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# SKI OZ

A View over the possibilities Down Under

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Webbased

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### Impressum

This document is an open source document from those interested in skiing Oz for those interested in skiing Oz. The text in this document is basing mainly on the sources

- <http://www.ozbc.net/>
- <http://wikiski.com/>

Others should update, extend and specify this document so Oz is getting an extensive ski guide. This document shall never be used for comercial purposes.

# 1 VICTORIA

## 1.1 Mount Buller

**Mt Buller is the most accessible major snow resort in Australia, located within easy driving distance of Melbourne. At Mt Buller you can enjoy an extensive range of special alpine experiences. Explore the alpine landscape on a guided snow shoe walk, or hire a toboggan and tackle the thrills of the downhill course. Build a snowman with the kids, or take a look at the cinema and alpine museum.**

**The Mt Buller Village is located right in the heart of the snowfields, featuring 7,000 on-mountain beds ranging from basic to luxurious accommodation and more than 30 retail outlets, cafes and restaurants.**

### Ski Facts

Low	High	Vertical	Lifts	Runs (Number)	Runs (km)	Area (ha)	Blue	Red	Black	Price
1395	1800	405	25	80		263	25	45	30	94

Mt Buller has a superb variety of terrain from cruisy greens right through to double black chutes. It features North, East and South facing slopes, meaning in poor weather it is often possible to find a sheltered area.

The South Side of the mountain is a series of bowls, which comprise some of the most challenging black mogul skiing in Australia, while the ridges between these bowls feature great blue cruising runs. Its aspect means it receives very little sun in Winter, preserving the snow quality.

The North Side of the mountain features a number of long cruisers, some challenging areas, and the unique experience of skiing amongst the tall Woollybutt eucalypts. As it is the sunny aspect of the mountain it is the first to soften on an icy day.

### Off Piste

Mt Buller's Off Piste skiing is one of its greatest strengths in a good snow year. Unlike competing resorts, grooming at Buller is reserved for Blue runs, with the exception of Mens Downhill and Howqua Extension.

Excellent Off Piste skiing can be found off the Wombat, Federation, Southside, Bull Run, Summit, Howqua, Grimus and Tyrol lifts.

Numerous rocky outcrops, drop-offs, cornices, trees and other natural features provide excellent challenges for advanced skiers in these areas.

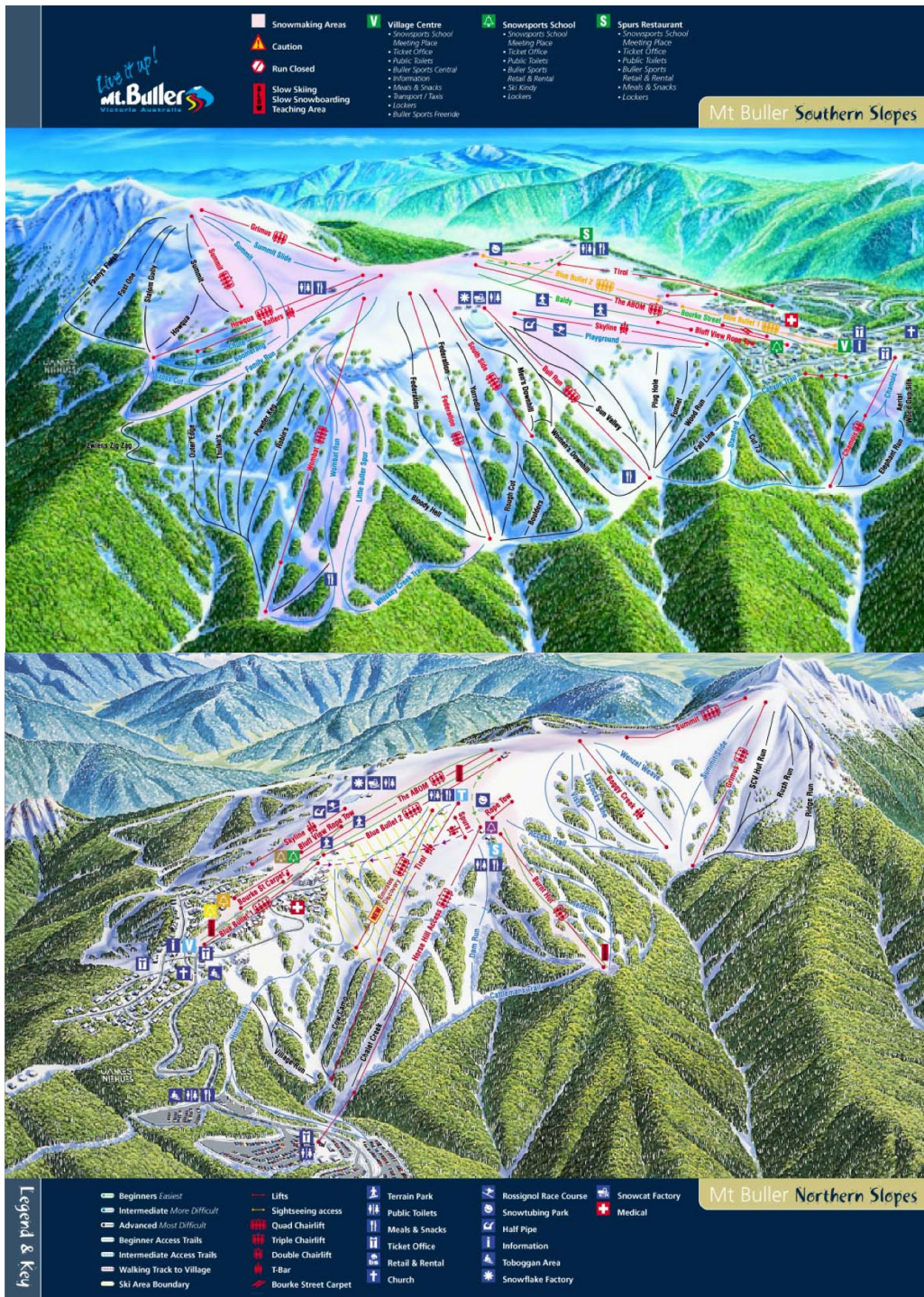
### Out of Bounds

The area beyond Mt Buller's Summit Hut, known as 'The Chutes' provide some of Australia's most challenging lift-served terrain. Skiers have died in this area, so as a result it needs to be approached with caution and treated with a great deal of respect.

### Powder Zones

As with the Bumps, Buller's South Side is where to head when the snow is fresh - its shady aspect keeps the snow fresh for longer and the prevailing northerlies blow the snow into these areas. Stick to the trees and follow the locals - if you can!

# Ski Down Under



## Getting there

Mt Buller snowfields are a three hour drive from Melbourne along either the Hume Highway or the Melba Highway through the beautiful Yarra Valley.

From Mansfield it is about a 40 minute drive through Merrijig and up the mountain. You pass through the combined Mt Buller and Mt Stirling entry gates at the bottom of the hill immediately prior to the Mt Stirling turn off.

## Parking

Due to limited amount of space in the Village, public parking in the village is banned during winter. Public parking is located 1-3km from the village square down the Mount Buller Road. There is a free village bus for day trippers from the Day Carpark.



## 1.2 Falls Creek

Falls Creek is Victoria's largest alpine resort. The resort offers true ski-in/ski-out accommodation, skiing for all abilities and a huge range of activities both day and night. If it's adventure you're after, terrain parks with Australia's best pipes, as well as rails and jumps, Falls Creek is the place to be.

Falls Creek has over 5,000 beds in the village that suit every budget, from cosy lodge-style accommodation to five-star luxury penthouse suites. The village also has a day care centre, day spa and plenty of shopping, restaurants and night life.

### Ski Facts

Low	High	Vertical	Lifts	Runs (Number)	Runs (km)	Area (ha)	Blue	Red	Black	Price
1450	1780	360	14	92		450	17	60	23	97

### Off Piste

Off Piste is a treat at Falls, even more so because so few find it (even though it is in your face). This may be because it is often termed a "beginners mountain" so doesn't attract the number of advanced skiers to track it out too quickly.

Basically back down under Eagle chair offers a range of off piste options, as does very wide off Ruined Castle Chair. When open the Maze area has lots of off piste options.

A less known one but easy to find is the back of south face, basically turn left off Ruined Castle chair and duck out through the snow fence and ski the back side of the hill, unless on freshies you may have to wait until afternoon for it to soften. Turn left at the blue markers and you can ski out otherwise expect to hike out if you ski to the bottom.

### Out of Bounds

Falls Creek has excellent out of bounds skiing. There is a snow kat which will take you for a three hour trip to Dam Site, the Rocky Knolls and the South Face of Mount MacKay. It costs \$69. This runs only in good snow, and weather, so otherwise you can hike out from the top of the Ruined Castle Chair Lift and ski down.

The ultimate backcountry at Falls is the South Face of Mt. MacKay. Offering a consistent pitch of 40 degrees, and 350 metres of straight vertical, this is one of the best, most accessible backcountry runs in Australia. Do not attempt this when conditions are icy or visibility is poor. There is a fairly long walk back up.

For a tamer experience, head to Dam Site and Rocky Knolls. These runs face east, and are close to, sometimes within site of the resort, so there is less isolation. They offer around 150 metres of vertical only, but the powder holds quite well.

Roper's Lookout is a good, if short, run just outside the resort. It can be done late in the afternoon, as the end of the run is the end of the carpark, from which a shuttle can easily pick you up. To access it, drop off the upper bit of wombats ramble and ski/snowboard down to the Dam Wall, watching for cross country skiers. Hike across the Dam Wall, then turn left along the Rocky Valley Aqueduct. At the end, about 1km later, turn up the hill, and climb up to a Basalt Know known as Roper's Lookout. To the right of here is the run, which finishes at the Lower Slalom Carpark. Ring resort management at the lookout and ask for a lift back to the village.

## Ski Down Under

Of course, the Bogong High plains offer infinite backcountry skiing, but it requires multiple days.

### Powder Zones

Powder is to be had in a range of places if you know where to look. On a powder day, be waiting at the top of Scotts Chair for the rope to be pulled back by ski patrol at 8:30 and head straight for Ruined Castle. You have less than an hour until it is fully tracked out but in that time it is great fun. After that you have to search a bit more in Sun Valley, there are often short runs off Scottys towards the Tunnel which offer a few turns of usually nice fresh pow.

If there is a decent base and it is a good fall, then back near the Eagle Chair or down through the Maze are the best options. There is quite a range here and it can take a few hours to track out. Wider off Eagle can last even longer if you are lucky.

A secret is Quartz Ridge, which is often the best option early in the season, as the snow settles there in much larger quantities than the rest of the resort. If Lakeside hasn't opened yet but Towers has, then this is easily the place to be.

### Tickets

All tickets can be purchased from five handy locations across the resort.



### Getting there

Travelling to Falls Creek by car takes about four hours from the outer suburbs of Melbourne. Take the Hume Highway, turn off near Wangaratta and drive through Myrtleford and Mt Beauty. Make sure you have petrol, chains and anti-freeze before leaving Mt Beauty. The road winds fairly gently up to falls creek. It is sheltered from the weather and is rarely closed. But it is subject to ice.

*Day parking* is in a long car park that can access one of 2 chairs (Falls Express and Gully) either of which will get you up on the slopes fairly easily.

### 1.3 Hotham

Hotham is one of Australia's highest alpine villages. Built on a spectacular mountain ridge, the resort features majestic views and terrain to suit all abilities. It's located along the Great Alpine Road. The mountain offers a range of snowsports terrain in the winter and is regarded by some as "the deep n' steep powder capital of Australia".

With more than 7,000 on-mountain beds to suit every budget, most guests sleep above the snowline in the heart of Hotham village.

#### Ski Facts

Low	High	Vertical	Lifts	Runs (Number)	Runs (km)	Area (ha)	Blue	Red	Black	Price
1450	1845	395	13	80		320	20	40	40	87

For an advanced skier, Hotham has a wide variety of black diamond (expert) runs to choose from such as Wall of Death below the Village Lift and The Canyon. Hotham also provides an inbounds extreme off piste zone where the famous steepes "Mary's Slide", "Gotcha" and "The Chute" are.

#### Off Piste

Hotham has much offpiste skiing opportunities. For instance on the back side of the summit you can go for a short hike, and have a nice run of freshies and have a mate pick you up in a car at the Great Alpine Road and take you back for another run. Other areas are the backside of Mt. Loch, Mt. Higginbotham, Avalanche Gully off the side of the Summit, and for the really adventurous a hike out to Mt. Feathertop will provide possibly the best XC and Alpine off piste skiing in Australia.

#### Out of Bounds

Hotham has lots of out of bounds ski opportunities. The rule of thumb, however, is - if you are reading this then you are probably not the best suited person to be going out of bounds. For the benefit of those who do venture out of bounds, there are a number of things to watch for. If you go out along golden point, you need to plan to get back to level with the village chair in order not to have to cross the creek in your ski boots. Avalanche gully is a creek, which can open up in spring. The west side of Avalanche Gully has cliffs - steer clear unless you are really good. There are a number of areas where cornices form, please watch these. Icy conditions can see you have a high speed slide into a tree if you do not control your speed.

Having said all that there are plenty of out of bounds opportunities ranging from road-serviced lifts, to climb outs, to dis-used runs, all within close proximity to the resort. It is often said that Hotham is one of the best 'front country' resorts in Australia - where you are never more than a single walk up the hill away from the resort.





### Getting there

Take the Hume Highway from Melbourne, the Snow Road through Milawa and then the Great Alpine Road through Bright and Harrietville. The GAR and Snow Road join just outside of Myrtleford. From there you go through Ovens (where you can turn off to Falls Creek), Eurobin and Porepunkah before getting to Bright. After leaving Bright, you will travel up the valley for about 20k until you get to Harrietville. From Harrietville onwards, you will need chains, so make sure you have hired them by now.

The start of the Hotham ascent is marked by an led sign, hazardous area signs, and a sharp left turn. Make sure you take the sharp left turn... people do drive up the valley wondering where the hell Hotham is from time to time.

The road up Hotham is about 30k of winding road. There are lots of blind corners so keep on your side of the road. The road is prone to adverse weather conditions in storms so take care and drive slowly. There are plenty of pull over bays to use. There are three large defined chain bays below the ticket office with signs indicating if you have fit chains.

The ticket office is at about the 20k mark and is a booth in the centre of the road. From there is a steep ascent onto the ridge that leads to Hotham.

Above the ticket office there are a number of chain bays. You may have to fit chains even if the road looks dry and it is not snowing. As you drive to Hotham you will go up and down along the ridge line. In bad weather, look for the bright orange poles. You'll know you have made it to the village when you go underneath the skiers bridge.

For an alternate route take the Princess Highway through Gippsland. At Bairnsdale, head for Omeo and then Mount Hotham.

If travelling from the north, head to Wodonga then Yackandandah and join the Great Alpine Road at Myrtleford.

*Day parking* is limited; the main day car park is small and fills early so they start sending you down the road. Expect a long hike or trip on the bus to get to a ski area. Get there early or expect to be a long way from anywhere.



## 1.4 Mount Bow Bow

**Mount Baw Baw is a small downhill skiing resort located in the Gippsland, Victoria. It is an excellent must visit ski resort for beginners who have no previous skills on skiing to wish to start learning.**

### Ski Facts

Low	High	Vertical	Lifts	Runs (Number)	Runs (km)	Area (ha)	Blue	Red	Black	Price
1442	1562	120	7			30	25	64	11	59

### Off Piste

As Mt Baw Baw is located on a plateau, off-piste is basically non-existent, however there is a section of open area north of the lookout which has great natural terrain and a really good rock drop. As it faces north, you have to get there in a good snow year. On sunny days it quickly becomes slushy so is best hit mid to late July.

### Out of Bounds

After a strong southerly blast or in a particularly good snow year, a great out of bounds ski/board can be found along the old Chairlift run. The run used to be serviced by a Chairlift running from Chairlift gully to the top station where Village Central is now located. It is hardly utilized by the beginner clientele that Baw Baw attracts, meaning freshies all the way to the bottom! After a low level snowfall, it is possible to ski all the way to the road, where a pickup can be arranged.

For those willing to hike a short distance, Big Hill is available for riding and still sign posted as a black run. you find it by walking south (and slightly east) from the base of Painted T Bar.

### Powder Zones

#### *Maltese Trees*

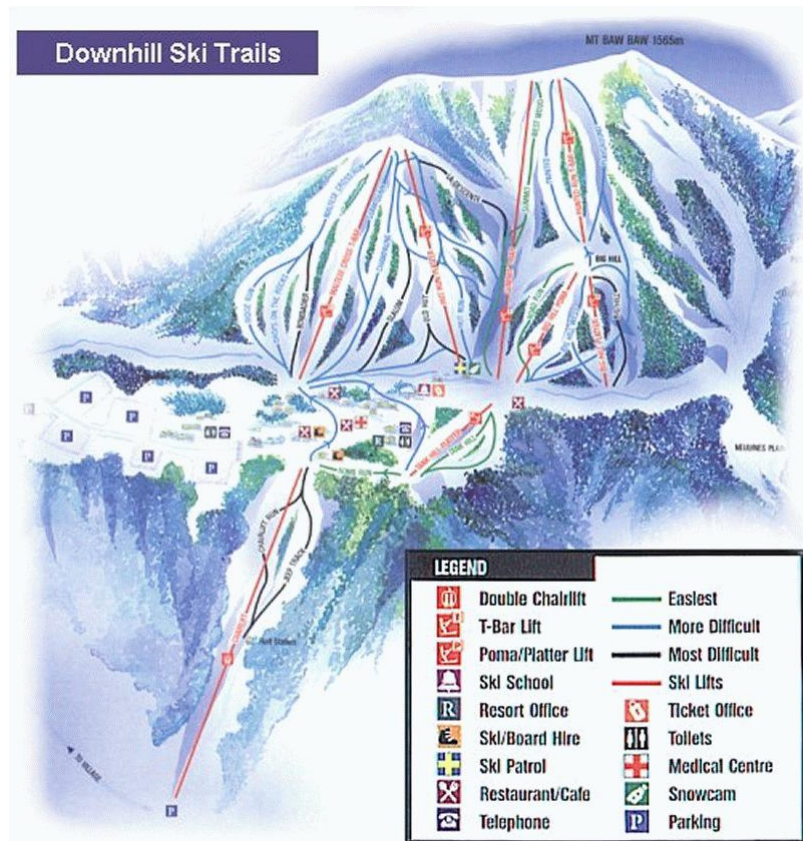
Just before you head down Maltese Cross, there is a trail leading off to the west. After a decent fall (30cm) these trees are a perfect location for untouched powder. Beware in icy conditions however, as the berms that form through people riding the same pathway through the trees can become bullet proof, and impossible to slow down on.

#### *La Descent (Early Exit)*

Halfway along the top of La Descent, and before you hit the drop down, you turn right through the trees into a short and punchy powder steep that rarely gets ridden. In good powder however, it is sometimes a struggle to hike out of as the exit is quite flat.

#### *Bombadier*

This run has been omitted from the current trail maps but has existed in past maps and brochures. Only after a good fall is this run rideable and only for a period of one or two days thereafter as a drainage creek forms in the middle splitting the run in half. It lies between the run Drops on the Rocks and the Maltese lift trail and is typically entered from Maltese cross run (however this usually involves ducking/jumping the rope that closes it off). An alternate entry point is at the bottom of Slam Dunk, shooting through the trees to the skiers right, and across a (usually busy) lift trail.



### Lift Tickets

The lift ticket office is located near the bottom of Hut Run, however it is a local-known fact that instead of having to walk to the lift ticket office from the day carpark, you can actually head down Candle Heath Drive to the bottom of Maltese T-bar (and upon mentioning to the lifties that you are doing this) you are allowed to travel up the lift to come down Hut Run to get to the lift ticket office.

### Getting There

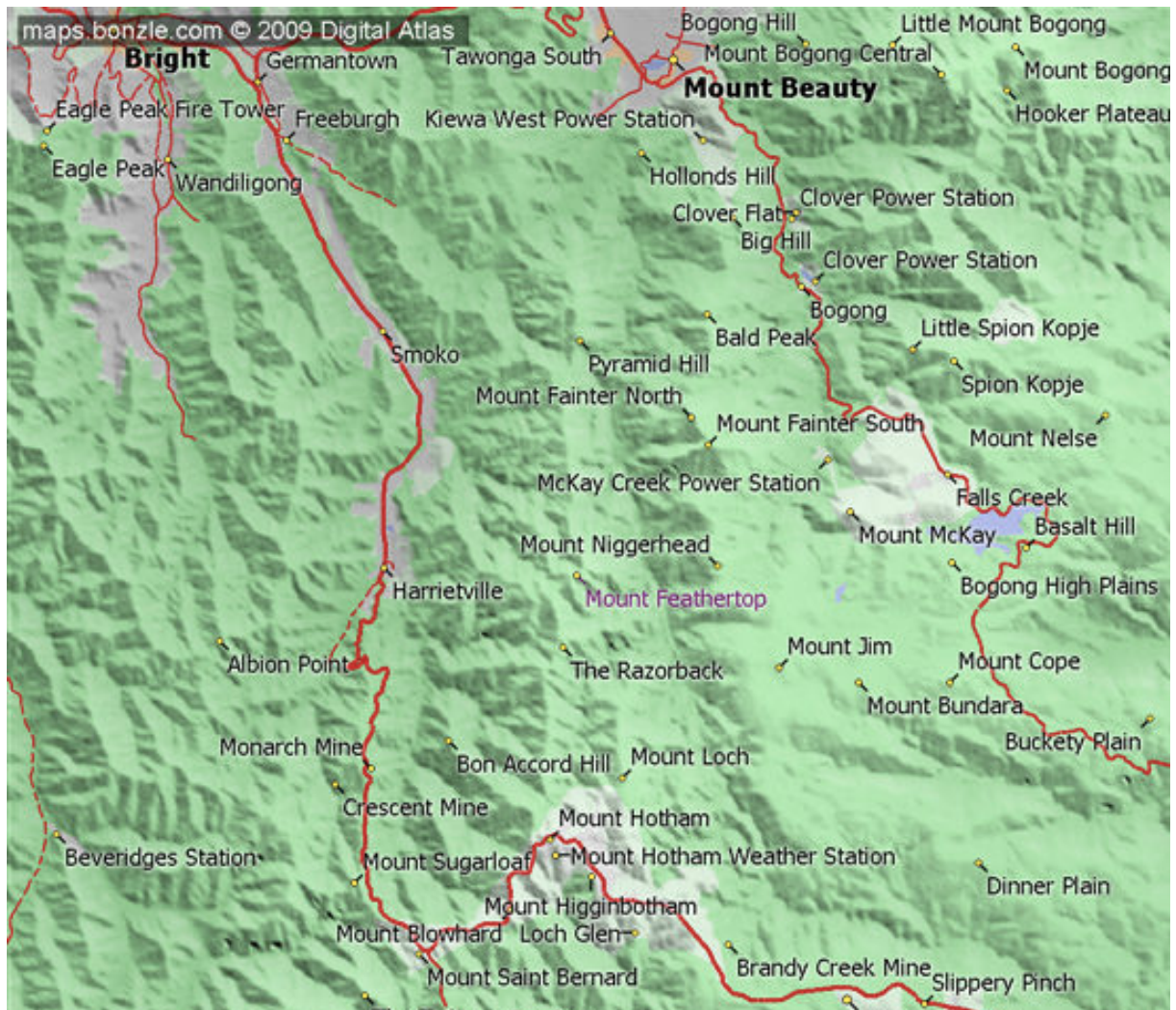
#### *From Moe*

You can get onto this road by heading north at the Princess Highway Traffic Lights at the western end of Trafalgar or from Moe you head to the northern end of Moore Street and turn left. You continue on this road past the towns of Willow Grove and Hill End until you reach the intersection of Mount Baw Baw Tourist Road at Icy Creek.

Parking is done in one of the 5 car parks, with the day carpark located closest to the village (which will fill up by 10am on a busy weekend) and working their way down the road. All carparks are located within 500m of the village, so walking isn't a problem.

Resort Entry is 30\$.

## 1.5 Touring Victoria



### 1.5.1 Mount Bogong (1986m)

AWESOME !! The biggest runs in Victoria

Mount Bogong is a popular backcountry skiing mountain through winter but only has snow for the mid winter-spring months. It is around 30 km by road and walking track or 12 km direct to Mount Beauty. There are many routes up Mt. Bogong for hikers, including (going clockwise) Staircase Spur, Eskdale Spur, Long Spur, Duane Spur, and Quartz Ridge. All involve a climb of more than 600 metres from the saddle or creek at the base of these spurs.

**RATING:** Approach Steepness – is hard, shortest is Eskdale spur. You need to allow minimum of a three hour climb with gear to summit ridge. Other approaches tend to be considerably longer

The two main walking trails lead to the summit. The Staircase and Eskdale Spur both begin at Mountain Creek Picnic Ground. A 4WD fire trail (closed during winter) connects these two trails at the base of the mountain. Both trails are of moderate difficulty. The Staircase is a 16 km return trip, normally taking 6-9 hours return, while the Eskdale Spur is a 20 km return trip, normally taking 8-11 hours return.



**Staircase Spur.** Turn in to Mountain Creek picnic area and drive another 2 km to where you can park at the locked gate. A few km of flat country gets you to the base of the Staircase (sign posted), then a long haul through foothill forests eventually brings you out into gorgeous snowgum country on a bench-like ridge at Bivouac Hut (roughly 1,350 m asl). The country from here is especially badly burnt out, with intense regrowth along the steep haul up to the treeline.

The Staircase Spur may be one of the most difficult tracks you ever walk due to its steep slopes. From the base of the staircase it is 6kms to the summit. Halfway up the staircase is Bivoac Hut which sits about 3kms from the summit on a little flat section, it offers emergency refuge, camp sites and a resting spot before heading to the summit.

The **Eskdale spur** is pretty much the Staircase Spur's brother. It stretches about 8kms to the summit and its very steep. Although a little more forgiving, the top of the Eskdale Spur where it is exposed is soo steep you might wonder why you ever decided to walk "up" the eskdale spur. Just over half way up the Eskdale Spur is Mitchel Hut which was burnt down in the bush fires but rebuilt after the fires had been put out. Mitchel Hut provides emergency refuge, toilets, camp sites and a resting area before the tough climb ahead.

*Eskdale Spur.* If you continue past the Mountain Creek picnic area, on Mountain Creek road, you will start to climb into the ranges. At a saddle, there is a right hand turn (dirt, 2WD in most conditions) named Trappers Gap track. Turn here and follow this for a few kilometres to an obvious saddle with a parking spot on the left. Eskdale Spur trail starts here. It is shorter than Staircase and more direct and also starts about 300 metres higher, so is quicker and easier than Staircase. The only caution here is that the road can be quite slippery in wet conditions, exercise caution especially on the descent down Trappers Gap road into the saddle.

As you would imagine the highest point in Victoria is not the easiest place to get to. No lifts, no sealed roads and not the easiest place to get too without a 4WD. We drive to the base of Eskdale Spur or the Gate below Granite Flat spur and walk from there. Yes walk and with 25+ kg packs the kness buckle a bit for the first few k's. Michelles hut is a welcome site going up Eskdale and is usually the spot for lunch and hopefully the start of the snow. From here it is time to rug up and leave the tree line behind and aim for Hell Gap. Most years you are able to ski from Hell Gap and do the big traverse and the final decent to Cleve Cole Hut. This is a real oasis and popular area to stay, either in the hut or pitching a tent. From here you are free to explore the gullies and ski till the snow runs out. You can literally head out in any direction from the hut and find slopes to ski. Of course the most popular and some of the best runs are off Cairn Gully. This is where you end up if you follow Eskdale over the ridge past Hell Gap. Standing in Hell Gap the summit is on the right and is a great starting place before the plummit down hill. From Hell Gap you can head straight into Cairn, this is the easiest of the decents. The hardest includes Tombstone gully wich is one of the shoots coming of the summit ridge.

#### Route

The routes themselves are reasonably limited in that they all cross over the long and exposed summit ridge. Bushwalking notes are widely available for all the access routes.

In terms of skiing, there are a vast range of options. At the more gentle end are the snowgum woodlands below Cleve Cole hut. For deeper, steeper runs, there is a map of named routes in Cleve Cole hut.

Its all pretty obvious when you're there:

- there is lots of easier stuff in the centre of the Cairn Creek valley to the south of the summit itself. As you go westwards (towards Quartz Knob and under Hooker Plateau) there are steeper and harder gullies and shutes squeezed between rocky ridges and outcrops. The

high and exposed Hooker Plateau provides a great (though very exposed) spot to camp and try out all the great slopes at that end of the mountain.

- The west face below Quartz Knob is also really impressive. The ridge itself, which drops quite steeply to the south and Bogong Creek Saddle is excellent in its upper sections. There is a beautiful basin in Bogong Creek below Stirling Gap (as you head out to West Peak). My personal advice is **DON'T EVEN THINK** of descending off West Peak onto Little Mount Bogong unless you love endless and steep scrub bashing.

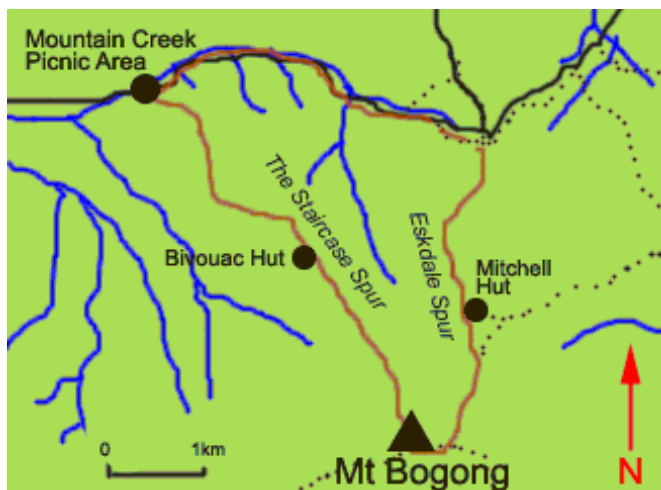
- North side. Some of the higher sections of the gullies between Staircase, Eskdale and Audax Ridges and the big drops below (and east of) Audax Point are also fantastic. You can ski the basins and climb back out via the ridges.

I haven't really checked out the direct northern face between Black Saddle and the top of the Staircase but it is certainly impressive looking.

- lower down near Cleve Cole hut. As you descend the ridge from Taddell Point towards Cleve Cole you drop into (largely burnt) snowgum woodland. As you follow the snow poles towards the hut there is a nice broad and open slope that ends in Camp Valley, which is always a nice end to the day if you're camping in or around the hut. There is some really nice skiing through the trees out along and below Horse Ridge (the east side is well protected in bad weather). As noted above, there is a map of described runs in this area located in Cleve Cole.

If the weather is good, try a trip out to the West Peak. It has terrific views and some magnificent gullies of it's own. It is an easy trip, but keep an eye out for fast approaching fronts. There is no pole line to follow if the weather whites out, you really need your wits about you. This is one of my very favorite places, which I hope to continue visiting for many years to come. Hopefully I'll take my daughters up here skiing one day and they can see where Daddy has been going all these years. So if you get the chance take a look at the place for yourself summer or winter and you'll see why I keep going back to Bogong.

NTW an easier way up is Eskdale Spur. Drive a 4wd to Camp Ck Gap, then hike on up. You can base at Mitchell's and camp outside, cook inside.



[http://www.users.bigpond.com/chris\\_and\\_brenda/XCD.htm](http://www.users.bigpond.com/chris_and_brenda/XCD.htm)

[http://wikiski.com/wiki/index.php/Mt\\_Bogong](http://wikiski.com/wiki/index.php/Mt_Bogong)

### 1.5.2 Mount Feathertop (1922m)

Mount Feathertop is the second-highest mountain in the Australian state of Victoria. It rises to 1,922 metres. Snow remaining in the summit gullies in spring give the appearance of feathers - hence the name "Feathertop".

The main access routes are the Razorback, Bungalow Spur and the North-West Spur. The Razorback is a very popular walk in summer and it is a spectacular ski tour in winter. The Razorback starts near the Mount Hotham ski resort and is the shortest route. The proximity of the mountain to this ski resort has led to Mount Feathertop becoming a popular back country skiing destination. The Bungalow Spur track starts near Harrietville. It starts at an elevation of only 480m and after the first few kilometres has steep switchbacks up most of the mountain.

The terrific trail from Mt Hotham to the summit of Mt Feathertop (1,922m) follows the jagged, craggy backbone of the Razorback ridge above the tree line. This track is for the skilled and adventurous and usually takes an entire day if not more. Starting at Diamantina Hut, the track descends to a saddle called Big Dipper, passing through open snow grass, low shrubs and snow gum woodlands on its way to the rocky bluffs and Mt Feathertop beyond. The spectacular panoramic views from the peak extend across the Alps and the Victorian high country

**RATING:** Approach Steepness II - mostly moderate grades but exposure on summit ridge. Possible with an early start to get there and get some sliding in a day, before first night there. If you want to do the big lines it is much better to have a minimum of 2 nights at camp, so one or more full days to explore the mountain.

**PITCH:** S3-S5

**EXPOSURE:** significant!! all slopes end abruptly in rocks, cliffs, creek or trees. you will slide a long way fast if it is icy. consider avalanche conditions. the summit ridge may be icy due to wind scouring. crampons advisable.

**CORNICE WARNING:** The cornice on the east of the summit ridge gets big and can be unstable. It may be technically possible to drop the cornice and ski away, but if you have any regard for personal safety to do not think about it when it is big, and do not stand on the cornice. If it breaks away and you die, you will not even have the distinction of being the first! You can get around the main cornices by taking a smaller drop onto a subsidiary ridge, then pick your line.

#### Mountain huts

There are two huts on the mountain. Melbourne University Mountain Club (MUMC) hut is situated on the North-West Spur close to the tree line.[1] It has a unique dome shape, and has an upstairs sleeping area.[2] Federation Hut is situated at the top of Bungalow Spur near Little Feathertop, and was rebuilt in 2005 after it was destroyed by the 2003 Eastern Victorian alpine bushfires.



## 2 NEW SOUTH WALES

### 2.1 Selwyn Snow Fields

Fantastic beginners and low intermediates family oriented mountain. Offers skiing and boarding more protected from the elements than other resorts and is a great introductory resort.

#### Ski Facts

Low	High	Vertical	Lifts	Runs (Number)	Runs (km)	Area (ha)	Blue	Red	Black	Price
1492	1614	122	12			45	40	48	12	70

#### Bumps

You will be lucky to find any but if you do they will be in Pig Gulley or Race Course. It is short and sweet so good for the ego but that's about it.



#### Getting There

Easy drive in with none of the dramas of Victorian alpine roads. It is gentle grades all the way and not too windy. Access is either via Tumut from the west or Cooma from the East. Between Kiandra and Cabramurra

You will be required to pay an entry fee for the National Park which is \$27 per vehicle per day.

The main carpark is right next to the runs and easy access, the overflow is only about 100m down the road.

<http://www.selwynsnow.com.au/>

## 2.2 Thredbo

Thredbo is widely considered to be the best resort in Australia. It has Australia's greatest vertical, at 621 metres, and all the facilities of a major resort. It boasts Australia's highest lift, but also the mainland's lowest base, at just 1365 metres, below the natural snowline.

### Ski Facts

Low	High	Vertical	Lifts	Runs (Number)	Runs (km)	Area (ha)	Blue	Red	Black	Price
1365	2037	672	14			480	16	67	17	99

### Off Piste

So many options here. The glades directly under the Gunbarrel express will offer powder briefly before being tracked out but has some gladed tree skiing if you head in from Merritts side. Powderbowl, long the secret of the locals was opened up when the new Cruiser chair lifted straight over the top of it!

High off Karels gives you options of heading out to the Golf course bowl area or dropping back into Funnelweb.

### Out of Bounds

Fair range of options, Stanleys is probably the most visible but not for anyone but the expert. You can naturally tour in towards the main range and also head out to the Ramshead area. Signature hill lies just out of bounds in towards the main range.

Stanleys and Twin Valleys are on the eastern fall of the Ramshead range between the skitube at Bullocks Flat and Thredbo. Beyond these two well known localities, much of this aspect of the Ramsheads above the tree line provides a variety of skiing possibilities for a variety of skill levels.

#### *Twin Valleys*

These valleys NE of Thredbo below the Ramshead Range were once considered for resort development. The terrain is highly visible from the Alpine Way and accumulates and conserves snow very well. The skiable routes mainly venture to the tree line.

#### *Twin Valleys*

TV is a great area of bowls and gullies, and was the site of a serious proposition to set up a new ski resort in the late 1970's. We got Blue Cow instead. The area is big, with the feel in the higher intermediate - advanced side of things. The site holds a lot of snow, swinging around a fair bit of the compass.

#### *George Chisolms Run*

The Chisolm run was an early racetrack and follows a good ridgeline down off the peaks. Fun stuff. Gullies and bowls as far as the cover of the season allows. Some great tree skiing to be had in this area.

Exit via climbing back out from the tree line and returning via the high ground. The trafficability within the tree canopy is notoriously difficult and perilous. Avoid temptations to make for the river or the alpine way.

### *Stanleys*

Stanleys can be seen just off to the right from the the Cruiser Chair at Thredbo it is a steep gorge that drops rapidly from above the tree line into the Thredbo River at the bottom.

Easily accessed from the top of the Cruiser Chair at Thredbo. It is out of bounds and not part of the resort. The easiest return is to turn skiers right just before you hit the trees and traverse back around to Merritts otherwise you are in for a big hike. Exit via climbing back out from the tree line and returning via the high ground. The trafficability within the tree canopy is notoriously difficult and perilous. Avoid temptations to make for the river or the Alpine Way.

It takes longer to hike out than you first think. Once down in the trees the hike back to the road is quite a long way, don't underestimate it. You will also have to cross the Thredbo River at the bottom. Alternatively pull out early and head back to Merritts.

### **Powder Zones**

There is lots of places to find powder at Thredbo after a decent fall but you have to be fast on many of them as they are tracked out quickly.

The first tracked out is probably the Powder Bowl which is right under the Cruiser chair on Merritts. Basically just follow the lift line back down and you can't miss it. If you ski to the bottom follow the boundary rope back out and it will bring you back via the T-bar for beginner borders, alternatively ski the top half and then cut back to the Chair and out following its lines.

Directly under Gunbarrel Chair and out via Dream Run. This area is called the Glades and because you can see it from the Chair and access it from the top of the chair easily it too doesn't last long. By heading back to Merritts and down from that side you can get another run or two before it is tracked out.

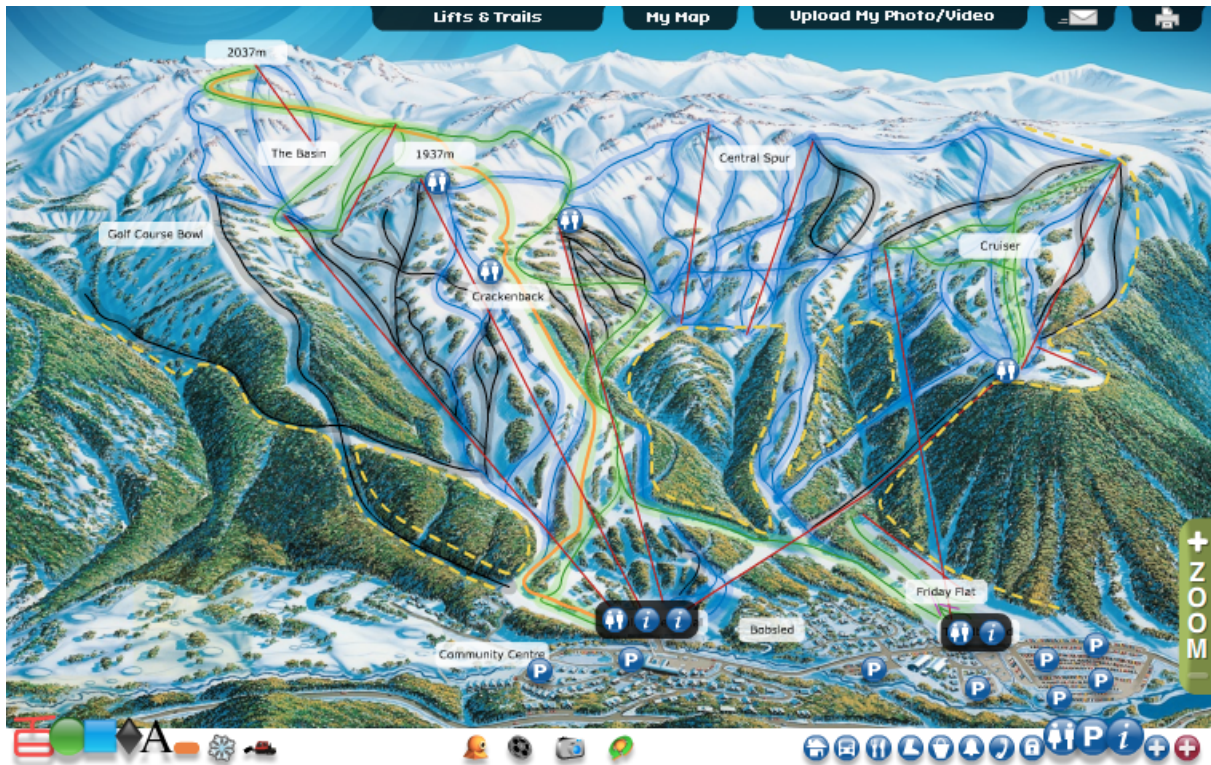
Immediately above Gunbarrel Chair offers some good powder via Micheals Mistake but to access this you have to go up Anton's T-bar and across to it. It lasts a bit longer than some of the other areas.

The Bluff off the top of the Crackenback chair also offers freshies and they pile up there as windblown as well. Also tracked out quickly.

Apart from going searching (Golf Course Bowl etc) the other powder options include from the top of Antons back towards Merritts and then down into Merritts, this tends to last a bit longer as it is quite a traverse to get to and then a long run out and around to Antons to do again. Gets great windblown there and can be refreshed all day.

High off Karels and down into Funnelweb is another one that lasts longer as you have to know where you are going but often yields great freshies for at least a few hours after lifts open!





### Tickets

Tickets can be purchased either on the mountain or via some outlets in Jindabyne. On mountain, the main points of sale are at Friday Flat, adjacent to the Day Parking Lot, and outside the base building at the bottom of the Kosciusko Express

### Getting there

About 5 km past Jindabyne there is a left turn onto the Alpine Way. This turn is signposted Thredbo.

From Melbourne you can get to Tallangatta then take the Alpine Way across Dead Horse Gap to Thredbo. You will be required to carry chains on this route. An alternative that may be faster, and which does not have the problem of possible snow on Dead Horse Gap is to travel through Gippsland to Cann Valley, and then following the Cann Valley Way to Jindabyne.

### Parking

The day parking area is at Friday Flat near the base of the Gunbarrel Chair. After you turn off The Alpine Way at the Thredbo resort entry follow the road across the river and turn into the Day Parking lot via the turning lane on your left. If you reach the roundabout you've gone to far - turn around!

## 2.3 Perisher

Perisher has the most lifts and covers the largest area of any Australian resort. It is an amalgamation of four separate but interconnected ski areas: Perisher, Smiggin Holes, Blue Cow and Guthega. Skiers and boarders can ski and board from one end to the other, assuming adequate snow cover. In early/late season and in bad seasons, the interconnections do not always have snow on them. Perisher is a huge resort and can be skied all day without having to catch the same lift twice. A master plan for the development of the ski area and village was developed with work commencing on some parts in 2003 with further work (mainly snowmaking) being carried out each summer. There is no set completion date and is expected to take a number of years. In 2008 and 2009 more summer snowmaking was installed, particularly from the Midstation of the Forester Quad down Happy Valley and then up Towers.

### Ski Facts

Low	High	Vertical	Lifts	Runs (Number)	Runs (km)	Area (ha)	Blue	Red	Black	Price
1605	2034	429	49			1245	20	60	20	104

### Off Piste

There are many areas for off piste skiing. Out wide on Eyre is always worth a look after a fresh fall. There are some interesting but short shots in the trees in Centre Valley near the Leichhardt T-bar. Rock Garden off the Ridge Chair is a great run if there is enough snow to cover most of the rocks. Also try Outer Limits off Ridge. Kamikaze can also be good. There are some great turns to be had to skiers' left of the Interceptor chair, not to mention the distant delights of the North Perisher T-bar. Another popular off piste run is going left at the top of Brumby t-bar, through the trees and ending up at the ridge. Burnum Burnum, off the top of the Sun Valley T bar and dropping into Sun Valley below the bottom of that T bar has some nice tree skiing.

[

### Out of Bounds

There are many options. A popular run is from the top of the Blue Cow t-bar at Guthega down through to the trees on the opposite side of the mountain to the ski area. You end up finishing on the Guthega Road and can walk back to the Carpark Double chair.

It is possible to ski off the back of Mt Perisher down to Guthega, but the last bit is a bit flat.

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### Eyre to Guthega in 3 Lifts, and Other Tricks to Getting Around Perisher

The Eyre T-Bar and Guthega are at opposite ends of Perisher. Although the place is big, it is not hard to get around once you are familiar with the lift system (although calling what appears to be a random scattering of lifts a "system" may be a bit of a stretch).

From the top of Eyre slide down Sun Valley and cut through the gap in the trees to the bottom of Happy Valley. Ride Happy Valley, then cut under mid station on the Quad (or Freelanders) Chair and then down into Pretty Valley. Go past the bottom of Pretty Valley Chair and head for Interceptor. From the top of Interceptor drop into Pleasant Valley to the Brumby T-bar. From the top of the T slide past Blue Cow terminal and hang a left to the Guthega traverse. Voila!!



## Ski Down Under

Not steep. A few lift lines if done at the wrong time of day. Not exciting but doable, with not much traversing. There are quite a few pleasant diversions on the way to make it more interesting.

You can also go to the bottom of the Quad from the top of Happy Valley, and get around into Pleasant Valley from the top of the Quad. This is more direct, but the first route was intended to show that nowhere in Perisher is more than 3 lift rides from anywhere else.

If you go past the bottom of Brumby you are on Roller Coaster, which takes you to the bottom of the Ridge Chair.

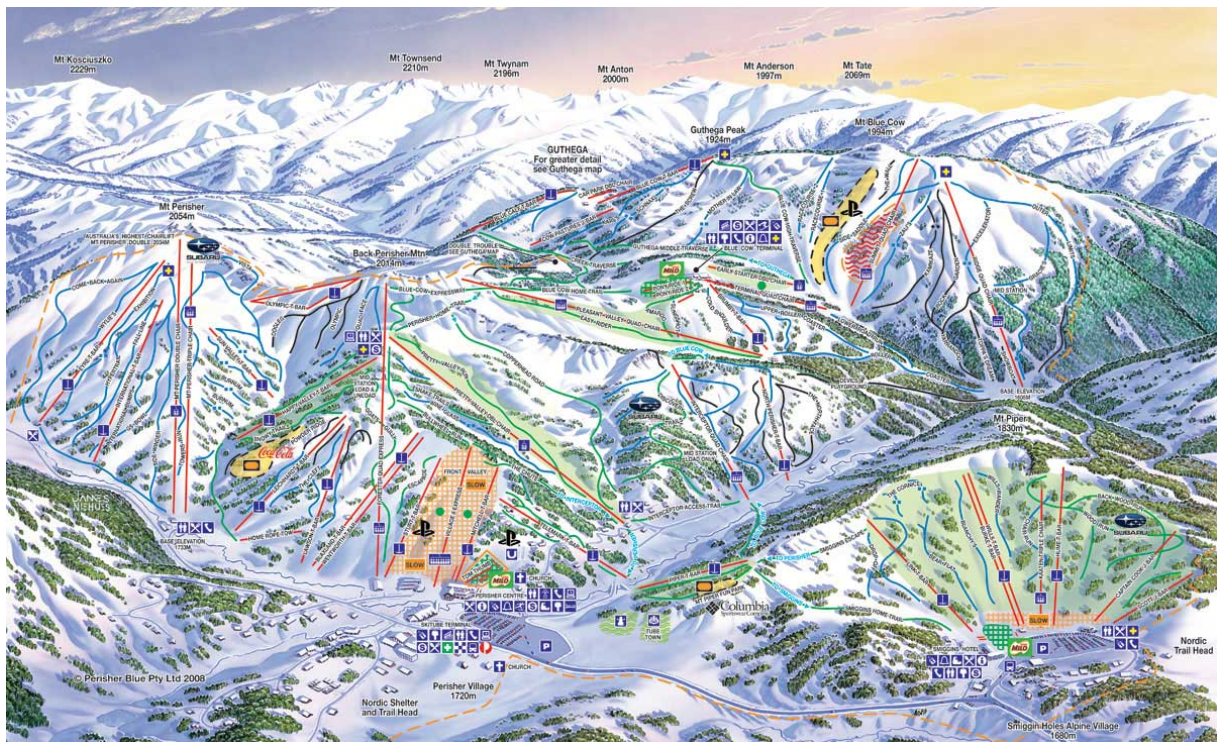
To get to Smiggins go straight ahead past the bottom of Pretty Valley across to the Piper T-bar.

To get back from Guthega, take the return trail to the bottom of Terminal Chair. From the top of Terminal get across to Pleasant Valley (this bit is a bit flat). From the top of Pleasant Valley, take Copperhead Rd back to the bottom of Pretty Valley. From here, you can slide around to the bottom of Telemark (to get you into Front Valley) or Piper (to get you to Smiggins). You can get to the bottom of Sun Valley, and the Mt Perisher Chairs, from the top of Pretty Valley Chair. Unfortunately the Pleasant Valley Chair is the chair in PB most susceptible to wind. If it goes on wind hold a vital link in the return strategy is taken out, and you have to catch the Ski Tube back to Perisher.

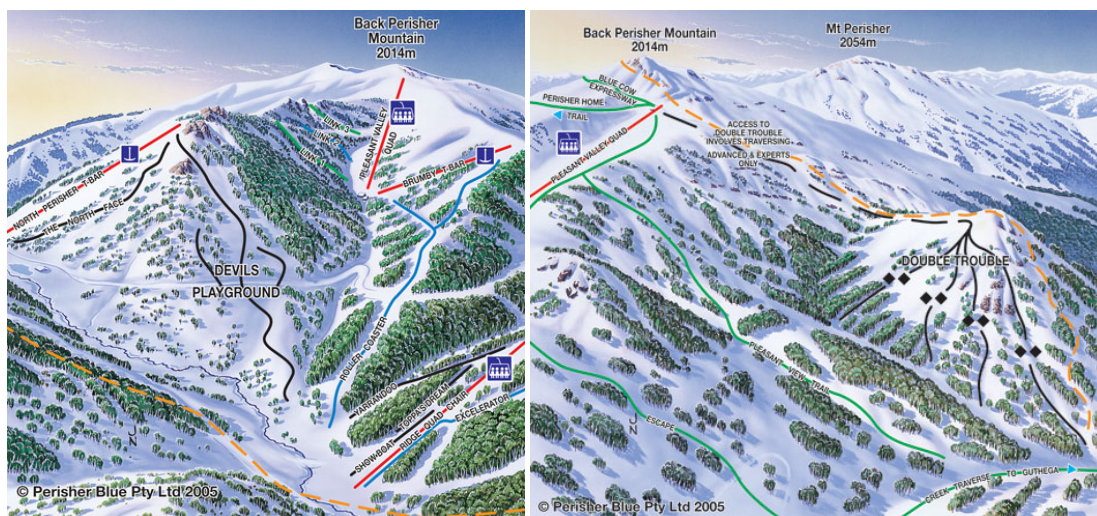
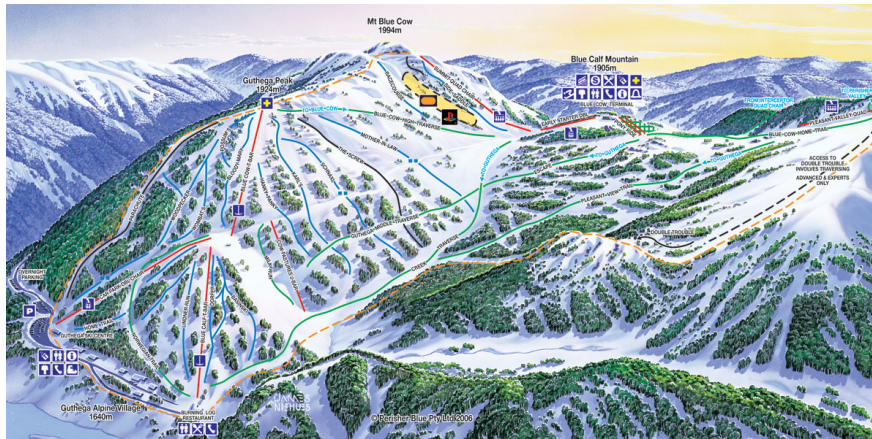
## Powder Zones

### Powder at Perisher

- Out wide on Eyre.
- Outer Limits off the Ridge Chair at Blue Cow.
- The trees at Guthega.
- North P T-bar and Interceptor.







## Tickets

You can get combined lift and Skitube tickets. Travel on the Skitube between Perisher and Blue Cow is included in an ordinary lift ticket.

## First Tracks Mornings

First Tracks allows a limited number of guests to experience the exhilaration of skiing or boarding before anyone else. From 7.30 - 9am on Tuesdays and Thursdays in July, August and September, guests of an intermediate to advanced level can enjoy the first runs of the day on Eyre T-Bar. Check with Guest Services for bookings and conditions. Conditions apply: subject to demand and weather conditions, bookings must be made by 3pm the day prior

## Getting There

About 5 km past Jindabyne there is a left turn onto the Alpine Way. This turn is signposted Thredbo and the Skitube. If you want to drive to Perisher drive straight ahead at this intersection. If you are looking for the Skitube turn left.

If you are travelling from Victoria, get to Albury then head to Khancoban via Tallangatta and across the Alpine Way via Thredbo. You will need to carry chains if you are driving the Alpine Way in winter. An alternative that may be faster, and which does not have the problem of possible snow on Dead Horse Gap is to travel through Gippsland to Cann Valley, and then following the Cann Valley Way to Jindabyne.

Whether you choose the Skitube or drive for day visits (ignoring road and weather conditions) depends on how many people are travelling. The Skitube is a per person rate, whereas park



## Ski Down Under

entry is per car. If one person is travelling the tube is cheaper. For 2 or more driving is cheaper. There's also FREE day and overnight parking at Bullocks Flat.

Because the Bullocks Flat Terminal is well below the normal snow line and only 20km from Jindabyne, it's an easy drive. Frequent train services run to Perisher Valley and on to Blue Cow Mountain. A Skitube pass includes the Kosciuszko National Park entry fee and savings can be made by buying a combined Train and Mountain pass.

### **Parking**

For day parking there is a large, open carpark in Perisher, which often fills on weekends. There is also parking at Smiggins and Guthega. Parking at Smiggins is a good plan. You are a lot closer to lifts and ticket offices than you are in the Perisher carpark, and in most years you can ski from Smiggins to the rest of the resort. It is great when riding with a young family because you don't have to carry child and gear very far. And sometimes you don't have to fit chains to Smiggins when you do to Perisher.

## 2.4 Charlotte Pass

Charlotte Pass is unique for a number of reasons, it is the only snowbound resort in Australia. To get to the ski resort you have to use the oversnow transport from Perisher Valley since that is the only way in! Charlotte Pass also owns the record for the lowest temperature ever recorded in Australia, a chilly temperature of -23 degrees Celsius.

### Ski Facts

Low	High	Vertical	Lifts	Runs (Number)	Runs (km)	Area (ha)	Blue	Red	Black	Price
1755	1964	210	5			50	30	50	20	89

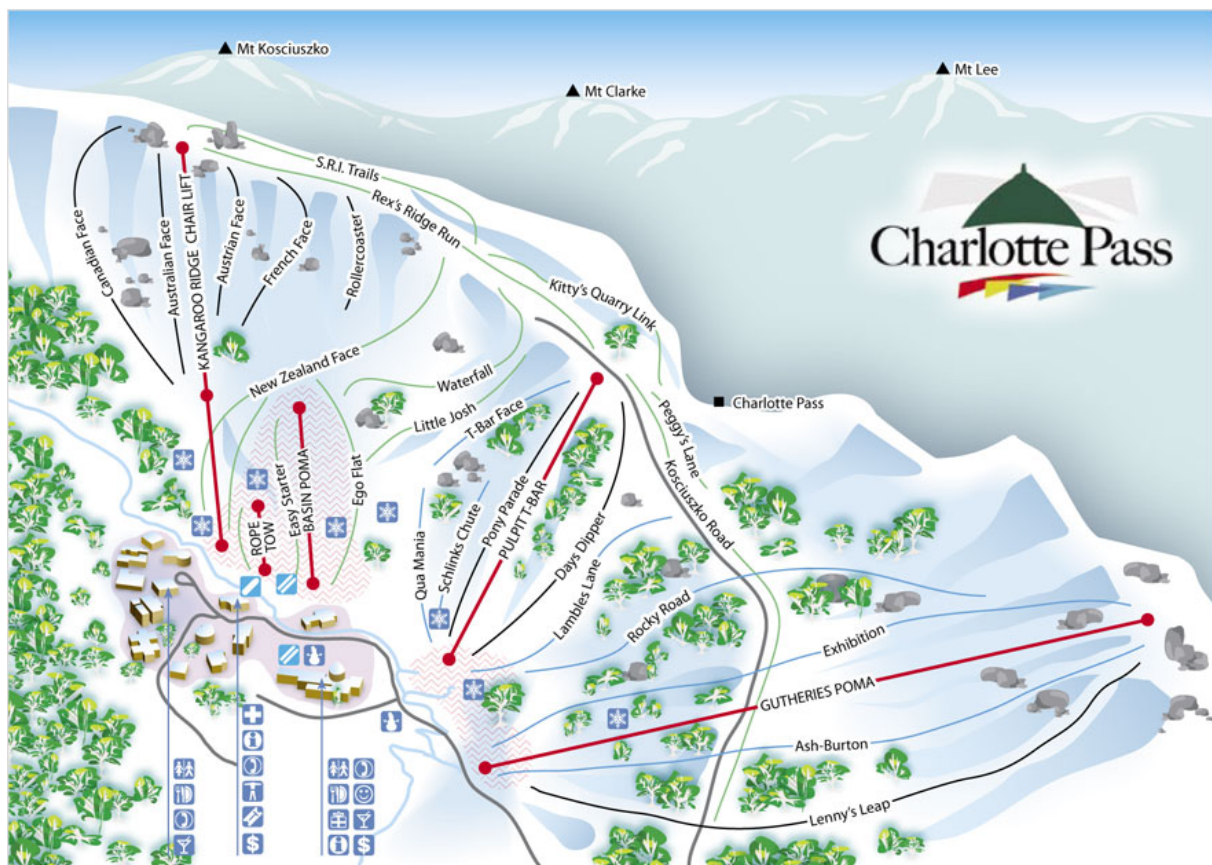
The resort is also very popular with cross-country skiers, as the village provides immediate access to Australia's highest peaks.

### Off Piste

The main off piste areas are to the wide right and left of the resort. Guthries offers quite a bit of off piste skiing and with some hiking even a small chute or two. There is some great tree skiing out this way as well. The other side of the resort of Kangaroo Ridge head wide skiers right and off behind the lodges and ski down through the trees for a great off piste experience.

### Mt. Stilwell

Would make some very nice long runs. Could also act as a possible link run to Threadas or Twin Vallys.



### **Powder Zones**

The main powder zones at Charlottes are wide off either end lift (Kangaroo Ridge or Guthries). Like all lifted powder areas if you want the powder next to the lift you have to be out early but as the day progresses you can steadily track out wider with each run and often pick up freshies for the entire day tracking just one run wider each time.

### **Getting There**

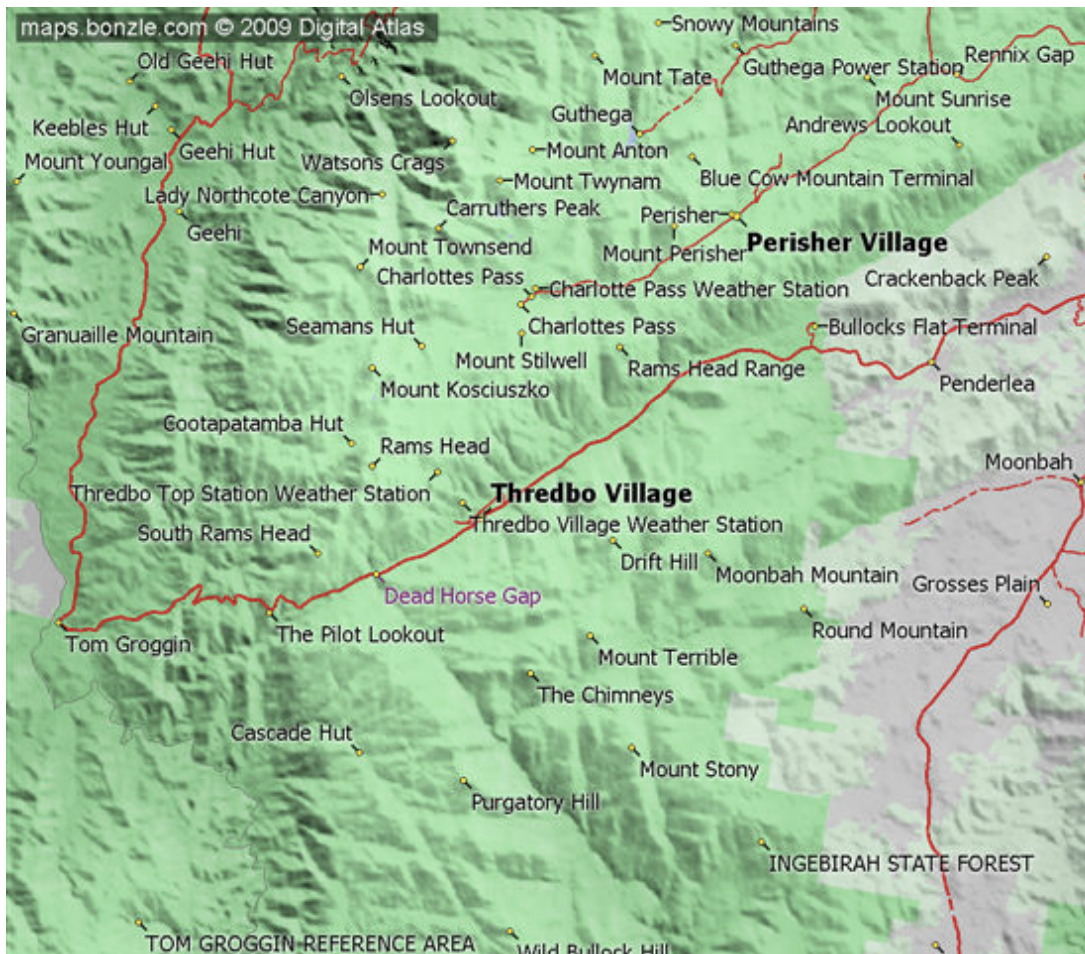
Simply drive to the Bullocks Flat Skitube Terminal, where long term parking is available. From there catch the Skitube to Perisher Valley where you will meet your Charlotte Pass oversnow transport.

Charlotte Pass Ski Resort offers a full day skiing experience. For the cost of your Day Trip Ticket you receive oversnow transport from the Perisher Skitube Terminal to Charlotte Pass return, a full day lift pass and a hot lunch at the Kosciuszko Chalet Hotel.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlotte\\_Pass,\\_New\\_South\\_Wales](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlotte_Pass,_New_South_Wales)

[http://wikiski.com/wiki/index.php/Charlotte\\_Pass](http://wikiski.com/wiki/index.php/Charlotte_Pass)

## 2.5 Tour the Main Range



### 2.5.1 Mount Kosciuszka (2228m)

At Charlottes Pass, 1840m, there is a large car park that can be reached via the Kosciuszko Road. Beyond this car park, one can continue either on foot or on bike via a gravel track heading west. Cars are forbidden here. It passes Seaman's Hut, an old stone-walled, metal-roofed emergency refuge and the highest building in Australia. The track finally circles around the back (north) of the summit to end after 8 km, only a stone's throw from the highest point. This route is mostly taken by cross-country skiers during the winter months.

Thredbo: This trail begins with a 600 m ascent through forested terrain, but most people take the Crackenback Chairlift to the same point and save two hours of steep walking. From there, it is 7km on a steel track to the summit.

Mt Kosciuszko may be the highest point in Australia but it doesn't offer great skiing. The terrain isn't all that exciting and its exposed positioning generally results in hard packed conditions in all but a few areas.

The most noticeable feature of Mt Kosciuszko in winter is a huge cornice that forms at the top of the south east facing slopes, above Lake Cootapatamba. Unless you're into 30m free falls hucking the cornice mid winter probably isn't the smartest idea. In any case the underlying slope, whilst very steep, only offers around 100 vertical metres of skiing. In late spring the cornice becomes a lot more skier friendly and the short steep lines below it can be skied much safer.



With the exception of the slopes beneath the cornice the western face of Mt Kosciuszko offers the steepest skiing. The western face of Mt Kosciuszko is fully exposed to the prevailing westerly and the afternoon sun, which can lead to some interesting effects on the snow over. The western face is also covered in large jagged bits of granite. These points aside the skiing can be very rewarding in the right conditions. The cover on this side of the mountain doesn't last long once things heat up.

For a long cruisey run point your skis south and tram line it to the southern face, some 1200m from the summit. The southern face presents a long gentle cruiser down to Cootapatambu Hut. A small lip to skiers right promotes snow deposition in this area and it can be skiable after as little as 20cm of snow has fallen at the ski resorts. A good place to head if your desperate to ski after that first significant fall for the year. The aspect of this slope also means that it holds snow well into late spring/early summer.

The slopes that head east from the summit and the north spur present skiers with cruisey runs into Rawson Creek. These slopes catch the morning sun and corn up nicely during spring. The north east facing slopes of Mt Kosciuszko slope gently into Rawson Creek. They are relatively protected from the wind so they can hold fresh snow and also corn up nicely in spring.

Repeat skiing any of the runs off Mt Kosciuszko is pretty straight forward. Only the cornice above the south east face prevents skiers from returning to the summit for another run.

Closest access to Mt Kosciuszko is the top of Thredbo. The next best access points are from Dead Horse Gap and Charlotte Pass.

[http://www.ozbc.net/nsw\\_kos.htm](http://www.ozbc.net/nsw_kos.htm)

*Eine fast gescheiterte Bergbesteigung, erlebt von Walter Treibel*

Eigentlich ist er ja trotz seiner geringen Höhe von 2228 Metern ein ganz "Großer" - der höchste Berg Australiens und damit an sich einer der berühmten "Seven Summits"! Aber als kleinster, einfachster und unspektakulärster Gipfel wird er in dieser illustren Runde einfach nicht ernst genommen und wurde deshalb sogar aus den "echten" Seven Summits ausgeschlossen.

Der Mount Kosciusko liegt leicht zugänglich im gleichnamigen Nationalpark im Südosten von Australien, ungefähr zwischen Sydney und Melbourne, den großen Städten des Kontinents. Von Canberra, der Retortenhauptstadt des Landes, ist er sogar nur 2,5 Autostunden entfernt.

Am Ende eines vierwöchigen Australienurlaubs möchte ich den Berg zum Abschluß besteigen - eher eine lästige Pflichtübung als ein Reiseziel oder Höhepunkt. Nach meinen vielen Expeditionen der letzten Jahre habe ich diesmal bewußt etwas anderes gesucht. Zwei Tauchkurse beziehungsweise Bootsfahrten am "Great Barrier Reef", eine Fahrt in den Regenwald sowie eine Woche im echten australischen "Outback" mit einem Geländewagen um Alice Springs und den Ayers Rock liegen hinter mir und haben mir unter Wasser sowie in der Wüste und im Urwald wieder intensive Eindrücke und Erlebnisse vermittelt. Der Ayers Rock - der zweitgrößte Felsmonolith der Erde und eine der Hauptsehenswürdigkeiten Australiens - gilt bei den Aborigines, den Ureinwohnern des Kontinents, als heilig, und beim farbtintensiven Sonnenaufgang und besonders beim Sonnenuntergang kommt auch wirklich eine mystische Stimmung auf.

Die Besteigung dieses Berges ist technisch einfach - ein harmloser Klettersteig, an dem allerdings bereits 25 Menschen ums Leben gekommen sind, führt auf den höchsten Punkt des Monoliths, den noch weit über hundert andere Touristen an diesem Tag mit mir erreichen. Da war mein nächtlicher Dreiviertel-Aufstieg am Vortag nach Sonnenuntergang sehr viel einsamer und abenteuerlicher!  
Zum höchsten Berg Australiens

Aber zurück zum Mount Kosciusko. Von Sydney aus nehme ich mir erneut einen Leihwagen - bis zum Rückflug habe ich noch drei Tage Zeit: Den ersten brauche ich für die unerwartet lange Anreise (mehr als 500 Kilometer) und die Besichtigung der australischen Hauptstadt Canberra. Erst spät am Abend treffe ich in dem Dorf Thredbo am Fuße des Berges ein. Im August ist hier auf der Südhalbkugel gerade Winter, und in den Hochlagen liegt überall Schnee. Thredbo ist eines der Wintersportzentren Australiens - ein kleines, aber exklusives Touristendorf in etwa 1400 Meter Höhe. Daß gerade Hochsaison ist, merke ich schnell bei der Suche nach einer Übernachtungsmöglichkeit. Ich habe kein Glück, alles ist ausgebucht - auch die Jugendherberge hat keinen Platz mehr. Ein "verbilligtes" Einzelzimmer hätte ich sogar doch noch bekommen - aber bei einem Übernachtungspreis von 200 australischen Dollars (das sind ca. 250 DM) lehne ich dankend ab. Das ist mir eine einzige Nacht wirklich nicht wert.

Das Abenteuer Mount Kosciusko fängt ja gut an - meine Stimmung sinkt auf den Nullpunkt, als ich beim nächtlichen Herumrangieren durch einen verborgenen Felsen auch noch eine leichte Delle im vorderen Kotflügel meines Leihwagens fabriziere - zum Glück unter der Fronthaube und damit nicht sichtbar. Ich entschieße mich, einfach in meinem Kleinwagen zu schlafen, meinen Schlafsack habe ich ja schließlich dabei. An einem einsamen Platz außerhalb der Ortschaft baue ich meinen Wagen zum Schlafen um: Rücksitzbank herausnehmen und Lehne umklappen, Beifahrersitz ganz nach vorne schieben und Lehne möglichst flachstellen - eine ebene Fläche gibt das aber immer noch nicht. Ich muß mit allen meinen Ersatzkleidern, Handtüchern usw. die Unebenheiten auspolstern. Endlich bin ich mit dem Ergebnis zufrieden und schlafe die Nacht über relativ gut.

Nach einem kargen Frühstück, das nur aus Keksen besteht, fahre ich nach Thredbo zurück und mache mich zum Skifahren bereit. Vorsichtshalber habe ich meine neuen Carving-Tourenski, meine eigenen Skistiefel und Felle mitgebracht - ein unnötiger "Overkill", wie meine Freundin Rosemary bemerkte. Dafür habe ich bei meiner Kleidung gespart und habe nur meine Berghose, eine Faserpelzjacke und eine winddichte Kombination aus Anorak und Überhose bei mir. Aber, so denke ich, der Gipfel ist ja nur ein harmloser Spaziergang für einen erfahrenen Bergsteiger. Ich bin sogar trotz des schlechten Wetterberichtes und der dicken Wolken am Bergkamm so optimistisch, daß ich mir einen teuren Tages-Skipaß kaufe, um nach der Besteigung noch den restlichen Tag über skifahren zu können. Schließlich habe ich meine Skiausrüstung um die halbe Welt mitgebracht!

### Schlechtwetter am Mount Kosciusko

Die eher flachen Skipisten sind zwar nicht sehr verlockend, und der Schnee ist ziemlich weich, im Tal sogar schon knapp. Das ganze Skigebiet ähnelt eher einem mäßigen Skigebiet aus den europäischen Mittelgebirgen am Saisonende und reißt mich wirklich nicht vom Sitz des Sesselliftes. Die Auffahrt mit diesem ist ganz schön kalt, denn es weht ein stürmischer Wind. Oben angekommen, ziehe ich im Windschatten der höchsten Hütte Australiens (1937 Meter) meine Übersachen, Mütze, Kapuze und Handschuhe an, dann gehe ich los. Von hier aus sind es nur sechs Kilometer und dreihundert Höhenmeter bis zum Gipfel - und damit nur eine lächerliche Übung für einen erfahrenen Höhenbergsteiger wie mich, der schon die "echten und hohen" Seven Summits erstiegen hat. Dieser Berg dient eigentlich nur zur Abrundung meiner Sammlung, die Nummer "acht" meiner sieben Gipfel (Seven Summits).

Schon zu Hause habe ich ziemlich geringschätzig von diesem harmlosen Gipfel gesprochen - nun sollte sich diese Überheblichkeit rächen! Denn plötzlich gibt es ungeahnte Schwierigkeiten.

Vor mir liegt eine wellige Hochfläche ohne markante Geländepunkte im Nebel. Zum "White Out" gesellen sich ein entgegenkommender Sturm und ein wechselnder Regen, der auf Grund des Windes horizontal mit etwa 80 Kilometer pro Stunde auf mich einprasselt. Als harter Bergsteiger ignoriere ich die schlechten Wetterverhältnisse einfach und gehe los. Im Sommer gibt es hier regelrechte Massenwanderungen zum höchsten Gipfel Australiens - bis zu 3000 Wanderer und Spaziergänger sollen ihn an schönen Tagen besteigen. Da diese Menschenmassen natürlich die empfindliche alpine Vegetation stark belasten, wurde hier von der Seilbahnstation ein sogenannter "Stealway" gebaut: ein gebahnter, circa zwei Meter breiter Steg aus engmaschigen Eisengittern (wie über abgedeckten Kellerfenstern). Ich stelle es mir gräßlich vor, hier mit Hunderten von anderen Menschen im Sommer auf dieser Eisenstraße entlangzuwandern!

Ich laufe dagegen mit meinen Tourenskiern völlig alleine gegen den Sturm ins weiße Nichts. Anfangs sehe ich noch Stellen des Eisenweges aus dem Schnee ragen, später stoße ich sogar auf Markierungsstangen und taste mich bei 30 Meter Sichtweite von Holzstange zu Holzstange. Doch scheint mir nach einer Weile die Richtung nicht zu stimmen, es müßte viel weiter links in Richtung Hauptkamm gehen. Als ich ein paar Snowmobil-Spuren sehe, folge ich ihnen bis zum Kamm - aber dann ist Schluß: Der Sturm heult unvermindert, die Sicht ist gleich null - und ich bin ziemlich verunsichert! Jetzt fällt mir auch ein, daß seit zwei Wochen vier Snowboarder in diesem Gebiet vermißt werden und immer noch nicht gefunden wurden (vermutlich sind sie in einer Lawine umgekommen oder in einer selbstgegrabenen Schneehöhle erstickt). Die Snowmobil-Spuren könnten daher wahrscheinlich von den diversen Suchaktionen stammen und sind daher völlig unbrauchbar für meine Orientierung. Vielleicht hätte ich doch besser bei den Markierungen bleiben sollen. Jetzt rächt es sich auch, daß ich keine gute Karte dabei habe. Mein Kompaß nützt mir deshalb herzlich wenig, und außerdem scheint er kaputt zu sein, was ich schon vorher in der australischen Wüste vermutet habe. Also zurück und dann erneut den Holzmarkierungen nach. Aber diese führen eindeutig in die falsche Richtung und noch dazu bergab - wenigstens mein Höhenmesser läßt mich nicht im Stich. Ich bin jetzt ziemlich frustriert und kehre schließlich in meiner eigenen Spur zurück.

Das kann doch nicht sein, daß ich auf diesen lächerlichen Berg nicht hinaufkomme! Wieder zurück im Liftgebiet, treffe ich einen Crosscountry-Skiläufer. Er erklärt mir, daß die Markierungen von der alten Straße stammen, die über den Charlotte-Paß ins nächste Skigebiet führt. Früher war dieser Weg sogar für Geländewagen offen, wurde aber dann aus Gründen des Umweltschutzes gesperrt. Unglaublich - den Mount Kosciusko konnte man damals sogar mit dem Auto "besteigen", denn eine Abzweigung dieser Straße endete kurz unterhalb des Gipfels.

Ich bin inzwischen ganz schön durchnäßt, denn meine alte Goretex-Kleidung ist schon etwas verschlissen und daher nicht mehr wasserdicht, zudem bin ich durchgefroren und hungrig. So gehe ich zur höchsten Hütte Australiens, nicht ohne vorher mit der Kamera ein frustriertes Selbstporträt von mir zu schießen. Doch plötzlich sehe ich eine Gruppe von Skiwanderern mit Telemark-Skiern und großen Rucksäcken inklusive Isoliermatten. Ich spreche einen der Gruppe an und erfahre, daß sie einen mehrtägigen Kurs über Skifahren, Schneecamping und Wintersurvival machen, aber ihn aufgrund des schlechten Wetters jetzt abgebrochen haben. Wir wärmen uns zusammen im Restaurant der Liftstation auf und kommen in ein längeres Gespräch. Sie beantworten mir meine Fragen über den Mount Kosciusko und das australische Bergsteigen, und ich erzähle ihnen von den Seven Summits. Jetzt erfahre ich auch, daß mein Kompaß für die nördliche Hemisphäre gebaut und hier schlecht zu gebrauchen ist, da durch die unterschiedliche Stärke der magnetischen Feldlinien die Nadel schräg liegt. Je nach Erdhalbkugel muß entweder die Nord- oder Südnadel mit einem kleinen Zusatzgewicht beschwert werden, um frei horizontal schwingen zu können. Zum Schluß tauschen wir Adressen und Telefonnummern aus, und ihr Führer schenkt mir eine topographische Karte von der Umgebung.

Erneut gescheitert und frustriert

Frisch gestärkt und mit wertvollen neuen Informationen versuche ich am Nachmittag nochmals, den Gipfel zu erreichen. Ich komme sehr viel weiter als beim ersten Mal, aber die trügerische Wetterbesserung war nur vorübergehend. Jetzt bin ich total durchnäßt und spüre, wie sich das Wasser in meinen Skistiefeln sammelt. Die Sicht ist immer noch miserabel, der Sturm tobt unverändert weiter, und mir wird es immer kälter. Ich weiß ganz genau, daß der Gipfel nicht mehr weit ist, aber die Vernunft siegt wie damals am Mount Everest, als ich 97 Höhenmeter unterhalb des höchsten Punktes der Erde aus Sicherheitsgründen umgekehrt bin. Es wird auch allmählich dunkel und ich kehre um, bevor ich ganz unterkühlt bin.

Das Pistengebiet ist inzwischen völlig menschenleer, und ich fahre im aufgeweichten Sumpfschnee in der Dämmerung zur Talstation. Noch nie in meinem ganzen Leben war ich so naß wie diesmal: Aus meinen Skischuhen kann ich das Wasser kippen und meine Kleidung inklusive der Unterhose muß ich sogar auswringen.

Ich habe zwar noch einen Reservetag und fahre notfalls auch in der Nacht nach Sydney zurück - aber wie soll ich meine Kleidung wieder trocken kriegen? Auf alle Fälle kann ich diesmal nicht mehr im Auto übernachten. Ich fahre daher aus dem Nationalpark in die Kleinstadt Jinderbyne zurück.

Meine Wäsche ist im ganzen Auto verstreut und ich drehe während der Fahrt die Heizung voll auf, aber das bewirkt nur einen ziemlichen Mief und Kopfschmerzen.

In der Stadt finde ich wieder keine passable Unterkunft und rufe deshalb meine neuen australischen Freunde an. Sie haben ein Apartment gemietet, noch ein Bett frei und laden mich zum Abendessen und über Nacht ein. Der glücklicherweise vorhandene Trockenraum ist mit unserer nassen Kleidung übertoll, und wir werfen einfach zwei Ladungen nasser Klamotten in einen Wäschetrockner. Der gemütliche Abend vergeht mit vielen Erzählungen und Plänen für die Zukunft.

### Letzter Gipfelversuch mit Satellitenunterstützung

Die ganze Nacht hindurch regnet es und am nächsten Tag ist das Wetter genau so schlecht wie zuvor. Die Gruppe wollte eventuell als Abschluß auch noch den Mount Kosciusko besteigen, beschließt aber bei den schlechten Verhältnissen lieber noch einen Theorietag einzulegen. Ich aber möchte auf alle Fälle noch einen weiteren Gipfelversuch unternehmen und leihe mir ein Satellitenortungsgerät (GPS) von den anderen aus. Andrew programmiert mir noch die Wendepunkte meines Marschplanes ein und gibt mir einen Schnellkurs für das High-Tech-Gerät.

Wieder zahle ich für den Nationalparkbesuch und die Liftgebühr, dieses Mal allerdings nur für eine Einzelfahrt. Zum Glück regnet und stürmt es jetzt nicht mehr, die Sicht ist zwar besser, aber immer noch nicht ausreichend, um sich in dem konturlosen Hochplateau zurechtzufinden. So bin ich über das GPS sehr froh und nach einer Weile begeistert von den Möglichkeiten dieses kleinen Wunderwerkes. Es kann bis zu zwölf Satelliten empfangen, und meine Zielgenauigkeit liegt damit bei circa 20 - 30 Meter. Mit traumwandlerischer Sicherheit navigiere ich mich durchs eintönige Weiß, bis es plötzlich heller und heller wird. Kurz darauf reißen die Wolken auf, lassen ein Stück blauen Himmels durch, und ich sehe endlich meinen Gipfel: einen Schneehügel ohne markante Formen, ein angedeuteter Grat mit kleinen Wächten, aber dazwischen ein leichter direkter Aufstieg ohne Lawinengefahr. Er ist so unscheinbar, daß ich ihn gar nicht erst fotografiere, ich nehme es mir für den Rückweg vor, wenn wenigstens meine Skispuren den Gipfelhang interessanter gestalten. Problemlos erreiche ich das flache Gipfelplateau in 2228 Meter Höhe. Gestern war ich beim zweiten Versuch nur etwa 800 Meter von hier umgekehrt. Es ist windstill, trocken und sogar relativ warm, was will ich mehr? Ich stehe zufrieden auf dem höchsten Punkt des australischen Kontinents und habe endlich im dritten Anlauf mein Ziel erreicht. Jetzt habe ich wirklich "alle" Seven Summits bestiegen, egal wie gezählt wird. Ich gönne mir eine Brotzeit, mache pflichtgemäß ein paar Dokumentarfotos von mir, dem höchsten Punkt samt Schneewüste ringsum und den dunklen, fast schwarzen Wolken im Hintergrund. Mit meinem Handy rufe ich sogar noch Andrew an und berichte ihm von meinem Erfolg dank GPS.

War doch alles halb so wild, oder? Doch noch einmal rächt sich der kleine Gipfel am vorher überheblichen Bergsteiger. Beim Hinunterfahren hüllt er sich wieder ganz in Wolken; und so muß ich nach Hause fahren, ohne ein einziges Überblicksbild von diesem von mir so unterschätzten Berg zu haben.

<http://www.treibel-bergmed.de/Alpinismus/Kosciusko.htm>



## 2.5.2 The Sentinel (1900m)

The Sentinel (or Mount Sentinel) is a fantastic peak standing in the middle of Australia's best skiing terrain. With a height of 1900m its relatively small compared to the surrounding mountains, but the peak and the ridge heading out to it present some of the most mountain-like terrain in Australia and the view from the peak is sensational.

Skiers most commonly ski the southern faces of the Sentinel and its ridge. These slopes are usually loaded with snow which lasts well into late spring and provide excellent continuous fall line steeps. From the peak itself the options on the south side are limited. If you want continuous fall line your best bet is straight down the south east facing slope into James Macarthur Creek.

There are a couple of other options on the south side that I've scoped out from a distance but have never skied. Judging by what I've seen they require a fair amount of snow to be feasible. The first would involve negotiating some rocky outcrops on the south west facing slope before cutting back onto the southern face and skiing to James Macarthur Creek. This face is the one in sunlight below the peak in the picture presented above. The second follows a narrow chute down to the creek most of the way from the summit. These lines are shown in the pictures below. As I stated above I have never skied these lines and I have not heard of anyone skiing them. Its such a mission getting out to the Sentinel that you really don't want to waste your time experimenting. And the south east face is pretty hard to go past when you're on the summit.

The north face of the Sentinel is seriously steep and ends up at the bottom of some pretty rugged terrain along Strzelecki Creek. If you chose to ski it make sure you're on your game and check the snow consistency first. The slope cops the sun for most of the day, which results in variable snow conditions and means the base doesn't last very long. It's typically only truly skiable in the heart of the season. A gully forms the most obvious line down the north side. A short traverse east from the peak opens up a more open and friendly looking bowl/gully.

Mark and i skied the gully in 2008. We didn't make it out there until around 1pm and didn't attempt to ski anything before 2pm. Whilst it was a relatively cold day the temperatures in the gully were very warm and the snow cover had transformed into very deep mash. A few good turns up high quickly turned into survival skiing lower down. About half way down the face Mark triggered a small (5m x 5m) wet snow slide that made its way down to Strzelecki Creek. Further down it was impossible to turn and we decided to pull up well short of Strzelecki Creek. Whilst trying to boot pack through some trees on the way out Mark dropped a ski. The snow was so rotten that the ski brake had no effect. Only a couple of snow gums about 20m down the slope stopped the ski from reaching the creek. Mark had to bootpack down to get his ski and was sinking up to his waste in slopy mash. I nearly snapped my knee when i sank into a gap between two rocks and then lost my balance.

Luckily noone got hurt and skis were recovered. We had a very nervous skin out along Strzelecki Creek as the wet surface snow kept trying to slide away beneath our skis. We ended up double kicking all the way to the base of the avalanche face then exited via Ant Ridge.

The slopes off the north side of the ridge (ie. about 1km east of the Sentinel) are insanely steep, covered in large jagged rocky outcrops and only appear skiable with significant cover. Probably best left for a day when you have a medivac crew on standby.

[http://www.ozbc.net/nsw\\_sentinel.htm](http://www.ozbc.net/nsw_sentinel.htm)

### 2.5.3 Carruthers Peak (2145m)

#### Carruthers Peak South - Club Lake

The steep and rocky south facing slopes of Carruthers Peak fall approximately 200 vertical metres into Club Lake, one of the highest alpine lakes in Australia. Their aspect, altitude and position along the Main Range make them perfect for catching and holding snow. The slopes are one of the first and last areas of Australia to hold skiable snow, and they remain skiable into November in most years.

There are a number of recognised runs from the peak down into Club Lake (shown below). It's always good to ski one of the easier lines first off. This allows you to view the snow conditions and coverage on the more demanding routes and will help you to avoid getting stuck above a rock and a lower place. Better still, you can check out the conditions if you approach from the southern side of the peak. In a good snow year you're probably right to give it a go straight up. However, a year like 2006 made conditions on the south facing slopes pretty extreme, and there's no way I would have committed to any of the lines without prior inspection.

Wind blown snow from the westerlies results in the formation of a steep entry (or even cornices) to the skiers right of the peak. The slopes to the skiers left present a gentler entry to the run. From the peak the skier can see the first half of the run but a band of rocky outcrops conceals the more challenging lower half. At the rocky outcrops the skier typically has the choice of three routes (additional routes become skiable in an above average year).



Route 1 - The easiest route down is to the skiers right, which has a similar grade to the other slopes but is relatively wide and free of obstructions.

Route 2 – This route is through the more obvious and friendly looking gap in the rocks to the skiers right. The run has a fairly consistent and steep (around 35 degrees) gradient but is a little cross grade in places. Stick close to the left side of the rocks if you like your skis to stay on the snow.

Route 2a – Same as route 2 but drop the small cliff skiers right about half way down. The tip is to make sure someone's watching – preferably a female you are trying to woo. But make sure you stick the landing or she may be hauling your sorry arse back to Charlotte Pass.

Route 3 – This line is also known as ‘The Elevator’ because it’s steep (around 35 degrees) and is straight down the fall line. Probably the best line for those that appreciate fall line. The narrow entry into this rock lined chute is probably the most obvious route to the skier descending from the peak.

Route 4 – This route is only skiable in above average snow years. It’s very similar to Route 3 except for a bit of a bulge at the mid section, which results in a very steep drop about two thirds of the way down.

Route 5 - The easiest descent into Club Lake starts approximately 300 metres east of Carruthers Peak. This route is relatively wide and has a gentler more consistent gradient than those from the peak itself.

Once you reach the lake the best of it is over but if you are heading back to Charlotte Pass you can get still milk a bit more vertical yet. There is a nice slope toward the base of Mt Lee that is worth a few more cruisy turns.

If you ski cross slope to the east of Club Lake there are some nice short but steep gullies that drop down into Club Lake Creek which are also good for a few more turns if you’re heading off.

I found the easiest way to repeat ski the lines into Club Lake was to boot pack up the slopes to the west of the lake. However, skiers should assess the route for obvious danger and/or obstacles before ascending.

### **Carruthers Peak North**

If you thought the south side of Carruthers Peak was good wait until you see the north side. The rocky north face of Carruthers Peak is split by a series of drainage gullies, which each provide around 400 vertical metres of fall line rock chute skiing. The gullies all drain into James Macarthur Creek which runs perpendicular to the north face of Carruthers Peak and continues to descend westward towards Lady Northcotes Canyon. In a good snow year the James Macarthur Creek gully is skiable.

All obvious lines are a consistent 30-35 degree pitch and all offer similar vertical skiing metres. The lines further to the west start lower down but pick up a bit more vertical lower down.

Unfortunately there’s no easy way out from the bottom. The most forgiving exit from the north face runs is to climb out along the spur that is located between Carruthers Peak and the Sentinel or via the gullies either side.

Unfortunately this great terrain faces north and the Aussie sun doesn’t discriminate. As such, the north side of Carruthers is best skied in winter, preferably with a decent base in a good snow season and not too long after a dump. However, in a good or above average year skiable lines can remain on the north face well into October, especially in the western most gully marked on the picture below.

### **Carruthers Peak West**

#### **Little Austria**

The most obvious runs to the west of Carruthers Peak feed into an area known as "Little Austria". The most obvious line is a bowl like drainage gully that the skier intercepts as they head west (or south west of Carruthers Peak). A second bowl like gully exists immediately west of the first. Both gullies feed into a canyon like rocky gully which continues to descend toward Lady Northcote’s Canyon. The upper part of the run is the steepest and is around 30-35 degrees. The run mellows a little but remains fairly steep all the way into Lady Northcote’s Canyon.

Skiers should be aware that the lower part of the run is bolder lined creek bed in summer (and can also be in winter). It shouldn't be attempted unless there's a solid cover and evidence of stable snow bridges.

Little Austria catches plenty of drifting snow and is in shade for a significant portion of winter which means it has good snow holding ability and is quite often skiable into late October.

For those who like gentler slopes it is also possible to ski into Little Austria from the top of Mt Lee. This run achieves a similar vertical fall over a greater distance. If Little Austria is tracked out or you're looking for an alternative there is a shorter but just as inviting a run available from Mt Lee. If you keep to the skiers left of Little Austria (Mt Lee version) you pick up another gully that feeds into Lady Northcote Canyon. This gully is shown on the far right hand side of the photo below.



The easiest way to exit the run is by following Lady Northcote Canyon up to Lake Albina. However it is possible to skin up Little Austria and most of the faces in this area if you want to return to Carruthers Peak.

### **Carruthers West Face**

To get to the west face of Carruthers peak you have to ski along a wind blown ridge top for around 1km. You have to pass inviting looking lines into Little Austria and a handful of possibilities on the north face on the way. For this reason this slope is often overlooked. Whilst it starts at a lower altitude the west face plummets deep into Lady Northcote Canyon and in a good snow year also offers around 400 vertical metres of skiing.

Just about any line is possible down the west face but there are three prominent depressions that are probably the most open and hazard free lines. If there is complete cover more vertical is on offer to the skiers right of the face.

Before the 2003 fires the slopes were flanked with snow gums and offered some nice tree skiing but only bare branches and low regrowth are present now.

The easiest way to exit the run is by following Lady Northcote Canyon up to Lake Albina. However it is possible to skin up Little Austria and most of the faces in this area if you want to return to Carruthers Peak.



Similar runs are also available on the north west facing slopes of Carruthers West Spur but the aspect of these slopes usually results in poor snow accumulation and early snow loss so they are usually not as feasible as the western facing slopes.

### **Carruthers Peak East**

The slopes heading off the east spur of Carruthers Peak don't compare to the skiing offered in all other directions. The slopes heading north east into Soil Con Creek are relatively gentle and short but under spring-like conditions they do offer good corn early in the day as they face north and north east. The eastern slopes are long and flat and are probably best left for the return journey to Charlotte Pass. The south east facing slopes offer nice long consistent slopes for intermediates that drop around 300 vertical metres over a couple of kilometres into Club Lake Creek.

### **2.5.4 Mt Twynam (2196m)**

At just under 2200m asl Mt Twynam is Australia's third highest mountain. The summit is about as flat as summits get. Don't let this fool you, the slopes all around it offer just about every kind of terrain you could wish for. The north and south slopes offer relatively gentle terrain whilst the east and western faces offer steeps of varying length.

The exposed nature of Mt Twynam results in its upper parts being riddled with sastrugi, rime ice formations and wind blown areas of boiler plate. Towards the east the wind tortured slopes give way to bulging wind drifts. These drifts start relatively gently but dip abruptly into a large flat bowl between Mt Twynam and Little Twynam. There's probably around 200 m of steep vertical skiing on offer on the east side of Mt Twynam. The eastern slopes look fairly friendly but care should be taken. Position and aspect of these slopes can see some big accumulations of snow and can become unstable. Allan Andrews pictures a significant slide on the east face of Twynam in his book 'Skiing the Western Faces'. In July 2008 Mark and I saw the remnants of what appeared to be a cornice collapse and slab avalanche on the eastern slopes of Twynam. Pieces of the slab were as large as school buses.

The bowl is really the end of the steep stuff on the eastern side. Further east the terrain rolls its way to the bottom of the Snowy River valley. The stuff down lower is not bad terrain but its probably best left for the return trip to Guthega or for periods when the weather's poor.

For real excitement you want to head to the west face of Twynam. This face probably offers the most vertical meters of continuous fall line skiing anywhere in Australia. It has a consistent 35 degree pitch for over 1km in parts. There is a catch though. It's exposed to prevailing winds and the afternoon sun so you're unlikely to strike it with powder on it. If you do you're in luck. If you don't you're probably best off leaving it till a day where it corns up under the spring sun.

Andrews identifies 4 main lines down the west face of Twynam, all of which follow drainage gullies that plummet into Watson's Creek. These gullies are probably your best chance of finding fluffy snow. In late spring these may be the only lines that have skiable snow. The "Triple A" run takes three gullies from near the summit. "The Scimitar" follows the gully a few hundred metres north of The Triple A. If snow cover permits there are plenty of other options around the runs that Andrew's named. If you're skiing corn in spring the ridgelines between the drainage gullies may provide a much more consistent fall line for the entire length of the run. To the north of The Scimitar there's plenty more of the western face but you have to lose a bit of vertical traversing along the north ridge before you can drop in. As long as the cover is good you'll gain this vertical on the lower slopes.

As mentioned earlier Twynam is like an upturned bowl. It gets steeper the further you go from the summit. As a result of this it's very hard to see or identify features of the western slopes below you unless you ski a fair way down. If you're doubtful about the cover it is probably best to scope out the slopes from Tenison Woods Knoll or Watson Crags before committing to one of these lines. There are large rock bands in places and the terrain is unforgiving.

The north spur off Mt Twynam has a gentle consistent grade for approximately 2km all the way to the base of Mt Anderson, passing to the west of Mt Anton on the way. Most of it is wind exposed crud but there is a long narrow drainage gully behind the ridgeline that holds smooth skiable snow. Its aspect means that it corns up nicely in fine weather.

The south side of Mt Twynam is the upper part of the Blue Lake catchment. The slopes are fairly gentle and straight forward until they reach the steep cliff bands on the northern side of Blue Lake. These slopes are discussed in more detail below.

The easiest access to Mt Twynam is from Charlotte Pass or Guthega.

### **Blue Lake - Twynam South**

Blue Lake is probably better know for its winter ice climbing rather than skiing. The area is also popular amongst backcountry skiers and snowboarders. Unfortunately my experience of skiing around the Blue Lake is limited to a few turns on the way back to Charlotte Pass. I've always found the slopes in other areas on the range more attractive. That's not to say there isn't great skiing there - just that i haven't experienced it.

Similarly to Club Lake (below Carruthers peak), Blue Lake is nestled on the south side of Mt Twynam. It's steep south facing slopes collect heaps of snow and the aspect sees it last just about as long as any other snow on the range. The gullies only offer around 100-150 vertical metres of skiing but it is steep and the terrain features make it quite challenging. You can ski into Blue Lake from Mt Twynam or Little Twynam. The most friendly route is via the saddle between the two, through Centre Gully to the lake.

The western gullies (pictured below) often feature large cornices at the top and should be approached after scoping them out from afar. In 2008 a skier was killed when the cornice at the top of Glissade Gullybroke away underneath him. The cornice collapse triggered an avalanche below which engulfed the skier in nearly 5 m of snow.

The lake is frozen solid for the majority of winter. The pictures below show a couple of the named chutes and gullies on the steep northern side of Blue Lake.



### Twynam West Spur - Tenison Woods Knoll

So many of the bumps and knolls on the Main Range have been named but for some reason the one between Mt Twynam and Watson's Crags missed out. This is surprising. If I had the option of being anywhere on the Main Range ready to ski it would be here. From here you can ski steep slopes with over 400 vertical metres in nearly every direction, and you have a choice of just about every aspect which means you can pick your slope to suit the conditions. The knoll remains nameless on the map, even on the latest topographic maps, but Andrews names it "Tension Woods Knoll".

#### North Faces

From the top of the knoll the most obvious lines are down the north face. Below the Knoll itself the north face is a large bowl that forms the upper catchment of Watson's Creek, which runs down the Gully between Mt Twynam and Tenison Woods Knoll. All the northern slopes within approximately 500m of Tenison Woods Knoll all feed into Watson's Creek. A large cornice forms on the north facing side of this ridge and there are typically only a few safe entry points to the bowl. The ridgeline to the east of Tenison Woods Knoll is typically rounded with easy access to the north facing slopes. The knoll itself and the area immediately west of it (for approx 100m) also provide safe entry to the north facing slopes. From here you have to travel about 500m north west along the ridge to avoid the cornice. If you are hard core you can huck the cornice. But be warned that large chunks can and do break off the cornice. You can usually see debris at the bottom of the bowl and some pieces are bigger than large cars!



The ridgeline to the north west of Tenison Woods Knoll is corniced. Mark checks out the slopes below from a safe vantage point. There are a couple of safe entry points along the ridge. It's best to scope these out from Tenison Woods Knoll or Mt Twynam prior to skiing near the edge. The cornice collapses naturally throughout the season and fractures are quite often visible several metres from the edge of the cornice. In the photo above a cornice collapse has triggered a bigger slab avalanche beneath it (see the crown line that is below Mark). The bowl below often features remnants of cornice breaks and slides.

The most common and easiest way to ski Watson's Creek is to follow it the whole way down starting in the saddle between Mt Twynam and Tenison Woods Knoll. The creek is relatively straight for the first 1km or so. Below this point there are a few kinks that you have to negotiate around. The creek is typically covered to at least as far down as the first kink (approx. 1800m asl) dependant on snow depth. You can either ski the creek line itself or peel off across the slopes either side and take on short bursts of steeper grade.

From other access points the slopes are steeper up high but flatten out considerably at the bottom of the bowl before they feed into Watson's Creek proper.

Once the Creek opens up you have to traverse across the valley walls to find more vertical. One option is to traverse out along the sub-ridge. The east facing slopes of this ridge typically hold snow much lower down than the other slopes in this area and that's probably the way to extract the most vertical out of this valley. However, if clocking vertical is your thing you may be better off repeat skiing the top half of the valley.

Once you get approximately 500m west of the knoll the northern faces drain into the upper parts of Siren Song Creek. Similar to the Watson's Creek, the area is a large fan shaped bowl and all slopes end up in the Siren Song Creek. The slopes have aspects ranging from east to north west and all have similar grades. When there's good cover you can continue skiing the creek line further down the valley, however, after the upper slopes converge the grade flattens somewhat. Those seeking steeps are better off repeat skiing the upper parts of the slope. The easiest way to exit this run is to skin or boot pack back up the gully ending up at the saddle between Watson's Crags and Twynam West Spur.



The Twynam West Spur and Watson's Crags viewed from Mt Twynam. All the slopes left of the ridge in the middle of the photo drain into Watson's Creek whilst all those to the right drain into Siren Song Creek. The ridge between Tenison Woods Knoll and the middle of the photo typically has a large cornice which limits access to the large bowl left of shot.

The other obvious runs from Tensison Woods Knoll are to the south and west. Alan Andrews names 4 runs in this area, Strzelecki Creek, The Avalanche Face, Ant Ridge and Walters Gully.

### **2.5.5 Strzelecki Creek**

Strzelecki Creek starts in the saddle between Mt Twynam and Tenison Woods Knoll and is the visible gully a few hundred metres south of Tenison Woods Knoll.

If you ski south off Tenison Woods Knoll you end up in Strzelecki Creek. Don't be fooled by the relatively gentle upper slopes around Strzelecki Creek. After humble beginnings the creek



winds to a breathtaking view of the Sentinel then plunges westwards into some of the best terrain in Australia.



From memory Alan Andrews describes skiing the creek line itself. On the few occasions I have had a close look at the creek it has been full of rime covered rocks and looked downright dangerous. This leads me to believe that the creek only fills in completely in a really good season. The slopes immediately north of the creek line are more feasible, being relatively hazard free with more modest cover. However, the grade is quite intimidating at around 35 degrees. This slope faces west so the usual caveats apply. I have never skied this slope but have checked it out from a distance it looks skiable.

### 2.5.6 The Avalanche Face

Heading a little further west of Strzelecki Creek is "The Avalanche Face", so named after a near death avalanche experience by Alan Andrews and a couple of his sons. You'll have to read his book to find out more about that one.

The Avalanche Face is located to the south west of Tenison Woods Knoll. The slope drops away and isn't clearly visible but if you stay on the east side of the prominent ridge in the distance and ski towards the Sentinel you'll end up in the right place. All slopes drain to the same gully. The main gully itself snakes around a little and you may do better peeling off either side for bursts of more consistent fall line. The upper part of the run is usually wind affected and the best snow is often found in the lowest point of the gully. The face on the skiers left side of the gully catches some sun and is probably the best chance of getting corn in fine weather. The slopes of the Avalanche Face drain into Strzelecki Creek. In a good year the cover may be good enough to continue down the gully but beware of the waterfall further down!

For more extreme steeps you can stay high on the skiers right of the Avalanche Face (along the top of Ant Ridge). This line is flatter up high but drops very steeply into Strzelecki Creek about a third of the way down. Not for the faint hearted.

The Avalanche Face has a predominantly southerly aspect so it collects and holds snow well. However, this means that it only corns up later in the season. If conditions are firm underfoot you may get better value elsewhere.

To exit the run skin/boot pack back up the gully over your tracks or boot pack up Ant Ridge.

### **2.5.7 Ant Ridge**

Alan Andrews refers to the ridge that marks the western boundary of the Avalanche Face as Ant Ridge. I'm not sure of the area Andrews recommends for skiing. From a distance there doesn't appear to be much to the ridge itself. It does have a couple of swales and hollows that would hold soft snow after an event but the ridge itself appears exposed and much less appealing than the slopes of The Avalanche Face. It is possible to ski along the top of the ridge and then drop off skiers left into the bottom section of the avalanche face.

On closer inspection there is plenty of good terrain off the western side of the ridge. To see this terrain you need to view it from The Sentinel or on the northern end of Alice Rawson ridgeline. The terrain I'm talking about is located between Ant Ridge and Walters Gully. The terrain is very similar to that offered in the lower part of Walters Gully. There are a couple of depressions on this face that make the best lines to ski.

Exit the run by skinning/booting up the avalanche face or booting back up to Ant Ridge. The lower parts of Strzelecki Creek are pretty rugged. Definitely an area for the experienced.

### **2.5.8 Walter's Gully / The Awesome Spur**

This area is one of my favourites on the Main Range. It features prominently in views of the range from the west and south west but from above its just about invisible and unless you go looking it can easily be missed, especially since the Craggs look so inviting further along the ridgeline. The reason this area is hard to see is that it is very steep and drops off the relatively flat slopes on top of the Twynam West Spur. Its invisibility and the lure of the Craggs were the reasons I took a few years to explore this area. With poor snow cover or late in the season the options in this area may be limited. If the cover is good the options are limitless.

The most obvious feature in this area is named Walter's Gully by Alan Andrews. Most of the skiable lines to the west of Ant Ridge feed into the gully. A steep and rugged rocky outcrop on the west facing slopes above Walter's Gully dictates how this area can be skied. There are three main ways to go about it.

The most forgiving run follows the entire length of the gully itself. To get here you need to traverse approximately 500m to the west – north west of Tenison Woods Knoll along the relatively flat ridge top. When you get to this point Watson's Craggs come into view to the northwest. From here ski the fall line to the west making sure you keep to the skiers right of the rocky outcrops that are present in the area. If you've taken the right line you'll feed into a large bowl like gully (Walter's Gully). The gully turns to the south west about half way down and bound by a spur and large cornice to the west (The Awesome Spur). Lower down the gully turns toward the west and the fall line continues until the cover runs out. The gully itself is probably your best bet for finding soft stuff after a fresh snow fall and holds snow well into spring.

The second option, and in my opinion the best option, is to ski into the gully from skiers left of the large rock outcrop. This puts you onto steep continuous west facing fall line for the whole run. From Tenison Woods Knoll traverse to the west heading towards the top of Ant Ridge.

From here the slope drops away in front of you. Ski the top part of the run cautiously as the rocky outcrop is hard to identify from above and keep to the skiers left of it. The top half of this line is very exposed so its probably not the best option on a day when you're chasing fresh snow. However, on a corn day its likely to be very forgiving in the mid to later part of the day.

The third option is similar to the one described above but takes on the chute(s) through the rock outcrop above the gully. Pretty deep cover and some skiing ability are required for these chutes to be feasible. If you are going to attempt one of these lines it's probably best check them out from below (Walter's Gully) first and make sure you're on your game.

The easiest way to exit this area is to skin or boot pack back up Walter's Gully.

The other options in this area come off the spur that Alan Andrews refers to as The Awesome Spur. These are probably some of the most hidden lines on the Main Range, and also the gnarliest. To get out on the spur you ski the top section of the Walter's Gully run but veer to the skiers right rather than following the gully.

Once you reach the spur the easiest and safest lines follow the spur then drop off onto the south facing slope that feeds into the lower part of Walter's Gully. Again, the top section (along the spur itself) of this run is exposed and is only likely to be enjoyable in spring snow conditions.

If you want to get into the really serious terrain you can drop off the spur onto the west facing slopes. There is one obvious and relatively hazard free line on this side, which follows a well defined gully – however, its hard to identify from above. It is the line i've marked furthest to the left of the opening photo in this section (four photos up). The rest is really wild stuff and features large rocks, trees, shrubs etc.. I've never skied anything over here but I have peered down from the top of the spur and was scared off. Being lower down and west facing these slopes have quite a bit of high vegetation which means they are only feasible when there is a good cover on the range.

The best option for exiting this area is probably to boot pack back up the spur. Skinning up Walter's gully may also be an option.

## **2.5.9 Watson's Crag**

### **South Faces**

Skiing on the south facing slopes is limited as they are dominated by large granite "Crag". There are several lines that appear skiable from the relative safety of Alice Rawson Peak but most (including myself) would be scared off by the view down them from above. The rocky nature of the southern slopes of the Crag means they require a good to snow cover before they become skiable.



### **Watsons Crags - North Faces**

If you look west to the Main Range from Mt Blue Cow you'll see a very tidy looking face just to the right of Mt Twynam. This is the northern face of Watson's Crags and it provides some very impressive skiing. Unlike the southern faces, the northern faces have some relatively "Crag" free zones so there are plenty of skier friendly options.

Similarly to the western end of the Twynam West Spur, the northern faces of Watson's Crags drain into Siren Song Creek. There are four major drainage gullies down the north face of Watson's Crags.

The eastern most gully (marked Siren Song 1 on the photograph below) has already been discussed on the Twynam West Spur page. Of those remaining the gully marked Siren Song 2 provides the most consistent fall line skiing. This gully faces north east so it typically holds more snow than the gullies further to the west as it cops less of the afternoon sun. It's also relatively free of rock outcrops. This gully is clearly visible from Mt Twynam. Any line is a winner.

The gully marked Siren Song 3 is interesting. The top parts appear to be very steep and rocky. If you can negotiate your way through the rocky outcrops at the top you get rewarded with couloir like gully that goes straight down the fall line. I've walked above this gully many times without realising its there. It was only after i was looking at some aerial photographs that i saw the potential for a great run here. This one's at the top of my to do list for 2008.

The gully marked Siren Song 4 drains the western end of the northern faces of the crags. The faces up high are relatively hazard free and provide some relatively open steep. However, these slopes have a north westerly aspect which means they lose snow quickly and they are covered in relatively dense vegetation that hinders the accumulation of a decent base. As such the potential run lengths are short.

### **2.5.10 Leatherbarrel Creek / South RamsHead**

Both the Leatherbarrel Creek and South Ramshead areas offer some great options a relatively short ski from the car (Dead Horse Gap) or Thredbo chair and these are the best ways to access the areas. They are great options for newbies looking to get some experience not to far from help. In the context of this page when i refer to South Ramshead area i am talking about the slopes that drain into the Thredbo River and Dead Horse Gap Creek (east). The west facing slopes are discussed in the Leatherbarrel Creek section.

Leatherbarrel Creek



## Ski Down Under

The Leatherbarrel Creek valley offers some sensational skiing all within a short distance of Thredbo and Dead Horse Gap. There's two very different sides to the valley. Runs off The Ramshead down the eastern side of the valley offer the most vertical metres of skiing but are exposed to the afternoon sun and the wind. If you've come from Thredbo or Dead Horse Gap you're best bet is to start your day from somewhere near the Ramshead.

Unfortunately the east side of the Leatherbarrel Creek was burnt out in the 2003 fires. This has reduced the snow holding ability of the slopes, particularly on any slope with a northerly aspect.

Runs down the western side of the valley are shorter but are on the leeward side of a large plateau so they typically hold better quality snow. And as you look down at the peaks on the western side of the valley from the Ramshead its worth noting that these peaks are only a few metres lower than Victorias highest mountains.

Alan Andrews named several runs into this valley in his book "Skiing the Western Faces". The lines identified and named by Andrews are quite distinctive, however several variations of each are possible. I like to consider these runs representative of what's on offer in the different parts of the valley. I've marked the distinct areas on the photograph below.



The area to the north of The Corrie is probably a good starting point if you've never skied in the area before. This area is relatively rock free and holds skiable snow before many of the other slopes in the area so if you're on an early season cover skiing this run first is a good insurance policy against getting left high and dry on one of the steep rocky outcrops near the top of the Corrie or The Couloir. You start this run on the wide open slopes above Cootapatamba Hut. Ski the slopes as far as you want and then peel off to skiers left into the Leatherbarrel Creek catchment. The entire run is open and relatively hazard free and can be skied on a pretty thin base. From the bottom you scope out potential lines through the rocks closer to the Ramshead.

The Corrie starts approximately 500m north of the Ramshead and follows the northernmost major drainage line from the Ramshead into Leatherbarrel Creek. What starts as a depression between two rounded tops feeds into a steep rock lined chute. Once you've skied through the chute the slope opens up somewhat. The most obvious line is to continue down the drainage gully, but similar lines exist north of the gully.

The Corrie is well defined but there are several variations through the rock outcrops either side of the main run. These lines need a reasonable cover for them to be skiable and probably should be scoped out from below before being attempted.

The major drainage line to the south of The Corrie is referred to as The Couloir. The Couloir starts on the summit of the Ramshead and follows the gully that starts immediately north of the Ramshead. As shown in the photograph below the terrain on offer on both these runs and their surrounds are very similar. However, The Couloir offers a little more vertical. If the snow cover isn't deep you may struggle to negotiate your way through the rocky outcrops on the upper western and north western faces of the Ramshead. In this situation its best to save your legs and ski the run from the flat area just to the north of the Ramshead.

The next defined run along the valley is The Spur. The Spur starts from the top of the Ramshead and provides the most amount of vertical of any run in the valley. As its name suggests the run follows the western spur of the Ramshead. Up high the Spur is relatively narrow. At the tree line the spur fans out and there are several similar lines to be skied through the snow gums and down to Leatherbarrel Creek. There are three distinct clearings through the snow gums lower down and these are the most obvious lines on offer.

The areas to the north of the marked The Spur run have a more northerly aspect, which means they are more heavily treed and lose cover much earlier than the slopes to the south of the marked run.

The line marked below is not the steepest terrain on offer in the area but it does offer a great long run with a sustained pitch.

The golden gully gets its name from the golden coloured rocks that are present in the area. The main gully is a watercourse approximately 500-1km south of the Ramshead. If the cover is sufficient the gully presents a continuous fall line all the way to Leatherbarrel Creek, however, its mostly uncovered down low. Up high there are many options funnelling into the gully. From the north you can ski in from the Ramshead. There are some nice steep south faces slopes in from this side, some of which aren't fully visible in the photograph above. The area south of the marked run still provides some steep skiing but is generally flatter than the north side. It is also more heavily treed due to its more northerly aspect and it melts out much faster than the areas north of the marked run.

All these options feed into the gully by about the half way stage. If the creek is open (and it normally is) you have to traverse across the side of the valley and then drop in as more fall line as it becomes available.

The area to the south of the Golden Gully is quite heavily treed and clear continuous lines are hard to come by. There are definitely some turns to be laid in this area but you're probably best off expending effort in other areas before trying them out.

The southern sides of the ridges in this area provide your best chance of open space. One line in particular was named The Cleft Rock Run by Alan Andrews. I have never skied these slopes but have viewed them from the southerly Ramshead.

Further south of The Cleft Rock Run is the western face of the South Ramshead. The terrain in this area is very similar to that in the Cleft Rock area but the vegetation is denser still and in some places impenetrable at much more than walking speed.

The western side of the Leatherbarrel Creek valley doesn't provide as much vertical skiing as the Ramshead side but its good terrain with consistent pitch and there are some good steeps available.

The slopes closest to Cootapatamba are typically crowned by a cornice formed by snow blowing across the relatively flat terrain to the west. Whilst vertical is limited these south and east facing slopes are a nice grade and typically hold good quality snow a few days after the last fall. The further south you go the more vertical is on offer. In comparison to the eastern side of the valley the vegetation on the western side of the valley is relatively sparse, and the trees are spaced nicely for continuous tree skiing.

The two main features on the western side of Leatherbarrel Creek are Simkin Peak and The Twin Humps. Several lines are possible from the top of Simkin Peak down into leatherbarrel Creek. They are relatively featureless faces and gullies.

The Twin humps stand proudly at the southern end of the valley. The east facing slopes from the twin humps provide some excellent steep continuous fall line skiing. The top 100m is typically around the 35-40 degree mark. When you hit the tree line you have a few options. There are two defined treeless gullies to head down or you can take on the trees. If the cover is limited you may have to bail at the tree line. It is easy to repeat ski the western side of the valley by skinning straight back up the slope. If returning to Dead Horse Gap the easiest exit may be via the Golden Gully. Going via the North Ramshead is likely to be the easiest way to get back to Thredbo.

There are many options for long cruisy runs through gladed bowls to the south west of The Twin Humps. I have never skied in this area but have veiwed it from the Southerly Ramshead. The runs appear to have a relatively gentle grade.

## **2.5.11 South Ramshead / Bogong Creek**

The eastern side of the Ramshead and South Ramsheads drain into Bogong Creek. Bogong Creek flows through the valley located a short distance south of the Karels lift at Thredbo. The run from Thredbo to Dead Horse Gap is well known and often skied, but its probably best left to those that want some additional adventure on top of a days resort skiing. The most enjoyable way to ski from Thredbo to Dead Horse Gap is to follow the ridge on the eastern side of Bogong Creek (marked 'Summer Walk' in the photograph above). The run drops 400 vertical metres but this is over a horizontal distance of 3-4 km so its very flat most of the way and you'll probably end up pushing some of the way down. The last 500 metres of the run probably provides the most excitement as you fall down the steepest part of the run to the carpark at the cascades.

The more exciting runs feed into Bogong Creek off the Ramshead and southerly Ramsheads. These slopes are relatively gentle but provide some interesting rolling terrain. Lower down sparsely spaced large gums make for some good tree skiing and provide some protection from the weather.

The most popular slopes in this area are probably those on the eastern side of the Southerly Ramshead. That is because the Southerly Ramshead is located straight up the hill from the Dead Horse Gap car park. Again the runs are relatively gentle, treeless above 1800m and feature nicely spaced gums lower down for some tree skiing. The slopes in this area are definitely a good place to start for those starting out in the backcountry. The slopes on the eastern face of the Southerly Ramshead are relatively long and gentle. The slope off the north east face of the Southerly Ramshead is relatively short and steep.

The vegetation tends to get denser as you head south from the Southerly Ramshead and vertical metres on offer are pretty limited. However this area is great for sightseeing.

### 3 DAY TOUR SUGGESTIONS

#### From Perisher Valley:

- Perisher to Dainer's Gap via Thompsons Plain trail (car swap possible)
- Perisher to The Paralyser - good slopes and snow gums.
- Perisher to Blue Cow - via Perisher Gap and the saddle between The Paralyser & Mt Perisher.
- The Porcupine - granite outcrops overlooking the Crackenback Valley.
- Perisher to Charlotte Pass via The Porcupine.
- Perisher to Charlotte Pass via Kosciuszko Road & Spencer's Creek..
- Mt Wheatley - good snow gums and slopes.

#### From Guthega:

- Guthega Trig - good slopes in this area. Good descent to the dam wall.
- Mt Tate - via Guthega Trig and Consett Stephen Pass, or Tate East Ridge.
- Tate West Ridge - via Consett Stephen Pass. Good views of Geehi Valley.
- Tate East Ridge, Mt Tate, Consett Stephen Pass, Guthega Trig circuit.
- The Rolling Grounds - good views and rolling terrain.
- Mungah - via the Rolling Grounds (car swap)
- Dicky Cooper Bogong - via the Rolling Grounds.
- Mt Twynam or Little Twynam - via Snowy River valley and Illawong Lodge.
- Mt Anderson - via Tate East Ridge and Illawong Lodge circuit.
- Blue Lake - via Snowy River valley.
- Charlotte Pass - via Illawong Lodge and Spencers Creek.
- Guthrie Trig - via Illawong Lodge. Great views of the Main Range.
- Guthega to The Paralyser - good slopes and views of the Main Range.

#### From Mungah:

- Whites River Hut - via the firetrail or the aqueduct tracks.
- Schlink Pass / Schlink Hut - via the firetrail or the aqueduct tracks.
- Rolling Grounds, or Dicky Cooper Bogong.
- Disappointment Spur Hut and Horse Camp Hut - via the aqueduct track and firetrail.
- Tin Hut - via Disappointment Spur.

#### From Thredbo:

- Mt Kosciuszko - follow the route of the metal walkway to Australia's highest peak.
- Kosciuszko South Ridge and Cootapatamba Hut - ski above the cornice down to the hut.
- Ramshead Plateau - including North Ramshead and Ramshead peaks.
- South Ramshead - good views of Leatherbarrel Ck, Cascades Area and into Victoria.
- Dead Horse Gap - catch chairlift then descend through trees to Dead Horse Gap.
- Leatherbarrel Creek / Swampy Plains River area - steep slopes, good views into Victoria.
- Seaman's Hut - via Rawson's Pass or Snowy Bridge.
- Mt Townsend / Lake Albina - Australia's 2nd highest peak. Good descent to the lake.
- Alice Rawson Peak - fantastic views of Lady Northcote Canyon, Geehi & Main Range.
- Wilkinson's Valley. Good ski down the valley towards the start of Hannel's Spur.
- Abbot Range - good views towards Khancoban and the southern part of the Main Range.
- Mueller's Peak - overlooks Lake Albina.
- Etheridge Ridge - overlooks Rawson's Pass and Seaman's Hut.
- Guthega - via Charlotte Pass and Spencer's Creek or Snowy River Valley (long car swap)

#### From Dead Horse Gap:

- South Ramshead - climb up through the snow gums. Good views into Victoria.
- Brindle Bull - a plateau behind Thredbo village. Good views of the Ramshead Range.



## Ski Down Under

- Teddy's Hut - via Thredbo River or the Brindle Bull.
- Paddy Rushes Bogong - a peak behind Thredbo village. Via the Brindle Bull.
- The Chimneys - good views of the Ramshead Range, Tin Mine Area and into Victoria.
- Ramshead Range - climb to the Ramshead Range, and beyond, towards Kosciuszko.

### **From Mt Selwyn:**

- Mt Selwyn Trail - climbs Mt Selwyn, crosses open plains, good views of Mt Jagungal.
- Three Mile Dam - Easy skiing around the dam. Good ski slope on the dam wall.
- Kings Cross area - easy skiing on the road south of Kings Cross.
- Cabramurra via Kings Cross Road - good views and easy skiing.
- Kiandra - via Mt Selwyn trail and Pollocks Gully.
- Four Mile Hut - old miners hut built in the 1930's. Good descent from plateau.
- Broken Dam Hut - picturesque hut built in 1910. Close to Tabletop Mountain.
- Tabletop Mountain - long day trip. Great views towards Mt Jagungal.

### **From Kiandra:**

- Sawyers Hill area
- Mt Selwyn - via Pollocks Gully and the Mt Selwyn trail.
- Tantangara Mountain - good slopes and tree skiing.

### **From Dainer's Gap:**

- Plains of Heaven - on the western side of the road above the Sponars Inn.
- Thompsons Plain trail to Perisher - fairly flat terrain (car swap possible)
- Lake Jindabyne lookout - good views towards Jindabyne from the edge of the plateau.
- Rainbow Lake - the old water supply for Hotel Kosciuszko. Good snowgums.

### **From Charlotte Pass:**

- Guthrie Trig - Good slopes and great views of the Main Range.
- Mt Kosciuszko - via summit road and Seaman's Hut.
- Carruthers Peak - spectacular views and a long downhill run to the Snowy River.
- Club Lake - nestled below Carruthers Peak. Steep skiable chutes and gullies nearby.
- Kunama Hut Ruin - destroyed by avalanche in the 1950's. Below Mt Clarke.
- Blue Lake - the largest glacial lake in the area. Surrounded by large cliffs.
- Mt Twynam - Australia's 3rd highest peak. Good views of the Main Range and Geehi.
- Watsons Crags - steep slopes, large cornice, spectacular views all round.
- The Sentinel - steep slopes for the experts. Very spectacular.
- Mt Clarke, Mt Northcote, Mt Lee and Carruthers Peak circuit.
- Lakes Circuit - via Seaman's Hut, Mt Kosciuszko, Mt Northcote, Mt Lee and Carruthers Peak.
- Little Austria and Lady Northcote Canyon.
- Lake Albina - picturesque glacial lake above Lady Northcote Canyon.

### **Brindabellas:**

- Mt Franklin - site of the CAC Chalet and old ski runs
- Mt Ginini - contains old ski runs. Good views towards Jagungal & Canberra.
- Mt Gingera - the flat topped mountain visible from Canberra. Mt Franklin Road - easy skiing along the road through snow gums.

### **From Lake Eucumbene:**

- Mt Jagungal via Nimmo Hill

### **From Geehi:**

- Grey Mare Range - via Pinnacle fire trail. Spectacular views of the Main Range.

<http://members.tip.net.au/~alanlevy/DayTours.HTM>

## 4 MORE ABOUT AUSTRALIA

### Links

Route Planner

<http://www.visitvictoria.com/displayobject.cfm/objectid.0000B41D-D36D-1A88-8B4680C476A9047C/>

the Great Alpine Road

<http://www.visitvictoria.com/displayobject.cfm/objectid.6E8DC1A2-9484-47D1-86FBC71F4D46ADB8/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Alpine\\_Road](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Alpine_Road)

<http://australiantraveller.com/component/content/article/2587>

Snow Report Victoria

<http://www.vicsnowreport.com.au/report.html>

<http://www.weatherzone.com.au/snow/>

Overview

<http://ski.com.au/>

Digital online Map

<http://maps.bonzle.com/>