

Mount Stirling is in the alpine region of North-east Victoria. The Circuit Road traverses through Mansfield State Forest and Alpine Resort and provides access to several attractions including Craig's Hut, Bindaree Falls, Mt Stirling, King Hut and Razorback Hut. It is also the starting point for many 4WD tours through the high country.

### Getting there

Travel from Mansfield along the Mt Buller Road towards Mt Buller. Turn left at the Mount Stirling Road which begins at the toll gate at Mirimbah - this leads to Circuit Road. Mansfield to Mirimbah is approximately 32 kilometres. The Circuit Road complete round trip starting and finishing at Mirimbah is about 80 kilometres, including a 10 kilometre return detour to Bindaree Falls.

The toll gate at Mirimbah only operates during the snow season. There is no charge for access outside the snow season.

Circuit Road is trafficable by 2WD, though it can have some rough sections. Circuit Road and many of the tracks in this area are subject to seasonal road closures. Those in State Forest and National Park are closed to vehicles, usually from the Thursday after the Queens Birthday long weekend in June until the Thursday before the Melbourne Cup weekend in November. Contact the Mt Buller and Mt Stirling Alpine Resort Management Board on ☎ 03 5777 6077 to check the status of closures within resort.

### The Circuit Road Touring Route

The Circuit Road travels mostly through Mansfield State Forest, however some sections are within the Alpine Resort.

The Circuit Road was originally created to provide access for logging vehicles but now it is mainly used for recreation – though harvesting

of the Alpine Ash still occurs. Areas in different stages of regeneration are evident on the drive.

The vegetation along the route changes from sub-alpine, Alpine Ash forest to a Snow Gum dominated alpine woodland.

### Telephone Box Junction (TBJ)

TBJ is within the Alpine Resort and marks the start of Circuit Road. Toilets and information are located here and during winter the Ski Patrol office and kiosk are open subject to seasonal hours.

### King Saddle

King Saddle is two kilometres past TBJ (keep left at TBJ) and also within Alpine Resort. There is a toilet and shelter and the start of several cross-country skiing and walking tracks.

### Razorback Hut

Approximately 1.5 kilometres past King Saddle and within Mansfield State Forest is the entrance to Razorback Hut. Turn left just before the No. 3 Road intersection. The camping area is 500 metres along this road - there is a hut with permanent horse yards.

*The **No. 3 Road** joins Circuit Road just past the track to Razorback Hut. This road is 4WD and has lovely views of Mt Cobbler and the King River Valley and accesses the No. 3 Refuge Hut. You can follow No. 3 Road for 14.5 kilometres then turn left down Carter's Road to bring you back to the Carter's Mill Picnic site and the Mt Buller Road.*

*The **King Basin Road** is on your left two kilometres passed the No. 3 Rd intersection. This 4WD track leads to Pineapple Flat on the banks of the King River. Please note that the camping area is within Alpine National Park so no dogs are allowed.*

*There are also camping areas along the King River towards **King Hut**. King Basin Road eventually links with Speculation Road to form a loop back to Circuit Road.*

## Craig's Hut

Craig's Hut is 18 kilometres from TBJ along Circuit Road. A 4WD track accesses the hut from Circuit Road.

Craig's Hut was originally constructed for the Australian movie 'The Man from Snowy River' in 1983 as the home of Jim Craig, the main character in the movie. In 1993, Craig's Hut was re-opened for visitors after a complete rebuilding. In 2006 Craig's Hut was destroyed by the Great Divide wildfire and again rebuilt, opening for visitors in 2008. There are magnificent views of the surrounding mountain ranges from the hut, which is set on a grassy knoll surrounded by snowgums.

Craig's Hut and its magnificent views can also be accessed via a walking track that starts at the Circuit Road Picnic Area, one kilometre before the Craig's Hut turn off.



### Craigs Hut Walk

Grade of Walk <sup>1</sup> :	Grade 4
Distance:	Return 3.0km
Time:	2 hours return
Gradient:	Very steep
Quality of Path:	Formed track, some obstacles
Quality of Markings:	Sign posted
Steps:	Occasional steps
Experience required:	Some bushwalking experience recommended

*The Monument and Mt Stirling, both within Alpine Resort are accessed from **Clear Hills 4WD track** by continuing past Craig's Hut. Some sections of these tracks are suitable for experienced 4 wheel drivers only.*

***Speculation Road (4WD)** heads east from Circuit Road, six kilometres past the Craig's Hut turn off. This road intersects with King Basin Road and continues on over the staircase towards Lake Cobbler. The Cobbler Plateau has the highest waterfalls in Victoria, the Dandongdale Falls and Mount Cobbler can be accessed along a walking track from the lake.*

## Bindaree Falls

Bindaree Road is on your left about ten kilometres past Craig's Hut. Turn left down Bindaree Road and travel for five kilometres. A short walk will take you right up to the waterfall.

Return to Circuit Road and continue on another 18 kilometres to return to Telephone Box Junction and the completion of the circuit.

## Looking after the Forest

All vehicles, including trail bikes must remain on formed vehicle tracks. While driving be aware of other users, including horse riders and mountain bike riders on these tracks, as they may appear unexpectedly.

Dogs are allowed in State Forest, but are not permitted in Alpine Resort or National Park. In summer, dogs transiting through Alpine Resort must remain in or on the vehicle. Dogs must be kept under control at all times.

Horse riding is allowed but horses must be held away from other campers in temporary yards and at least 30 metres from waterways.

More information on the rules and regulations relating to trail bike riding, horse riding and other activities in state forest is available from the DSE website.

## Safety

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 declared, you should leave the night before or early in the morning.

## For more information

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is responsible for managing Victoria's State Forest. For further information contact DSE's Customer Service Centre on 136 186 (TTY: 1800 122 969) or visit DSE's website at <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/forests>

For more information on sites managed by Parks Victoria contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 131963 or visit [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

For more information on the Mt Buller and Mt Stirling Alpine Resort Management Board phone 03 5777 6077 or visit [www.mtbuller.com.au](http://www.mtbuller.com.au)

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on how walks are graded, visit [www.dse.vic.gov.au/walking](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/walking)

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