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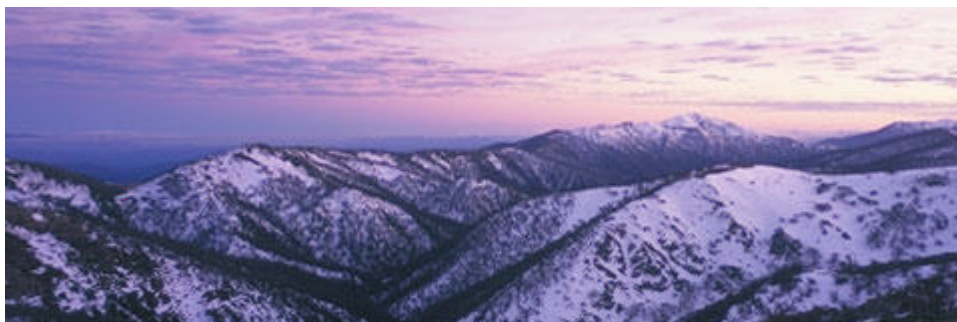
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## Alpine National Park

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Park Type:

**National Park**

Region:

**East**

Special Needs Access: **Rating** (No Rating) [more info](#)

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Victoria's Alpine National Park, at 646,000 ha the State's largest, protects our mountains and varied alpine environments. With adjoining national parks in ACT, it forms a protected area that covers almost all of Australia's high country. Snowfields are the primary winter attraction; the warmer months bring stunning displays and opportunities for bushwalks and four wheel driving. The 655 km Walking Track traverses the Alps from Walhalla to Canberra.

Australia's Alps are vitally important as a source of water in our dry continent. Major rivers of south-eastern Australia have their sources there.

The Alpine National Park is one of the eight Australian Alps national parks that co-operatively to ensure that Australia's mainland alpine and sub-alpine environments are protected consistently and that policies and guidelines across State and territory are compatible.

### Things to Do

- Scenic two wheel drive tours, such as from Bright to Omeo along the Road.
- Many opportunities for four wheel driving. A number of tracks are closed to protect the environment.
- A great variety of walks, from short strolls to the Australian Alps Walk. **WARNING:** Ensure you are prepared for sudden weather changes on

or long. Information on bushwalking in the Australian Alps is available at [www.netc.net.au/bushwalking/alpswalk.html](http://www.netc.net.au/bushwalking/alpswalk.html)

- Commercial tour operators offer a variety of activities such as horse riding, rafting and bike riding
- Try your luck at fishing.
- In winter, go cross-country skiing, perhaps with snow camping. Down based at adjoining resorts such as Falls Creek and Mount Hotham.
- Hunting is permitted in accordance with the [regulations](#).
- Enjoy varied and beautiful summer wildflowers, and discover a whole range of plants and animals, all adapted to cope with climatic extremes. The Alpine Park has the greatest range of flora and fauna of any national park in Australia.

## Facilities

- Accommodation ranges from bush camping to lodges and motels in small towns, and in the adjacent ski resorts of Falls Creek, Mt Hotham, Mt Eildon and Mt Stirling.
- Facilities at picnic spots are generally limited to fireplaces, picnic tables and toilet cases.

**Please note** that Lovick's Hut has been dismantled and is being rebuilt during 2005.

## Heritage

Aboriginal people went to and through the Alpine area over thousands of years. They used the area for hunting, gathering, and seasonal changes intimately. Groups visited the area to hold ceremonies and gather the nutritious Bogong Moths that shelter them. Aboriginal communities in Victoria, NSW and the ACT take a particular interest in the management and heritage of the high country.

European pastoralists from NSW started moving south into the Alps in the 1830s and began around Omeo in 1836, and runs were taken up in the foothills. Summer extended to the higher country, and huts were built there for shelter and stock mustering. You can experience this history by visiting the cattlemen's huts along the high plains or the ruins of Wonnangatta Station (home of the pioneer for many years) Wallaces Hut near Falls Creek, built in 1889, is one of the oldest huts in the area.

From the 1850s to around 1900, gold lured many people to the Alps. Relics remain in Historic Areas adjacent to the park, and towns like Dargo, Harrietville, Mitta and Bright have strong links to the gold era.

The 1939 bushfires in the forests around Melbourne and the boom in house building during World War II led to a greatly increased demand for timber from the Alps. This led to the building of a network of roads that helped open the Alps to visitors. Today the Alps are the most important activities in the Alpine area.

## Fauna

The park supports a wide diversity of animals, including threatened species such as the Smoky Mouse, Broad-toothed Rat, Powerful Owl, Spotted Tree Frog and Short-eared Owl.

The rare Mountain Pygmy-possum, the world's only exclusively alpine marsupial, is found in the park.

only marsupial that stores food to last throughout the winter, lives on isolate covered with heathland. This specialised habitat is only found in a few place Victorian and New South Wales Alps.

Bogong Moths are interesting insects inhabiting the Bogong and Dargo high peaks between November and April, away from the heat of the inland plains rock crevices and provide food for Mountain Pygmy-possums and Little Rav

## Vegetation

More than 1100 native plant species are found in the park, many of these sp to survive the severe winter climate. Twelve species, including the Bogong I Silky Daisy, are found nowhere else in the world.

Mature Alpine Ash forests are common as you go up the mountains, and Sr the predominant eucalypts in the woodlands around the snowline.

In higher exposed areas where conditions are too severe for trees, the vege to heathlands, alpine herbfields and grasslands, mossbeds and snowpatch

## Looking After the Park

- Please follow 'tread lightly' guidelines for camping, walking, horse ridi wheel driving.
- Keep to tracks when walking and to roads open to public vehicles wh
- Dogs and other pets, and firearms, are not permitted.
- Observe fire restrictions. Wood fires are not permitted in many areas. fuel stove, as dead timber is often scarce and is a habitat for animals. for years in the high country.
- Carry out all rubbish.
- Do not disturb or remove any plants or animals.
- Do not camp within 20 metres, or bury wastes within 100 metres, of s

## Precautions

**Fires during January and February 2003 have had the following impact environment. Your cooperation during these times is appreciated. The visitors and minimising damage to sensitive alpine areas is our primar concernduring the winter season**

- Increased risk of flash flooding or avalanches
- Tree limbs may drop without warning
- Loss of directional signage and markers
- Missing snow poles
- Loss of huts
- Hazardous burnt materials (eg treated poles, plastic)
- Increased risk to fragile flora and fauna
- Poor water quality

Visitors are warned to take care on and not rely on snow poles or signs for r be properly equipped to camp or shelter without reliance on huts.

- Be prepared for sudden weather changes
- Keep to established tracks and trails wherever possible

- Carry a map and compass and know how to use them
- Let someone know about your trip plans for emergency contact if req
- The weather can change and deteriorate suddenly and without warnir at any time of year, including mid-summer. Ensure that you are adequ whether you are driving, walking or skiing. Know the symptoms of hyp guard against it.
- Petrol stations are few and far between. Ensure that your car has ade
- For safety, the minimum number of people in a group is four.
- Don't hesitate to turn back if the trip becomes too difficult or the weath
- Wear sunglasses and use sunburn cream, even on dull days. Wear a summer, a woolly one in winter.
- If you plan to travel away from main roads, carry a large-scale map ar information about road conditions. Vehicle tracks and walking tracks r short notice due to fire management activities, climatic extremes, and environmental or safety reasons. The Parks Victoria Information Cent from anywhere in Australia) can connect you to the most appropriate Victoria office.

## How to Get There

The closest parts of the park to Melbourne are about 220 km away, the mos twice this distance. The main approaches are from the south via Heyfield (V Touring Guide 82-E9), Bairnsdale (VRTG 84-B7), Bruthen (VRTG 84-F5), B 85-D1) or Orbost (VRTG 89-C5); from the west along the Hume Highway/M Highway via Mansfield (VRTG 89-C5); and from the north via Bright, Mount Mitta and Jindabyne.

## Nearby Parks

- Victoria Falls Historic Area
- Howqua Hills Histroic Area
- Mount Buffalo National Park
- Grant Historic Area

## Activities

Barbeque, Camping, Fishing, Four Wheel Driving, Horse Riding, Hunting, T Walking

## Guided Activities

1. [Abseiling](#)
2. [Ballooning](#)
3. [Bicycle Touring](#)
4. [Birdwatching](#)
5. [Bushwalking](#)
6. [Canoeing / Kayaking](#)
7. [Caving](#)
8. [Coach/Bus Tours](#)
9. [Fishing](#)
10. [Fossicking/Prospecting](#)
11. [Four Wheel Drive Tours](#)
12. [Heritage Tours](#)
13. [Horse Riding](#)
14. [Mountain Bike Riding](#)
15. [Rafting](#)

16. [Rock Climbing](#)
17. [Ski Touring](#)
18. [Snow Shoe Tours](#)
19. [Spotlight Tours / Nightwalks](#)
20. [Trail Bike Tours](#)

## Special Places

1. [Bryces Gorge](#)
2. [Guys Hut](#)
3. [Lake Cobbler](#)
4. [Lake Dartmouth](#)
5. [Moroka Gorge](#)
6. [Tali Karng](#)
7. [Wallaces Hut](#)

## Volunteers

1. [Friends of Bogong](#)
2. [Friends of the Cobberas](#)
3. [Friends of the Mitta Valley](#)
4. [Friends of Wonnangatta Valley](#)
5. [Victorian High Country Huts Association Inc.](#)

## Publications

### Links

1. [Victorian Snow Report](#)
2. [Australian Alps Walking Track](#)
3. [Australian Alps National Parks](#)
4. [Tracks and Trails of Victoria](#)
5. [Kosciusko Huts Association](#)
6. [Victorian High Country Huts Association](#)

### Brochures

1. [Alpine National Park \(721KB\)](#)
2. [Golden Gateways: Revealing Victoria's Gold Heritage \(1.88MB\)](#)

### Park Notes / Maps

1. [Alpine National Park - Walks Around Feathertop, Hotham & Dinner PI](#)
2. [Alpine National Park - Horse Riding](#)
3. [Alpine National Park - Our Mountain Heritage](#)
4. [Alpine National Park - The High Country - around Bright, Mt Beauty, \(](#)
5. [Alpine National Park - Valleys and Bluffs around Mansfield and Whitf](#)
6. [Alpine National Park - Bogong High Plains & Mountain Creek walks](#)
7. [Alpine NP - Walks Around Howitt, Snowy Range & Tali Karng](#)
8. [Alpine NP - Wabonga Plateau, Mount Cobbler & Powers Lookout](#)
9. [Alpine National Park - 2003 Bushfire](#)

### Management Plans & Strategies

1. [Alpine NP - Bogong Unit - text](#)
2. [Alpine NP - Bogong Unit - maps 1 - Land Tenure](#)
3. [Alpine NP - Bogong Unit - maps 2 - Recreation](#)
4. [Alpine NP - Bogong Unit - maps 3 - Snow Recreation Zone](#)
5. [Alpine NP - Bogong Unit - maps 4 - Other](#)
6. [Alpine NP - Cobberas-Tingaringy Unit Text](#)

7. [Alpine National Park - Dartmouth Unit - text](#)
8. [Alpine NP, Wonnangatta-Moroka Unit -text](#)
9. [Alpine NP - Cobberas-Tingaringy Unit- Map 1](#)
10. [Alpine NP - Cobberas-Tingaringy Unit- Map 2](#)
11. [Alpine NP - Cobberas-Tingaringy Unit- Map 3](#)
12. [Alpine National Park - Dartmouth Unit - maps 1](#)
13. [Alpine National Park - Dartmouth Unit - maps 2](#)
14. [Alpine NP - Dartmouth Unit - maps 3](#)
15. [Alpine NP, Wonnangatta-Moroka Unit - map 1](#)
16. [Alpine NP, Wonnangatta-Moroka Unit - map 2](#)
17. [Alpine NP, Wonnangatta-Moroka Unit - map 3](#)
18. [Alpine NP, Wonnangatta-Moroka Unit - map 4](#)
19. [Alpine NP, Wonnangatta-Moroka Unit - map 5](#)

### **Books**

1. [The Alps in Flower](#)

### **Other Publications**

1. [Huts Code - Australian Alps National Parks](#)
2. [Care for the Alps - leave no trace](#)

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