

New Year High Country Walk, VIC

Tour Date: NEW YEAR
Departs 29 December 2011

For **SINGLE WALKERS 40 TO 59 Years**
29 December 2011 to 1 January 2012 (4 days / 3 nights)

Melbourne • Falls Creek • Melbourne, Victoria

New Year High Country Walk

This walking holiday provides lodge accommodation in the Victorian alpine village of Falls Creek enabling a fortunate few to enjoy the splendours of the Victorian Alps this New Year.

Summer is a beautiful time to be up in the Alps. The walking is delightful and your friendly guides will show you many of the highlights of the high country.

Spend the days exploring the scenic beauty of the high country. Walk amongst alpine heath lands, herb fields and snow gums on the roof of Victoria, traverse the spectacular Razorback ridge line and stand atop the summit of Mt Feathertop, Victoria's most iconic peak. In the evenings, relax in the comforts of your own lodge with friendly fellow walkers.

Our trip starts and finishes in Melbourne and we can offer pre and post trip accommodation at our group hotel in Melbourne.

This is a suggested age group, however, other fit and happy walkers outside the age group are welcome.

Fellow Passengers:

Share your journey with other like-minded single travellers. Plus, we 'go the extra mile' and offer a pre-departure contact service to our group of guests (*see itinerary page for details*).

If you are outside the promoted age group you are welcome to join the group given you are a regular walker of a good fitness level. The age group of 40 to 59 years is selected as generally we find trips of this style are most popular with this age group.

Fitness Level

It is ideal for the walker of a good (medium) level of fitness.

The High Country tour does not involve too much in the way of climbing. There are some longer days but generally the walking is gentle and flat with just a few steep climbs. Undulating is the best way to describe most of the walking. Also because the walk is based on the high plains you do not have to have to climb to get up there, as you are already at a higher elevation (e.g. Falls Creek is an elevation of 1530 metres.)

In terms of preparation, walking three times per week should be sufficient preparation, gradually increasing the distance and incorporating some hills and walking with a small day pack. In the 2-3 weeks preceding the tour 3-4 times per week may be good.

aRendezvous

Book early to secure
your place on this
New Year trip.



TOP 5 REASONS TO BOOK

1. Age-matched holiday groups
2. Travel with like-minded singles
3. Tours provided by leading tour operators
4. Early bird savings with many tours
5. Room-mate matching option

Tour Inclusions

- Twin share room with ensuite in hosted lodge at Falls Creek
- 3 breakfasts
- 3 lunches
- 3 course dinner each night
- Air conditioned mini bus from Melbourne with trailer
- Walking poles & gaiters provided
- Group first aid kit
- Group communications including satellite phone & SPOT satellite Messenger
- Experienced, professional and friendly walking guides
- Pick up and return from nominated group hotel, Melbourne (Hotel Ibis)
- Parks Victoria fees

Not Included: alcohol, personal items, lunch on first day

Bookings close

Bookings close 45 days prior to departure or before if places sell out.

Tour Prices

Prices Per Person	Twin Share	Single Room
Walking Tour	\$1645	\$1975
Pre Tour Hotel, Melbourne 28 December 2011	\$TBA	\$TBA
Post Tour Hotel Melbourne 1 January 2012	\$TBA	\$TBA

All prices are in Australian Dollars

Room-mate Matching

For pre and post tour accommodation in Melbourne you can avoid the single supplement with our room-mate matching service (subject to availability)

About Us

At *arendezvous travel & leisure* we offer holiday groups for single travellers. All trips age-matched so there's more chance you'll share your journey with like-minded travellers.

Visiting destinations across Australia and around the globe, choose from short escapes to adventure trips and leisurely touring.

Contact Us

arendezvous travel & leisure

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T/A Licence No. 2TA08183

For your protection and peace of mind we are a member of the Travel Compensation Fund.

Inside the lodge, Falls Creek



 **arendezvous**

Itinerary for New Year High Country Walk, VICTORIA



Day 1 Thursday 29 December 2011

Melbourne to Falls Creek
Introductory walk

Departing from Melbourne, the group is collected from the front of the nominated group hotel at 8:00am; Hotel Ibis, 15 Therry Street, Melbourne.

We can arrange well priced pre and post tour accommodation at the Hotel Ibis (contact us for details).

We break the drive to Falls Creek stopping at a local winery for lunch (own expense) and a spot of wine tasting before heading up the mountain to Falls Creek, where we unload and settle into our lodge accommodation. Once settled, we depart on a short walking tour direct from our lodge to stretch our legs and start to get a feel for the high plains.

Returning to our lodge we enjoy pre-dinner drinks before settling into an enjoyable 3 course dinner in friendly company. After a short briefing about tomorrow's walking, we settle in for a relaxing evening in anticipation of our walking to come.

Day 2 Friday 30 December 2011

Northern Bogong High Plains Circuit
Distance: 22km
Grade: Medium

A classic introduction to the Bogong High Plains. Today's walk sees us traverse stunning snow plains of button grass and snow gum. We follow historic snow pole lines and make detours to explore some historic huts of the high plains.

From Rocky Valley dam we make a gradual climb of Heathy Spur, following its narrow winding walking trail as it twists its way through the heath and snow gum before emerging on the pole line over Mount Nelse. We make a detour to Edmonson's Hut before rejoining the trail for an [optional] ascent of Mount Nelse. We continue to Warby corner for views to the north towards Mount Bogong and east towards Spion Kopje before returning to Heathy Spur via a detour to Johnson's Hut.

Day 3 Saturday 31 December 2011

Southern Bogong High Plains circuit
Distance: 18.6 – 21.6 km (with optional Mt Cope detour)
Grade: Medium

Today we explore much of the southern portion of the high country – Victoria's Bogong High Plains. Heading out from Pretty Valley Pondage we walk over to the western edge of the high plains before following

the pole line south and making an exciting descent to the west to Weston's Hut. This hut was burnt down in 2007 and a replacement is only now just being finished. It should be brand new and waiting for us when we pass through this April. This aspect provides exceptional views towards the stunning Razorback ridgeline and beautiful Mt Feathertop, Victoria's second highest peak. Returning to Pole 333 we make a short detour to scramble up the small but remote and worthwhile peak of Mt Jim (below). Continuing along the pole line via Mount Bundara we have the option of a 5.9km detour to climb Mount Cope before returning tour waiting bus at Pretty Valley.

Day 4 Sunday 1 January 2012

Aqueducts and historic huts circuit
Distance: 18.5 km
Grade: Medium

Today's walk consists of two separate loop walks and the walking is considerably easier than in the past two days. Walking beside the aqueducts you will be surprised how quickly we eat up the miles as we make our way out to Fitzgerald's and Kelly's huts via Marm Point and Holland's Knob.

Our second loop walk begins near Cope Hut and we make our way north east for about 2.0 km to Wallace Hut, the oldest and most photographed old cattlemen's hut in the high plains. From here we head down past Wilkinson Lodge hut site and follow the Langford West Aqueduct Trail south west past the Bogong Rover Scout chalet.

Our final leg follows the snow pole lines back up to historic Cope Hut (once famous) the "Hilton" of the Bogong High Plains.

After collecting our luggage and a quick change, we board the mini bus for the return journey to Melbourne. You will return to Melbourne in the evening.

USEFUL NOTES:

> Falls Creek is approximately 385 km (about 5 hours) north east of Melbourne. With stops this journey takes around 6 hours

> Phone reception on the high plains varies greatly. Best coverage is with Telstra's Next G network

> Accommodation is two share with ensuite bathrooms (limited single room cabins are available). Rooms include a television, tea & coffee making facilities, fridge and hairdryer

> All linen is supplied and each room is serviced daily

> Lodge includes 2 relaxing lounge areas, infrared sauna and hydrotherapy spa – just the thing after a long day's walking!

> Walking poles and gaiters are provided for all guests

> Fitness – you do not need to be exceptionally fit for this walk, just reasonably active. There are some longer days and some days will involve more climbing than others.

PRE-DEPARTURE CONTACT SERVICE

With your permission, we share your first name, state and email (or other preferred contact method) with the other travellers booked with us. It's a popular choice, especially as most guests usually book solo. This contact list is provided after bookings close.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Full terms and conditions are available on the holiday website. Information was correct at the time of publishing however some details may change without notice. The tour is operated by Australian Walking Tours.

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