

# FALLS TO HOTHAM ALPINE CROSSING

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## *Walk Victoria's Icons*

### Frequently Asked Questions

1. [Where do I start?](#)
2. [Do I need a permit to camp and how much does it cost?](#)
3. [How far do I have to walk each day?](#)
4. [Where can I camp and what facilities are available?](#)
5. [How can I arrange transport for the walk?](#)
6. [Are guided walks available?](#)
7. [How do I use the tent platforms?](#)
8. [Can I do part of the walk?](#)
9. [Is there water available along the walk?](#)
10. [Can I have a campfire?](#)
11. [What time of year is best to go?](#)
12. [Will I have mobile phone coverage on the walk?](#)
13. [What Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing maps are available?](#)
14. [Bushfire safety](#)
15. [Handy contacts](#)

#### 1. Where do I start?

The 37km Falls-Hotham Alpine Crossing (FHAC) is a 3 day / 2 night walk through the Alpine National Park from Falls Creek to Mt Hotham.

The Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing is a point-to-point walk. The track can be walked in either direction but is best when starting from Falls Creek and walking towards Mt Hotham.

From Falls Creek the trail starts from the Heathy Spur carpark, on the eastern side of the Rocky Valley dam wall in the Alpine National Park. Heathy Spur carpark is 3km from the Falls Creek Information Centre via road, or walk from the Falls Creek village bowl via the aquaduct track. The trail finishes at the Mt Loch carpark at Mt Hotham.

#### 2. Do I need a permit to camp and how much does it cost?

Yes, a permit is required to camp at the Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing campsites. Bookings are made [online](#) or by calling Parks Victoria on 13 1963.

#### 3. How far do I have to walk each day?

The distances for each day are shown in the table below. The times given are an approximate walking time for a reasonably fit person, based on 3.5km per hour, plus 1 hour for every 600m

ascent. Remember to allow extra time for breaks, photo stops and lunch along the way. Day 3 is shorter in distance but there is a steep climb from Dibbins Hut up Swindlers Spur.

Day	Section	Distance (km)	Approximate walking time (hrs)
1	Heathy Spur Trailhead (Falls Creek) to Cope Hut campsite	14	4
2	Cope Hut campsite to Dibbins Hut campsite	14	4
3	Dibbins Hut campsite to Mt Loch carpark (Mt Hotham)	9	3.5

#### 4. Where can I camp and what facilities are available?

There are two Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing campsites – Cope Hut campsite on the Bogong High Plains and Dibbins Hut campsite near the headwaters of the Cobungra River.

Campsite facilities and distance from campsite:

Facility	Cope Hut	Dibbins Hut
Tent platforms	√	√
Toilet	√	√
Water (untreated)	√	√
Picnic table	√	300m
Hut for emergency shelter	200m	300m
Fireplace	√	300m

#### 5. How can I arrange transport for the walk?

Being a point to point walk, hikers will need to arrange transport from the end of the walk to get back to their vehicle. There are a number of options:

##### Independent car shuffling:

If you have two vehicles, a car shuffle is a good way to independently provide transport to and from the start and end of the walk. Vehicles can be left at either the Heathy Spur or Mt Loch carparks at either end of the walk. Note that driving time between the trailheads is approximately 2 ½ hours on windy roads.

##### Accommodation providers

If you are staying in accommodation at Falls Creek, Mt Hotham or Dinner Plain prior to commencing your walk, some accommodation providers can offer transport back from the trailhead, or assist with a car shuffle.

#### 6. Are guided walks available?

Guided walks are available with a Parks Victoria licensed tour operator. A guided walk will help you get the most out of your visit. Visit the Parks Victoria [website](#) for information, you will find tour operators listed on the Alpine National Park page, listed under bushwalking.

### 7. How do I use the tent platforms?

Each campsite has four 3m x 3.7m standard platforms and one larger platform that is 4.5m x 3m. It is suggested that the 4 standard tent platforms at each site can fit one 2-3 person hiking tent.

Tents must be erected on the tent platforms at the Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing campsites. There is no camping within 100m of the tent platforms.

The tent platforms are designed for you to pitch your tent directly on the platform. Each platform has eyelets around the edge to hook tent peg loops or guyropes over. As well as these there are movable 'pegs' that slot into the mesh, allowing tents of all shapes to be set up.

To safely use your hiking stove, please use your stove on the metal heat shield located in the corner of each platform.



### 8. Can I do part of the walk?

The first day makes an excellent day walk from Heathy Spur trailhead through to the Cope Hut carpark, where the track intersects the Bogong High Plains Road, approximately 12km south of Falls Creek. For a 2 day/1 night walk, start at the Cope Hut carpark, camp at Dibbins Hut, and finish at Mt Loch carpark, Mt Hotham.

### 9. Is there water available along the walk?

Water is available at both campsites. These water sources are untreated. Use with caution and if unsure treat the water to make it safe to drink. For more information about treating water, refer to the [Water - Make it Safe to Drink parknote](#), on the Parks Victoria website.

- Cope Hut campsite  
There is a watertank attached to the toilet, however supply cannot be guaranteed. Water can also be collected from the creek just north of the campsite.
- Dibbins Hut campsite  
Water can be collected from the Cobungra River, next to the campsite.

### **10. Can I have a campfire?**

Fires may be lit in designated fireplaces only. There is a fireplace located close to each campsite. Fuel stoves are encouraged for cooking.

As with all campfires, campers must ensure that:

- The area within a distance of 3 metres from the outer perimeter of the fire is clear of flammable material
- The fire does not occupy an area in excess of 1 square metre and the size and dimensions of solid fuel used are the minimum necessary for the purpose
- A person is in attendance at all times while the fire is alight and has the capacity and means to extinguish the fire
- The fire is completely extinguished before the person leaves

No fires may be lit on days of total fire ban. The Cope Hut campsite is within the East Gippsland Total Fire Ban district and Dibbins Hut campsite is within the North East Total Fire Ban district.

### **11. What time of year is best to go?**

Anytime between late spring to autumn can be a suitable time to walk. Summer is the most popular when the weather is generally 10 degrees cooler in the mountains than in the surrounding valleys. The FHAC is under snow in the winter months, generally from June to October, and is not designed as a winter route.

### **12. Will I have mobile phone coverage on the walk?**

Mobile phone reception will be intermittent along the walk. Telstra coverage is generally good across the Bogong High Plains and poorer when dropping down into Dibbins Hut.

In Australia, the number to call in an emergency is 000 for police, fire and ambulance.

### **13. What Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing maps are available?**

The *Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing map brochure* provides information about the route and is available to download from the Parks Victoria [website](#).

For hikers who would like more detail, the *Bogong Alpine Area Outdoor Recreation Guide*, by Spatial Vision, is a comprehensive 1:50 000 scale contour map of the area.

## 14. Bushfire safety

The Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing is within the North East weather district.

Many of Victoria's parks and forests are bushfire prone areas. While they are great places to enjoy, during some weather conditions they are not safe places to be. Be prepared and stay informed of weather and fire danger:

- **Weather**  
Keep up to date with the latest weather forecasts and be aware of hot, dry windy weather.
- **Fire danger ratings**  
Victoria has adopted the national system of Fire Danger Ratings. The Fire Danger Rating tells you how dangerous a fire would be if one started. On a Code Red Day, the Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing and Alpine National Park will be closed. On days of Extreme and Severe Fire Danger Ratings you should reconsider plans to visit parks and forests.
- **Total Fire Ban**  
A Total Fire Ban is declared by the CFA on days when fires are likely to spread rapidly and could be difficult to control. A Total Fire Ban means no fires, solid or liquid fuel fires can be lit. Walkers may use their hiking stove inside the huts. The Cope Hut campsite is within the East Gippsland Total Fire Ban district and Dibbins Hut campsite is within the North East Total Fire Ban district.

For more information, visit the [CFA website](#), listen to ABC or local radio, call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 or download the CFA Fire Ready App for smartphones.

## 15. Handy contacts

### Emergency telephone numbers

<b>Emergency - Police, Ambulance, Fire</b>	<b>000</b>
Hospital - Bright	5750 1050
Hospital - Mt Beauty	5754 3500
Medical Centre – Bright	5750 1000
Medical Centre - Mt Beauty	5754 3400
Police – Bright	5755 1444
Police - Mt Beauty	5754 4244
RACV	13 11 11
VicRoads	13 11 70

### For more information

Parks Victoria Information Centre	13 1963 <a href="http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au">www.parkweb.vic.gov.au</a>
Mt Beauty Visitor Information Centre	5755 0596
Bright Visitor Information Centre	5755 0584
Falls Creek Resort Management	5731 1200 <a href="http://www.fallscreek.com.au">www.fallscreek.com.au</a>
Mt Hotham Resort Management	5759 3550 <a href="http://www.mthotham.com.au">www.mthotham.com.au</a>

### Weather and fire

Weather – Bureau of Meteorology	<a href="http://www.bom.gov.au">www.bom.gov.au</a>
Total fire ban information and fire danger ratings	<a href="http://www.cfa.vic.ov.au">www.cfa.vic.ov.au</a>
Victorian Bushfire Information Line	1800 240 667
Local radio	96.5FM
ABC radio	106.5FM