

# Victorian High Country



## 6 Day Tag-Along Adventure Tour

*PLEASE NOTE: This itinerary is just a guide. It is subject to change due to weather, road conditions, breakdowns and other conditions out of our control. Please allow flexibility on the tour to maximise your enjoyment.*

### **Day 1. Mansfield to Bindaree Hut Camp Area.**

Meet and greet at the BP service station at 145 Mt Buller Rd Mansfield, fuelled up and ready to depart at 8:30am sharp. Head along Mt Buller Rd, before turning off at Buttercup Rd, this will take us into the foothills as we make our way to Tomahawk Hut for a quick stop and look around. We will then make our way around various tracks, waterfalls and huts including Craig's Hut and Razorback Hut. There will be time to explore each of the huts and other locations that we stop at. Depending on time and weather we will take one of two or three options to arrive at Bindaree Hut for our first camp.

Set up camp, relax and explore the area, have a dip in the Howqua River and check out Bindaree Hut. Meanwhile we will be getting your fire pit BBQ ready to eat when you arrive back to sit around the camp fire and share a meal, drinks and a few stories of previous trips or what to expect during this tour.

### **Day 2. Bindaree Hut to Howitt Plains Camp area.**

Rise and shine for breakfast, pack up, and then head down the Upper Howqua Rd in search of huts tracks and adventures. We will pass a number of huts and local sites including Pike Flat Hut, we will wind our way up to Bluff Hut for some more exploring and stretch the legs. From Bluff Hut follow our noses to Lovick's Hut depending on time of day and how things are going we will grab a bite to eat and immerse ourselves in the history of Lovick's Hut and camp area. After lunch we will head upwards again past Picture Point along Bluff Track until we reach King Billy Track. This track will fill the afternoon in, plenty of smaller creek crossings, with some climbs to boot. Stopping to inspect a fascinating rock formation on the climb up to Howitt Plains carpark. Time to drop off gear and set up camp, it's better to get the spot early here. Once set up we will load into a couple of vehicles and take the short journey to Howitt Plains Hut for a quick look around, then back to camp for a hearty meal around the fire.

### **Day 3. Howitt Plains Camp area to Eaglevale Campground.**

Wake up to the beautiful sunrise overlooking the mountain tops, breakfast and pack up. Today will see you take on some good steep climbs if you're up for it, if not there will be an alternate track to take. We will start on Zeka Spur track, some enjoyable, not difficult driving with a few good descents to start to test your skills. We will stop for a wash/clean up/swim at the Wonnangatta River, with lunch here or at the Old Wonnangatta Station ruins depending on the time. At the ruins you will have some time to explore and see the Cemetery, house ruins, existing hut, chat about the murders and have some lunch. After lunch we will follow the river to our first real challenge Herne Spur Track, this steep rocky climb can be difficult and not taken lightly. There will be an option to go around this and meet back up on the corner of Wombat Range and Cynthia Range tracks. We will follow Cynthia Range track stopping to gather some firewood, and then onto Eaglevale track slowly winding down the steep descent into Eaglevale camp ground, this is our stop for the night. There is a suspension walking bridge to try out, some fishing or swimming in the river or just relax and think about the day. In the evening we will have another well prepared meal by Luke and Curl, followed by some good banter around the fire.

#### **Day 4. Eaglevale Camp Ground to Dargo Hotel Camp Ground.**

Today's drive could be massive depending on options taken towards the back end of the day, after breakfast and packing up camp we will continue along the river but not for long. Very early in the piece we will find the turn off for Billy Goat Bluff Track, this infamous track is a must do for most 4WD drivers and for good reason, it is a challenging track that seems to go on forever, but it's doable and with a little help if needed we will get you through to the other side. Once we conquer Billy Goats we will stop in at the Pinnacle, this is the Fire fighters lookout that is manned during fire season, peak tourist season or if there is lightning around. The short but steep walk to the tower is a nice break from the drive and you will enjoy the 360deg views of where we have been and where we will be going. While you are checking out the amazing view, Curl and Luke will prepare lunch and have it ready to eat on your return. After lunch we will cruise through Castle Hill track and onto Junction Spur track, both of these have some interesting sections to keep you on your toes. At the bottom of Junction Spur we will have the opportunity to choose our way to Dargo, both options have their difficulties, but as a group we will decide which way. Either way will get us to Dargo where we will make camp at the camp ground behind the pub. Here we will have time for a beer at the pub, top up fuel and supplies if required at the general store. Dinner will be at the pub for the night's meal a great chance to sit around and discuss the trip and what you enjoyed the most.

#### **Day 5. Dargo Hotel Campground to Talbotville Campground.**

Not a huge day today, pack up camp, fuel up if needed at the store, grab a coffee, supplies and some souvenirs if you want. After topping up we will make our way back to the Wonnangatta Rd and follow it along the river and valley taking in the beauty of the area. We will pass through Blake Snake campground and have a quick look at the hut, before making our way to historic Kingswell Bridge. Here we will complete the longest river crossing on the tour, nothing too difficult just a long time in the water. This will be the first of quite a few crossings this morning, each with its own hidden obstacles. Next on the agenda is Collingwood track, this is a steep climb with some tricky sections, before descending down the other side to have a look at The Good Hope mine and the Old Grant township and cemetery. After a good look around we will take McMillans Track down into Talbotville. We should be here early enough to really have a good look around, set up camp and have a swim in the river. A gentle day with plenty to do and see.

#### **Day 6. Talbotville Campground to Bright.**

Breakfast on the run this morning, there is a lot to get done. Starting with a decision on the next part of the trip, we can have a crack at Basalt S Track to Ritchie Road (quite difficult and challenging) or take the easier option of Brewery Creek track, again either option is fine and we can split up if needed. Both tracks meet up further along the way. We will then follow this long windy track to what was the location of Basalt Knob Hut (now removed after being burnt down). From here we meander our way along Basalt N Track and onto the famous Blue Rag Range track, this is another must do when you are in the high country, this track will take us to our last destination, Blue Rag Trig Point, there will be time for some pictures and discussion about the trip, we will also have a bite to eat and then head off to our final destination of Bright. This is our last official time together, If you wish to travel back home in the Mildura direction or Dubbo direction, we are more than happy for you to join us.

It will take about 3 hours to get to Bright from Blue rag with no issues. You are more than welcome to stop at Harrietville for a look around, it's a beautiful little village with a couple of pubs and local shops. The next stop is Bright, a very tourist based town with plenty of shops, galleries, cafes and its own brewery. We can recommend the food and beverages here. Within a few minutes' drive you can also find Wandiligong, another beautiful village with an exceptional pub for meals and drinks.

**Some meal possibilities (not available every day), Gluten free options available**

**Breakfast menu**

Bacon & Eggs  
Pancakes or French toast  
Toast/Toasties (Jaffles)  
Cereal (limited selections)  
Fruit (when available)  
Croissants

**Lunch menu**

Fresh Cooked Damper/Scones/Bacon and cheese loaf  
Hot dogs  
Chicken Schnitzel or Roast meat rolls  
Pies/Sausage rolls/sausage rolls/mini pizzas  
Various sandwich options (rolls, Salada's, wraps)  
Nachos

**Dinner menu**

BBQ meat and salads (snags/chops/chicken skewers/steak/ribs)  
Souvlaki/kebabs/Homemade hamburgers  
Camp Oven Meals – Roast/Stew  
Spaghetti/Pasta  
Savoury mince  
Stir fry meat and vegetables  
Tacos/Burritos/Fajitas  
Butter Chicken/Honey Mustard chicken and rice (or similar)  
Dinner provided at specified pubs/restaurants (\$35 per head limit)  
Desserts in camp oven, Damper, Cookies, Brownie