

Alpine National Park



Horseriding

There are many opportunities to explore and enjoy the mountains and valleys of the Alpine National Park on horseback. Horseriding's long association with the area started in the 1840s when European explorers and miners used horses in their search for gold and summer pastures. Early in the 1900s the Victorian Railways ran 'Skyline Tours', horseriding trips in the Dargo - Wonnangatta - Mount Howitt area. Early tourists also rode to the 'bungalow' on Mount Feathertop for skiing and walking.

Where can I ride?

Horses are generally permitted throughout the area except for particularly sensitive vegetation communities, mossbeds and wet heathlands, on some walking tracks, and in Reference Areas and some defined camping areas.

Cross country riding off tracks is permitted in the alpine and subalpine areas. When riding off track, horseriders should spread out to reduce their impact and avoid wet, mossbed areas.

When can I ride?

During cold wet times horses can cause damage to fragile alpine and subalpine environments, referred to as the Conservation A Zone, generally above 1200 m. To reduce impacts, horseriding is permitted in these areas only during the warmer months from 1 December to 30 April.

In the lower forested areas horseriding is permitted all year with the exception of the Howqua Valley near Mansfield, where horseriding is permitted between 1 November and 31 May.

Is there a group size limit?

The impact of large groups on the environment and other visitors can be severe. Four to eight horses is a good number for safety and keeps your impact low.

The maximum number of horses permitted in one group is:

- 20 in alpine and subalpine areas
- 28 in lower forested areas

Approval will not be given for two groups to travel a short distance apart, or to camp at the same location, if their total numbers exceed the recommended limits.

Do I need a permit?

To check whether you need a permit to ride in certain sections of the Alpine National Park, please contact the Parks Victoria Bright Office on **13 1963**.

The permit system aims to reduce environmental impacts, reduce crowding, and enable horseriders to 'book' the use of facilities such as horse yards.

All commercial tour operators must obtain a licensed tour operator permit.



Fire in the Alps

During the summer of 2003 and 2006 a number of fires swept through the Australian Alps. Burnt visitor facilities and directional signs have been replaced with the exception of some huts. To assist with regeneration please keep to tracks and trails, especially in fire affected areas. Please check for current conditions before you begin your ride.



Horseriding - *the high country* around Bright, Mount Beauty, and Omeo

VicMap 1:50,000 Bogong Alpine Area

Tracks where riding is ***not*** permitted

Mountain Creek Nature Walk

Roper Lookout Walking Track

Wallace Hut Walking Track

Mt Cope Walking Track

Mt Loch Walking Track

Australian Alps Walking Track (Swindlers Spur, Basalt Temple T Spur and Duane Spur Walking Tracks)

Carmichael Falls Walking Track

Wire Plain - Dinner Plain Walking Track

Feathertop Area

Bungalow Spur Walking Track

North West Spur Walking Track

Razorback Walking Track

North Razorback Walking Track

Diamantina Spur Walking Track

Mount Bogong Area

Granite Flat Walking Track

Eskdale Spur Walking Track

Staircase Spur Walking Track

Quartz Ridge Walking Track

T Spur Walking Track

Duane Spur Walking Track

North West past Cleve Cole Hut toward Mount Bogong

Tracks where riding ***is*** permitted all year

Mountain Creek Track

Moncrief Gap Track

Little Bogong Track

Big River Fire Track

East Kiewa Fire Track

Wild Dog Fire Track

Little Arthur Fire Track

Staff Camp Creek Fire Track

Springs Creek Fire Track

West Kiewa Track

Dungey Track

Bon Accord Walking Track (part of)

Machinery Spur Track (part of)

Alternative to Australian Alps Walking Track

Machinery Spur - Westons Spur

Kelly Track - Track 107 - Kangaroo Creek Track - Long Spur

Horseriding - *valleys and bluffs* around Mansfield, Howqua Valley and Whitfield

VicMap 1:50,000 Buller - Stirling

VicMap 1:50,000 Tamboritha - Moroka

VicMap 1:50,000 Howitt - Selwyn

Bush Maps of Victoria - Watersheds of the King, Howqua and Jamieson Rivers

Tracks where riding is ***not*** permitted

Paradise Falls Walking Track

Paradise Falls - Little Falls Walking Track

Australian Alps Walking Track (north of Mount Howitt)

Cobbler Lake - Mount Cobbler Walking Track

Sheepyard Flat Heritage Walking Track

Razor Viking Wilderness

Horses are not permitted in wilderness areas

Defined camping areas

A marked route has been specified providing access through the Howqua Hills Historic Area, using the High Track. Access through the park from 4 mile onwards should be via the Low Track.

Howqua Hills Historic Area

Horse yards are provided at:

- Tunnel Bend Flat (for small groups)
- Fry's Flat (for larger groups)

A booking system for the yards has been implemented, all group sizes are advised to book to ensure camp space.

Designated horse yards - Camps in the Alpine National Park

7 Mile Flat

Ritchies Hut

Bluff Hut

Pikes Flat

Mitchell's Flat

King River Hut

Horseriding - *our mountain heritage* around Heyfield, Licola and Dargo

VicMap 1:50,000 Howitt - Selwyn

VicMap 1:50,000 Tamboritha - Moroka

VicMap 1:50,000 Licola - Wellington

Tracks where riding is **not** permitted

Lost Plain - Mount Arbuckle Walking Track

Neilson Crag Walking Track

Moroka Gorge Walking Track

Australian Alps Walking Track north of Mount Howitt

Bryces Plain "Special Protection Zone" other than the route provided to Guys Hut, the yards north of Guys Hut and the vicinity of Conglomerate Falls (Bryces Gorge).

Razor Viking, Mount Darling, Snowy Bluff and Avon wilderness areas

Horses are not permitted in wilderness areas

Around Grant

Grant Historic Walk

Jungle Creek Falls Walking Track

Good Hope Mine Walking Track

Good Luck Creek Walking Track

Eldorado Spur Walking Track

Tali Karng

Horseriding is permitted to within 200 m of Tali Karng on the Echo Point Track. Hitching rails have been provided near The Knoll. Horses are not permitted at the Lake or on the Clive Lanigan and Gillios Tracks.

In general horses can be ridden on management vehicle tracks along the Wellington River, Riggall Spur and the Wellington Plains.



Feral horse control

The capture and removal of feral horses occurs in the Alpine National Park for environmental management purposes. Financial members of the Alpine Brumby Management Association (ABMA) are permitted to remove feral horses from the Alpine National Park. Members of the ABMA are required to inform Parks Victoria before operating in the park and to report on their activities and the number of horses removed after each trip.

Horseriding - *source of the rivers* around Mitta Mitta, Omeo, Tallangatta and Corryong

VicMap 1:50,000 Omeo - Bindi

VicMap 1:50,000 Benambra - Leinster

VicMap 1:50,000 Dart - Gibbo

Alpine Area (Leisure Map)

Natmap 1:100,000 Benambra and Jacobs River

Although the recreational use of horses in this part of the Alpine National Park is low the potential is nevertheless high, particularly as the lower foothill forests are hardier than the sub alpine and alpine areas. There are fine views from the higher ridges and peaks, and pleasant camping is available along rivers and creeks.

Tracks where riding is **not** permitted

Morass Creek Gorge Walking Track (Australian Alps Walking Track)

Young Australian Walking Track

Green Creek Battery Walking Track

Glen Valley Walking Track

Horseriding - *wilderness and the snowy* around Benambra, McKillop Bridge, Buchan and Bonang

VicMap 1:50,000 Omeo - Bindi

VicMap 1:50,000 Deception - Deddick

VicMap 1:50,000 Delegate

VicMap 1:50,000 Murrindal - Yalmy

VicMap 1:50,000 Tamboritha - Moroka

CMA 1:50,000 Suggan Buggan, Tombong and Thredbo

Natmap 1:100,000 Murrindal, Bendoc, Numbla and Jacobs River

Many early pioneers crossed through this area while travelling between the Monaro Plains in NSW to the Omeo Plains and Gippsland. Supplies were packed on horses or in drays, which traversed tortuous routes between the Cobberas and the Ingeegoodbee River and beyond into the rugged Snowy River Valley.

Tracks where riding is **not** permitted

On the banks of the Snowy River, except to allow horses to drink

McKillop Bridge Nature Walk

Cobberas, Indi, Buchan Headwaters and Tingaringy wilderness areas

Horses are not permitted in wilderness areas

For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre

Call 13 1963

or visit our website at

www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Tourism Alliance Victoria

(03) 9650 8399

www.tourismalliance.com.au

The Bicentennial
National Trail 1300 138 724
www.vicnet.net.au/~bnt

Alpine Brumby Management
Association (03) 5155 9321

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park
by following these guidelines:

Take your rubbish home with
you

Dogs and other pets are not
permitted

Firearms are only permitted in
the park in accordance with
Hunting Regulations

Choose a firm, dry, well drained
camp site at least 20 metres
from any watercourse

Use a portable stove instead of
lighting a fire - especially above
or near the tree line

Always check fire danger
forecasts. No fires (including
stoves) on days of Total Fire

Ban (Eastern and North-
Eastern Fire Ban District)

Where toilets are not provided,
bury your toilet waste at least
100 m from water or camp sites

Wash up away from streams to
protect the stream environment

Enjoy a visit to a hut but do not
use them for accommodation,
always carry a tent

Vehicles, including trail bikes
are restricted to existing roads
and tracks. They must be fully
registered and drivers licensed

*Please don't throw this park
note away. Keep it, return it for
others to use, or recycle it*

Feeding horses

Processed supplementary feed (eg: processed pellets, certified clean lucerne chaff, rolled or cracked clean grain) may be brought into the park.

Nose bags must be used for feeding.

Hay is not permitted.

Horse camping

Horse camping is generally appropriate in those areas where horseriding is permitted.

Horse camping is not permitted in defined camping areas unless horse yards are provided. Where yards are provided in defined camping areas, horse parties must yard their horses.

Parks Victoria has constructed yards at various locations across the Alpine National Park and Howqua Valley. Permanent yards at huts may be used.

Pretty Valley, Langford West and West Kiewa can be booked when obtaining a permit from Bright. Tunnel Bend and Frys Flat can be booked through the Mansfield Office by phoning 13 1963.

Tethering to trees and the use of picket lines between trees overnight cause unacceptable damage and are not permitted.

A maximum of two consecutive nights camping in one location is permitted.

Horses must be held at least 30 metres from any hut, stream or campsite, unless constructed yards are within that distance.

Horses must be watered downstream of any hut or campsite, and washed away from streams and aqueducts.

Support vehicles are only permitted on those roads open for public use.



The **Australian Alps Horse Riding Code** provides more information on horseriding. Copies are obtainable from Parks Victoria free of charge.

Planning your ride

Routes and campsites can be worked out to minimise your impacts while allowing for your enjoyment of the area.

Riding regulations and guidelines may also vary between Alpine National Park management areas so please contact the Parks Victoria office at either:

- Bright - The High Country
- Mansfield - Valleys and Bluffs
- Heyfield - Our Mountain Heritage
- Tallangatta - Source of the Rivers
- Omeo - Source of the Rivers
- Buchan - Wilderness and the Snowy

The Bicentennial National Trail

A long distance national trail, designed for horseriders, cycling and bushwalkers, passes through the Alpine National Park on its long journey from Cooktown in Queensland to Melbourne.

Watch out for the red and yellow triangular markers around the Howitt Plains, Wonnangatta Valley, Talbotville area and further east around Omeo, Limestone Creek and Tom Groggin.

Bicentennial National Trail (BNT) guidebooks, broken into 12 different sections, contain detailed touring instructions and maps and are obtainable by contacting the BNT on 1300 138 724. Guidebooks 11 and 12 cover Victoria and the Alpine National Park.



Tour guides

A number of licensed tour operators run tours (4WDing, walking, horseriding and rafting) in the area.

Contact Tourism Alliance Victoria for details on (03) 9650 8399 or visit their website www.tourismalliance.com.au

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