



In and Around the Resort

1> The Aqueduct Trail 4.8 km return

This flat grassy trail is the starting point for many hiking adventures out of Falls Creek. Flanking the iconic aqueducts that service the resort, the trail passes through the top of the village and provides access to some of the best hiking and cross country biking tracks around. Enjoy a stroll through the pristine alpine scenery, fish for trout with the kids and spot some of your favourite ski runs in their summer setting.

How do I get there?

Village Bowl – Starting near the tennis courts, take the short access track past the Eagle Chair line for about 50 metres.

Ory's Trail – Head to Schuss street at the top of the village to find the access point opposite Milch Café.

Slalom Plaza – From the bottom of the Falls Express lift, follow the chairlift line up over Slalom St until the Last Hoot Bar. Turn up the wide ski run on your left (Wombats Ramble) and continue uphill until the aqueduct trail intersects the run.



2> Rocky Valley Lake 4.8 km return

Australia's highest body of water is perfect for a relaxing walk followed by a picnic, fishing or a dip in the clear blue waters. Rocky Valley is the stage for some of the Resort's most popular Summer events and a great feature of Falls Creek's natural beauty.

How do I get there?

Follow the Aqueduct Trail left (East) from the village as it curves its way into grassy woodland and crosses the Bogong High Plains Rd. The trail then continues on to Rocky Valley Lake. Return via the same path or follow the Walking on Water Trail back to the village.

3> Falls Creek Falls 0.3 km return

These picturesque falls are just a short walk from the entrance to the village. Completely scorched by the 2003 bushfires, this area provides a valuable insight into the regenerative ability of the alpine flora with native snowgums, ferns and grasses rapidly restoring the greenery. The falls are a great place for a dip after a long mountain walk.

How do I get there?

From the Gully Carpark head down the Bogong Alpine Rd (towards Bogong) for around 150m. You will soon see the trail head down from the right side of the road. From here, steep steps take you down into the valley and over a small bridge until a fork in the road. Take the right-hand trail to lead you there.

5> Wishing Well 6.2 km return

This moderate trek brings you to a small pool at the end of the aqueduct, affectionately known as the "Wishing Well". You can return from this point or continue along the trail through a post-fire regenerating woodland to a view-point overlooking Mt Spion Kopje.

How do I get there?

Access the Aqueduct Trail (see earlier) and follow it to the right (West) as it winds its way above the village and past the Village Bowl. It will soon narrow to a single track as you get closer to the Wishing Well.

6> Walking on Water Trail 4.8 km return

Take in some of Falls Creek's world-renowned Cross Country skiing trails, the Nordic Bowl and brilliant panoramic views of Rocky Valley Lake along this scenic trail.

How do I get there?

Starting from the village, make your way to the Aqueduct Trail (see earlier) until you reach the Nordic (cross country) ski trails. The first trail is called Aitken's Trail. Follow this up until you reach the Pipeline Trail. Turn left and follow the trail over the McKay/Pretty Valley Road, following the markers to the Rocky Valley Lake foreshore. Continue left along the foreshore and follow the markers over the grassy knoll. You will soon cross the Bogong High Plains Rd and rejoin the Aqueduct Trail at the Nordic Bowl. Turn left and return to the village.

7> Home and Away Trail 6.0 km return

Take in the Summit and Falls Creek's black-run ski area as this trail takes you into the High Plains. An optional extra to this trail exists with the Frying Pan Spur Trail (see below). You can also avoid the initial climb by accessing via the Summit Chairlift during its Summer operation*

*See the Falls Creek 2011/12 Events guide for Summer chairlift operation dates

How do I get there?

Begin your walk at Ory's Trail (enter via Schuss St. opposite Milch Café), walking up until the large brown tank containing Falls Creek's water supply. Continue uphill along the vehicle track until it crosses onto the old Summit home trail. From there the trail becomes steep and rocky as it winds 1km uphill to the top of the Summit chair*. Markers will lead you past the small ski patrol hut to the end of the first snow fence and then down a gently undulating trail to a T-intersection. An optional side trip to the Frying Pan Spur can be taken at this point (see below) or veer right across a rocky plateau and then downhill to the aqueduct and small pool known as the "Wishing Well". Turn right onto the Aqueduct Trail and follow it back to the village and your preferred exit point.

* When chairlift is operating you can start from this point.

8> Frying Pan Spur Side Trip 0.7 km return

Those wanting to get a little more out of their hike can take this extra side trip when negotiating the Home and Away Trail. Less than a kilometre each way, Frying Pan Spur provides spectacular panoramic views of the Kiewa Valley and surrounding mountains.

How do I get there?

Follow the walk description for the Home and Away Trail, continuing past the top of the Summit Chair until you reach the T intersection described. From this point continue straight ahead for the 650m trip to the end of Frying Pan Spur, identified by a rocky outcrop and Trig Point. Enjoy panoramic views of the Kiewa Valley and surrounding mountains.

9> Mountain & Castle Adventure Trail 7.0 km return

A great Summer trek, this trail takes you past Sun Valley and some of Falls Creek's most popular ski runs to the base of Mt McKay. Another great feature of this hike is passing the columnar outcrop of basalt rock from which Ruined Castle draws its name.

How do I get there?

Begin your walk at Ory's Trail (on Schuss St opposite Milch Café), following it up until you reach the large brown tank containing Falls Creek's water supply. Continue uphill along the vehicle track until it crosses onto the old Summit home trail to where the trail forks. Veer left following the trail markers until you reach Pretty Valley Road, then walk right following the road until you reach the Ruined Castle feature. Keep following the winding trail uphill to a vehicle track and then across Pretty Valley Road before reaching the base of Mt McKay (1,872m). Follow the road up and you'll be rewarded with spectacular views across to Mt Hotham, Mt Feathertop and Mt Bogong.

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|--|---|--|--|
|  Boat Ramp |  Shelter |  Drinking Water |  Sealed Road |
|  CFA |  Picnic Area |  Fireplace |  Unsealed Road |
|  Fishing |  Playground |  Horse Yard |  Walking Track |
|  Information |  Toilets |  Lookout |  Shared Walking/Cycling Track |
|  Parking |  Tennis |  Alpine Resort Boundary |  Chairlift |

 Trails within Falls Creek Alpine Resort are marked with this symbol. Each walk has been colour coded on the map above. This colour also corresponds to the colour of the flag on the trail marker.

In the Alpine National Park:

**Many of these walks begin on the Eastern side of the Rocky Valley Dam wall. Driving here is the easiest option but if you wish to walk, see the section on the 'Aqueduct Trail' and 'Rocky Valley Lake'*

1> Ropers Lookout 5.0 km return MED IUM

Trek through the regenerating fire-damaged snowgums beyond the dam wall to a lookout with incredible views of the Falls Creek Alpine Resort and surrounding Kiewa Valley.

How do I get there?

Walk or drive along the Bogong High Plains Rd over the Rocky Valley Dam wall (Eastern side) to the car park directly after the wall. From here follow the grassy trail beside the aqueduct for 1.5km before climbing a small gully among the snowgums up to the lookout situated on a small basalt knoll. Return via the same path.

2> Wallaces Heritage Trail 6.0 km return MED IUM

Experience a piece of Bogong High Plains' history by visiting Wallace's Hut - the oldest cattleman's hut in the National Park (circa 1889). With an easy trail and grassy surrounds, this hike is perfect for a picnic with the family. The historic Cope ski hut was built in 1929 by the Ski Club of Victoria to cater for the growing popularity of skiing and bushwalking and is a great addition to your trek.

You can reach both Wallace's and Cope Huts with an easy return walk from the road or take in the 6km loop and Rover Chalet to complete the Wallace's Heritage Trail.

How do I get there? - Wallace's Hut 0.5 km return EASY

Drive along the Bogong High Plains Rd approximately 8km past the Rocky Valley Dam wall. A signpost marks the starting point where you can park your car. Follow the well-graded track to Wallaces Hut. Return via the same path or for some extra exercise, continue along the path and turn right to extend to Cope Hut or left to hike to Langford Gap. Both of these extensions will bring you to the Bogong High Plains Rd.

How do I get there? - Cope Hut 1.5 km return EASY

Travel past the dam wall on the Bogong High Plains Rd for around 10km (2km past Wallaces Hut signpost) until you see the trail entrance on the left hand side of the road.

To get there from Wallaces Hut, continue past the aqueduct and turn right onto the Australian Alpine Walking Track. Look out for Rover Chalet before the T junction, then turn right and follow the track to Cope Hut and through to the Bogong High Plains Rd.

3> Mt Cope 3.5 km return MED IUM

Mt Cope (1837m) is one of the highest peaks in the High Plains and is a relatively easy hike to its peak. You can also combine this walk with visits to nearby Wallace's and Cope huts.

How do I get there?

Drive approximately 11km past the dam wall to the Mt Cope sign post. The track starts on the right hand side of the road and takes you up through snowgums and small boulders to the rocky summit. Enjoy mountain views, grassy snowplains & wildflowers on your journey.

4> Heathy Spur Circuit 10 km return HARD

A 10km return that takes you through alpine herbfields and regenerating snowgums. This area was severely damaged by the 2003 and 2006 bushfires and gives an up-close look into the environmental recovery of the region. This trek is ideal for those wishing to test their fitness with a challenging yet rewarding climb to Marums Point (1819m)

How do I get there?

Drive 500m beyond the eastern end of the Rocky Valley dam wall until a sign marked "Heathy Spur - Mt Nelse". The track climbs to Heathy Spur before meeting the Australian Alpine Walking Track (AAWT) after 4.5km. Turn right along the AAWT and down the Big River Fire Track back to the Bogong High Plains Rd. Turn right along the road and walk 2km to take you back to your starting point.

**NB: From December 26 2011, the Heathy Spur Circuit will begin at the starting point for the nearby Ropers Lookout trail*

Falls Creek Iconic Walks

For trip notes and extra information on your hike, why not try one of Falls Creek's *Iconic Walks*? These are some of the most spectacular treks in the region and come fully equipped with personalised guides showing you where to go and what to look out for each step of the way. Ask at the Visitor Information Centre for trip notes on one of these today!

> Packhorse Heritage Trail 4.6 km + shuttle EASY

> Tawonga Huts 14.6 km return MED IUM

> Hotham to Falls Creek Shuttle 25 km + Shuttle HARD

