

Snowy River Drive

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Healthy Parks
Healthy People



Victoria's Iconic 4WD Adventures
www.iconic4wd.com.au



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Take a journey into the heart of legendary Snowy River country on a drive that features highlights of the remote Snowy River National Park, including spectacular river scenery, deep gorges, waterfalls and magnificent forests.

This tour is best undertaken over a number of days, giving you time to soak in the serenity and rugged grandeur of these wild landscapes. During the day there are plenty of opportunities for walking, swimming and canoeing before enjoying starry nights in peaceful riverside campsites.

The 286-kilometre drive is classified as Difficult in dry conditions, under Victoria's new 4WD Recreational Track Classification System – see Track Classification section for details.

Orbost to Gelantipy (104 kms)

From Orbost, the tour heads west to the tranquil village of Buchan, home to the spectacular Buchan Caves. Sculpted by nature over millions of years, these unique limestone formations and beautiful pools create an underground world of colour and enchantment. Guided tours are conducted daily.

Explore the reserve's beautiful bushland surrounds, which are home to bellbirds, lyrebirds and kangaroos, on one of the short walks in the area, or swim in a tranquil spring-fed pool.

The drive passes the turnoff to the pleasant Balley Hooley Camping and Picnic Ground at the junction of the Snowy and Buchan rivers, a popular canoe staging point, and continues north along Tulloch Ard Road.

Stop along the way to explore tall Mountain Ash forest on the Ash Saddle Walk or take the short walk to Tulloch Ard Gorge Lookout for a breathtaking view before the tour joins the Buchan-Gelantipy Road.

Gelantipy to McKillop Bridge (43 kms)

Continue north and take a right fork onto McKillop Road to Little River Falls, where a short walk takes you to a viewing platform over the beautiful waterfall. A little further along McKillop Road is a 400-metre walk to a cliff-top lookout over Victoria's deepest gorge, Little River Gorge.

The road now descends into the Snowy River valley on one of Victoria's most stunning drives, marked by great scenery and vertical drops on one side, on the way to McKillop Bridge and Snowy River Campground.

The bridge - the second to be built on the site - spans 256 metres and stands high above the river. Downstream are the remains of the original McKillop Bridge washed away in 1934, a day before it was due to be opened.

It's the perfect spot to take a break, whether to simply enjoy the picturesque views from the bridge along the Snowy River gorge or something a little more active. Wide sandy beaches and shallow rock pools make this an idyllic swimming spot, and it's also a favourite canoe-launching place for adventurers wanting to explore the dramatic gorges downstream.

Walking opportunities range from the 2 km Snowy River Nature Trail, which offers a great introduction to the area, to the 18 km Silver Mine Walking Track. This overnight hike features distinctive White Cypress-pines, panoramic views across the ranges and relics from the mines of the early 1900s.

McKillop Bridge to Orbost (151 kms)

From McKillop Bridge the drive heads into the eastern part of the park, where tall wet forests take over from the drier forests in the north. Stop at the helipad, where a lookout offers expansive views, or picnic at the Big Tree – a massive Errinundra Shining Gum that stands 80-metres high in the forest.

From Waratah Flat Campground, a small camping area surrounded by imposing forest of Messmate, Mountain Ash, Mountain Grey Gum and Errinundra Shining Gum, the tour continues south on Yalmy Road as it follows the park boundary through magnificent tall forests.

Remains of the old Hicks homestead, established in the early 20th century, can still be seen at the foot of Mt Tabby near Hicks Campground, including fencing, yards and an old orchard.

A few kilometres further along Yalmy Road a short walking track leads to a superb view of Raymond Falls as it plunges 20 metres into a deep fern-fringed pool. This site is great for wildlife watching, as lyrebirds are often sighted along the track, and brilliantly coloured azure kingfishers can almost always be seen around the pool at the base of the falls.

Snowy River Drive

Important information

FOUR WHEEL DRIVING IN VICTORIA'S PARKS AND FORESTS

- Plan ahead and obtain a detailed map before you go – this map is a guide only
- Drive vehicles only on formed roads and vehicle tracks that are open to the public – do not drive off-track
- Stay off tracks that are too wet, or have been recently graded
- Avoid wheel spin and churning up the track surface
- Remove fallen trees or limbs from roads; don't create new tracks by driving around them
- Cross rivers and streams only where river crossings are clearly marked. Check depths and drive slowly
- Use a tree protector if winching is required and use wheel chains as a last resort
- Be aware that Seasonal Road Closures exist across Victoria due to the potential for increased environmental impacts and risks to public safety during the wetter months.
- Be sure to check for road closures before you go – check with Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au or the Department of Sustainability and Environment on 13 6186 or at www.dse.vic.gov.au

The best way to enjoy four wheel driving is by joining one of the many four wheel driving clubs in Victoria. Contact Four Wheel Drive Victoria for more information or visit www.fwdvictoria.org.au

OFF-ROAD DRIVING TECHNIQUES

Off-road driving demands different techniques to road driving, and every surface has its own particular characteristics. All vehicles should be in first-class mechanical condition and carry equipment appropriate to the trip.

It may be worth considering one of the training programs for touring off-roaders run by Four Wheel Drive Victoria to ensure you are properly prepared. Here are some brief pointers.

QUICK TIPS: DIRT ROADS

- Reduce speed to match tyre pressure
- Expect the unexpected
- Engage 4WD on part-time systems, and stability control for those cars that have it
- Use a slightly lower gear than normal
- Headlights on for visibility
- Don't swerve for animals; slow down
- Slow down for oncoming vehicles, especially those with dust clouds
- When following another vehicle keep well back to avoid dust
- Expect vehicles anywhere on the road
- Keep away from loose, gravelly parts of the road, follow defined wheel tracks.

Take particular care if accessing or leaving this tour through the ford across the Murray River near Tom Groggin – the crossing may be very difficult or impassable depending on the river level. Always check river levels before attempting a river crossing.

TREAD LIGHTLY IN THE VICTORIAN BUSH

Please help protect the natural environment by following these guidelines:

- Keep to walking tracks. Short cuts cause erosion and disturb native habitat
- If you carry it in – carry it out! Please take your rubbish out
- Dogs, cats or other pets are prohibited in National Parks
- Firewood is limited. Please use fuel stoves for cooking, and observe fire regulations and days of TOTAL FIRE BAN.

MINIMAL IMPACT CAMPING

- Be self-sufficient with drinking water. Carry it in and/or know how to make untreated water safe for drinking
- Camp at least 20 metres from any stream, lake or reservoir
- Dispose of and dirty water away from streams and waterways. Do not use soaps, detergents and toothpaste near water sources so fish and wildlife aren't harmed
- Use toilets where provided or bring your own portable toilet. If there are no toilets, walk at least 100 metres from water sources and campsites, dig a hole 15 centimetres and cover
- Light fires in designated fireplaces. Use a fuel stove where possible as it's better for the bush.

FIRE SAFETY

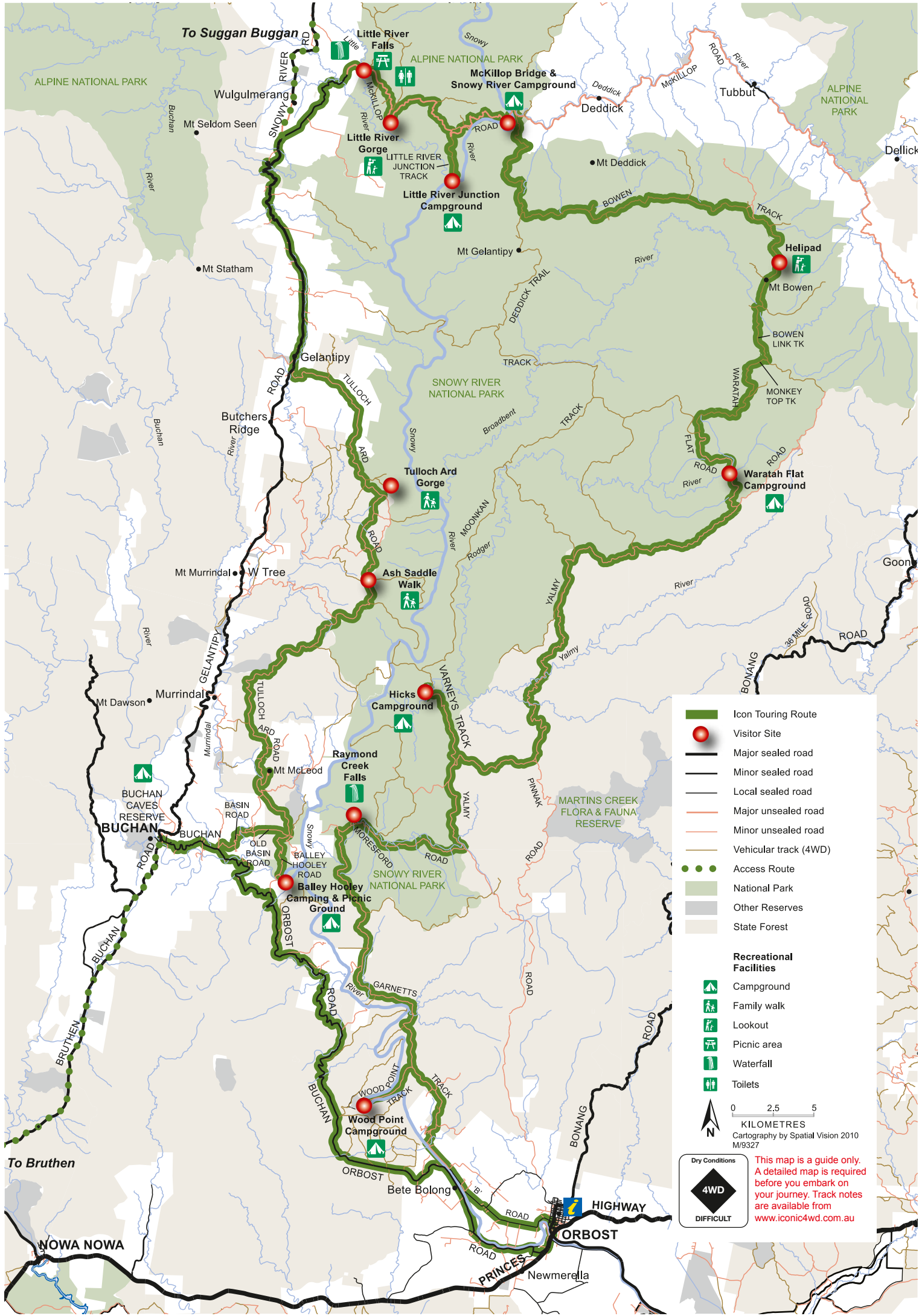
A bushfire survival plan is just as essential for drivers and campers as it is for those at home. Check the weather forecast before you go, stay aware of daily conditions and be ready to activate your bushfire survival plan.

Remember that official warnings of bushfires are not always available in remote locations, so extra effort is required to keep informed. If you are camping, take a portable radio and tune in to ABC or local outlets for weather and fire updates. Monitor conditions with updated bushfire information from the Victorian Bushfire Information Line: 1800 240 667.

Extra care must be taken with any potential ignition sources like power tools and cigarette butts. Vehicles should not be driven over dry ground cover or parked on dry grassy areas.

TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Parks Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land and recognises their rich culture and intrinsic connection that stretches back over many tens of thousands of years, including the areas now managed as parks.



Icon Touring Route

- Visitor Site
- Major sealed road
- Minor sealed road
- Local sealed road
- Major unsealed road
- Minor unsealed road
- Vehicular track (4WD)
- Access Route
- National Park
- Other Reserves
- State Forest

Recreational Facilities

- Campground
- Family walk
- Lookout
- Picnic area
- Waterfall
- Toilets

0 2.5 5
KILOMETRES
Cartography by Spatial Vision 2010 M/9327

Dry Conditions

4WD
DIFFICULT

This map is a guide only. A detailed map is required before you embark on your journey. Track notes are available from www.iconic4wd.com.au



Track Classification

Difficult

A new classification system for 4WD tracks on Public Land across Victoria has been developed.

A standard four level colour coded system is used to indicate the degree of difficulty of 4WD tracks and routes. Standard symbols and signage are used to show easy to very difficult tracks.

The Snowy River Drive is rated as Difficult

- Significant Low Range 4WD with standard 4WD ground clearance
- Recommended for drivers with reasonable experience or 4WD training
- Tracks with frequent steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy track sections may have shallow water crossings
- Suitable for medium to high clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain types
- To be done in groups of vehicles
- Will be more difficult in wet conditions.

The terrain and track conditions aim to provide a general description of the likely terrain and have limited subjective comments such as boggy or rutted as these can be interpreted differently by individuals.

The suitability of a vehicle relates to high/low range capacity, ground clearance and tyres.

The recovery equipment is advisory only and in line with Tourism Adventure Activity Standards and is not mandatory.

This is to guide the inexperienced driver that it may be in their best interest to have driver training or further experience before attempting more difficult terrain.

Note: Drivers need to be aware of changing weather conditions and how this may affect tracks they are using or planning to use. The tracks have been classified in dry conditions and most medium, difficult and very difficult tracks will become more difficult in wet weather.

One of the most enjoyable ways to experience Victoria's diverse and unforgettable memorable landscapes is on a four-wheel drive tour to enjoy the peace and solitude of the bush.

Now you can experience the best four-wheel drive experiences Victoria has to offer, on a range of tours from full day to several days. Licensed Tour Operators will help you get the most out of your park visit.

Victoria's Iconic 4WD Adventures are just waiting to be discovered, with a new series of touring guides to steer your journey of exploration.


**Grampians Drive • Otways Drive • Mallee Drive
Wonnangatta Drive • Snowy River Drive • Davies Plain Drive**

Further Information

Parks Victoria: call 13 1963 or visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Department of Sustainability and Environment:
call 13 6186 or visit www.dse.vic.gov.au

Four Wheel Drive Victoria: call (03) 9857 5209 or
visit www.fwdvictoria.org.au

Look out for the distinctive blue and yellow 'i' sign  as you travel around Victoria, which identifies Accredited Visitor Information Centres.

This track is subject to Seasonal Road Closures.
Please visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au for current track information.
The map contained within is a guide only. Ensure you obtain a detailed map before you embark on your journey.

