and the best regions for mountain bike riding and horse-riding. We've chosen what we believe are the best places to enjoy the essence of the High Country. And we've put all of them onto this, The High Country Adventure Guide. Local knowledge for an authentic High Country experience.

We've picked the most exciting drives, the most exhilarating walks,

The High Country Adventure Guide is a bit like having your own local guide.

We've also added a few local yarns the old-timers like to tell, plus some interesting geological information and history, so you get the most from your visit here.

We've chosen tracks and trails to suit all levels of ability, fitness and confidence.

And every trail, drive, track and region is graded, so you have a pretty clear idea of what to expect.

We hope this guide enables you to experience this, our beloved High Country, as we locals do.

From the wild, remote valleys to the silent, Alpine Ash forests, from the mesmeric call of a lyre-bird to the soaring scenery at Eagle's Peak there's always something special to discover up here. So pack your gear and prepare for a break that is extraordinary. Because in every step, every bend in the track, every whisper of running water, you'll hear the High Country calling you to adventure.

We acknowledge the Taungurung people as the traditional owners of the land. We pay respect to the Taungurung Elders, past, present and future and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples



## Hankering for a genuine High Country experience? Then buckle up, because 4-Wheel Driving is one of the best ways to experience these legendary mountains, high plains and river valleys.

Choose any one of these drives, and you will be rewarded with a memorable experience, whether you're climbing to remote cattle runs, inching down a winding road in logging country, or just marvelling at the massive geological forces that sculpted this beautiful place. And remember, for further details, more detailed maps and up-to-date weather

and track information, please contact the Mansfield Visitor Information Centre Parks Victoria or Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management.

Mitchell's Track

Grid Ref: G7 to J9

Jamieson, Skene North

▲ Seasonal road closures

Grade: Moderate / difficult

Distance / Time: 18km / 3 hours

Warnings: Dry weather access only

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Howqua,

Uncover traces of past local legends at

beautiful Mitchell's Flat – sharp eves and

of kangaroo grass and European trees,

to magnificent views of Mt Buller, skirting

the Alpine National Park and then passing

through Steiner country – where

operated the local slate mine.

How high is high water?

another well-known local family once

Look out for: Relics of the homestead at

Mitchell's Flat. Do more digging at the

museum in Jamieson's old courthouse

Local advice: Take care on steep, slippery

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

climb out of Mitchell's Flat up a clay hill.

If the water level is higher than your

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wheels, you should not cross.

a bit of imagination are required. This valley

is reminiscent of Wonnangatta, with swathes

planted later on by the Hoskins family. Climb

Seasonal road closures Grade: Moderate Distance / Time: 43km / 4 hours Warnings: Dry weather access only

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Buller South,

The Bluff

Grid Ref: L6 to N6

4-Wheel Drive

Howitt-Selwyn This is one of the most stunningly beautiful 4WD routes in the High Country. Rising spectacularly off the Bluff Link Road to Bluff Hut and Lovick's Hut, the trail winds through high alpine ridges with breathtaking views along The Bluff Track to King Billy Crossroads (a local reference you won't find on any official map). On a clear day, you can see across to Mt Stirling, Cobbler, Buller and out across Gippsland, towards Licola and on to Bairnsdale. Descend through sub-alpine country onto wooded flats and

Look out for: A walking track up to historic Upper Jamieson's Hut and great view of Mt Stirling. Local advice: Take care on the river crossing at Upper Jamieson's Hut.

along the Jamieson River, on Brocks Road

in a deep valley bound by Mt Clear and

MacDonald Bluff.

# **Howqua Hills Track**

▲ Seasonal road closures Grade: Moderate / difficult Distance / Time: 7.5km / 2 hours Warnings: Dry weather access only Grid Ref: I6 to H7

fascinating trails to explore.

Bluff Link Road

Grid Ref: K6 to M5

Grade: Easy

▲ Seasonal road closures

Distance / Time: 23km / 1.5-2 hours

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Howitt-Selwyn

Experience icons of the High Country in

this varied and spectacular route. Catch

a glimpse of Mt Buller, examine the Bluff

and trace local geological history before

descending into the Alpine National Park,

and montane (high rainfall, high elevation

forest) into the Howqua River Valley. There

Look out for: The Howqua river is famous

for fly fishing thanks to the Lovick family,

to the area. Legend has it they brought the

nountain cattlemen who introduced trout

'fingerlings' to this waterway on the back of

Local advice: Pack a fly fishing rod and plan

are many spots to stop for a bushwalk

or a picnic. Try Refrigerator Gap, once a

temporary logging settlement.

a buggy all the way from Benalla.

to spend some time.

through snowgum country, Alpine Ash

Look out for: The Lickhole walking track -

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Buller South

Skene South This is a pleasant track to poke along, taking you through foothill forest up to Take the Lazarini Spur and you'll be Tobacco Flat and later, Ware's Flat. Here following trails blazed by the European the good, arable land quickly attracted pioneers, miners and loggers who opened settlers. In fact, both flats are privately up the High Country to settlement. Rising steeply from the Goulburn River, this track wned leases – a typical historic High Country arrangement for running cattle rewards you with panoramic views across among other activities. Do tread lightly. the region. The initial three kilometres are on private land, please tread lightly. Speaking of treading lightly, make sure you bring your walking gear – this drive hugs Look out for: Regenerated stands of Alpine the Alpine National Park so there are many Ash. Views across to Lake Mountain and

probably named for a salt-block which extreme care in high water. cattle licked until a hole appeared. Local advice: Minor river crossings.

> Grade: Moderate / difficult Distance / Time: 14km / 4 hours

Warnings: Dry weather access

▲ Seasonal road closures

nistoric Wood's Point.

Local advice: 2 river crossings. Take

King Billy Track to Howitt Road

Lazarini Spur Track

Grid Ref: F11 to J12

Grade: Difficult

▲ Seasonal road closures

Distance / Time: 20km / 3 hours

Warnings: Dry weather access only

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Gaffney Creek,

Grid Ref: N6 to Q6 Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Howitt-Selwyn This spectacular, remote route through the Alpine National Park, leads into

Wonnangatta Valley. Dropping steeply to MacAllister River, there are great views of Mt Howitt and Magdala from Howitt Rd. As you continue along Zeka Spur Track, you'll find this wild backcountry is loaded with atmosphere. A real adventure in 4-Wheel Driving. Look out for: Wonnangatta Homestead, site of the infamous and unsolved murder

a twist into legend when the body of John Bamford, the lead suspect, was discovered hidden under a log. ocal advice: Check conditions and forecas before you leave, the Zeka Track can be

mpassable in bad weather.

of land manager, Jim Barclay. Events took

Carter's Road to Circuit Road A Seasonal road closures

Grade: Easy to Tomahawk Hut -Moderate / Difficult to Circuit Road Distance / Time: 38km / 2-2.5 hours Warnings: Dry weather access only Grid Ref: 14 to K4

King Basin to Pineapple Flat

Distance / Time: 11km / 1 hour

Warnings: Dry weather access only,

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Buller North,

This lovely route crosses the King River

and relatively unpopulated Upper King

Valley, above Lake William Hovell. The

for picnicking and exploring on foot.

is known for rafting in high water.

dangerous in high water.

terrain has a unique character and passes

historic King Hut. There are plenty of spots

A 4-Wheel Driving experience that's a little

Look out for: White water rafters – the river

Local advice: Five river crossings can be

Window, and the Terrible Hollow, are

Canberra, the Australian Alps Walking

such as map and compass reading.

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Grade: Moderate to difficult (good track

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Buller North,

Up for a big day with stunning views in

beautiful bushland? This walk uses Mt

Stirling's famous cross country ski trails

Begin your walk at Telephone Box Junction,

and takes in fantastic vistas of Mt Buller

climbing to Bluff Spur Hut and then on

to the summit. Once you're on top, there

is a range of options for the home trail.

Follow the signposts, and see what you

can discover. Download trail map from

Buller South, Howitt-Selwyn, Buller Stirling

Mt Stirling Summit Loop

but long steep sections)

Time: 5 hours (return

Grid Ref: K4 to L4

Outdoor Leisure Map

Mt Stirling website

he icons of Victorian bushwalkin

seven times, and takes you into the remote

▲ Seasonal road closures

Grade: Easy

river crossings

Howitt-Selwyn

Grid Ref: K3 to M3

out of the ordinary.

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Buller North Fantastic views from a high plateau, a river Fancy a taste of the varied regions of the valley, snowgum country and some High Country in a single day? Then this challenging driving – that's what's in store route is the perfect choice. You'll get for you the day you tackle Speculation Road. Let's start with the Staircase, which fantastic and rare views across Mansfield you'll encounter after climbing out of the and the Upper King Valley as you travel King River up Speculation Road. This through attractive grassy plains studded with Snow Gums. Following the Razorback collection of rock shelves rises like steps spur, you'll pass historic mountain huts, and, if you're plucky, is not technically including Tomahawk Gap, onto No 3 Road, difficult. The Staircase brings you to Cobbler past sites of old Bus Huts – where buses Lake Track, a pretty high plateau in the Alpine National Park with truly scenic driving. were literally used as huts – and Mt No. 3 Refuge Hut, built in the '80s. Look out for: An alternative route up to iconic Craig's Hut - often used by locals

Complete the circuit back at Speculation Road, below the Staircase. Look out for: Evidence of the cattle around from Merrijig follow Buttercup Road. This Cobbler Lake Track, traditional cattle run of road takes you through farmland, upwards the Lovick family. into bush and forest to Craig's Hut. Local advice: Watch for the Staircase, a Local's advice: This is a favourite tour with challenging but exciting bit of driving. locals. Highly recommended

**Speculation Road** 

Grid Ref: M4 to N2

Seasonal road closures

Grade: Moderate / Difficult

Distance / Time: 43km / 2.5-3 hours

Warnings: Dry weather access only

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Howitt-Selwyn

## Mt Buller to Howqua Gap ▲ Seasonal road closures

Grade: Easy Distance / Time: 4km / 30 minutes

Warnings: Dry weather access only, single lane Grid Ref: K5 to L4

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Buller South,

Buller Stirling Outdoor Leisure Map Explore the wild country off the back of Mt Buller and connect to the classic Circuit Road on Mt Stirling along this track, popular with locals. Descending along Baldy Spur, you'll pass through changing terrain, including alpine woodlands, grasslands and bog. From snowgum stands to the tall timber, you'll enjoy country and views rarely seen, before emerging at Howqua Gap, and the Stirling Circuit Road. Look out for: Great aspects from an unusual

vantage point along the flank of Mt Buller.

Local advice. Be prepared for rugged

country. Take water. Not suitable for

caravans/large camper trailers

Take a drive around the High Country and watch the spectacle unfold.

You'll be astounded at the wild spaces you can reach from behind the wheel of a

comfortable, All-Wheel Drive car. Not to mention the views – from range upon range

Howqua Track ▲ Seasonal road closures (partial)

Buller South

Grade: Easy Distance / Time: 39km / 45 minutes Grid Ref: H4 to I6 Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Buller North,

well-made dirt road, the Howqua Track offers a contrasting experience to the alpine vistas and plains. The road undulates as it travels through woodland and riverscapes Stop off at Fry's Flat or Sheepyard Flat and spend some time alongside the refreshing waters of the Howqua. A fantastic way to experience the diversity of the High Country. Look out for: Rich bird life along the river, ncluding kookaburras. Take a look at historic Frv's Hut.

Taking you deep into bushland along a

Local advice: Take a fishing rod and have a go in one of the world's iconic fly-fishing rivers.

Look out for: Bindaree Falls – a short walk to a pretty plume of water. Local advice: This makes for a perfect day trip – pack a picnic. Drive slowly through

## Clear Hills (Circuit Road to Craig's Hut)

Telephone Box Junction (TBJ)

**All-Wheel Drive** 

Circuit Road

Grade: Easy

Grid Ref: J4 to M4

Outdoor Leisure Map

fishing spots.

▲ Seasonal road closures

Distance / Time: 52km / 2-2.5 hours

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Buller North,

Buller South, Howitt-Selwyn, Buller Stirlin

sampler of the High Country. The Circuit

Road loops you through stands of Alpine

Ash, snowgum plains and mountain views.

route up to Craig's Hut. To complete the

iconic experience, follow the two kilometre

Craig's Hut for spectacular views across Mt

Cobbler, the Howqua valley and Mt Howitt.

Take a detour to charming Bindaree Falls

or drop down into the Howqua valley and

the Howqua river, one of Australia's finest

walk from Circuit Road Picnic Area up to

Along the way, you'll pass the 4-Wheel Drive

This classic alpine drive is a perfect

▲ Seasonal road closures Grade: Easy/Intermediate Distance / Time: 2.2km / 10mins Grid Ref: M4

Map ref (as for Route 11) vista across mountain ranges awaits. The route requires the clearance of a 4WD over drainage humps and is

bushland, where kingfishers hover above crystal clear waters. Pack a picnic and throw in your walking shoes – many of these drives pass some spectacular walks. And don't forget your camera!

Grade: Easy of velvety green mountains with stands of Alpine Ash and snowgum plains to riverine Distance / Time: 39km / 1-1.5 hours Grid Ref: 16 to K6 Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Buller South This spectacular, rolling drive takes you

**Brock's Road** 

through beautiful wooded country into the heart of the Alpine National Park. Running from Sheepyard Flat to Eight Mile Gap, you'll pass some iconic walks along the way - including Eagle's Peak, and the Ritchie's Hut track. Well worth a stop. Look out for: The changes in woodland as you climb into alpine country. Local advice: Don't forget, from Sheepyard Flat, you can take an alternative route

A Seasonal road closures (partial)

experience a piece of High Country in miniature – without a 4-Wheel Drive. Prepare for altitude - Mt Skene stands at 1573 metres. This stunning route takes you through real alpine country, complete with Snow Gum stands, snow plains and unbelievable scenery. Take your time, there into Fry's Flat and enjoy the Howqua Hills

are enchanting picnic spots for a quick snack or a leisurely meal. And make sure you pack your camera - you'll be surprised at this wild, yet accessible, landscape. Look out for: Snow plains and Snow Gums Local advice: This is a long, winding road. Conditions can be slippery and windy. Closed by snow in winter – check conditions before you go.

Jamieson to Mt Skene along

Distance / Time: 48km / 2.5-3 hours

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Jamieson,

Take the Jamieson to Mt Skene road and

▲ Seasonal road closures

Skene North, Skene South

the Licola Road

Grade: Moderate

Grid Ref: F8 to J12

## Finding your way

This adventure guide is designed to

compass (plus the skills to use it) can

make your adventure much more fun

Mt Howitt Feeder Track

Time: 3.5-4 hours (one way)

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25 000 Howitt-Selwyr

This popular bushwalk starts at Upper

Howqua camp, meanders along the

Howqua, and then climbs straight up

Mt Howitt for a stunning summit walk.

Grade: Difficult

Grid Ref: M5 to O5

help you find your way around the High The Vicmap series of topographic Country, using the signposts and other navigational help on the ground. Not all trails are marked. And all times and distances are estimates only. Navigation is an art in itself. You may choose to supplement this guide with a detailed, small-scale map. There are a

range of 1:50,000 and 1:25,000 maps covering all our recommended routes at the Mansfield Visitor Information Centre. For bushwalkers and 4-Wheel Drivers, a GPS system or a simple

maps which cover the Mansfield Mt Buller area. For more information visit https://mapshare.vic.gov.au

## **Horse Riding**

For sheer exhilaration, nothing compares with riding the High Country. No wonder High Country legends always ride on horseback There are many inviting bridle tracks and trails to explore. Two regions in particular

offer a wonderful High Country horseback experience – Howqua Hills and the area

around Razorback Hut. Both areas offer riders designated yards for overnight stops.

Mansfield-Mt Buller

The High Country

**Adventure Guide** 

Generally, the riding season runs during the warmer months – from December to April above 1200m, slightly longer in the lower forested areas. This is because the alpine

and subalpine environment is especially vulnerable during cold, wet times.

Hills is subject to seasonal closures. Check with the Mansfield Visitor Information Centre or Parks Victoria before you set out.

Remember horses can damage sensitive environment, so please ride with respect for the High Country and don't use tracks

## closed to horses.

Howqua Hills These rolling hills, punctuated by river flats, make for really delightful riding. There are many bridle paths, logging roads and even part of a long-distance riding trail in this area. Most routes are well marked. Enjoy the scents of Manna and Peppermint Gums

as you pass, and watch for evidence of early miners as well as signs of Aboriginal trade and culture. The designated horse camping sites and free vards at Fry's Flat and Tunnel Bend

excellent local rides. Bookings can only

offer a good launching-off point for

be made online for yards located in

## the Alpine National Park at www.parkstay.vic.gov.au/howqua-yards The Howqua Feeder Track

The Howqua Feeder Track starts at Running Creek, then hugs Howqua River to upper Howqua and the base of the Howitt Spur. From here, the trail runs over the summit of Mt Howitt, dropping down past Vallejo

Do note, that Howitt Spur is for experienced

in extremely steep and rough country,

Alpine and subalpine forest, signature views and the whiff of legends make

Horse riding throughout the Alpine National Park, Mt Stirling Alpine Resort and Howqua Road junction with Circuit Road

some areas of the Alpine National Park. Riders can use the yards at Pike's Flat, Bluff Hut, 7 Mile and at Mitchell's Flat,

Ritchie's Hut and the King River Hut Bookings can only be made online for

and you'll find the High Country section of the trail covered in the Bicentennial National Trail Guidebooks 11 and 12.

Riding in the Mansfield High Country

com.au/activities/horse-riding/

Mt Stirling Area https://www.mtstirling.

Resort is permitted between 1st November and 30th April. **Download Fact Sheet: Horse Trail** 

riding the area around Razorback a must-do experience.

to Razorback hut, off the Circuit Road. a few hundred yards past the Mt No. 3 (about 5 km past Telephone Box Junction) These sites are operated on a first-come

From here, ride up or down stream along

Yards in the Alpine National Park

Park at www.parkstay.vic.gov.au/

The Bicentennial National Trail This long-distance national trail, designed specifically for horse riding, runs from Cooktown in Queensland to Melbourne and travels through the Wonnangatta Valley at the edge of the High Country. The trail is

Horse riding on Mt Stirling Alpine

Riders are well served with yards close first-served basis

old logging and 4WD tracks.

yards located in the Alpine National howqua-yards

marked by red and yellow triangular markers

## your level of experience, riding the High Country promises an adrenaline-fuelled

**Mountain Biking and Cycling** 

Fast descents. Gentle back-country tracks. Tight, winding woodland trails. Whatever

experience. Oh yeah, and the scenery is pretty spectacular too. There are lots of operators who can take you out, show you around, even offer a few tips. Expert riders can head straight for the top of Mt Buller where the local heroes, complete with body armour, surrender themselves to gravity and the mountain.

## The High Country is one of the most scenic places to jump on a bike – whether it's

Why resist?

mountain biking, road riding or recreational riding – there's plenty on offer! For anyone serious about mountain biking, Mt Buller is a must-do experience. Unique among mountain biking destinations in Australia, Mt Buller offers both world-class cross-country and downhill trails, in the stunning surrounds of the Australian Alps. Mt Buller Bike Park is home to several

> Australia's first flow trail, Copperhead, as well as the Southern Hemisphere's first IMBA Epic Trail, the infamous 50km descending cross-country trail, the Australian Alpine Epic. Check out Mt Buller's modular Pump Track,

firsts in Aussie mountain biking, including

berms- the track is ridden using weight shifts, (also known as pumping, hence the name) to ride the course continuously without pedaling and gravity to drive Carrying International Mountain Biking

featuring numerous bumps, jumps and

Association accreditation, Mt Buller and Mt Stirling are home to a comprehensive network of trails, which are free to use (during the non-winter period only) and range from easy to advanced. The mountain biking season runs from the start of December to the end of April. Closer to town, look for the mountain bike

tracks at Rifle Butts Reserve near Mansfield. If road riding is more your thing, try cycling to the top of Mt Buller as part of the 7 Peaks Challenge, a series of mountain rides to the top of Victoria's alpine summits, or just discover the serenity of the country roads around our local townships Ask at the Visitor Information Centre for local bike maps.

Try some of the areas closer to town. There are plenty of great places to take a spin.

The Great Victorian Rail Trail The Great Victorian Rail Trail offers another experience for keen cyclists (and horse riders and walkers). From Mansfield to

along meandering rivers. Suitable for most itness levels, pick a short section between towns or carparks, or tackle the whole lot over a couple of days! Art on the Great Victorian Rail Trail

Tallarook, including to Alexandra, 134 kms

of safe off-road trail offers stunning views

over rolling pastures, mountain ranges and

walkers and riders on a journey of artistic discovery through beautiful Taungurung Eight artists have been commissioned to explore particular sites and locations along the 134km trail that follows the historic

and Mansfield, with an additional spur line inking the trail to Alexandra. Taking inspiration from the theme of onnections, each artist has responded differently, exploring such things as connection to country, connection to the local environment, connection to the history of the trail as well as connection to community. Artworks are spread along

www.greatvictorianrailtrail.com.au/art

Mitchell, Murrindindi and Mansfield

## **Bushwalking**

The scent of native mint in spring and summer. The haunting calls of Lyrebirds. Fhe rush and pull of a cold mountain stream. The flash of a Yellow-tailed Blac Cockatoo. The splash of the elusive Platypus. Travelling on foot offers an entirely different experience of the High Country – one that appeals to all the senses. Walking is perhaps one of the most rewarding ways to experience the beauty

and history of the High Country. We've selected a cross-section of trails to suit So strap on a pack, pick a trail, and get ready to discover the hidden relics, remote

mountain huts and hidden river valleys of the High Country. You might even catch

## a glimpse of an authentic High Country legend.

Mitchell's Flat Bridle Trail

Time: 7-8 hours (one way) Grid Ref: G8 to I8 Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Jamieson, Skene North

track conditions with Mansfield Visitor Art on the Great Victorian Rail Trail brings Information Centre or DELWP before departure. Hugging the Jamieson river from Granny's Flat (about 8 km east of Jamieson), this trail passes fascinating relics of High Country mining. Cinnabar Hut and Silver or Quicksilver Mine – so named for the powdery, red mercury oxide found there ailway line that operated between Tallarook are heritage artefacts you might otherwise miss. The trail ends in a secret valley at Mitchell's Flat which is in the Alpine

Due to possible temporary closures check

National Park. Stay awhile, this is an enchanting place to linger. Look out for: Traces of early miners. But remember, these are sensitive sites, pleas do not interfere with them. Local advice: A great way to experience an iconic High Country riverscape over a weekend. Take water in summer. the trail and located across three Shires -

## Eagle's Peaks Grade: Difficult (steep sections)

Time: 3-4 hours (return) Grid Ref: K6 to J7

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Buller South If you're fit – or just game – then this High Country highlight, in the heart of the Alpine National Park, will reward you with a stunning view in a natural alpine amphitheatre. Start from Eight Mile Gap

The High Country is a sensitive, fragile

## and climb through mixed eucalypt to a sheltered Snow Gum plain. This ridge top

track then climbs around 300 metres before opening out into 360 degree mountain views. Perhaps the most stunning place for lunch in Victoria Look out for: The view Don't miss it Local advice: There is no water along the trail or at the summit - make sure you bring your own. Keep an eye out for the track

# **Bindaree Falls**

## Howqua Hills Heritage Walk Grade: Easy (flat)

Time: 1 hour (one way)

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Buller South Looking for a great day out with the kids? This is your walk. Beginning at Sheepyard Flat, the trail is never far from the refreshing waters of the Howqua River, and follows signs that tell the story of mining in the Howqua Hills. Children will be fascinated by the remains of a smelting chimney, Hanny's water wheel and water races. The walk ends at Fry's Flat – check out Fry's Hut for another glimpse of how life was once lived in the High Country. For an alternative route home, follow the 4-Wheel Drive track, which is slightly longer (seasonal road closures apply to Fry's Flat).

Look out for: Keep an eye out for horse riders along the way. Local advice: This is a great day trip for It's worth leaving the car at Circuit Road the whole family, with excellent lunch spots Picnic Area and climbing the spur up to at Sheepyard Flat or Fry's

## MacAllister Springs Walking Track Grade: Easy to Moderate

Grid Ref: N5 to O6

From Mt Howitt car park take an easy clim through Snow Gums and the grassy plains of the Alpine National Park, until you reach Vallejo Gantner Hut. Things get a little bit steeper here – and a whole lot wilder – as the next 2.5km heads straight up to the summit of Mt Howitt and sweeping views across Devil's Staircase and the Terrible Hollow. More than worth the short climb. Look out for: Devil's Staircase – slabs of rock plunging down for thousands of feet. Local advice: Spend a bit of time at Vallejo Gantner Hut – it's one of the few two-store huts in the Alps. Bring your own water. Boil

or treat water at site. Campfires are not

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Howitt-Selwyn

On a hot day, a walk to Bindaree Falls is like

a long, cool drink. This spectacular column

of clear water plummets down a rocky cliff

and can usually be seen even in drought.

And the highlight? A walk behind the fizzing

wet curtain for a delightful, natural shower.

Look out for: Alpine Ash forest on the way.

Local advice: A great place to stretch your

legs if you're doing the Circuit Drive.

Kids – old and young – will love it.

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Howitt-Selwyn

permitted around the hut.

Grid Ref: M5

### Grade: Easy Time: 30 minutes (return

Grade: Easy Time: 45 minutes (one way) Grid Ref: L3 to L4 Map Ref: VicMap 1:25.000 Howitt-Selwyn

Craig's Hut

## As you gain the top, you'll find a classic Best bit? As you explore Craig's Hut, feel virtuous knowing that you've conquered this High Country icon under your own steam.

High Track to Ritchie's Hut

Grade: Easy Time: 4 hours (return)

Grid Ref: K6 to L5 Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Buller South, Howitt-Selwyn Here's another classic High Country experience, walking in the Alpine National Park. Starting at Eight Mile Flat, this sheltered trail passes through stands of Peppermint, Blue and Manna Gum until you reach Ritchie's Hut, one of the best preserved heritage huts in the area. The first episode of 'A River Somewhere' was shot here. From Ritchie's, if you're feeling energetic, you can walk on to Pike's Flat, where you'll find another hut and camping.

Another option is to take the low track home. It's clearly signposted. But be prepared to get your feet wet. Look out for: Kingfishers on the river. Local advice: On a hot day take the low return track; it crosses the Howqua

arade: Moderate to difficult (in sections)

Time: 2-2.5 hours (one way) Grid Ref: N2 to M2 Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Howitt-Selwyn Take a good look at the High Country from a different vantage point. Starting from Lake Cobbler, deep in the Alpine National Park, this demanding track climbs Mt Cobbler (the so-called Indian head mountain seen from Craig's Hut) taking you through beautiful Snow Gum and Alpine Ash forest. At the

top, you'll be rewarded with views across

Wangaratta, Whitfield, the Warby ranges and Mt Buffalo. Look out for: Lake Cobbler – one of the High Country's premier picnic and camping spots Local advice: AWD access to track from

Whitfield and Power's Lookout

Red Box, Yellow box, Red Stringybark,

Peppermint Gums make up these forests

habitats. Keep an eye out for brush-tailed

Phascogale (looks like a small possum),

izard and Marbled Geckos. There are

White-throated Treecreepers. Listen for

the Golden Whistler, which has a rich,

Sugar Gliders, the dragon-like Jacky

ong-leaf Box and Broad-leafed

### \_\_\_\_\_\_ Look out for: Bluff Spur Hut, a memorial hut, Australian Alps Walking Track and Geelong Grammar Hut are good spots Local advice: A beautiful, often quieter place Son of a Bitch Spur, Crosscut Saw, to explore the High Country. Mt Speculation, Mt Buggery, Hell's

You'll find them all along the High Klingsporn Bridle Track Grade: Moderate os Walking Track Time: 3-4 hours (one way) This walk can be done both ways

ack runs for 650 kilometres – about Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Buller North, ght week's worth of walking. Mos Buller South, Buller Stirling Outdoor people walk sections of the track and Mansfield and Mt Buller make Here is a walk that follows in the tracks of n ideal gateway to this remarkable famous High Country cattlemen. This stock bushwalking experience. This section trail – established in the early 1900s – takes of the trail varies from moderate you from the top of Mt Buller down to to difficult and requires a degree of Mirimbah, descending through quiet

> out for the abundant birdlife in the area especially Lyrebirds, known for their Look out for: The sudden shifts in terrain, from Snow Gum to Alpine Ash.

Local advice: You will need to arrange a lift

ajestic Alpine Ash. Keep an eye and ear

at the end of the walk. What to take

Water bottle and water map and compass

Wet weather gear and an extra

eck the Parks Victoria Bushwalki

history of the mountain, and glimpses of local flora and fauna.

## Walking at Mt Buller and Mt Stirling Apart from the stunning, panoramic

Take the Summit Nature Walk on Mt

Interpretive trails also start from King Saddle. Mt Buller and Mt Stirling trail network bike riders, trail runners and horse riders. Familiarise yourself with which

cattleman's hut, through Alpine ash

For detailed track notes and maps of these walks, drop into the Mansfield Visitor Information Centre Telephone Box Junction or the Resort Management Board in the Mt Buller

trails are shared and try to anticipate

Village, or download the map on steep and narrow Canyon track. You'll www.mtstirling.com.au and www.mtbuller.com.au. You can also download the Mt Buller Walks app for self-guided walks.

Grade: Loop easy Tramway Bridge Walk and Waterfall: Moderate (short steep hills) Time: Loop, 40 minutes. Waterfall, 3 hours return

Plain Creek

of the Howqua.

atmosphere. Bring water.

Total with Tramway Bridge Walk and Commencing at Carter's Mill Day Reserve on the Delatite River follow the Plain Creek Loop for an easy 40 minute walk in the

Bridge Walk and then onto the Plain Creek Waterfall. This adds an extra 5 kms return to the walk, making it approximately 3 hours return. This extended walk has short steep hills Look out for: Early sawmill relics, bird life, including lyrebirds, tree-ferns and mountain

Local advice: Enjoy a picnic or a splash in

the Delatite River before or after your walk,

For a longer challenge, halfway around

the loop branch off on to the Tramway

Fireplaces and picnic tables available

ash forests.

Look out for: Flyfishing on the banks Grade: Moderate to Difficult (steep in Local advice: If you don't fancy the climb. Time: 2 hours return just enjoy this stretch of river for its great

sections with some obstacles) Grid Ref: H5 to I5 This walk traverses up the western side of Mt Timbertop, transitioning from tall forest to grassy snowgum woodland. It offers

extensive and spectacular views over the Merrijig and Mansfield area, the Delatite River and the Victorian Alps. The track climbs from 850m above sea level to 1275m at the summit. From the eastern side of the summit there is a link to Doughty's Rd to create a longer day walk. Look out for: Fabulous mountain and valley views, vegetation changes, rocky outcrops Local advice: Take a snack, rest under the

> Whitfield 62 KAREEN CRT

# exposed to heights.

Staying in the High Country

From chic B&Bs to five-star luxury properties, from snug cottages to family resorts, Mansfield and Mt Buller offer a warm welcome after a hard day's adventuring.

Or, for something a little bit different, check out the possibilities in the surrounding

villages and settlements of the High Country. There's a lot to choose from.

Eating out in Mansfield High Country to work up a healthy appetite. Fortunately, there are great eating options -

and locally brewed beer.

many using delicious local produce, wines

You'll find stylish restaurants in town, from

fine dining with all the trimmings to low key

cafes with great coffee. Or put together a

memorable picnic of regional specialities.

such as olives and locally-reared, aged

Mansfield – Heart of the High Country

## Mt Buller

to catch the sunset

Gourmet food at altitude

Eating on the Mountain also serves up

some great choices. For something fast

and filling, try the bistro-style restaurants.

In the mood for a civilised, gourmet

experience? There are some top

restaurants up here, featuring High

of the High Country activities. Spend some time exploring the streets of Mansfield – this region has a fascinating history, which can be read from its buildings. Mansfield itself offers a wide range of accommodation options and is in easy striking distance for most of the walks, drives and rides described in this guide.

Stay in Mt Buller village, and you're right in the thick of High Country action

This attractive country town is at the centre

There's nothing quite like a day out in the

Here, adventure is on your doorstep. From comfortable chalets to top of the range, see-and-be-seen hotels, there is a range of options up here. One thing is certain, wherever you choose to lay your head, you're guaranteed a stunning mountain-top view in the morning. Even better, you'll find Mt Buller's spring and summer rates very attractive. Top local tip? The walk to the top of Mt Buller

## beef. Take a detour via one of our local Country produce, teamed with beautiful wineries for the perfect accompaniment local wines. www.mtbuller.com.au

**Activities? Ideas?** 

visitorinfo@mansfield.vic.gov.au

www.mansfieldmtbuller.com.au

Somewhere to stay?

For accommodation options check out:

Let us help Wondering what to see and do in the region? Ask our friendly knowledgeable staff at the Mansfield Visitor Information Centre. All of them are locals and know the area well. Chances are they've done the drives, walks or rides you're planning to try, so they can offer useful, accurate advice. You can reach them on: 03 5775 7000

## **Seasonal Road Closures**

Many roads and tracks are seasonally closed to vehicle traffic each year. Seasonal Road Closures are in place in parts of the Alpine National Park, State Forests and the Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort to protect the environment, maintain water quality and for visitor safety.

Closures generally operate from the long

## For further details and maps see: https://parkweb.vic.gov.au/safety/closures/ https://www.mtstirling.com.au/plan, seasonal-road-closures/ www.mansfield.vic.gov.au/residents/house-

## weekend in June through to the end of October, but may be extended due to seasonal conditions or to better protect areas of environmental sensitivity.

At altitude, weather and conditions can change quickly. Snow can fall at any time of the year. It makes sense to be prepared with the following Waterproof jacket Warm clothing – woollen hat, gloves

suncream Strong footwear High energy food and water First-aid kit • Detailed map of the area and a compass (which you know how

Let someone know where you're

going and when you expect to return

Sun protection – sunglasses and

Walking – how far, how fast? Allow 3-4km per hour if you're it, conditions are good and the track is clear. Add extra time for steep climbs, heavy packs, taking pictures and rests. Keep to defined tracks – it is easy to become quickly disoriented in thick bush. Driving – keeping safe

Many roads and tracks are closed

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seasonally for safety reasons.

out on 13 1963.

Check conditions before setting

## road-limits-and-closures or contact the Mansfield Visitor Information Email: visitorinfo@mansfield.vic.gov.au

A few words on safety Familiarise yourself with important bushfire safety information as well as what you can and can't do during Fire Danger periods and Total Fire Bans. Check www.emergency.vic.gov.au

> asthma and blue green algae. Download the Vic Emergency app to your phone – available from Apple Store and Google Play. You can also set the watch zone

for information about all emergencies including current fires, flood and storm, heatwave, thunderstorm

# and-property/roads-and-infrastructure/

contact with the relevant land manager. Keep your party small Smaller groups have less impact on the land Let technology lighten the load Use a fuel stove instead of relying on campfires. They're quicker and cleaner for you and better for the bush. Likewise, a

Consider taking your holiday out of peak

season (December to February). Make sure

Toilets and washing

from waterways.

## in floor, will make a real difference. Try and use toilets in camping areas or, if you're caught short, bring a trowel and bury your waste, plus paper, in soil to a depth of 15cm. This gives it the best chance to fully break down. Carry out condoms,

sanitary towels and tampons. Don't use streams and rivers to wash, to leave no trace. detergents, toothpaste and soap, even biodegradable varieties, are harmful to fish and waterlife. Wash 50m away

## Plan to take your rubbish with you – especially plastic wrapping, silver paper and orange peel! Try to minimise rubbish when you're packing. For example, avoid

Carry it in, carry it out

bottles, cans and excess wrapping. of trip you're taking to minimise your impact on the land. For example, can you rely on your gear rather than on a fire?

Even if conditions are muddy or dusty, don't widen tracks or take shortcuts. This just increases impact on the bush. In open country, spread out rather than following in single file; a plant stepped on just once has more chance to recover.

people) inhabited the area along the Goulburn River as far as Alexandra, through to the Howqua, Delatite and Jamieson rivers and the mountains like Mt Stirling and Mt Buller that shed their waters into those rivers. On the mountains there were small marsupials, alpine plants such as yam

Indigenous heritage

The Taungurung clan called

Yawang-yilam-bulok (Stone dwelling

# **Tread lightly**

environment. To preserve its special qualities requires care, particularly from visitors like you. Please support us in protecting this beautiful area, by following these general guidelines Make sure you're prepared for the kind

you keep to designated campsites. Make and regulations and check what you can and can't do during these times on the CFA website. Use designated fire pits. Keep fires small and only use fallen dead wood. Finally, be absolutely sure your fire is out before you

# good quality tent, with poles and a sewn

see Parks Victoria's codes of practice.

make spear heads.

Grassy woodlands and grasslands Eucalypts, including Red Gums, White and Grey Box, and native grasses, such as Kangaroo Grass, sedges, lilies, herbs and orchids, are typical. Keep an eye out for birds such as the Swift Parrot, now endangered, and the Spotted Regent Honeyeater. This is the habitat for striking Imperial White and Common Imperial

## and are important links between wildlife plenty of bird varieties to watch, including

Moist foothills and mountain forests Tall eucalypts, Silver Wattle, Blanket-Leaf and Snow Gums, as well as fruiting shrubs like Musk Daisybush, Hazel Pomaderris, Austral Mulberry and Prickly Currant-bush offer habitat for a rich diversity of wildlife. Look for Fluffy Greater Gliders, Feathertail and Sugar Gliders, Long-nosed Bandicoots and the mouse-sized Antechinus. Rich bird-life includes the Powerful Owl, Rufous Fantail and Superb Lyrebirds.

# **Fishing**

For some, the lure of the High Country is not in our sweeping alpine vistas, but in the iconic mountain rivers. If you're a fly-fisherman, you'll already know the Delatite, the Jamieson and of course, the Howqua. But there's more. Like dropping a line off the back of a tinny, while you enjoy the view from Lake Eildon. Or taking in the wild, High

great views and picnic sites nearby. So pack your rod and get yourself a Victorian Fishing Licence. The Visitor Information Centre can give you the names of local licence suppliers. What are you

the best spots for a trip complete with

waiting for? The fish are already biting.

Lake Eildon's submerged trees and old buildings make excellent habitat for Redfin Perch and, if you're lucky, Murray Cod. Or pick a secluded bay of your own – there are plenty to choose from. At the northern edge of the High Country near the wild reaches of Mt Samaria Park, Lake Nillahcootie offers a completely

the Jamieson, the Goulburn and the famous Howqua have been attracting anglers for decades. While you're waiting for bites, enjoy the ambience of the bush - few riverbanks are as unspoilt as ours. If you're new to the sport, there are outfitters in Mansfield pleased to deliver insider's advice along with the lures and waders. Or, consider taking a trip with a guide. You might even get the opportunity to stay

Nothing quite compares with the

experience of fishing in the great mountain

rivers of the High Country. The Delatite,

### From Telephone Box Junction follow views, Mt Buller and Mt Stirling the gently winding Woollybutt Loop, past Razorback Hut, an original are perfect places to discover rich

forest to King Saddle and Lyrebird trail, or for more of a challenge the Buller and find yourself wandering longer Mt Stirling Summit Loop offers

pioneering history along this classic track from the Mt Buller Village down to Mirimbah. Take the gentle Village Circuit and soak up the atmosphere. Want to get your pulse going? Then drop down into the

short, but steep, walk to the summit of Mt Buller – a classic place to watch the Mt Stirling offers an array of fascinating nature walks with insights into local

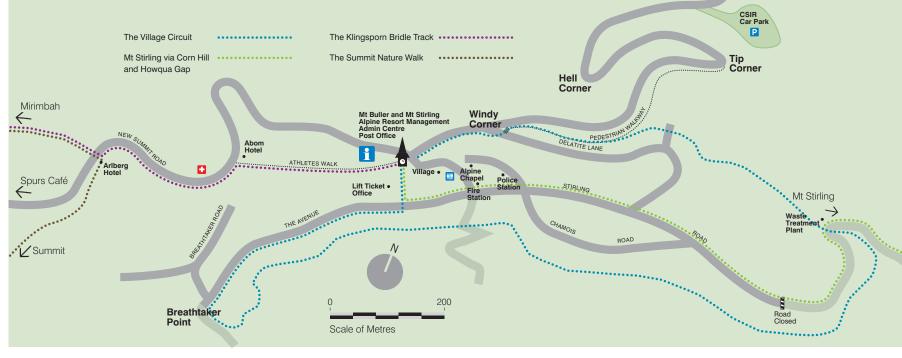
### A popular access route to the iconic at the riverside Carter's Mill Day Reserve. Australian Alpine Walking Trail, through the Alpine National Park. You can take an alternative route down past Vallejo Gantner hut – follow MacAllister Springs Mt Timbertop Walk

snowgums and take in the landscape.



# Mansfield

Mt Buller 48



# Flora and Fauna Part of the pleasure in travelling the High

And, if you see someone else's rubbish left behind, please be kind and take it with Campfires are often the cause of bushfires so please don't light a fire if you are in any doubt about its safety. Observe fire bans

## leave. Use water not soil to extinguish fires. And check the ground before you go – it should be cool to the touch. Stay on track

Walking, driving, camping, skiing, riding, climbing, paddling - whatever you do, aim For detailed guidelines on treading lightly,

daisies and the plentiful Bogong moths were important food sources. Many scarred trees known as shield trees have been found around Mt Buller and Mt Stirling, as well as a lot of artefact scatter, where Taungurung people sat

down and worked the greenstone to

Craig's Hut. A short, steepish walk through

the Clear Hills offers some pretty scenery.

That's a curtain-raiser for the main event.

Country is the variety of wildlife and country you'll encounter. We recommend investing in a field guide and a small notebook to mark down details of the animals, trees and plants you spot. This is a very simple way to enrich your High Country experience.

> Blue butterflies and the Golden Sun Moth. Wetlands and streams Typical wetlands have a diversity of plant life. Vegetation both in and out of the water offers reliable food sources. You might see birds of prey such as Kookaburras, Sacred Kingfisher, Brown Goshawk and, if you're lucky, the Powerful Owl. Watch for skinks, lizards, snakes and fish,

including Galaxia and river Blackfish.

spot the endangered Southern Bell

Frog or even the elusive Platypus.

If you're keen-eyed and quiet, you may

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ■ The mystery of the Omeo Gums The trees, plants and wildflowers of ne High Country also have a story to tell. For example, experts cannot explain the presence of Omeo Gums ■ in Mitchell's Flat – these gums are normally confined to a very small area near Omeo... hundreds of

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kilometres away.

different experience. Gentle, grassy banks offer excellent shoreline fishing. Planning to bring a boat? Then check with the Mansfield Visitor Information

Centre for the best local launching sites.

Whatever your angling style, we've chosen | River fishing

This short link allows 4WD vehicles to drive directly to Craig's Hut where an amazing narrow with steep sections.

mountain habitats.

Track (either up from Mirimbah or down from Mt Buller) and explore local meadows, pretty Snow Gum plains and



Country at the edge of Mt Samaria, and fish the waters at Lake Nillahcootie. Combined with a day walk, you get a completely different perspective of the High Country.

Lake fishing

in one of the historic fishing huts built in the wilder river regions. Seasonal closure and licences apply.

Mt Buller

through alpine heathlands, grasslands and iconic Snow Gum woodlands. Keep an eye out for pretty mountain wildflowers and traces of the Mountain Pygmy-possum, the only native nammal known to live above the treeline. A great option for families. Alternatively, follow the Klingsporn Bridle

eel like you're in total wilderness And of course, you can't miss the



