



The Crosscut – Victoria's Premier Alpine Walk

2007 SUMMER SCHEDULE:

JANUARY - Sunday January 7th to Friday January 12th, 2007

FEBRUARY - Sunday February 18th to Friday February 23rd, 2007

MARCH - Sunday March 11th to Friday March 16th, 2007

Bookings are essential.

A guided and fully supported 5 day trek into the Australian Alpine National Park. The Alpine Walking Track is one of Australia's premier walks, extending from the Baw Baw Plateau, through the Southern Alps and the Snowy Mountains to Canberra. Join us on a spectacular 5 day fully guided and supported mountain ridge-top experience which captures the beauty of this spectacular High Country. The mountains made famous through the Man from Snowy River movies. If you enjoy walking and stunning mountain scenery the "**The Crosscut**" is an absolute must.

Trek through the Wonnangatta – Moroka section of the Alpine National Park from The Bluff to Mt. Speculation, across Mt. Magdala, Mt. Howitt and the Cross Cut Saw, until now the domain of the most experienced walkers, willing to carry all on their backs.

Venture across some of Australia's most spectacular and beautiful alpine skyline with only a camera, a light daypack and a guide. The mountains are a blaze of glory at this time of year, snow daisies, buttercups, flowering heaths and grevilleas. Breathe the fresh cool mountain air and enjoy the outdoors.

Your experience of Victoria's High Country commences on Sunday afternoon with your check-in at Wairere Farm Lodge on the Jones Family property in Boorolite at the foot of the mountains. Dinner is served at 7pm followed by a welcome and briefing session.



After a hearty breakfast on Monday morning we set off by 4WD for Mt. Stirling and a warm-up walk to the summit, which will find out how our legs are going to fare. The Mt. Stirling summit provides us with our first glimpse of the majesty of the mountains through which we will travel for the next 4 days. However before we experience the wilderness we will take a short detour to enjoy lunch at Craig's Hut, the movie set built for the Man From Snowy River films. It would be a shame to miss this site, especially if you had travelled from interstate or overseas to join our walk. Following lunch the afternoon walk includes a visit to Bindaree Falls, the Howqua River and the Bluff before arriving at Lovick's Cattleman's Hut for the first evening's Camp. Our camp sites are spacious and we provide 2 person tents with stretcher beds and standing room inside. We set up a full bush kitchen and our chef prepares a fine cuisine.

The first day has got our legs warmed up and has prepared us for day two, which sees our group tackling the Alpine Walking Track between King Billy and Mt. Howitt. The track traverses the steep terrain below Hell's Window on Mt. Magdala, we will climb over Big Hill and up onto the summit of Mt. Howitt, where most walkers comment they feel like they are "**standing on top of the world**". Not a bad place to stop for lunch. During the afternoon our group walks through to Vallejo Ganter Refuge Hut at Macalister Springs and on to the Clover Plain snow meadows and snow gum forests to our evening camp site. Our tents have already been erected, pre-dinner drinks and savouries await us and the aroma from the kitchen is a delight.

The Crosscut – Australian Alpine Walking Track.



Up and ready for an early start on day three. A quick breakfast, so we can arrive at the top of the Devils Staircase as the morning sun shines its light into the Terrible Hollow way down below. We will break here for a hearty morning tea, looking out at our next challenge, "**The Crosscut Saw**"; three mountain peaks on the skyline over which our morning trek will proceed.

This is an amazing ridgeline, which could be likened to a tightrope in the sky, with both sides of the track plummeting steeply into the valleys far below. There is plenty of time to stop for photos and gaze in wonder, until we make our ascent of Mt. Buggary. Following a well-earned lunch break and rest our group sets off for the Mt. Speculation evening camp. There is a bit of clambering up some rock faces here, all a bit of fun to see who can pick the easiest route until the summit is reached, providing a wonderful view down into the Wonangatta valley.

The camp roast will be sizzling on the open fire when we arrive at Camp Creek but there will be time before dinner for the gentlemen to put on their bowties and the ladies their fine jewellery before our formal dinner is served.

Our fourth and final day allows for a leisurely start, following breakfast our group climbs aboard the 4WD Transport for the descent into the King River valley, there are a number of river crossings to be forded and if the weather is hot, as is often the case in the valleys during summer, a swim in the King River at Pineapple Flat is often enthusiastically enjoyed by all. Our final night is spent back at Wairere Farm Lodge, a relaxing shower, recline on the back lawn before Cocktails at 6.00pm, dinner at 7.00pm followed by a debriefing session from 8 until late.

A full breakfast is provided at Wairere Farm Lodge on Friday morning, the end of a magical mountain experience.

Stirling Experience provide full backup service for this remote area walk, taking the weight of carrying food, tents, sleeping and cooking gear off your back. We provide the comforts, the safety, the knowledgeable and interpretation. You need only to enjoy the scenery and our fine cuisine.

The total price for the Crosscut walk including two nights dinner bed and breakfast at Wairere Farm Lodge, supply of all camping equipment, meals, snacks, 4WD transport for walkers and personal gear, experienced guide and historical and environmental interpretation - **\$1695.00 (Aust)**

Bookings are restricted by Parks Victoria regulations to a maximum of 12 walkers per tour, walking in two groups of 6 with a guide for each group. The groups combine for the evening camp and mid-day meal. Tours require a minimum of six participants to operate.

If you enjoy the mountains, you enjoy walking and want the luxury of having the heavy loads taken off your back, this is the walk for you. We guarantee a week of enjoyment and great scenery you will not forget.

Bookings & Inquiries: Craig or Barb Jones (03) 5777 3541
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