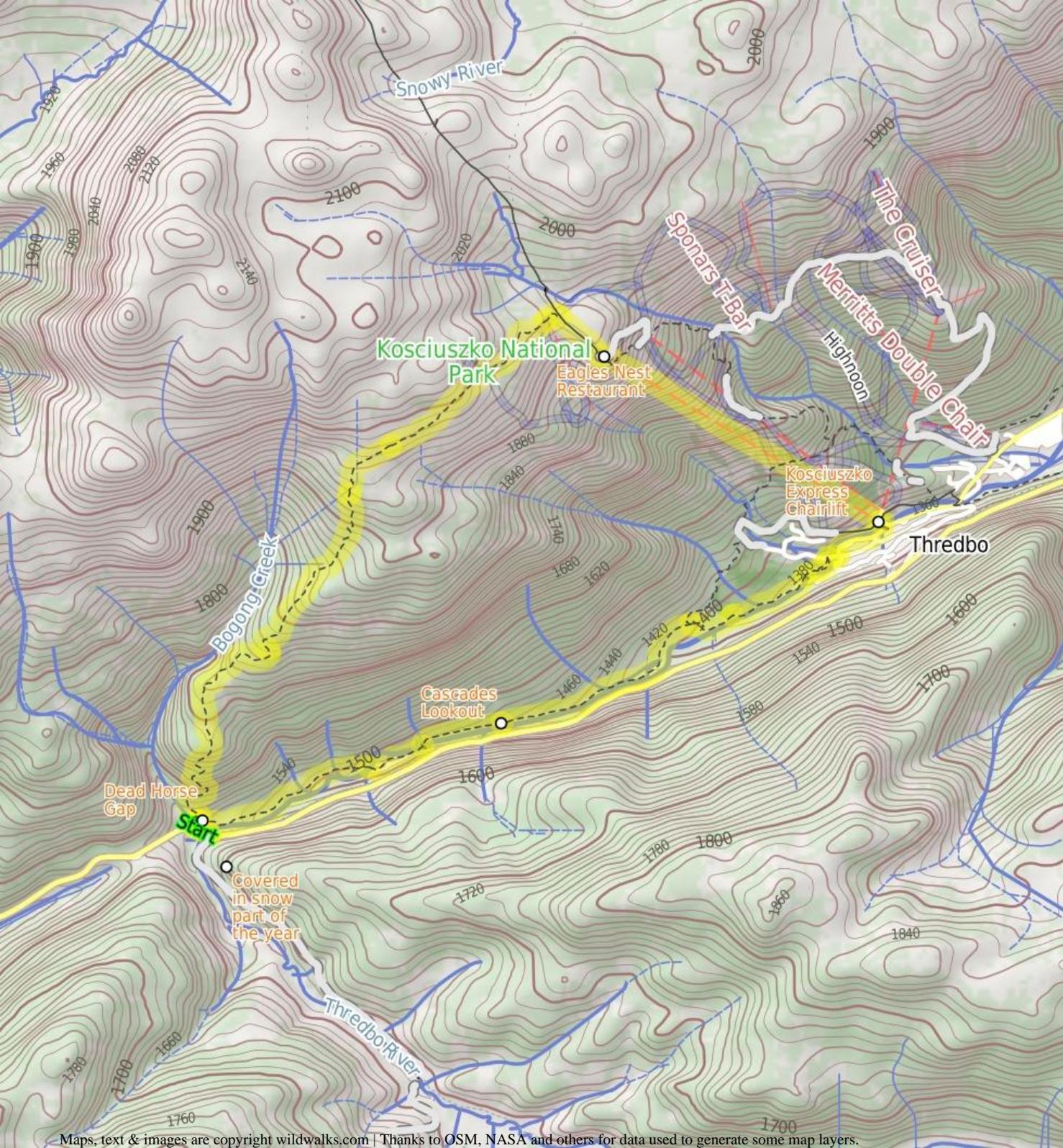


## Dead Horse Gap and Thredbo River loop



5 hrs

Hard track

10.1 km Circuit

▲ 710m

4

This loop walk starts from Dead Horse Gap and does a large circuit up to the Eagles Nest Restaurant and down the Chairlift before returning along the Thredbo River. Along the walk there are stunning views from the top of the Rams Head Range, before the opportunity for lunch at Australia's Highest Restaurant, followed by an enjoyable chairlift ride down to Thredbo. There is then the tranquil snow gum forest surrounding the Thredbo River on the way back to Dead Horse Gap.

1363m

Kosciuszko National Park

## 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.

## Dead Horse Gap

Dead Horse Gap is a relatively 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.

## Eagles Nest Restaurant

This is Australia's highest restaurant, providing great food and outstanding views. It is easily accessible, nestled on the mountain directly opposite the top of the Kosciuszko Express chairlift, and is open year-round. For more information, call (02) 64576019.

## Kosciuszko Express Chairlift

This is one of the few lifts operating in the summer months at Thredbo, and is made quite popular by thousands of people walking to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko each year. Lift tickets can be purchased from the store at the bottom of the chairlift. Lift tickets are \$31 return (\$25 one way) per person. This lift is generally closed during November and May for maintenance each year, but the the Snowgum chair can be used at this time instead, this will add extra walking time to you walk. [More info.](#)

## Before You walk

Bushwalking is fun and a wonderful way to enjoy our natural places. Sometimes things go bad, with a bit of planning you can increase your chance of having an enjoyable and safer walk. Before setting off on your walk check

- 1) Weather Forecast ([BOM Snowy Mountains District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Monaro Alpine](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ([Kosciuszko National Park](#))
- 4) Research the walk to check your party has the skills, fitness and equipment required
- 5) Agree to stay as a group and not leave anyone to walk solo

## Think before you TREK

The 'Think before you TREK' program developed by NSW Police & NPWS promotes the benefits of planning ahead for your bushwalking trip by using an easy to remember acronym:

- T** Take adequate supplies of food, water, navigation and first aid equipment.
- R** Register your planned route and tell friends and family when you expect to return.
- E** Emergency beacon (PLB's) should be carried on walks with significant gaps in mobile coverage (check terrain profile).
- K** Keep to your planned route and follow the map and walking trails.

## Topo Maps

The maps provided on wildwalks are helpful, but there are times where you may need maps covering a broader area. Maps that cover this walk include;

**1:25 000 Map Series:**85252S PERISHER VALLEY, 85241N CHIMNEYS RIDGE

**1:100 000 Map Series:**8525 KOSCIUSZKO, 8524 JACOBS RIVER

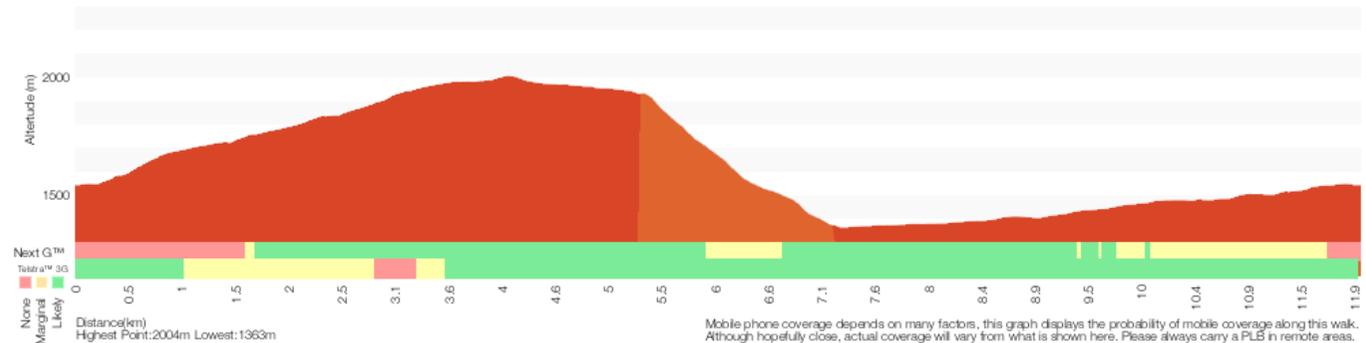
## Grade

This walk has been graded using the AS 2156.1-2001. The overall grade of the walk is determined by the highest classification along the whole track.



Grade 4/6  
Hard track

<b>Length</b>	10.1 km Circuit
<b>Time</b>	5 hrs
<b>Quality of track</b>	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
<b>Signs</b>	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
<b>Experience Required</b>	Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)
<b>Weather</b>	Forecast, unforecast storms and severe weather may impact on navigation and safety (4/6)
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Limited facilities, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6)



### 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 walk's 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 circuit, so you will finish back at the start.

Find up to date and more information including; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at <http://wild.tl/dhgatr1>

### 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 | Cascades Trail track head

(160 m 3 mins) From the Cascades Trail track head car park (on the Alpine Way 5.4km west of Friday Drive), this walk crosses the road and turns left following the 'Thredbo Walking Tracks' sign along the track behind the road barrier. The track leads down the wooden steps to soon cross Bogong Creek on a metal bridge. Here the walk heads up a few steps to a signposted intersection with the 'Dead Horse Gap Track'.

### 0.16 | Dead Horse Gap

Dead Horse Gap is a relatively 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.

### 0.16 | Int of Thredbo River and Dead Horse Gap tracks

(1.7 km 50 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, the walk follows the Dead Horse Gap track up the hill. The track climbs the wooden steps and continues up the hill, through the open snowgum forest. As the track approaches the top of the ridge (where the ground is much rockier), it arrives at a backless wooden bench beside some boulders.

### 1.88 | Lower rest area

(1.3 km 37 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the bush track up the hill. The track climbs through the snowgum forest and up the rocky hill, crossing a few wooden boardwalks and some metal walkways, until it reaches the second wooden bench.

### 3.19 | Upper rest area

(1.7 km 36 mins) Continue straight: From the second wooden bench, the walk follows the bush track up the hill towards the top of the ridge. The track emerges above the treeline and winds up past a long line of snow poles. The track then winds to the right, along the ridgeline until it reaches the information sign titled "above the tree line".

Continue straight: From the information sign, the walk follows the bush track along the ridgeline to the east. The track passes several rock outcrops and climbs up to the top of the ridge, from where you can see the chair lift. The track then winds down the hill to the top of the Basin Tbar.

### 4.86 | Top of Basin Tbar

(110 m 2 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the bush track down the hill for a short distance, to the intersection with the Kosciuszko footpath.

### 4.97 | Int of Dead Horse Gap track and Kosciuszko footpat

(350 m 6 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows 'Eagles Nest Restaurant' sign down along the paved path towards the chairlift building. The path gently winds down the hill to find the top of the 'Kosciuszko Express' chairlift and the Eagles Nest Restaurant.

### 5.32 | Eagles Nest Restaurant

This is Australia's highest restaurant, providing great food and outstanding views. It is easily accessible, nestled on the mountain directly opposite the top of the Kosciuszko Express chairlift, and is open year-round. For more information, call (02) 64576019.

### 5.32 | Top of Kosciuszko Express chairlift

(1.9 km 20 mins) Turn left: From the top terminal, walk up to the platform as directed by the chairlift operator and sit down in the seat, letting it scoop you up. Once seated, pull down the safety bar and enjoy the ride down to Thredbo village. :) After alighting at the bottom, this walk turns right to almost immediately turn left down a set of steps and heads through the building to find an open area at the front of the 'Valley Terminal' building where there are some large maps.

### 7.18 | Kosciuszko Express Chairlift

This is one of the few lifts operating in the summer months at Thredbo, and is made quite popular by thousands of people walking to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko each year. Lift tickets can be purchased from the store at the bottom of the chairlift. Lift tickets are \$31 return (\$25 one way) per person. This lift is generally closed during November and May for maintenance each year, but the the Snowgum chair can be used at this time instead, this will add extra walking time to you walk. [More info.](#)

### 7.18 | Bottom of Kosciuszko Express chairlift

(480 m 9 mins) Continue straight: From the big map outside the ticket store at the bottom of the Kosciuszko Express Chairlift, this walk follows the 'Riverside Walk' sign down to cross the bridge over Thredbo River. Here the walk turns right onto Friday drive and follows the footpath under the footbridge heading between the road and the river. The walk follows the road past the children's playground (on your left) and beside the car park, past the pond to come to a four-way intersection with 'Diggings Terrace', just past a small pond.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Crackenback Drive' sign across the bridge, over Thredbo River. The walk then comes to a signposted intersection in front of the 'Thredbo Memorial Community Centre'.

### 7.66 | Thredbo Memorial Community Centre

(200 m 4 mins) Turn left: From the Community Centre, this walk follows the

'Riverside Walk' and 'Dead Horse Gap' signs down the track towards the river. The track leads alongside the river for approximately 100m before bending up and leaving the bush to come to the edge of the Golf Course, behind the community centre.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the well worn track winding around the edge of the golf course, away from the community centre. After about 30m this walk crosses a short metal bridge, to then come to an intersection at a larger timber bridge (on your left).

### 7.87 | Int of Riverside Walk and Thredbo River bridge

(810 m 15 mins) Continue straight: From the wooden bridge, this walk follows the track whilst keeping the river to your left. The track gently meanders between the golf course and the river, enjoying some sections very close to the river. The track heads over a few metal grates and over a small metal bridge to come to an intersection next to the golf course marked with a small timber bridge (over a small creek), just before the pump house.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the clear track towards the green timber hut, keeping the Thredbo river to your left. The track soon passes the pump house (the green timber hut) and leads beside the river for about 150m before turning right and heading uphill. The walk then heads up the steps to find a clear three-way intersection marked with a large 'Thredbo River Track' sign.

### 8.68 | Int of Thredbo River and golf course tracks

(1.3 km 27 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Thredbo River Track' sign through the bush and across a metal walkway, continuing along the bush track as it winds alongside the river. The walk crosses several metal walkways and winds up a few sets of wooden steps before coming to the intersection of the Thredbo River Cascades lookout platform.

### 9.97 | Cascades Lookout

This metal platform leans over the Thredbo River, lookout upstream to the flowing cascades. There is also a wooden seat provided here, making it a great rest stop, conveniently situated about half way between Dead Horse Gap and Thredbo Village, on the Thredbo River track.

### 9.97 | Cascades lookout

(470 m 9 mins) Continue straight: From the lookout, this walk follows the wooden steps up the rocky winding hill to the top, where it flattens out at a wooden boardwalk and continues along a metal walkway, winding up through the bush until coming to a metal bridge crossing the Thredbo River.

### 10.44 | Thredbo River eastern bridge

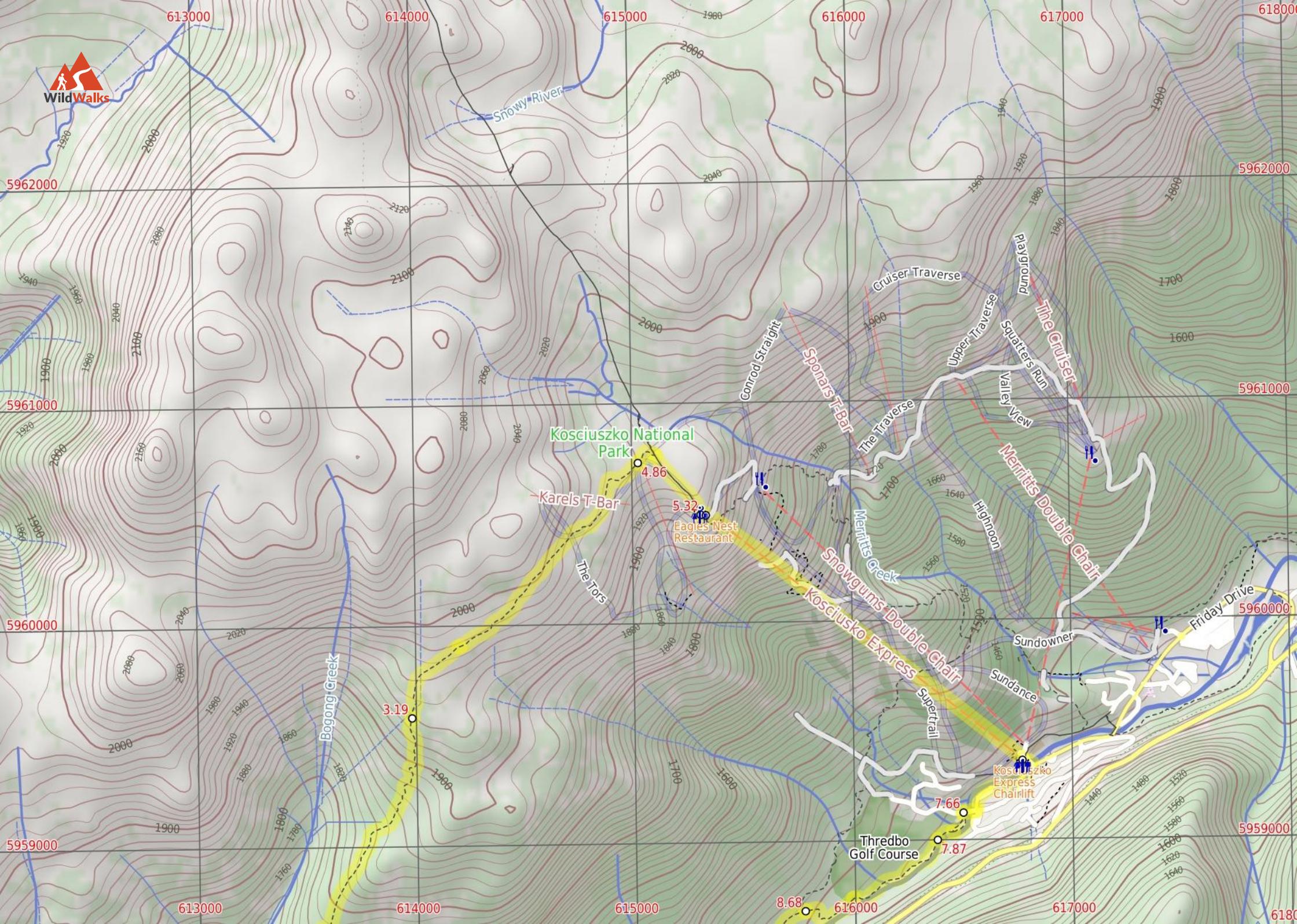
(340 m 7 mins) Continue straight: From just before the bridge, this walk crosses Thredbo River using the long metal bridge. This walk then leads up a log lined set of stairs to then turn right and follow a track through the open grassy area with a scattering of snow gums. Before too long the track comes closer to the river again and heads along a metal grate to then cross the Thredbo River again on another metal bridge.

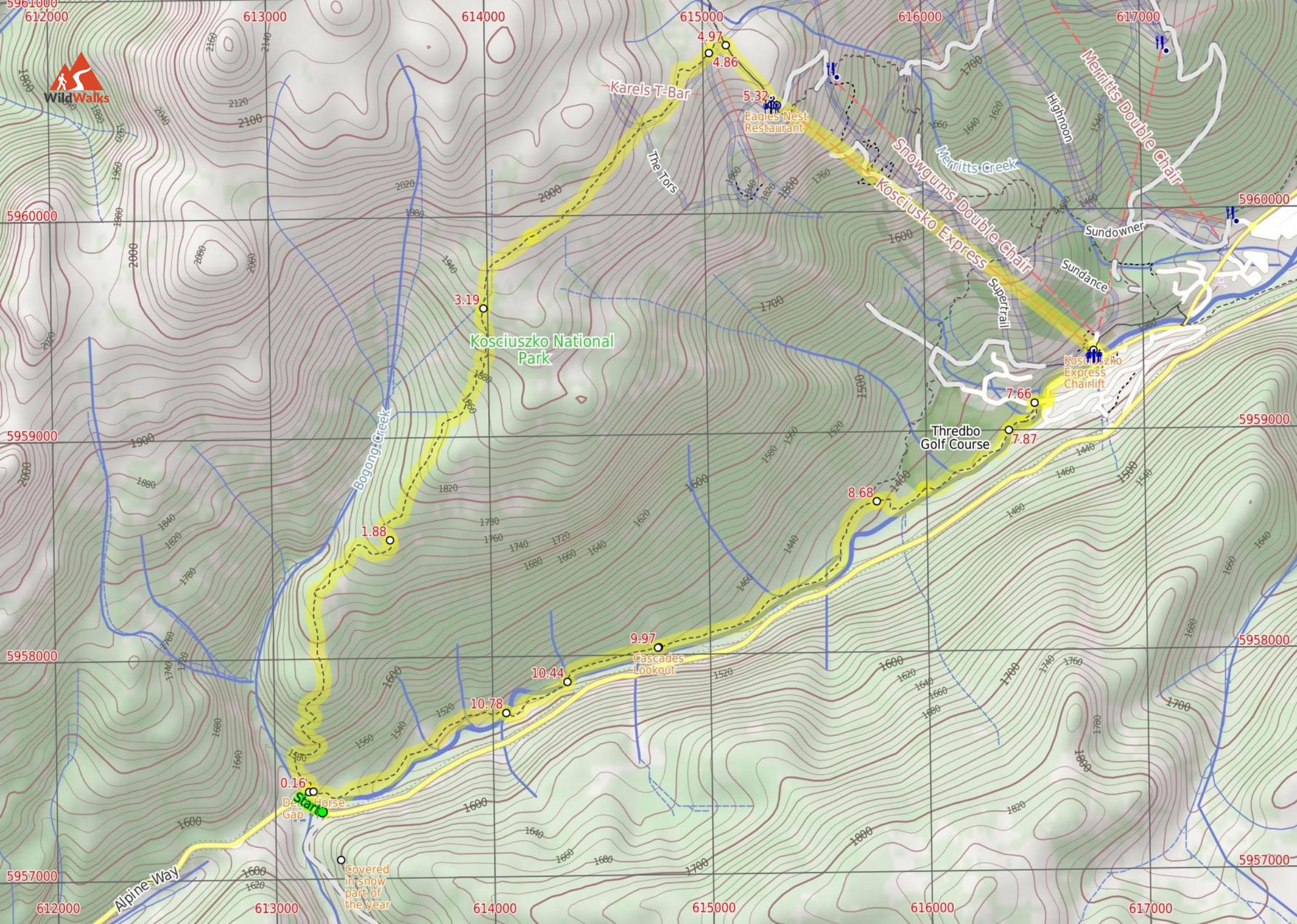
### 10.78 | Thredbo River track western bridge

(1.2 km 26 mins) Continue straight: From the western bridge this walk follows the track across the grassy area to soon lead up a long series of steps. The track then gently undulates along the side of the valley, keeping the valley to your left. Over the next 600m the track crosses a series of metal erosion grates (and some small creeks) and passes through a section of dead snow gums. The track gently climbs then flattens out to be a similar height to the road (on the other side of the valley) and then comes to a signposted three-way intersection where there is a 'Thredbo village 4km' sign pointing back along the track.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follow the clear track away from the other two sign posted tracks to soon cross Bogong Creek on a metal bridge. The track then leads left and heads up a series of steps to follow behind the road barrier, soon coming to a 'Thredbo Walking Tracks' sign beside the road. Here the walk crosses the road to find the Cascades Trail track head car park (on the Alpine Way 5.4km west of Friday Drive).







## Summary navigation sheet for the Dead Horse Gap and Thredbo River loop



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
0.00	Cascades Trail track head -36.5229,148.2645 (GR Chimneys Ridge, 132573)	6 -3	160 m 3 mins	From the Cascades Trail track head car park (on the Alpine Way 5.4km west of Friday Drive), this walk crosses the road and turns left following the 'Thredbo Walking Tracks' sign along the track behind the road barrier.
0.16	Int of Thredbo River and Dead Horse Gap tracks -36.5221,148.2638 (GR Chimneys Ridge, 132574)	234 -7	1.7 km 50 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, the walk follows the Dead Horse Gap track up the hill.
1.88	Lower rest area -36.5118,148.268 (GR Chimneys Ridge, 135585)	171 -4	1.3 km 37 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the bush track up the hill.
3.19	Upper rest area -36.5023,148.2727 (GR Chimneys Ridge, 140596)	74 -54	1.7 km 36 mins	Continue straight: From the second wooden bench, the walk follows the bush track up the hill towards the top of the ridge.
4.86	Top of Basin Tbar -36.4918,148.2843 (GR Perisher Valley, 150607)	1 -10	110 m 2 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the bush track down the hill for a short distance, to the intersection with the Kosciuszko footpath.
4.97	Int of Dead Horse Gap track and Kosciuszko footpath -36.4915,148.2851 (GR Perisher Valley, 151608)	0 -23	350 m 6 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows 'Eagles Nest Restaurant' sign down along the paved path towards the chairlift building.
5.32	Top of Kosciuszko Express chairlift -36.494,148.2875 (GR Perisher Valley, 153605)	1 -558	1.9 km 20 mins	Turn left: From the top terminal, walk up to the platform as directed by the chairlift operator and sit down in the seat, letting it scoop you up.
7.18	Bottom of Kosciuszko Express chairlift -36.504,148.304 (GR Chimneys Ridge, 168594)	11 -10	480 m 9 mins	Continue straight: From the big map outside the ticket store at the bottom of the Kosciuszko Express Chairlift, this walk follows the 'Riverside Walk' sign down to cross the bridge over Thredbo River.
7.66	Thredbo Memorial Community Centre -36.5062,148.3009 (GR Chimneys Ridge, 165591)	7 -1	200 m 4 mins	Turn left: From the Community Centre, this walk follows the 'Riverside Walk' and 'Dead Horse Gap' signs down the track towards the river.
7.87	Int of Riverside Walk and Thredbo River bridge -36.5073,148.2996 (GR Chimneys Ridge, 164590)	30 -1	810 m 15 mins	Continue straight: From the wooden bridge, this walk follows the track whilst keeping the river to your left.
8.68	Int of Thredbo River and golf course tracks -36.5102,148.2929 (GR Chimneys Ridge, 158587)	69 -12	1.3 km 27 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Thredbo River Track' sign through the bush and across a metal walkway, continuing along the bush track as it winds alongside the river.
9.97	Cascades lookout -36.5162,148.2817 (GR Chimneys Ridge, 148580)	21 -8	470 m 9 mins	Continue straight: From the lookout, this walk follows the wooden steps up the rocky winding hill to the top, where it flattens out at a wooden boardwalk and continues along a metal walkway, winding up through the b...
10.44	Thredbo River eastern bridge -36.5176,148.277 (GR Chimneys Ridge, 143579)	15 -6	340 m 7 mins	Continue straight: From just before the bridge, this walk crosses Thredbo River using the long metal bridge.
10.78	Thredbo River track western bridge -36.5189,148.2739 (GR Chimneys Ridge, 141577)	71 -14	1.2 km 26 mins	Continue straight: From the western bridge this walk follows the track across the grassy area to soon lead up a long series of steps.