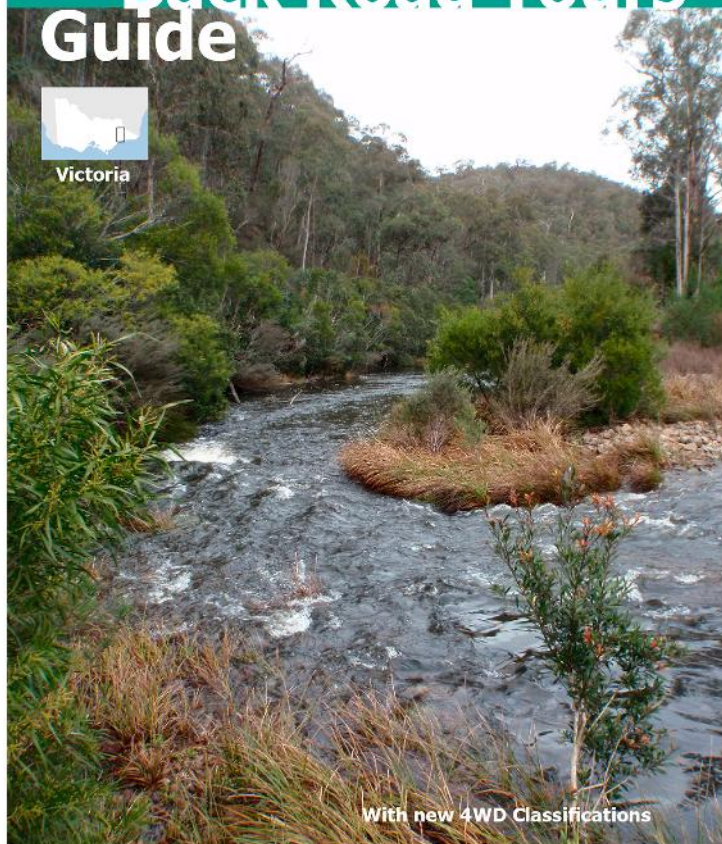


High Country Back Road Tours Guide



Victoria



With new 4WD Classifications

Healthy Parks
Healthy People



EAST GIPPSLAND
Naturally Magic



BAIRNSDALE
FOUR WHEEL
DRIVE CLUB



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

The **Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning** is responsible for looking after Victoria's forests. It manages Victoria's 3.4 million hectares of State forest and provides policy guidance for forested parks and reserves.

Parks Victoria manages one of the most diverse and representative parks networks in the world comprising 3.96 million hectares of some of Victoria's largest and most undisturbed ecosystems.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning proudly acknowledges and pays its respects to Victoria's Native Title Holders and Traditional Owners and the rich culture and intrinsic connection they have to Country. The department also recognises and acknowledges the contribution and interests of other Indigenous people and organisations in the management of land and natural resources.

Aboriginal people have lived in Gippsland for 40 000 years. The mother tribe is called Gunai sometimes pronounced Kurnai. The tribe is made up of five different clans. For further information see:

Bataluk Cultural Trail- Explore Aboriginal East Gippsland brochure.
www.maffra.net.au/bataluk/index.html

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning regional locations:

Bairnsdale

574 Main Street, Bairnsdale 3875
Phone: 03 5152 0600

Swifts Creek

McMillan Avenue, Swifts Creek 3896
Phone: 03 5159 5100

Nowa Nowa

5 Forest Rd, Nowa Nowa 3887
Phone: 03 5162 0100

This Brochure describes 10 Back Road Tours to help you discover the magic of Victoria's High Country, Australia.

Each tour is described with detailed directions and distances. Tour descriptions are colour coded with the tour route map on the reverse-side. Key points of interest along the routes are highlighted with additional publications referenced for further information.

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This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

The 4WD track ratings for these tours are advisory only and have been estimated for travel in dry conditions. Even after very light rain, many tracks can become extremely slippery, and more difficult to negotiate safely. The stated ratings may not be accurate after rain or heavy dew, and greater care needs to be exercised.

Fieldwork has revealed that odometer readings can vary from +/- 200 metres per 10 kms depending upon the vehicle used. The tour description distance does not include optional side trips.

Project Team: Joady Chick, Gail Penfold, Kath Smith, Andrew Sharpe, Glen Digby, Brian Gustas, Greg Corfield.

Four Wheel Drive Classification:

Bairnsdale 4WD Club- David Neale, Alan Radford

Pajero 4WD Club of Victoria- Barry Walker, Russell Chatfield, Tony Jambu

Fieldwork: Joady Chick (DSE), John & Prue Hasler (4WD Victoria)

Cartography, Design, Photography, Author: Joady Chick

Front Cover Photo: Tour 3, Timbarra River

1 Glen Wills Loop

2WD in dry weather only.
An interesting mix of natural and cultural heritage.

4WD Classification: Easy 
Distance: 90 kms
Duration: Half day
Further Information:

Park Notes: Alpine NP The High Country-Bright Mount Beauty, Omeo & Dargo.
Warnings: Roads subject to ice and snow during winter, chains should be carried. Log Truck Traffic.

START at Omeo's Historic Park. Drive north on Omeo Hwy travel 6.6 kms → turn right onto Omeo Valley Rd travel 11.3 kms → **Hinnomunjie Bridge** Crossing the Mitta Mitta River the bridge was opened in 1910. It is of both historical and architectural state significance. Broadaxe marks on its members are of special interest. The bridge is of local importance as a legacy of the "Knocker Track" to the tin and gold mines of the Glen Wills area.

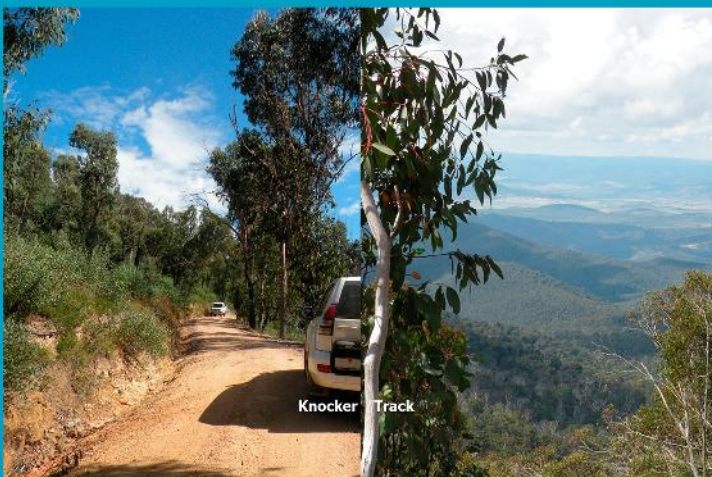
Continue north on the Omeo Valley Rd travel 1.5 kms → turn left onto Knocker Track (through 2003 fire affected areas) travel 17.1 kms → turn left onto Omeo Hwy travel 4.2 kms → **Glen Wills Cemetery** Between 1894 and 1920 this cemetery served the mining areas of Sunnyside and Glen Wills. Records illustrate the hardships experienced during these years - isolation, the severe weather conditions in winter, primitive housing and no doctors. Of the 97 persons buried, 40 were infants - sometime twins, sometimes a mother had died and soon after her baby. In recent years (1985) a firm of bridge builders were constructing a new bridge over the Mitta Mitta River at Glen Valley. The mother of the bridge builders (of Italian descent), was visiting her sons and was amazed that there were no crosses in the Cemetery. Before leaving the area, they built a large cross on a square slab and promised they would come back and erect crosses to commemorate the grave sites. They did in the summer of 1991.



Continue south on the Omeo Hwy travel 4.6 kms → turn right → **Big River Bridge - Mount Wills Historic Area** Pleasant camping within a historic gold and tin mining area → Continue south on the Omeo Hwy travel 5.1 kms → **Middle Creek** One of many areas used by canoeists.
→ Continue south on the Omeo Hwy travel 1.9 kms → turn left travel 400 m → **Jokers Flat** Popular with trout anglers.
→ Continue south-east on the Omeo Hwy travel 6 kms → **Bundara River** A tributary of Big River.
Continue south-east on the Omeo Hwy travel 2.7 kms → **Anglers Rest** Camping on the Cobungra River. Travel 300 m → **Blue Duck Inn** In 1900 the original building once housed a butchers shop offering fresh meat to miners on the walking track from Omeo to the gold fields around Mt. Wills. In 1912 a hotel license was purchased on the promise that the main road would pass the site. When the promise did not eventuate a panning dish was nailed to the front with 'Blue Duck' written on it - a mining term for a dud. If you take out a gold lease and it produces no gold, it's known as a 'blue duck'.

Continue south-east on the Omeo Hwy travel 1 km → **CRB Camp** → Continue south-east on the Omeo Hwy 8.5 kms → **Black Duck Hole** 1 hr rtn river access walk. → Continue south-east on the Omeo Hwy travel 13 kms → **Jubilee Bridge** Named in honour of Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887 in celebration of her fiftieth year on the British throne.

Continue south on the Omeo Hwy travel 5.3 kms → **Omeo**



2 Nunniong Forest Drive

An easy drive through Nunniong State Forest with a taste of history.

4WD Classification: Easy 
Distance: 67 kms
Duration: Half day
Further Information:

Forests Notes- Nunniong Forest Drive (pendizzng)
Warnings: Log Truck Traffic. This area has been subject to recent widespread bushfires. Visitors are advised to be aware that: trees and branches may fall; rocks and soil may be dislodged and track surface may deteriorate. Hazard may be increased with wind or heavy rain and flooding. Unsuitable for caravans.
Seasonal Road Closure- South Escarpment Rd (side trip to Nugong Tower)

START at on the Great Alpine Rd at **Ensay** head north travel 0.6 kms → turn right onto Johnson Rd (signage to Little River Inn) travel 0.7 kms → turn right onto Little River Rd (at Little River Inn) travel 11.1 kms → veer right onto Bentley Plains Rd (at McKenzies Tk intersection) travel 16.4 kms → **Bentley Plain** Sub-alpine grassland and wet heathland that contain many important flora species restricted to these areas. The Bentley Plain Walk and the Douglas Reserve Walk are available.

Continue travelling 200m → **Moscow Vila** A log cabin built in the 1940s by Bill Ah Chow who staffed the original Mount Nugong Fire Tower. The Bentley Plain Walk and the Douglas Reserve Walk are available from this site.

Continue north on Bentley Plain Rd travel 3.2 kms → Nunniong Rd Intersection (East leads to **Nunniong Plain** A series of open plains interspersed with Snow Gum woodlands and stands of Alpine Ash. At times, cattle and feral horses graze



these plains.) ➔ veer left onto Nunniong Rd travel 400 m ➔ turn left onto South Escarpment Rd travel 1.4 kms ➔ **Nugong Tower** A fire spotting tower used by the Department of Sustainability and Environment over the bushfire season.

Return to Nunniong Rd turn left travel 1.8 kms ➔ **Washington Winch** A relic of past logging operations the winch is the only steam-powered engine of its kind in Australia. Built in Seattle, USA it was able to haul big logs up steep slopes, carrying them onto the road and load them onto trucks.

Continue on Nunniong Rd noting the marked difference in vegetation to Shrubby Dry Forest and Grassy Dry Forest (at 14 kms enjoy the views over the **Tambo Valley Golf Course** The course layout was established in 1969 and features a pine plantation planted in the early sixties on land previously used for dairy farming) total travel 17.6 kms ➔ turn left onto Bindi Rd travel 4.4 kms ➔ turn left onto Great Alpine Road travel 8.1 kms ➔ **Swifts Creek**

The Aboriginal name for the site of Swifts Creek was Bun Jirrah Gingee Munjie, which translates as 'big kangaroos go to that place'. The township was originally settled by Europeans in the gold rushes of the mid 1800s and has a history of grazing and timber milling. The timber mill has been a feature in the town since the end of World War II.



Moscow Vila Hut

3 Ensay-Buchan Link

2WD in dry weather only.
Take a scenic short cut from the Tambo River catchment to the Snowy River catchment.

4WD Classification: Easy 
Distance: 59 kms
Duration: Easy half day
Further Information:

Park Notes- Buchan Caves Reserve- Visitors Guide

Park Notes- Buchan Caves Reserve- FJ Wilson Walk

Park Notes- Buchan Caves Reserve- Walks

Warnings: Log Truck Traffic

START at Ensay on the Great Alpine Way (approximately 52 kms) north of Bruthen.

Turn right (north-east on the Great Alpine Way) travel 0.6 kms ➔ turn right onto Johnston St travel 0.7 kms ➔ turn right at the Little River Inn onto Little River Rd travel 0.7 km ➔ turn right onto Reedy Creek Rd travel 9.1 km ➔ turn left onto Buchan-Ensay Rd travel

(at 15.3 km to enjoy views of **Mount Elizabeth Nature Conservation Reserve** to your right. This 5220 Ha plateau remnant supports a wide variety of vegetation communities, ranging from wattle scrub to dry, low open forests to fine stands of tall Mountain Ash regrowth. The reserve contains the sole population of the threatened species: Leafy Nematolepis, *Nematolepis frondosa*, a leafy, conical shrub that grows up to 7m.)

a total of 23.0 km ➔ **Timbarra River**

Part of the Tambo River Basin the river has a reliable flow and is habitat to the threatened Australian grayling and Cox's gudgeon.

Continue travelling south-west on the Buchan-Ensay Rd travel 2.0 kms ➔ veer right onto Mt Johnston Rd travel 2.3



Wildflowers Buchan-Ensay Rd

kms ➔ turn left onto Wattle Hill Rd travel 8.4 kms ➔ veer left onto Quire Rd travel 3.4 kms ➔ turn left onto Buchan South Rd travel 3.1 kms ➔ turn left onto the Bruthen-Buchan Rd travel 5.3 kms ➔ **Buchan**

The landscape surrounding the Buchan area has been formed through a series of major geological events over the last 500 million years. The deposition of large amounts of marine sediment has resulted in the characteristic limestone formation found in the Buchan area.

Visit the **Buchan Caves Reserve**. The caves were reserved in 1887, though largely by accident - they were on land set aside for stock camping. The government commissioned an exploration soon afterwards and reserved the land to protect the caves. Spend time at the Visitor Information and Interpretation Centre to learn more about the natural and cultural heritage. Guided tours operate for the Fairy and Royal caves regularly every day except Christmas Day. The reserve also has an impressive system of walking tracks from the easy to the more demanding that require a reasonable level of fitness.

Through their cultural traditions, the Guani / Kurnai identify the Buchan Caves Reserve as their Traditional Country.



View of Mt Elizabeth

4 Timbarra

A leisurely drive to explore the Timbarra in the upper reaches of the Tambo catchment.

4WD Classification: Medium 

Distance: 85 kms

Duration: Half day

Further Information: none

Warnings: Log Truck Traffic. River crossing.

This area has been subject to recent widespread bushfires. Be aware that trees and branches may fall, rocks and soil may be dislodged and track surface may deteriorate.

START on the Buchan Rd/ Glenmore Rd intersection (36.9 kms north of Buchan, 1 km after crossing Butchers Creek) turn onto Glenmore Rd travel 21.6 kms ➔ **Glenmore Camp Site** A great, open picnic stop or camp site on the flats of the Buchan River.

Continue on Glenmore Rd travel 400 m ➔ **Buchan River crossing.** North of the crossing, in the Alpine (Cobberas-Tingaringy) National Park, the river's upper reaches are protected with Heritage River status. This ensures the botanical values, scenic landscapes, water quality, flow and the essentially natural condition of the Buchan mainstream are protected. It also ensures Australian grayling have free passage for migration and that instream habitat conditions are maintained.

Continue on Glenmore Rd travel 4.5 kms ➔

[Optional Side Trip: Turn left onto Mt Stewart Tk travel 1.5 kms ➔ **Mount Stewart** A granite hill overlooking the clearing at Glenmore in the Buchan River valley, carries heathlands growing on shallow rocky soils. The 340 hectare Mount Stewart Natural Features and Scenic Reserve includes waterfalls on the Mellick Munjie Creek. The falls are of both aboriginal and geological significance. ➔ return to Glenmore Rd turn left]



Buchan River crossing

Continue travelling on Glenmore Rd 5.1 kms ➔ turn left onto Nunnett Rd ➔ **Glenmore Huts**

These logging huts were constructed in 1962 when the Nunnit area was opened up for logging. They replaced a bus and tents that used to house logging crews.

Continue travelling on Nunnett Rd travel 15.4 kms ➔ turn right onto Timbarra Rd travel 4.2 kms ➔ **Timbarra Camping Zone South.**

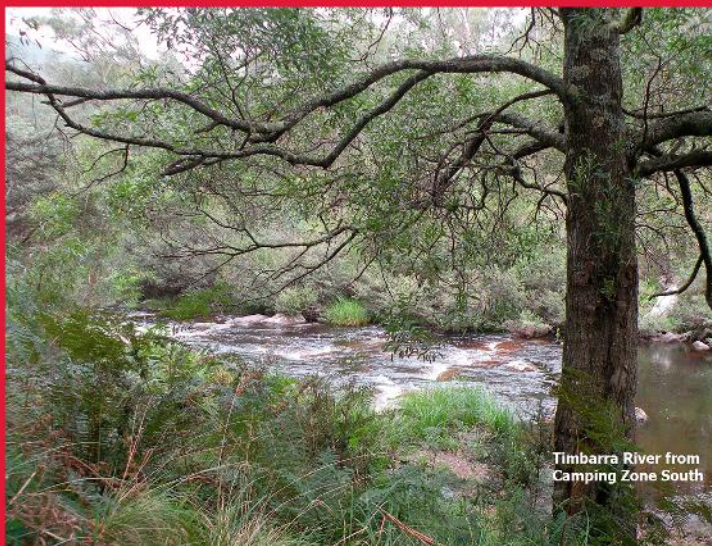
Continue travelling north on Timbarra Rd travel 5.6 kms ➔ **Timbarra Camping Zone North.**

Enjoy picnicking or camping at one of the various sites on the picturesque and easily accessible Timbarra River.

The Timbarra River rises in the high country of the Nunniong Plains east of Omeo and is part of the Tambo Nicholson Catchment Area. It consists of numerous pools and runs with good flow all year round. It is popular for fishing Brown trout.

Reversing direction to travel south return on the Timbarra Rd travel 18.6 kms (from Nunnett Rd intersection) ➔ Buchan Rd ➔ **TOUR END**

EITHER turn left (travel 5 kms) to **Buchan** OR turn right (travel 45 kms) to **Bruthen.**




Timbarra River from Camping Zone South

5 Mt Baldhead Loop

4WD only.
Spectacular views and historic huts.

4WD Classification: Medium 

[To Mt Taylor & to/from Deptford (on Deptford Rd) : Easy 

Distance: 171 kms

Duration: Full day (or o/n camping at huts or Deptford)

Further Information:

Forests Notes- Deptford Picnic Area

Forest Notes: State Forests of the Bruthen Area

Forests Notes- Historic Huts in the Bairnsdale District (pending)

Warnings: Log Truck Traffic

START at **Bairnsdale's Rotunda** (public toilets) on the Main St/Princes Hwy travel east 100m ➔ turn left onto Bailey St travel 200m ➔ veer left onto Riverine St travel 0.9 kms ➔ veer right onto Bullumwall Rd travel (over the Mitchell River) 14.8 kms ➔ (start of the gravel road) veer left travel 200 m ➔ **Mount Taylor** Picnic area and down hill mountain bike track. The top of the mountain is not accessible to the public. It houses a number of transmitters and a fire spotting tower.

Returning onto Bullumwall Rd continue travelling north 11.6 kms ➔ **Bullumwaal** The Aboriginal meaning for Bullumwaal is two spears. A gold mining centre between 1850 to early 1900s there was a shift from mining to timber production in the 1930s.

Continue north on Bullumwall Rd/Mt Baldhead Rd travel 15.8 kms ➔ **Stuttering Fred Lookout** Rolling hill views.

Continue north on Mt Baldhead Rd, through forest regrowth to the east travel 13.1 kms ➔ veer right onto Marthavale Rd travel 4.4 kms ➔ **Marthavale Hut** The hut was built in 1953 as a base for timber workers in the area. The Idlers 4WD Club restored the building in mid 2002 with the aid of DSE, Bairnsdale.



Turntable Huts

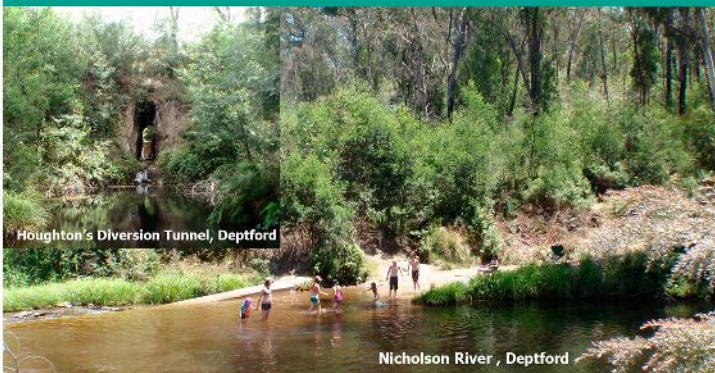
Return to Mt Baldhead Rd turn right travel 14 kms → turn right onto Engineers Rd travel, through 2007 fire regrowth, 14.3 kms → **Turntable Huts** Built in 1949 to house the crew that constructed Engineers Road.

Continue travelling south on Engineers Rd 16.4 kms → turn right onto Deptford- Mt Sugarloaf Rd travel 11.2 kms → turn right onto Deptford Rd, cross the Nicholson River travel 300 m → **Deptford** Picnic Area on the Nicholson River, interpretation about the gold fields and the start of Slaughter Walking Track to Houghton's Diversion Tunnel.

Reversing your direction on Deptford Rd, cross the Nicholson River again, travel 5.1 kms → turn right onto Engineers Rd travel 13 kms → turn left onto Little Dick Range Rd travel 5.3 kms → turn right onto Tower Rd travel 100 m → **Little Dick Fire Tower** Views of the Tambo flats.

Returning to Little Dick Range Rd travel 4.3 kms → turn right onto the Great Alpine Way travel 2.8 kms → **Bruthen** → turn right continuing on the Great Alpine Road travel 2.3 kms → turn right onto Deep Creek Rd (follow the signs to Fairy Dell) travel 5.3 kms → **Fairy Dell** Warm temperate rainforest walk.

Continue on Deep Creek Rd travel 3.5 kms → turn right onto Nicholson Creek Rd travel 20 m → turn left onto Eleven Mile Rd travel 7.9 kms → turn right on the Great Alpine Road travel 17 kms → **Bairnsdale**



6 Omeo - Dargo

Linking two historic towns with a history of gold mining.

4WD Classification: Easy 

Distance: 77 kms

Duration: Half day

Further Information:

Forest Note: Dargo State Forest (pending)

Warnings: Log Truck Traffic. The area may be subject to flash flooding, trees and branches may fall, rocks and soil may be dislodged, track surfaces may deteriorate, bridges, signs and other facilities may be damaged or absent and hazards may be increased with wind and rain.

START at **The Omeo Historic Park & Historic Court House** in the heart of Omeo.

Head towards Mt Hotham on the Great Alpine Way travel 2.1 kms → turn left onto Cassilis Rd travel 6.9 kms → turn right onto Upper Livingston Rd (unsealed after 300m) travel 5.9 kms → turn right across bridge onto Birregun Rd travel 17.1 kms → turn left travel 400 m → **Dogs Grave (end of Tour 8 link)** A grave and memorial to a stockman's dog that died circa 1860s. The area is believed to be the site of a camp used by stockmen on the old Omeo to Dargo Stock route.

→ Return onto Birregun Rd by taking the western track on the left (veering right) travel 400 m → turn left onto Birregun Rd travel 7.2 kms → turn left on track to Mt Birregun travel 400 m → **Mt Birregun (helipad) Lookout** Enjoy spectacular views over the Wentworth River and towards the Gippsland Plains. On a clear day you may be able to see the ocean. This helipad is maintained for wildfire response.



Return to Birregun Rd travel 15.4 kms → **(INTERSECTION OF Tour 7 Dargo - Swifts Creek)**

Turn right onto Jones Rd travel 7.2 kms → veer left onto Upper Dargo Rd travel 1.1 kms → **Ollies Jump Up** Camping on a large inside sweep of the Dargo River.

Continue on Upper Dargo Rd travel 2.6 kms → **Jimmys Iversons** Camping on a large inside sweep of the Dargo River. Continue on Upper Dargo Rd travel 1.2 kms → **Italian Flat** Large camping area on the Dargo River.

Continue on Upper Dargo Rd travel 0.8 kms → **Two Mile Flat** Enjoy camping with basic facilities at either the north or south camping areas on Two Mile Creek.

Continue on Upper Dargo Rd travel 1.9 kms → turn left onto Dargo High Plains Rd travel 5.4 kms → **Dargo** The area was originally mapped in the 1850s. Farming proved difficult in the mountainous terrain but gold traces were found in the early 1860s. Once a timber and cattle town, the surrounding area is noted for its huge, 100 year old walnut trees. Dargo now supplies Victoria with about 10 per cent of its walnuts.



7 Dargo - Swifts Creek



Dargo River view from Upper Dargo Rd

4WD only.
A pleasant link enjoying the Dargo and Wentworth Rivers.

4WD Classification: Medium

Distance: 77 kms

Duration: Half day

Further Information: Forests Notes- Historic Huts in the Bairnsdale District (pending)

Warnings: Log Truck Traffic. This area has been subject to recent widespread bushfires (2007). Be aware that trees and branches may fall, rocks and soil may be dislodged and track surface may deteriorate.

START at Dargo. From the Trails Map opposite the Dargo Hotel head north on the Dargo High Plains Rd travel 5.6 kms → turn right onto Upper Dargo Rd travel 2 kms → **Two Mile Flat** Enjoy camping with basic facilities at either the north or south camping areas on Two Mile Creek.

→ continue on Upper Dargo Rd travel 0.8 kms → **Italian Flat** Large camping area on the Dargo River.

→ continue on Upper Dargo Rd travel 1.1 kms → **Jimmy Iversons** Camping on a large inside sweep of the Dargo River.

→ continue on Upper Dargo Rd travel 0.7 kms → **Dusty Flat** → continue on Upper Dargo Rd travel 1.9 kms →

Ollies Jump Up → continue on Upper Dargo Rd travel 1.2 kms → veer right on Jones Rd travel 16.7 kms →

Wentworth River → continue on Jones Rd travel 9.6 kms.

→ turn left onto Mt Baldhead Rd travel 6.3 kms → veer left at Engineers Rd intersection continue left on Mt Baldhead Rd travel 1.4 kms → McDonald Rd intersection. Turn left onto McDonalds Rd travel 7 kms → Kings Rd intersection, turn left onto Kings St travel 1.4 kms → **Wentworth River** Habitat of the Omeo Gum, *Eucalyptus neglecta*. A hardy understorey tree.

→ continue on Kings St uphill 200 m → **Jirnkee Water Race** Among the many water races built in Victoria during the gold mining boom, the Jirnkee water race is outstanding for its length of 56 miles (90 kilometres). The first 48 mile section was built in 1889/1900 to bring water from the Wentworth River to Long Gully, near Cassilis, for the sluicing of alluvial gravels.

Continue on Kings Tk travel 2.5 kms → turn right onto Wentworth Rd travel 1.5 kms → turn right onto Mt Delusion Rd travel 200 m → **Mt Delusion Hut** Built after the 1939 fires by Tom Carroll of Brookville to be used as a base when he or his sons were shepherding and droving cattle up in the Mt Delusion area.

Continue on Mt Delusion Rd travel 0.6 kms → turn right onto Grassy Ridge Rd travel 4.8 kms → turn left onto Dorothy Cutting]

Continue on Mt Baldhead Rd/ Dorothy Cutting travel 5.5 kms → intersection with Grassy Ridge Rd/**OPTIONAL SIDE TRIP END** → continue Dorothy Cutting travel 6.1 kms veer right onto Brookville Rd travel 15.2 → turn right onto Cassilis Rd travel 2.3 kms → **Swifts Creek**



Italian Flat, Dargo River

8 Dinner Plain Back Roads



Natural Lookout from Precipice Plain

When the snow melts enjoy spectacular views and alpine environment.

4WD Classification: Medium

Distance: 22 kms (Alternate Link 32 kms)

Duration: Easy half day

Further Information:

Forest Notes: State Forest of the Dinner Plain Area

Park Notes: Alpine National Park- The High Country walks around Feathertop, Hotham and Dinner Plain.

Dinner Plain - Hotham Trails Brochure

Warnings: Seasonal Road Closures- Dinner Plain Track, Victoria River Track. Unpredictable heavy fog.

START at Dinner Plain This distinctive village was designed in 1986 and is Australia's only freehold land above the snowline. The architecture reflects the heritage of the early pioneer buildings in the Victorian Alpine High Country.

From the village entrance turn left onto the Great Alpine Way travel 200m → turn left onto Dinner Plains Tk travel 0.8 kms → **Carmichael Falls** A 2 km return walk to a lookout with seating overlooking the picturesque falls amongst the snow gums.

Continue on Dinner Plains Tk travel 3.6 kms → **Precipice Plains** A natural lookout over the remote Dargo valley.

Continue south on Dinner Plains Tk (note signs for **McMillans Walking Track** This is an historic 220 km track that cuts across the southern side of the Victorian Alps. In 1864, Angus McMillan led an expedition to cut a track through the high country of Victoria to link the goldfields together. It took about one year to cut an eight foot wide track that was suitable for pack horses. This was used for many years but as the goldfields declined

and modern roads replaced the need for a pack horse trail, the track fell into obscurity and vanished under the scrub. In 1983, the Ben Cruachan Walking Club began a project to discover and remark the original McMillans Walking Track from Woods Point to Omeo. By 1987 they had approval to remark the track. It was officially reopened in 1988. The track climbs and descends a lot as it crosses many river valleys and is a fairly tough walk. It is suggested to take 12 to 14 days to complete.) travel 6.6 kms → intersection with Victoria River Tk / **LINK to Tour 6** (see below) → turn left onto Victoria River Tk travel 2.2 kms → turn right travel 150 m → **Black Sallee Picnic Area** Have a quiet picnic on a man made lake.

Return to Victoria River Tk turn right (at 2kms the gate marks the edge of State Forest) travel 5.7 kms → **Victoria River** A scenic resting spot on the river that was the subject of Victoria's first hydro electric plant built in 1908, downstream at Victoria Falls.

Continue on Victoria River Tk travel 2 kms → Great pine Way **TOUR END.**

LINK to Tour 6


From the Dinner Plain Tk/Victoria River Tk intersection → continue travelling on Victoria River Tk travel 18.2 kms → turn right onto Birregun Rd travel 2.2 kms → turn left travel 400 m → **Dogs Grave, Tour 6.**



Black Sallee Picnic Area

9 Limestone Link

An easy, scenic drive in the high country.

4WD Classification: Easy 
Distance: 158 kms
Duration: Half to full day
Further Information:

Park Notes- Alpine National Park- Wilderness and the Snowy around Benambra, Buchan and Bonang.

Warnings: Log Truck traffic and roaming stock.
 Seasonal Road Closure - Cowombat Rd (side trip)
 Feral horses are widespread and are often seen on the roads. Sections of this tour are subject to frost, ice and snow. Chains should be carried. Use the road at your own risk.

English Broom: A noxious weed that is spreading in the High Country. Please report the location of any infestations to a Parks Victoria office. *Description: An upright, evergreen shrub up to 4 m, (mostly 1 to 2 m high). Flowers are pea-like, bright yellow, sometimes with red markings in the centre, shortly stalked, 15 to 25 mm long, occurring singly or in pairs in the leaf axils.*

START at Omeo Historic Park Drive north on Omeo Hwy travel 3.9 kms → turn right onto Benambra Rd travel 5.1 kms → turn left travel 300 m → **McMillans Lookout** Using the orientation plaque for directions, take in the views over Lake Omeo and the Omeo valley.

Return to Benambra Rd turn left travel 12.7 kms → **Benambra** (at the Benambra Hotel) turn right onto Foster St / Limestone-Black Mountain Rd (enter the Alpine National Park (ensure to turn sharp left at McCallums Rd intersection) travel 42.9 kms → turn left onto Cowombat Flat Tk travel 3.9 kms → **Cobberas Wilderness Zone** entrance. A carpark, interpretation signage and gate mark the entrance to this Wilderness Zone. This track to Cowombat Flat is part of the Alpine



View from McMillans Lookout

Walking track. A 650 kilometre track following ridges and high plains through some of the highest country in Australia. The track traverses numerous National Parks between Wahalla in Victoria and Tharwa (near Canberra) in the Australian Capital Territory. Cowombat Flat marks the headwaters of the Murray River and is of local geological heritage significance.

Return to Limestone-Black Mountain Rd turn left (enjoys views of Rams Horn) travel 2.1 kms → **Native Dog Flat** Picnic or camp with good facilities on the upper Buchan River.

Continue eastward on Limestone-Black Mountain Rd travel 16.9 kms → **Mount Stradbroke Walk** A 10 km return walk though snow gums emerging at the rocky summit at 1310 m. In 2006 the 'Friends of the Cobberas' with Parks Victoria worked on developing this walking track which partly follows an overgrown 4WD fire track. Mount Stradbroke and Rocky Range are of regional geological significance marking the edge of the Wulgumerang Tableland and High Plain.

Continue eastward on Limestone-Black Mountain Rd travel 12.2 kms → turn right onto Snowy River Rd travel 10.8 kms → turn right onto Gelantipy Rd travel 16 kms → **Tour 4 START** → continue southward on Gelantipy Rd travel 37 kms → **Buchan** (see **Tour 3** for Buchan information)



Rams Horn

10 Mitchell Loop

4WD only.
Discover Mitchell River National Park.

4WD Classification: Medium 

Distance: 61 kms

Duration: Easy full day

Further Information:

Park Notes- Mitchell River National Park

Warnings: Watch out for cyclists. Log Truck Traffic.

START at the intersection of the Bairnsdale-Dargo Rd and Waller Rd.

(If starting from **Bairnsdale** Rotunda in the Main St/ Princes Hwy travel west 4.1 kms → turn right onto C601 Bairnsdale-Dargo Rd following the signs to Den of Nargun, Mitchell River National Park travel 34.5 kms)

→ turn right onto Waller Rd entering **Mitchell River National Park.**

Five major vegetation communities have been identified in the Park. These include: the largest and most significant concentration of well developed stands of Warm Temperate Rainforest near the western limit of its distribution and Open Forest which is most widespread in the Park and includes Manna gum, *Eucalyptus viminalis*, a preferred food source for Koalas.

travel 4.3 kms → **Den of Nargun Picnic Area**

There are two short walks from this picnic area.

To the north walk to the Den of Nargun. See a place of great cultural significance to women in the Gunna/Kurnai Aboriginal community. The den is a cave, the Nargun, a fierce, mystical half human half stone being. Please respect this area as an important area to aboriginal people.

To the south, walk to the Mitchell River via the Bluff Lookout.



Returning on Waller Rd travel 2 kms → turn right onto Parks Rd travel 3.9 kms → veer right onto Billy Goat Bend Rd travel 2.8 kms → **Billy Goat Bend.**

A popular picnic area. Enjoy panoramic views of the Mitchell River Gorge, rapids and rock slides that form a natural amphitheatre.

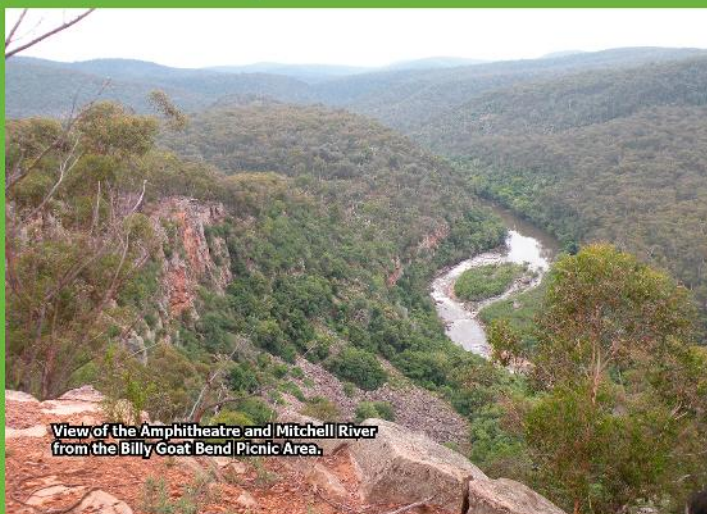
Returning onto Billy Goat Bend Rd travel 2.5 kms → turn right onto Mitchell Rd (crossing Cobbannah Creek at 1.7 kms and through two campsites catering for the Mitchell Walking Track that share a section of this road) travel 11.2 kms → turn right onto Mitchell River Rd travel 8.9 kms → **Angusvale Camping Ground.**

Campsites with easy car and river access.

The Mitchell River is heritage listed and is part of a 260 km system which flows from the Great Dividing Range to its mouth in the Gippsland Lakes. Home to two threatened species of fish, the Australian Grayling and Australian Bass; it is the largest free flowing river in Victoria. To help protect the fragile Heritage River environment camping is not permitted within 50 metres of the water.

Return to Mitchell River Rd travel 15.5 kms → turn left onto the Bairnsdale-Dargo Rd travel 9.2 kms → **Tour END.**

Continue on Bairnsdale-Dargo Rd travel 34.5 kms → turn left onto Princes Hwy travel 4.1 kms → **Bairnsdale.**



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Bushwalking Code

Trail Bike Riding Code

Mountain Bike Code

Activities

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Bushwalking in State forest

Recreation Activity Classifications

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