

Are you ready to have fun?

Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. Check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating before setting out. Optional side trips and alternate routes noted are not included in this walks overall grade, length or time estimate. Please allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing this information but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury you may experience. Please take care, have fun - Happy Walking.

Getting there Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Cascades Trail track head (gps: -36.5229, 148.2645). Car: A park entry fee is required for driving into the park.

This is a return, so you will finish back at the start.

Find up to date and more information inlcuding; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at http://wild.tl/1q

0 | Covered in snow part of the year

This walk leads through an extreme alpine environment and all walkers must be well prepared. During summer, be prepared for both very hot and cold weather, high winds, rain, snow, extreme UV levels and some sections of snow or ice on the ground. Before starting this walk, check advice with **Snowy** Region Visitor Information Centre (02) 6450 5600, the weather forecast and the snow conditions then change your plans as needed. These notes, grades and walking times have been written for use in the summer months only. Between May and the end of October, this walk is likely to be covered in snow/ice, visitors should be carrying and be prepared to use snowshoes or cross country skis. When there is a chance of significant snow on the ground, visitors will need particularly strong navigation and snowcraft skills - tracks and signage may not be visible. For most visitors, it is best to consider this walk closed during the colder months.

0 | Dead Horse Gap

Dead Horse Gap is a relativley low mountain pass in the Great Dividing Range at 1582m AMSL. It was once a meeting place for Aboriginal groups in the summer, where they would perform ceremonies and trade with each other. In nature the pass acts as a funnel for the migration of insects and birds. In the early 20th century, the pass became increasingly popular with stockmen, who brought sheep and cattle to the mountains each summer.

0 | Cascades Trail track head

(2.1 km 44 mins) From the car park (on the Alpine Way 5.4km west of Friday Drive), this walk follows the 'Cascade Trail' sign

along the management trail and around the locked gate. The trail soon leads past a 'Wilderness Entry' information sign as it winds along the side of the hill, keeping the Thredbo River below and to your right. The trail leads up the side of the hill moderately steeply, crossing a few small creeks before leading back down to cross another creek, very close to the Thredbo River. Here the trail continues through the valley for about 400m to find an intersection with a track (on the right, leading to a bridge), just before the trail crosses the Thredbo River.

2.13 | North side of Thredbo River Bridge track

(2.7 km 1 hr 4 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk heads downhill along the narrow track to cross the Thredbo River on the flat, narrow, metal bridge. Then, a short track leads to an intersection, meeting again with the Cascade Trail (now on the other side of the creek crossing).

Veer right: From the intersection, this walk heads uphill along the management trail, away from the Thredbo River. The trail soon bends left and crosses a smaller creek, then winds up out of the valley, passing some short granite tors (on your right). Here the trail bends right and leads up into the snow gum forest. The trail climbs up along the ridge (with a view across the valley to Thredbo behind) and about 900m after entering the snow gum forest, the trail flattens out for a few hundred metres (passing a faint track on your right which leads to a clearing). The trail then begins to climb again and after about 200m, leads through a section of dead snow gums and continues uphill to find a 'Bobs Ridge' sign near a few large granite outcrops (on your right) and some great views.

4.85 | Bob's Ridge

Bob's Ridge is a highlight along the Cascades Trail. The ridge is signposted, and a large granite outcrop is just to the west of the signpost. The rounded boulders vary in shape and size. It is possible to climb up some of the rocks for an even better view. On a clear day, there are expansive views south-west across the Murray River valley into Victoria, only 6.5km away. There are many interesting rock formations to enjoy and, if you are quiet, you may see Brumbies that enjoy the grove of trees to the south.

4.85 | Bobs Ridge

(3.9 km 1 hr 17 mins) Continue straight: From Bobs Ridge, this walk heads south along the management trail gently downhill, initially keeping the granite tors to your right. The trail soon heads across the small valley (ignoring the faint trail on the left) and follows the broad ridge downhill. The trail leads through the lovely snow gum forest with a scattering of granite boulders for about 2.3km, where the trail bends sharply left at a hair-pin bend. Soon after this bend, the trail heads moderately

steeply down to cross a valley with a grove of tall Alpine Ash trees. After crossing the small creek, the trail leads along the side of the hill though a run of dead alpine ash and snow gums. The trail then leads down two short but steep sections, leaving the trees to come to an intersection just before Cascade Creek.

8.72 | Cascade Creek Crossing

(980 m 19 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk crosses the creek using the flat metal bridge (just upstream of the main crossing), marked with a solitary snow gum. The walk then turns left and follows the management trail beside the creek for about 80m before bending right around a rock outcrop and heading up to the tree line. The trail then heads briefly through some snow gums before leading along the side of the hill below the tree line for a while. Then about 300m after entering the next lot of snow gums, the trail bends right (leaving the main valley), coming to an intersection with a grassy management trail (on your left).

9.7 | Cascade Hut intersection

(110 m 2 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads south, downhill along the grassy management trail, away from the main trail. The trail leads through the trees and soon comes to a clearing and Cascade Hut.

9.81 | Cascade Hut

Cascade Hut was built by Bill Nankervis and other stock-men in 1935 to assist with their grazing. This hut is made from horizontal slabs of wood, with the roof and floor having been upgraded over the years. There is a wooden sleeping platform and fireplace inside. There is good camping around the hut, with flat fields, a large fire scar with bench seating, a toilet and plenty of brumbies to add interest. Cascade Hut is maintained by Ilawarra Alpine Club. More info.