

Mansfield-Mt Buller The High Country Adventure Guide

Mountain Biking

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

The Bluff

Grade: Moderate

Grid Ref: L6 to N6

Howitt-Selwyn

MacDonald Bluff.

Mt Stirling.

▲ Seasonal road closure:

Distance / Time: 43km / 4 hours

Warnings: Dry weather access only

This is one of the most stunningly beautiful

4WD routes in the High Country. Hising

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

on any official map). On a clear day, you

can see across to Mt Stirling, Cobbler, Buller

and out across Gippsland, towards Licola

sub-alpine country onto wooded flats and

along the Jamieson River, on Brocks Road.

in a deep valley bound by Mt Clear and

Look out for: A walking track up to historic

Upper Jamieson's Hut and great view of

Bushwalking

Local advice: Take care on the river crossing

and on to Bairnsdale. Descend through

high plains and river valleys.

We've selected our most absorbing legends, our prettiest riverbank sites, our most spectacular picnic spots, viewpoints and stopping places.

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

Your adventure starts here...

the most fascinating regions.

The High Country Adventure Guide.

get the most from your visit here

We've chosen the most beautiful tracks, the most scenic trails,

Local knowledge for an authentic High Country experience. 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

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

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. Why resist?



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,

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

▲ Seasonal road closures Grade: Moderate / difficult Distance / Time: 18km / 3 hours Warnings: Dry weather access only Grid Ref: G7 to J9 Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Buller South, Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Howqua,

Jamieson, Skene North

Uncover traces of past local legends at beautiful Mitchell's Flat - sharp eyes and a bit of imagination are required. This valley is reminiscent of Wonnangatta, with swathes of kangaroo grass and European trees, planted later on by the Hoskins family. Climb agnificent views of Mt Buller, skirting the Alpine National Park and then passing through Steiner country - where another well-known local family once operated the local slate mine. Look out for: Relics of the homestead at Mitchell's Flat. Do more digging at the museum in Jamieson's old courthouse

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Local advice: Take care on steep, slippery

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

## Howqua Hills Track

▲ Seasonal road closures

Grade: Moderate / difficult

Grid Ref: 16 to H7

Distance / Time: 7.5km / 2 hours

Warnings: Dry weather access only

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Buller South

This is a pleasant track to poke along

taking you through foothill forest up to

the good, arable land quickly attracted

settlers. In fact, both flats are privately

wned leases - a typical historic High

Country arrangement for running cattle

among other activities. Do tread lightly.

eaking of treading lightly, make sure yo

bring your walking gear - this drive hugs

the Alpine National Park so there are many

Look out for: The Lickhole walking track -

probably named for a salt-block which

cattle licked until a hole appeared.

ocal advice: Minor river crossings.

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,

hrough snowgum country, Alpine Ash

and montane (high rainfall, high elevation

forest) into the Howgua River Valley. There

are many spots to stop for a bushwalk

or a picnic. Try Refrigerator Gap, once a

Look out for: The Howqua river is famous

mountain cattlemen who introduced trout

to the area. Legend has it they brought the

a buggy all the way from Benalla.

to spend some time.

fingerlings' to this waterway on the back o

Local advice: Pack a fly fishing rod and plan

MacAllister Springs Walking Track

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

From Mt Howitt car park take an easy climb

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.

Gantner Hut - it's one of the few two-storey

huts in the Alps. Bring your own water. Boil

or treat water at site. Campfires are not

permitted around the hut.

Grade: Easy to Moderate

Time: 5 hours (return)

Grid Ref: N5 to O6

for fly fishing thanks to the Lovick family,

temporary logging settlement.

fascinating trails to explore.

Bluff Link Road

Grid Ref: K6 to M5

Grade: Easy

Seasonal road closures

Tobacco Flat and later, Ware's Flat, Here

Lazarini Spur Track

Grade: Difficult Distance / Time: 20km / 3 hours Warnings: Dry weather access only Grid Ref: F11 to J12 Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Gaffney Creek,

▲ Seasonal road closures

Take the Lazarini Spur and you'll be following trails blazed by the European pioneers, miners and loggers who opened up the High Country to settlement. Rising steeply from the Goulburn River, this track rewards you with panoramic views across the region. The initial three kilometres are on private land, please tread lightly. Look out for: Regenerated stands of Alpine Ash. Views across to Lake Mountain and nistoric Wood's Point. Local advice: 2 river crossings. Take extreme care in high water.

King Billy Track to Howitt Road ▲ Seasonal road closure

Warnings: Dry weather access

Grade: Moderate / difficult

his 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

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

site of the infamous and unsolved murder of land manager, Jim Barclay, Events took a twist into legend when the body of John Bamford, the lead suspect, was discovered nidden under a log. ocal advice: Check conditions and forecast before you leave, the Zeka Track can be

mpassable in bad weather.

Look out for: Wonnangatta Homestead,

Seasonal road closures

Carter's Road to Circuit Road

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 Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Buller North

Fancy a taste of the varied regions of the High Country in a single day? Then this route is the perfect choice. You'll get fantastic and rare views across Mansfield and the Upper King Valley as you travel through attractive grassy plains studded with Snow Gums. Following the Razorback spur, you'll pass historic mountain huts, including Tomahawk Gap, onto No 3 Road, past sites of old Bus Huts - where buses 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 from Merrijia follow Buttercup Road. This road takes you through farmland, upwards into bush and forest to Craig's Hut.

single lane

Howitt-Selwyn

Look out for: White water rafters - the river Local advice: Five river crossings can be dangerous in high water.

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Australian Alps Walking Track

Speculation Road ♠ Seasonal road closures Grade: Moderate / Difficult

Fantastic views from a high plateau, a river valley, snowgum country and some challenging driving - that's what's in store for you the day you tackle Speculation Road. Let's start with the Staircase, which you'll encounter after climbing out of the King River up Speculation Road. This collection of rock shelves rises like steps and, if you're plucky, is not technically difficult. The Staircase brings you to Cobble Lake Track, a pretty high plateau in the Alpine National Park with truly scenic driving Complete the circuit back at Speculation Road, below the Staircase. Look out for: Evidence of the cattle around Cobbler Lake Track, traditional cattle run of the Lovick family.

Grade: Easy

King Basin to Pineapple Flat ▲ Seasonal road closures

Local's advice: This is a favourite tour with

locals. Highly recommended.

Grid Ref: K3 to M3

This lovely route crosses the King River seven times, and takes you into the remote and relatively unpopulated Upper King Valley, above Lake William Hovell. The terrain has a unique character and passes historic King Hut. There are plenty of spots for picnicking and exploring on foot. A 4-Wheel Driving experience that's a little out of the ordinary

is known for rafting in high water.

Distance / Time: 43km / 2.5-3 hours Warnings: Dry weather access only Grid Ref: M4 to N2 Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Howitt-Selwyn

Local advice: Watch for the Staircase, a challenging but exciting bit of driving.

Grade: Easy Distance / Time: 11km / 1 hour Warnings: Dry weather access only river crossings

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

Mt Buller to Howqua Gap ▲ Seasonal road closures

Distance / Time: 4km / 30 minutes Warnings: Dry weather access only, 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, popula 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

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 of velvety green mountains with stands of Alpine Ash and snowgum plains to riverine 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!

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

▲ Seasonal road closures Grade: Easy Distance / Time: 52km / 2-2.5 hours Grid Ref: J4 to M4

All-Wheel Drive

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Buller North, Buller South, Howitt-Selwyn, Buller Stirling Outdoor Leisure Map This classic alpine drive is a perfect 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 walk from Circuit Road Picnic Area up to Craig's Hut for spectacular views across M 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 fishing spots.

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 Telephone Box Junction (TBJ)

**Howqua Track** 

Buller South

▲ Seasonal road closures (partial) Grade: Easy Distance / Time: 39km / 45 minutes Grid Ref: H4 to I6

Taking you deep into bushland along a well-made dirt road, the Howqua Track offers a contrasting experience to the alpine vistas and plains. The road undulates as it ravels through woodland and riverscapes Along the way, you'll pass the 4-Wheel Drive 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 nistoric Fry's Hut.

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

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

**Brock's Road** 

Grade: Easy

Grid Ref: 16 to K6

▲ Seasonal road closures (partial)

Distance / Time: 39km / 1-1.5 hours

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Buller South

This spectacular, rolling drive takes you

through beautiful wooded country into the

heart of the Alpine National Park. Running

you'll pass some iconic walks along the

Look out for: The changes in woodland as

Local advice: Don't forget, from Sheepyard

into Fry's Flat and enjoy the Howqua Hills

from Sheepyard Flat to Eight Mile Gap,

way - including Eagle's Peak, and the

Ritchie's Hut track. Well worth a stop.

Flat, you can take an alternative route

you climb into alpine country.

Heritage Walk

Finding your way This adventure guide is designed to

help you find your way around the High 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

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)

Man Ref: VicMan 1:25 000 Howitt-Selwon

This popular bushwalk starts at Upper

Howqua camp, meanders along the

Howqua, and then climbs straight up

Mt Howitt for a stunning summit walk.

A popular access route to the iconic

Grade: Difficult

Grid Ref: M5 to O5

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

The Vicmap series of topographic

maps includes detailed 1:25,000

Jamieson to Mt Skene alone

Distance / Time: 48km / 2.5-3 hours

Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Jamiesor

Take the Jamieson to Mt Skene road and

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

are enchanting picnic spots for a quick

snack or a leisurely meal. And make sure

at this wild, yet accessible, landscape.

you pack your camera - you'll be surprised

Look out for: Snow plains and Snow Gums

Local advice: This is a long, winding road.

Closed by snow in winter - check conditions

Conditions can be slippery and windy.

before you go.

experience a piece of High Country in

niniature - without a 4-Wheel Drive

Seasonal road closures

Skene North, Skene South

the Licola Road

Grade: Moderate

Grid Ref: F8 to J12



## **Horse Riding**

### Mountain Biking and Cycling

For sheer exhilaration, nothing compares with riding the High Country. No wonder Fast descents. Gentle back-country tracks. Tight, winding woodland trails. Whatever

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.

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.

Horse riding throughout the Alpine National Park, Mt Stirling Alpine Resort and Howqua Hills is subject to seasonal closures. Check

Remember horses can damage sensitive onment, so please ride with respect for the High Country and don't use tracks old logging and 4WD tracks.

closed to horse

trade and culture.

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

The designated horse camping sites and free yards at Fry's Flat and Tunnel Bend offer a good launching-off point for excellent local rides. Bookings can only 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 Hunning

From here, the trail runs over the summit of Mt Howitt, dropping down past Vallejo Gantner Hut. Do note, that Howitt Spur is for experience horses and riders who are fit and can work in extremely steep and rough country,

Creek, then hugs Howqua River to upper

Alpine and subalpine forest, signature

views and the whiff of legends make riding the area around Razorback a must-do experience. iders are well served with yards close

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

Yards in the Alpine National Park There is some great riding to be had in

Bluff Hut. 7 Mile and at Mitchell's Flat. Ritchie's Hut and the King River Hut Bookings can only be made online for yards located in the Alpine National

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

some areas of the Alpine National Park.

The Bicentennial National Trail This long-distance national trail designed specifically for horse riding, runs from

and travels through the Wonnangatta Valley

at the edge of the High Country. The trail is marked by red and vellow triangular markers and you'll find the High Country section of the trail covered in the Bicentennial National

Trail Guidebooks 11 and 12.

Howqua and the base of the Howitt Spur. Horse riding on Mt Stirling Alpine Resort is permitted between 1st November and 30th April.

Riding in the Mansfield High Country,

Mt Stirling Area https://www.mtstirling

com.au/activities/horse-riding

your level of experience, riding the High Country promises an adrenaline-fuelled 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 mountain biking, road riding or recreational

riding - there's plenty on offer!

For anyone serious about mountain biking. From here, ride up or down stream along

Riders can use the yards at Pike's Flat,

Carrying International Mountain Biking

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 experience for keen cyclists (and horse iders and walkers). From Mansfield to of safe off-road trail offers stunning views over rolling pastures, mountain ranges and along meandering rivers. Suitable for most tness levels, pick a short section between towns or carparks, or tackle the whole lot

network of trails, which are free to

use (during the non-winter period only)

without pedaling and gravity to drive

Association accreditation, Mt Buller and

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

Mt Buller is a must-do experience. Unique among mountain biking destinations in cross-country and downhill trails, in the stunning surrounds of the Australian Alps. Mt Buller Bike Park is home to several firsts in Aussie mountain biking, including Australia's first flow trail, Copperhead, as well as the Southern Hemisphere's first IMBA Epic Trail, the infamous 50km

Check out Mt Buller's modular Pump Track, featuring numerous bumps, jumps and berms- the track is ridden using weight shifts, (also known as pumping, hence the name) to ride the course continuously

descending cross-country trail, the

Australian Alpine Epic.

The Great Victorian Rail Trail offers another fallarook, including to Alexandra, 134 kms

over a couple of days! f road riding is more your thing, try cycling o the top of Mt Buller as part of the 7 eaks 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

Grade: Difficult (steep sections) Time: 3-4 hours (return Grid Ref: K6 to J7

### 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

The scent of native mint in spring and summer. The haunting calls of Lyrebirds.

The rush and pull of a cold mountain stream. The flash of a Yellow-tailed Black

Cockatoo. The splash of the elusive Platypus. Travelling on foot offers an entirely

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

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

Mitchell's Flat Bridle Trai Grade: Medium

a glimpse of an authentic High Country legend.

Grid Ref. G8 to 18 Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Jamieson Skene North Due to possible temporary closures check track conditions with Mansfield Visitor 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 are heritage artefacts you might otherwise miss. The trail ends in a secret valley at Mitchell's Flat which is in the Alpine National Park. Stay awhile, this is an enchanting place to linge Look out for: Traces of early miners. But

remember, these are sensitive sites, please

Local advice: A great way to experience

an iconic High Country riverscape over a weekend. Take water in summer.

Eagle's Peaks

do not interfere with them.

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 and climb through mixed eucalypt to a heltered 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

Howqua Hills Heritage Walk

Grade: Easy (flat) Time: 1 hour (one way) Grid Ref: 16 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

Local advice: This is a great day trip for

the whole family, with excellent lunch spots

riders along the way.

### Look out for: Devil's Staircase - slabs of rock plunging down for thousands of feet.

Bindaree Falls

Grade: Easy Time: 30 minutes (return)

Grid Ref: M5

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 Kids - old and young - will love it. Look out for: Alpine Ash forest on the way Local advice: A great place to stretch your

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

Grade: Easy

legs if you're doing the Circuit Drive. Time: 45 minutes (one way) Grid Ref: L3 to L4 Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Howitt-Selwyn

As you gain the top, you'll find a classic High Country panorama across Mt Cobble 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 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

repared to get your feet wet.

ook out for: Kingfishers on the river

return track: it crosses the Howqua

Local advice: On a hot day take the low

Mt Cobbler Track Grade: 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 ocal 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

and are important links between wildlife

Long-leaf Box and Broad-leafed

Look out for: Bluff Spur Hut, a memorial hut, and Geelong Grammar Hut are good spots Local advice: A beautiful, often quieter place

Klingsporn Bridle Track Grade: Moderate Time: 3-4 hours (one way)

This walk can be done both ways Grid Ref: K5 to J4 Map Ref: VicMap 1:25,000 Buller North Buller South, Buller Stirling Outdoor

. . . . . . . . . . . . Mt Stirling Summit Loop

Grade: Moderate to difficult (good track

can discover. Download trail map from

Mt Stirling website

but long steep sections)

Time: 5 hours (return) Grid Ref: K4 to L4 Map Ref. VicMap 1:25,000 Buller North, Buller South, Howitt-Selwyn, Buller Stirling Outdoor Leisure Map Up for a big day with stunning views in beautiful bushland? This walk uses Mt Stirling's famous cross country ski trails and takes in fantastic vistas of Mt Buller.

Begin your walk at Telephone Box Junction, climbing to Bluff Spur Hut and then on to the summit. Once you're on top, there is a range of ontions for the home trail Follow the signposts, and see what you

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

Country at the edge of Mt Samaria, and fish the waters at Lake Nillahcootie. Combined

and iconic Snow Gum woodlands. Keep an eye out for pretty mountain wildflowers and traces of the Mountain

Here is a walk that follows in the tracks of famous High Country cattlemen. This stock down from Mt Buller) and explore local

track from the Mt Buller Village down to of these walks, drop into the Mirimbah.

sun set.

Grade: Loop easy Tramway Bridge Walk and Waterfal Moderate (short steep hills) Time: Loop, 40 minutes. for self-guided walks.

Total with Tramway Bridge Walk and Waterfall, 3 hours return Grid Ref: 14

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 ash forests.

For a longer challenge, halfway around

the loop branch off on to the Tramway

Bridge Walk and then onto the Plain Cree

Waterfall. This adds an extra 5 kms return

Local advice: Enjoy a picnic or a splash in

the Delatite River before or after your walk at the riverside Carter's Mill Day Reserve Fireplaces and picnic tables available

Grid Ref: H5 to I5 This walk traverses up the western side of Mt Timbertop, transitioning from tall fores

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.

## 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.

striking distance for most of the walks, **Eating out in Mansfield** There's nothing quite like a day out in the High Country to work up a healthy appetite.

## local tip? The walk to the top of Mt Buller

Gourmet food at altitude Eating on the Mountain also serves up some great choices. For something fast and filling, try the bistro-style restaurants.

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 visitorinfo@mansfield.vic.gov.au

## Mt Buller - Heart of the action

Mt Buller

Stay in Mt Buller village, and you're right in the thick of High Country action. Here, adventure is on your doorstep. this region has a fascinating history which can be read from its buildings. range, see-and-be-seen hotels, there is Mansfield itself offers a wide range of a range of options up here. One thing accommodation options and is in easy is certain, wherever you choose to lay your head, you're guaranteed a stunning drives and rides described in this guide mountain-top view in the morning. Even better, you'll find Mt Buller's spring and summer rates very attractive. Top

In the mood for a civilised, gourmet restaurants up here, featuring High Country produce, teamed with beautiful · First-aid kit local wines. www.mtbuller.com.au compass (which you know how

# Driving - keeping safe

Many roads and tracks are closed seasonally for safety reasons. Check conditions before setting out on 13 1963.

### https://parkweb.vic.gov.au/safety/closures/ seasonal-road-closures2 https://www.mtstirling.com.au/plar seasonal-road-closures/

For further details and maps see:

www.mansfield.vic.gov.au/residents/hous and-property/roads-and-infrastructure/ road-limits-and-closures weekend in June through to the end of or contact the Mansfield Visitor Information October, but may be extended due to Centre on 03 5775 7000. seasonal conditions or to better protect areas of environmental sensitivity. Email: visitorinfo@mansfield.vic.gov.au

to be prepared with the following ·Warm clothing - woollen hat, gloves Sun protection – sunglasses and Strong footwear

> Let someone know where you're going and when you expect to return

L------

do during Fire Danger periods and Total Fire Bans. Check for information about all emergencies including current fires, flood and storm, heatwave, thunderstorm

# **Tread lightly**

protecting this beautiful area, by following these general guidelines: Make sure you're prepared for the kind 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?

Consider taking your holiday out of peak

season (December to February). Make sure

you keep to designated campsites. Make

Toilets and washing 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, detergents, toothpaste and soap, even biodegradable varieties, are harmful

to fish and waterlife. Wash 50m away

from waterways

### Carry it in, carry it out Plan to take your rubbish with you -

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 and regulations and check what you can and can't do during these times on the CFA website. Use designated fire pits. Keep fires

## should be cool to the touch campfires. They're quicker and cleaner for

has more chance to recover. Leave no trace Walking, driving, camping, skiing, riding, climbing, paddling - whatever you do, aim For detailed guidelines on treading lightly, see Parks Victoria's codes of practice

# Indigenous heritage

Yawang-yilam-bulok (Stone dwelling 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 f------

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 make spear heads.

It's worth leaving the car at Circuit Road

Picnic Area and climbing the spur up 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.

you'll encounter. We recommend investing especially plastic wrapping, silver paper in a field guide and a small notebook to and orange peel! Try to minimise rubbish mark down details of the animals, trees and when you're packing. For example, avoid bottles, cans and excess wrapping. And, if you see someone else's rubbish left behind, please be kind and take it with

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

The Taungurung clan called

# Flora and Fauna

Part of the pleasure in travelling the High

Country is the variety of wildlife and country

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, if you're lucky, the Powerful Owl, Watch for skinks, lizards, snakes and fish, including Galaxia and river Blackfish. If you're keen-eyed and quiet, you may

spot the endangered Southern Bell

Frog or even the elusive Platypus.

were important food sources. Many

plants you spot. This is a very simple way to enrich your High Country experience. 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 Blue butterflies and the Golden Sun Moth.

Sugar Gliders, the dragon-like Jacky Lizard and Marbled Geckos. There are plenty of bird varieties to watch, including White-throated Treecreepers. Listen for the Golden Whistler, which has a rich, whistling call.

and Snow Gums, as well as fruiting shrubs

Austral Mulberry and Prickly Currant-bush

offer habitat for a rich diversity of wildlife.

ook for Fluffy Greater Gliders, Feathertail

and Sugar Gliders, Long-nosed Bandicoots

bird-life includes the Powerful Owl, Rufous

and the mouse-sized Antechinus. Rich

Fantail and Superb Lyrebirds

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

The mystery of the Omeo Gums

The trees, plants and wildflowers of

to tell. For example, experts cannot

explain the presence of Omeo Gums in Mitchell's Flat - these gums are

ormally confined to a very small

ea near Omeo... hundreds of

---------

kilometres away.

High Country also have a story

like Musk Daisybush, Hazel Pomaderris

Victorian Fishing Licence. The Visitor Information Centre can give you the names

> 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 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.

# to explore the High Country.

mountain habitats Take the Summit Nature Walk on Mt Buller and find yourself wandering through alpine heathlands, grasslands

you from the top of Mt Buller down to Mirimbah, descending through quiet meadows, pretty Snow Gum plains and majestic Alpine Ash. Keep an eye and ear out for the abundant birdlife in the area especially Lyrebirds, known for their beautiful call.

at the end of the walk. What to take

Look out for: The sudden shifts in terrain,

Local advice: You will need to arrange a lift

from Snow Gum to Alpine Ash.

### Pygmy-possum, the only native mammal known to live above the treeline. A great option for families. Track (either up from Mirimbah or

Take the gentle Village Circuit and soak up the atmosphere. Want to get your pulse going? Then drop down into the steep and narrow Canyon track. You'll eel like you're in total wilderness. And of course, you can't miss 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 history of the mountain, and glimpses

of local flora and fauna.

### just enjoy this stretch of river for its great atmosphere. Bring water. **Plain Creek**

track notes.

of the Howqua

### Gantner hut - follow MacAllister Springs Look out for: Flyfishing on the banks Local advice: If you don't fancy the climb,

## Local advice: Take a snack, rest under the nowgums and take in the landscape. of old tramway and sawmill ruins from the 1930s, a relic of the early timber industry

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. Mansfield - Heart of the High Country This attractive country town is at the centre of the High Country activities. Spend some time exploring the streets of Mansfield -

Fortunately, there are great eating options many using delicious local produce, wines and locally brewed beer. 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 beef. Take a detour via one of our local

wineries for the perfect accompaniment

to your outdoor feast

## **Activities? Ideas?** Wondering what to see and do in the region? Ask our friendly

Somewhere to stay? For accommodation options check out:

www.mansfieldmtbuller.com.au

# **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

A few words on safety At altitude, weather and conditions

can change quickly. Snow can fall at

any time of the year. It makes sense

· High energy food and water · Detailed map of the area and a

Valking - how far, how fast? Allow 3-4km per hour if you're fit, 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.

Familiarise yourself with important bushfire safety information as well as what you can and can't

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

The High Country is a sensitive, fragile environment. To preserve its special qualities requires care, particularly from visitors like you. Please support us in

> 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

you and better for the bush. Likewise, a

good quality tent, with poles and a sewn

in floor, will make a real difference.

small and only use fallen dead wood. Finally, be absolutely sure your fire is out before you leave. Use water not soil to extinguish fires And check the ground before you go - it Even if conditions are muddy or dusty, don't

daisies and the plentiful Bogong moths

# Fishing

Phascogale (looks like a small possum), with a day walk, you get a completely different perspective of the High Country. Whatever your angling style, we've chosen the best spots for a trip complete with great views and picnic sites nearby. So pack your rod and get yourself a

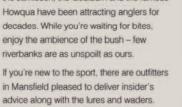
Lake fishing

Perch and, if you're lucky, Murray Cod. Or pick a secluded bay of your own - there

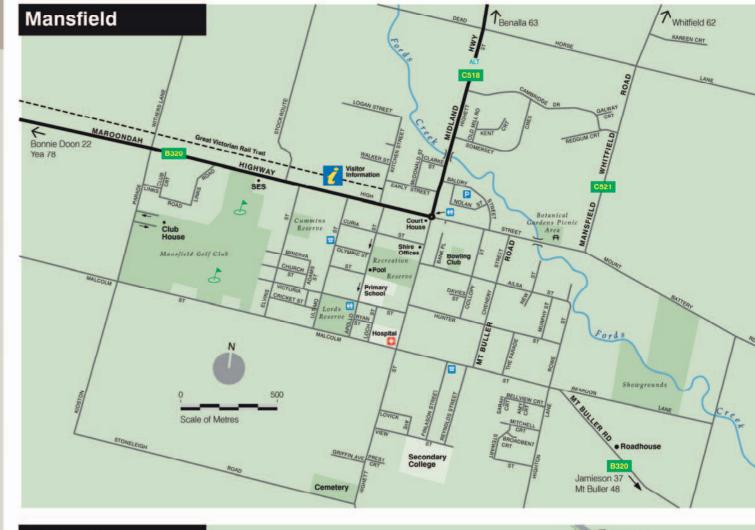
buildings make excellent habitat for Redfir

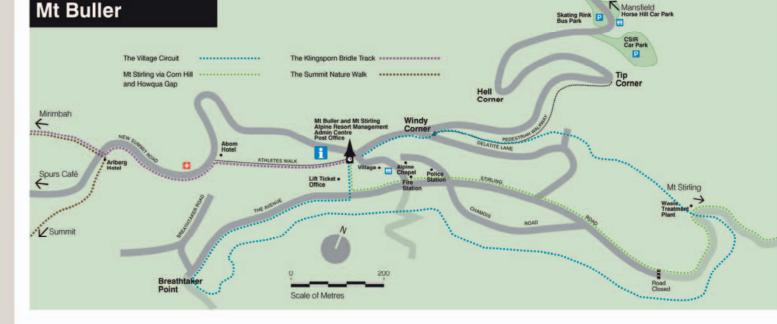
Howqua have been attracting anglers for of local licence suppliers. What are you decades. While you're waiting for bites, waiting for? The fish are already biting. enjoy the ambience of the bush - few iverbanks are as unspoilt as ours. If you're new to the sport, there are outfitters Lake Eildon's submerged trees and old

River fishing









Walking at Mt Buller and Mt Stirling Apart from the stunning, panoramic From Telephone Box Junction follow the gently winding Woollybutt Loop, views, Mt Buller and Mt Stirling are perfect places to discover rich past Razorback Hut, an original cattleman's hut, through Alpine ash

> Interpretive trails also start from King Saddle. Mt Buller and Mt Stirling trail network is shared by users including walkers, bike riders, trail runners and horse trails are shared and try to anticipate For detailed track notes and maps

forest to King Saddle and Lyrebird

trail, or for more of a challenge the

longer Mt Stirling Summit Loop offers

great scenic vistas and varied terrain.

Telephone Box Junction or the Resort Management Board in the Mt Buller www.mtstirling.com.au and www.mtbuller.com.au. You can also download the Mt Buller Walks app

> Commencing at Carter's Mill Day Reserve on the Delatite River follow the Plain Creek Loop for an easy 40 minute walk in the forest and tree ferns on a formed 2 kilometr track. A highlight of the loop is the section

Australian Alpine Walking Trail, through the Alpine National Park. You can take an alternative route down past Vallejo Mt Timbertop Wall Grade: Moderate to Difficult (steep in ections with some obstacles Time: 2 hours return

