The Upper Goulburn 4WD Touring Route starts at the historic township of Jamieson. It travels through State Forest managed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and features mountain views and historic sites associated with the gold mining era. The route is approximately 90 km and will take a full day to complete if you wish to explore some of the points of interest along the way. Surrounded by bush-clad mountains, the township of Jamieson is also worthy of a visit to witness the beautiful colours during the Autumn Festival celebrated during March each year.

4WD Touring Route – Getting started

Grade: Difficult 90 km full day

Track grade applies to dry conditions. Will become more difficult in wet weather. Recommended for drivers with reasonable experience or 4WD training. To be done in groups of vehicles. Tracks with frequent steep and/or rocky/slippery/ sandy track sections. Possible water crossings.

Jamieson, approximately three hours drive from Melbourne, is the starting point for this 4WD tour. From the bridge over the Jamieson River at the south end of Jamieson, proceed south along the Mansfield - Woods Point Road. Following the tracks indicated on the map will bring you to the first point of interest.

The Goulburn River is Victoria’s longest, rising near Woods Point and reaching the Murray River near Echuca. Little townships appeared along the Upper Goulburn as gold seekers sought new opportunities from 1860 onwards. Nowadays, most have virtually disappeared as the result of the end of the gold era or due to ravages of the 1939 fires and are now little more than localities. These include Knockwood and Ten Mile amongst others.

There are various picnic and camping spots located along the valley. All require visitors to be self-sufficient and to take their rubbish home. Good toilet facilities, picnic tables and fire places are located at most of them. Firewood needs to be sourced but please take care of the environment when doing so and avoid cutting live timber.

Campervan and caravan access is available in a number of places between Jamieson and Knockwood for those who wish to spend a few days exploring the region or sitting beside the upper reaches of the Goulburn River. The bitumen ends near Ten Mile and the road becomes narrow and winding after Knockwood.

Please note: Signposting may not be clear at Frenchman’s Gap – refer to attached map for route.

Points of Interest

**PoI 1: Mt Terrible Fire Tower**
Enjoy panoramic views from an altitude of 1316 metres.

**PoI 2: Gaffneys Creek**
Named after the Gaffney brothers (known as Red Tom and Black Tom, based on the colour of their hair) who were part of a four man team of early prospectors.

**PoI 3: Gaffneys Creek Cemetery**
Look for the grave of John Paton, a veteran of the Mexican – American War of 1846 to 1848. Private John Paton was a member Company H of the 2nd US Dragoons. He died at Gaffneys Creek in 1901. John Paton’s old unit is still an active part of the US Army and is currently known as 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

**PoI 4: Knockwood Reserve**
Formerly the site of a Golden Age Hotel.

**PoI 5: Tunnel Bend**
Inspect the tunnel on foot. Care is needed as the track is steep and narrow. Reputedly this tunnel was dug in
1866 as a diversion tunnel to allow alluvial mining of the bed of the Goulburn River. However, the diversion was not successful. Plans for associated works were never completed due to heavy flooding.

**Pol 6: Ten Mile**
The little community was wiped out in the 1939 Black Friday bushfires.

**Pol 7: Kevington Hotel**
The hotel has been in continuous operation since 1862, starting life as Garretts Beerhouse and later called the Polar Hotel. Nowadays some people affectionately call the old pub the Kevington Hilton.

**Leaving the forest** The route finishes at Kevington. From this point continue onto Jamieson or Mansfield.

**4WD Touring**
Here's some info to help you ‘tread lightly’ in the bush and to help us keep tracks open for your enjoyment.

**Vehicles may only be driven on open formed roads and vehicle tracks.**

Stay on the track. Drive your vehicle only on roads that are open to the public. Never “bush bash” or drive on closed roads. Off-road driving is a major cause of erosion and vegetation loss. Off-road driving is illegal and some roads may be closed seasonally for reasons of safety, weather, or to minimise erosion. They are usually signposted or enforced by barriers.

Drivers must be licensed and vehicles must be road registered and roadworthy.

Remove fallen trees or limbs from roads or report the obstruction to DELWP – don’t create a new track by driving around it.

**Forest use guidelines**

- There is no rubbish collection service so please take your rubbish home.
- Dogs are allowed in State forest but must be under direct control at all times and are expected to be on a leash in picnic and camping areas or when near other visitors.
- Use toilets where provided. At some sites hand washing facilities and toilet paper may not be supplied. Come prepared.
- Campfire safety – Use fireplaces where provided. The fire must be attended at all times by a person with the capacity and means to extinguish it. For solid fuel fires, the ground and airspace within 3m of the outer perimeter of the fire must be clear of flammable material. Ensure the fire is extinguished with water before leaving. If it’s cool to touch it is safe to leave. It is your responsibility to know if a Total Fire Ban is declared. If in doubt, do not light a campfire.

**Safety information**

- On Code Red Fire Danger Rating days, parks and State Forest are closed to the public. Do not enter parks or forests on Code Red Days. If you are already there when a Code Red day is announced, you should leave the night before or early in the morning. For more info contact DELWP (see below).
- Be responsible for your own safety. Be aware of extreme weather events, carry your own first aid kit and let someone know before you go.

**Seasonal road closures**

Some roads within the forest are seasonally closed each year from the Thursday after the Queen's Birthday holiday through to the Thursday before Melbourne Cup. This is to protect track surfaces and the environment, and for public safety. Road closures may be extended beyond these dates, depending on weather conditions. These closures are enforced by a gate. Contact DELWP for information on road closures.

**Join a 4WD club**

Mansfield Alpine Four Wheel Drive Club Inc. (MAFWDC) is a small, Mansfield-based club founded in 1987. They enjoy day and weekend trips, and the occasional extended trip, in the Victorian High Country and other great regions. They undertake volunteer activities on public land and have at least one general meeting (AGM) per year. MAFWDC is family-oriented, with varying age groups and experience levels. They support the aims of Four Wheel Drive Victoria [www.fwdvictoria.org.au](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au) and the Four Wheel Drive Victoria Code of Ethics. For all enquiries email mansfieldalpine4WDclub@outlook.com

**For more information**

The Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) is responsible for managing Victoria’s State Forest. For further information contact DELWP’s Customer Service Centre 📞 136 186 (TTY: 1800 555 667) or website at [http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au)

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