

Alpine National Park



Our Mountain Heritage - walks around Howitt, Snowy Range and Tali Karng

Walking is one of the best ways to discover the variety and beauty of the alpine environment. The walks described in this leaflet are just a selection from many possibilities. The best walking period lasts from early November until late March as the area is usually snow covered during winter and early spring. Always carry and know how to use a map and compass and be prepared for sudden changes in the weather.

The walks

These scenic walks take in a range of landscapes:

1. Mt Howitt - 14 km, approx 5 hours return
2. Bryce Gorge - 8 km, approx 2.5 hours return
3. Moroka Gorge - 12 km, approx 8 hours return
4. Various walks around Tali Karng

How far, how fast?

In good weather along a track, a fit person can cover 3 - 4 km an hour. Remember to make allowances for steep climbs, heavy packs, photos and rests. Let someone know before you go.

The Mt Howitt Walk (14 km, approx 5 hours return)

The walk starts at the carpark on the Howitt Road, 81 km north of Licola via the Tamboritha Road. The first 5 km passes through pleasant Snow Gum woodlands and small, open snow grass plains. The memorial Vallejo Gantner Hut near Macalister Springs was built in 1970 as a refuge for bushwalkers. It has a unique copper clad inclined 'A' frame design.

Beyond the hut the track follows a narrow ridge, with spectacular views into the headwaters of the Macalister River (west) and Wonnangatta River - Terrible Hollow (east).

After a climb of 0.5 km the Australian Alps Walking Track is reached. Turn left, it is only a fairly short walk to the open rolling summit of Mt Howitt and Howitt West Peak. The view from here is one of the best in the Victorian Alps. Nearby is the jagged Cross Cut Saw, The Razor, The Viking and Mount Speculation, and in the distance Mount Buller to the west, Mount Buffalo to the north and Mount Feathertop to the north west.

The Bryce Gorge Circuit (8 km, approx 2.5 hours return)

The walk starts at the carpark on the Howitt Road, 23.5 km north of Arbuckle Junction (46.5 km north of Licola via Tamboritha Road). From the carpark follow the well defined track across open snow plains for about 1.7 km to the waterfall on Pieman Creek. The best view is from a lookout about 50 metres beyond the sign.

Return to the main track and continue around the clifftops of Bryce Gorge for 2 km to Conglomerate Falls. From the falls the track follows Conglomerate Creek through Black Sallee woodlands and across open plains to a junction with the Wonnangatta Track. Guy's Hut is reached a further 3 km through groves of Snow Gums. Built in 1940, the hut is an excellent example of bush architecture and well worth a visit. Continue 1 km south east from the hut to the carpark.

First Falls and Moroka Gorge Walk (6 km, approx 3 hours return)

From Horseyard Flat the track crosses a footbridge over the Moroka River before meandering through Snowgum woodland and crossing wetlands on boardwalks. Then it follows the river downstream to the First Falls. A rock platform provides an ideal viewing point to enjoy the rushing Moroka River plunging into a deep pool. Retrace your steps to Horseyard Flat.

Beyond First Falls there is no track and the route is unmarked. The slopes are steep, with cliffs, logs and regrowth making it very difficult. Descending to the gorges is possible for self-reliant walkers who are experienced in undefined routes. Good levels of fitness are required for steep descents/ascents and ensure you are well equipped for remote walking. Progress to reach the main gorge at Lumican Gully is slow but full of interest. (12km, allow 8-10 hours return).



For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre
Call 13 1963
or visit our website at
www.parks.vic.gov.au

Park Office
Licola Road, Heyfield 3858
Phone 13 1963

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the park

Please do not disturb or remove any native plants, animals or rock formations

Vehicles including trail bikes may only be driven or ridden on formed roads open to the public, and must be fully road registered. Drivers and riders must hold a current licence

Always check fire danger forecasts. No fires (including stoves) on days of Total Fire Ban (Eastern and North-eastern Fire Ban Districts)

Take your rubbish home, most rubbish will not burn or rot

Do not pollute streams and rivers with refuse, detergents or human waste. Wash up well away from streams

Where toilets are not provided bury your toilet waste at least 100 metres from streams

Use a portable stove instead of lighting a fire, especially above or near the tree line

Fuel stove only area. Due to vegetation damage and visual scarring, no campfires are to be lit within 1 km of Tali Karng or Vallejo Ganter Hut (Macalister Springs)

Enjoy a visit to a hut but do not use them for accommodation. Always carry a tent

There is no formal track beyond this point but following the river downstream brings you to three spectacular waterfalls and the narrow gorge proper (dry weather only). This involves some rock hopping and should not be attempted when the river is high.

Walks around Tali Karng

Tali Karng, 'the hidden lake', was formed at least 1500 years ago by an enormous rockslide. Horse-riding is not permitted within 200m of the Lake on Echo Point Track at the hitching rails near the Knoll.

1. McFarlane Saddle - Wellington Plains - Tali Karng

(13 km each way, 4 hours to Lake, 5 hours out)

The easiest route to the Lake begins at McFarlane Saddle Carpark on the Moroka Road, 60 km from Licola. The walk follows a well defined track across Wellington Plains for 9 km before reaching Gillios Track branching off to the south. This track is about 4 km long, and although steep is well graded down to the Lake.

2. Wellington River - Clive Lanigan Track - Tali Karng

(17 km each way, 7 hrs to Lake, 6 hours out)

This route begins at the third bridge over the Wellington River, about 22 km north of Licola. The route follows the Wellington River upstream for 17 km, crossing the river 16 times. These crossings may be hazardous if the river level is high.

Continue past Riggall Spur Track to Clive Lanigan Track which climbs steeply through the Valley of Destruction and on to the Lake. A slightly longer alternative route is via Riggall Spur Track up to Echo Point. From here it is a 1 km walk down to the Lake.

3. Tamboritha Road - Mt Margaret - Tali Karng

(20 km each way, 10 hrs to Lake, 9 hours out)

One of the most difficult routes to the Lake. Start from the Tamboritha Road approx 4 km from Licola. From there climb over Mt Margaret to the Dolodrook River where there is a campsite and water. From here it is another 3.5 km to the Wellington River via Brady Pinch Track, then on to the Lake.

Horses are not permitted at the Lake or on the Clive Lanigan and Gillios Tracks.

Setting up camp

There are numerous ideal sites in the area for dispersed bush camping without facilities. Sites with basic facilities are:

For bushwalkers

- **Macalister Springs.** Fuel stove only area.
- **Tali Karng.** Fuel stove only area. Large groups are asked to register at the Heyfield Office. Preferred campsites are situated at Riggalls Hut site and along Wellington River.

For car based campers

- **Wellington River.** 9 km along the river, beginning 10 km north of Licola. Toilets at some sites.
- **Horseyard Flat.** Beside the Moroka River.
- **Wonangatta Valley** (4WD only). Near the historic site of the Homestead.

Take care!

All visitors, and especially walkers, should realise that weather conditions can change rapidly in alpine areas. Snowfalls can be experienced at any time of the year and water can be extremely scarce, so always be prepared with:

- warm clothing
- wind and waterproof jacket
- gloves, hat, sunglasses and strong footwear
- first aid kit and sunscreen
- energy food and water
- compass and relevant topographical map

Please keep to marked or defined walking tracks.

Fire in the Alps

During the summer of 2006/2007 a number of fires swept through the Australian Alps. To assist with regeneration please keep to tracks and trails, especially in fire affected areas.

Other publications

For more details of the Alpine National Park see the following maps and publications:

VicMap 1:50,000 series Howitt - Selwyn, Tamboritha - Moroka, Dargo Plains - Cobungra and Crooked River

The Australian Alps Walking Track and Alpine National Park by John Siseman (Pindari Publications)

The selection of park notes on the Alpine National Park produced by Parks Victoria

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