



11 Day Sydney to Melbourne 'High Country Adventure'

4WD Self-drive

A classic High Country journey through the historic and beautiful Snowy Mountains and Victorian Alps. Travelling through Alpine National Parks and High Plains, there is great scope for Bushwalking, bird watching and exploring the rivers and streams. After a look at the NSW South Coast and the National Capital, you journey off the beaten track to climb Mt Kosciuszko, swim in the Snowy River, bushwalk the Alpine National Parks or explore cattlemen's Huts. The history and fabulous Alpine Scenery combine to make this a journey of discovery through the High Country of Victoria and NSW to hidden areas only accessible by 4WD.

Suggested Itinerary

Day 1 Sydney to Ulladulla

Departing Sydney from our depot in Alexandria, head south past the airport on the Princes Highway (Number 1). Cross Tom Ugly's Bridge and turn left just past Sutherland to Audley and into the Royal National Park. This drive will take you through the National Park and along the scenic route along the coast into the Newcastle along scenic route number 43. Stop at some of the many lookouts for wonderful coastal panoramas north to Sydney and South to Newcastle. Travel through Newcastle and on via the scenic route to Shellharbour. Rejoin the Princes Highway and detour into Kiama to view the Blowhole. Take the scenic coastal route through Gerringong and Shoalhaven Heads and on to your

Overnight camping in a Caravan Park at Ulladulla. (Full facilities- toilet, shower and washing machine) (253km (4 hours) driving, 1 hour walking.)

Day 2 Ulladulla to Canberra

Continue on towards Batemans Bay and turn right to Canberra along the Kings Highway, number 52. Wind up through Nelligen and on to the quaint village of Braidwood Continue on through Bungandore and on to Canberra for lunch. This afternoon, spend some time exploring

Canberra before setting up at a Caravan Park for your overnight Camping. (Full facilities) (194km (2 & 1/2 hours) driving.)

Day 3 Canberra

Canberra is a fascinating city to explore with lots of wonderful buildings and scenic attractions. The High Court, New and Old Parliament Houses, the National Gallery, the National Gallery, the War Memorial, The Carillon, Captain Cook Fountain and the Black Mountain lookout are all very worthwhile. You could quite happily occupy more than a day here.

Overnight Camping, Caravan Park Canberra. (Full facilities)

Day 4 Canberra to Yarrangobilly

Depart Canberra on the Cotter Road towards the Brindabella Ranges, bound for Wee Jasper. Make a stop at Mt Stromlo Observatory and Cotter Dam before winding your way over an unsealed road to this quaint village on the Goodradigbie River for a stop. After a stop, continue on to Tumut for lunch. This afternoon, you head through to Talbingo, with an optional detour to the Trout Farm and dam wall at Blowering Dam, and climb up into the Snowy Mountains. Your evening camp will be at the camping area at Yarrangobilly on the River, up in the High Country.

Overnight camping at Yarrangobilly Village. (Toilet facilities) (196km (3 hours) driving, 2 hours (5km) walking.)

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Day 5 Yarrangobilly to Geehi

Head on up the Snowy Mountains Highway and turn right to Yarrangobilly Caves. Stop at the office to pay an entry and to get information on the self-guided cave tours. Take a walk down to the Yarrangobilly River and have a swim in the Thermal Pool. There are also a number of other walks available and it is a pleasant place for lunch. Return to the Snowy Mountains Highway and turn right. Travel down to Kiandra, an historic Gold Mining Area, for a stop and to explore. Continue on to the highest town in Australia, Cabramurra. The shop has some interesting books on the region. After a detour to see the Tumut 1 Power Station and learn about the scale of the Snowy Mountains Scheme, continue on to Bradley and O'Brien's Hut, typical of the mountain huts of the High Country. Pass the Tooma Reservoir and travel on through Khancoban. Stop to view the Murray 1 Power Station. They also have daily tours of the Power Station. After a stop at Scammels Lookout to view the Main Range, continue down to Geehi and your overnight campsite on the Geehi River where the kangaroos are often seen in the morning and late afternoon.

Overnight Camping, Geehi. (Toilet facilities) (150km (3 hours) driving, 3 hours (6km) walking)

Day 6 Geehi to Jindabyne

Ascend the Alpine Way and drop down to the Murray River at Tom Groggin, home for Jack Riley, the original 'Man from Snowy River'. Ascend the main range through Dead Horse Gap, where a walk can be done to the Cascades, and on to the ski town of Thredbo. The Kosciuszko Express chairlift (\$22 return) will take you up to the top of the mountain and you can take a fabulous walk to the summit of Australia's Highest Mainland Mountain, Mt Kosciuszko. It is 13-km return and you will need to take precautions as the weather can turn bad very quickly. For the less energetic, a 4km return walk can be done to the Kosciuszko Lookout. There are numerous other walks in the area, Mountain Bikes that can be hired and the Bobsled run is great fun. Continue on to the Thredbo Diggings Camping area on the Thredbo River, which would be a pleasant place to camp, or continue on to

Your overnight camp in a Caravan Park at Thredbo. (Full facilities.)

Day 7 Jindabyne to Native Dog Flat

After a look around the town and lake, take the road towards Dalgety and then turn right at the Barry Way. Descend to the Wallace Graigie Lookout for a stop and a chance to soak in the views. Descend to the Jacobs River and down to the Snowy River. Make a stop at Willis or any of the other camping areas for a swim and to explore this idyllic river. Crossing into Victoria, you wind away from the Snowy River and on to the old town of Suggan Buggan. Turn right after another 11.5 km at the Black Mountain Road and climb back up to the High Country. Pass through Dingo Flat and on to the Buchan River for the opportunity to walk and explore. Your

Overnight Bush Camp is at Native Dog Flat. (Toilet facility) (145km (3&1/2 hours) driving, 1 hour (2km) walking.)

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Day 8 Native Dog Flat to Bright

Travel past the track to Limestone Hut and on through to the small town of Benambra. Making your way through Hinnomunjie, continue on to the alpine town of Omeo for a morning stop. Departing Omeo, deviations are possible just out of town to visit a winery and the historic Oriental Claims Goldfields. Turn right to Victoria River Falls and historical area, where it is possible to see the remains of Australia's first hydro power station. Continue up the Great Alpine Road to the quaint village of Dinner Plain. Horse riding is available here. Proceed on to the spectacular views of Mt Hotham Resort. The chairlift operates across towards Mt Loch and allows access to some great alpine walking. Continue on to the Diamantina Hut for some spectacular views. The energetic can undertake a walk along the Razorback to views of the 2nd highest mountain in Victoria, Mt Feathertop. Continue down the Great Alpine Road through the picturesque village of Harrietville. Make a stop at the Stoney Creek Trout Farm to pick up dinner and on to

Bright to set up camp for the night in a Caravan Park. (Full facilities) (186km (3&1/2 hours) driving, 3 hours (7km) walking.)

Day 9 Bright to Mt Buffalo

After a morning look around the beautiful town of Bright, situated on the Ovens River, continue on with many options to stop at Wineries, Orchards and the Tobacco Shed. Drive through to the town of Porepunkah and follow signs to Mt Buffalo. As you enter the park, book the campsite at Lake Catani. If it is full (usually only in peak holiday periods) an alternative is available in the valley before the entrance station to the right at Noonamena Lodge. Climb up the mountain with stops at Eurobin Falls and other lookouts until you reach the Chalet. Stop for a break here and to see the spectacular views over the Eurobin Gorge. Continue on to the Horn to climb for more panoramic views. There are many other walking options for the day and a trip to the top of the Monolith is also very rewarding. Make your way to

Your overnight camping at Lake Catani. (Toilet facilities) (50km (1 &1/2 hours) driving, 8km (3 hours) walking.)

Day 10 Mt Buffalo to Sheeppark Flat

Retrace your tracks to the bottom of the mountain and head left to Myrtleford. You pass tobacco and fruit crops as you make your way along the Alpine Road. At Myrtleford, turn left towards Whitfield and travel up the Buffalo River Road to Lake Buffalo. Crossing the dam wall, continue to Dandongdale. After 16km, turn left up the Cobbler Lake Road to Lake Cobbler and Falls for a morning stop and explore. Retrace your tracks for 6km and turn left up the Little Cobbler Track to King Hut, where toilets are available. After 1.2 km, turn right and, after 1.3km you come to a crossing over the King River. After 4.5km, turn right and in 6km you will turn right onto the Stirling Circuit Road. After 6km, turn left and follow up to Craig's Hut, film location for the Man from Snowy River Movies, for spectacular Mountain Views. Retrace your tracks and continue past Bindaree Falls, well worth the 15-minute walk, and on to Bindaree Hut turn-off at the Howqua River. Turn left up to the Bluff Hut Track, a rewarding diversion and on to the start of the Bluff Walking Track. The walk up the Bluff is a demanding but rewarding 2 hours. Follow the 16-mile track to Brocks Road and turn right. Descend the range to the Tunnel, where gold miners have cut through the mountain to deviate the river, and on to the

Howqua River for your overnight bush camping at Sheeppark Flat. (Toilet facilities) (235km (6 hours) driving, 5km (3 hours) walking)

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Day 11 Sheepland Flat to Melbourne

Continue along the Howqua Track and stop for a walk to the old Hut at Fry's. Drive through Howqua Hills and on to the Mt Buller Road. Turn left to Merrijig, where you cross the Delatite River and on through to Mansfield for a morning break. Continue on to Maindample and cross Lake Eildon at Bonnie Doon. Just after Yarck, turn left through Alexandra and on down the Maroondah Highway to Acheron. After Taggerty, it is possible to detour to the left down Cathedral Lane for some walking in the Cathedral Ranges and the climb up Sugarloaf Peak, if desired. Continue down the Maroondah Highway to the Dom Dom Saddle and begin descending the Black Spur. This delightful drive will take you through towering Mountain Ash forests with tall Tree Ferns. Turn left at the bottom to Healesville Sanctuary for lunch and some time to wander the Sanctuary to see the native animals. Continue on through Healesville and make a stop on the right at Domaine Chandon to taste the sparkling wines or any of the other wineries. At Nunawading, turn right to the Eastern Freeway and follow it through to Melbourne at the end of a fantastic High Country Adventure. (295km (5 hours) driving, 1 hour (3 km) walking)

Recommended References

The above itineraries are not intended as the sole guide to the details of your route. Four Wheel Drive Hire Service recommends the following referenced be consulted or purchased prior to departure.

Season

The itinerary is designed for the November to May period where access is usually available to all areas of the High Country and the weather more reliable. Unfavourable weather can be expected at any time of the year. With modification, the route is possible year-round but precautions need to be taken to cope with the expected extreme weather and road conditions.

Maps

Hema Maps – The Snowy Mountains, The High Country-Victoria
Rooftop's Bright-Mansfield Adventure Map
CMA –The Snowy Mountains.

Guide Book

Discover Australia by 4WD by Ron and Viv Moon.
Explore the Australian Alps by New Holland Publishers

Background Reading

The Moth Eaters by Josephine Flood
Searching for the Snowy by George Seddon.
Cattlemen of the High Country by Tor Holth.
The Explorers by Tim Flannery

Websites

Hema Maps for an idea of the range of maps and information on suppliers -
www.hemamaps.com.au
NSW National Parks- www.npws.nsw.gov/parks/index.html
Victorian National Parks- www.parks.vic.gov.au