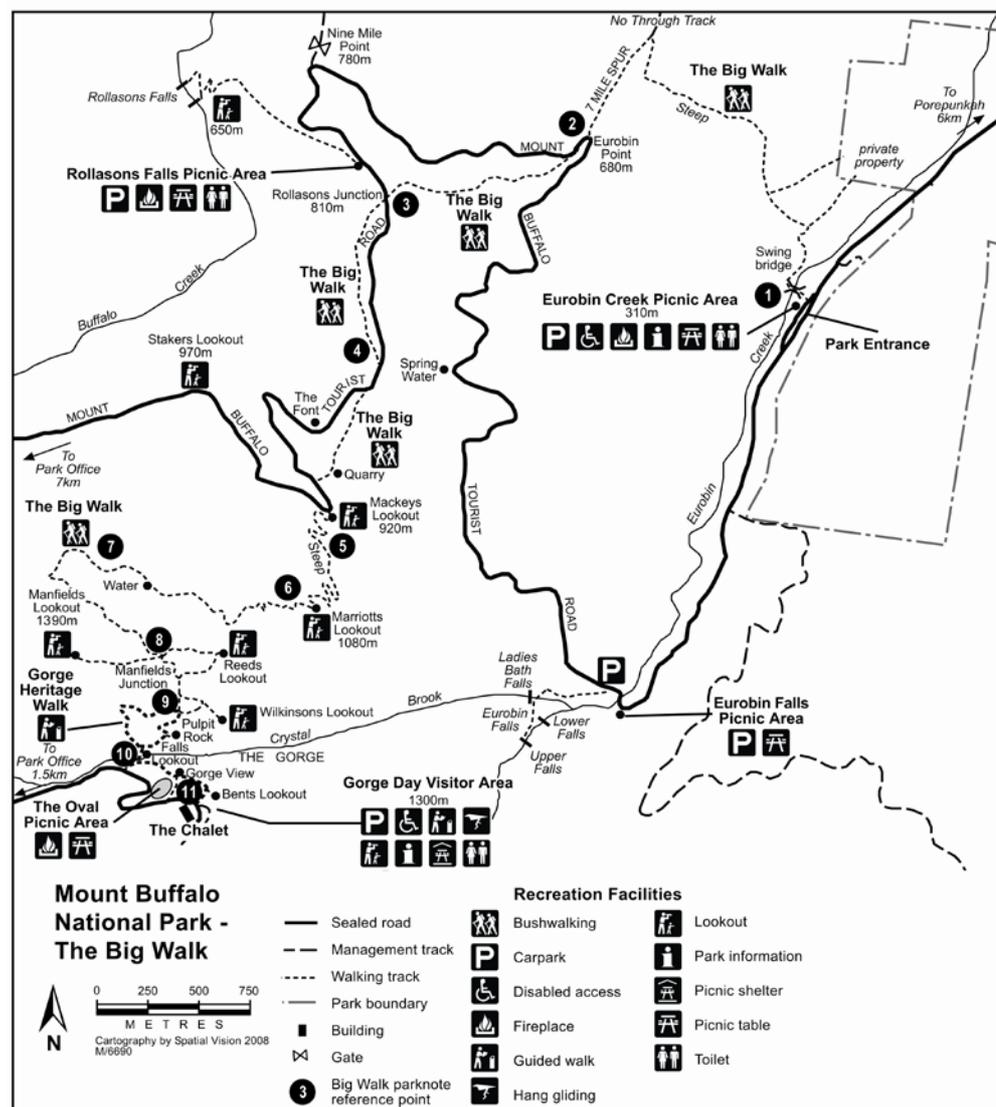
There are two options from here to the finish. Turn right and follow the Gorge Heritage Walk looping back onto the main track or proceed straight on, either way is a similar distance. Wilkinson's Lookout is 300 metres to the left with breathtaking views from the 330 metres North Wall. Along the main track Pulpit Rock also has fine views of the sheer walls with climbers often clinging to them!

10. Crystal Brook Falls: 10.8 or 0.5 km

Crystal Brook has carved out the Gorge over 360 million years. From Falls Lookout you can see the start point of the Big Walk 1000 metres below! Proceed over the bridge turning left and continue past The Oval Picnic Area. The Heritage Walk plaques will bring to life the pioneering days of the area as seen through the eyes of Guide Alice. Gorge View Lookout provides a different vantage point into the depths far below.

11. Gorge Day Visitor Area: 11.3 or 0 km

Well done, you have made it to the top! There are toilets, picnic tables and a shelter nearby. At present the Chalet is closed. Around the day visitor area are several lookouts, such as Bents Lookout and Echo Point all with spectacular views of the valley below and the Australian Alps beyond. Other walking tracks head off from the lower carpark to the Underground River, the Monolith and Lake Catani with the campground there.



August 2012

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