

# Mt Hotham Track Notes



## The Huts Walk



Walking



Bush Walking



Gold Mining Heritage



High Country Huts

Summer is a great time to explore the Mt Hotham Alpine Resort and the surrounding Alpine National Park. A variety of tracks and trails access some of Australia's best views, unique flora and fauna and some of the regions richest history.

Huts have played an important role in the European history of the Mt Hotham region. From the earliest crude buildings of the miners and cattle graziers, wayside shelters for early travellers and tourists and the important refuges for the pioneer skiers. The Huts Walk takes in three important huts, each which represent an important place in the history of Australia's Alpine region.



Spargo's Hut, Golden Point

### Spargo's Hut

One of the oldest intact structures in the resort, this State Heritage registered building has been described as the Mawson's Hut of the Australian Alps. It was built by prospector Bill Spargo and his brother Cecil in 1927-8 for Bill's prospecting and mining activities in the Golden Point area. Bill was Supervisor of the Hotham section of the Alpine Road for the Country Roads Board (CRB) in the early 1920s and was influential in the establishment of Mt Hotham as a recreational skiing location. He later discovered the rich gold-bearing Red Robin reef on Machinery Spur in 1941. The hut is a survivor of the 1939, 2003 and 2013 bushfires.



Derrick Hut  
Swindler's / Dibbin's Spur

### Derrick Hut

Built as a day shelter for ski tourers by the Wangaratta Ski Club in 1967. This neat little timber hut is a memorial to Charles Derrick a cross country skier who died in 1965 in a blizzard whilst attempting to ski from Mt Bogong to Mt Hotham. Located on Dibbin's (Swindler's) Spur the hut is nestled in a sheltered hollow surrounded by ancient Snow Gums.

### Silver Brumby Hut

The original Silver Brumby Hut was built in 1992 as a temporary film prop for the Australian film "The Silver Brumby", based on the famous novel by Elyne Mitchell and starring Russell Crowe. The present hut was built in 2006-7 as a replica of the original. A joint project of the Rotary Club of Sale Central, East Gippsland Institute of Tafe, Tanderra Ski Club and the Mt Hotham Resort Management Board. Situated in the Plains of Heaven on Swindler's Creek, the location is an ideal spot for a picnic lunch.



Silver Brumby Hut  
Plains of Heaven, Swindler's Creek

### Doing the Walk

The Huts Walk offers bushwalkers a unique opportunity to experience some of the high country's rarely seen significant natural and historic landscapes. The walk takes you through a range of natural landscapes, from shady and sparsely open woodland to damp gullies. In late January, early February, the area is ablaze with a range of spectacular wild flowers. Quieter walkers may also spot local inhabitants, such as a grazing wombat or a foraging flame robin.



Swindler's Creek footbridge

The Huts Walk can be done as a complete circuit or individual sections suited to personal fitness levels or interests (*see map on other side*).

The walk is accessible from the *Great Alpine Road* at the *Alpine Crossing Trail Head*, *Loch Car park* or *Davenport Access Track*. Car parking is available at both these areas. At the southern, or *Davenport Access Track* end of The Huts Walk, the track follows the *Cobungra Ditch Walk* for 1.7km (*see Cobungra Ditch Track Notes*). From the Ditch the track descends into Swindler's Creek and makes a gradual 'steep' ascent up Golden Point Spur to Spargo's Hut - this is the steepest section of the Huts Walk. (*Starting at the Alpine Crossing Trailhead is preferred by many walkers as it avoids the steep ascent up Golden Point Spur from Swindlers Creek*) The rest of the walk traverses the relatively open and flat high plains.

## Be Prepared

The best months for walking The Huts Walk are from November through to April, however, weather conditions can change rapidly, and snowfalls and blizzards can occur at any time of the year. (*Mt Hotham's Bushwalking Season is from the November Melbourne Cup Weekend to mid May.*)

### Be prepared with:

- Wind and waterproof jackets
- Warm clothing – hat, gloves, sunglasses, and strong footwear
- Food and water
- First aid kit and sunscreen
- Map and compass
- Check the weather forecast before departing
- Let someone know where you are going
- Mobile phone (reception in some areas)

### Caution

Bushfires have damaged snow gums, which are now regenerating but dead branches are shedding with the new growth. High wind days may result in falling limbs and branches. It is not recommended to use the track on windy days. Please be aware that snakes are active during warm months.

See also 'Mt Hotham Track Notes - Bushwalker Code'



Grade of Walk:

Distance:

Time:

Gradient:

Quality of Path:

Steps:

Experience required:

## The Huts Walk

Grade 4, as per *The Australian Walking Track Grading System*

15km between Alpine Crossing Trailhead/Loch Car park and Davenport Access Track

18km circuit via Great Alpine Road (including Silver Brumby and Derrick huts detours)

Approximately 7 hours

Some steep grades

Mostly formed track, with some obstacles

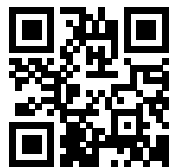
Occasional steps

Bushwalking experience and a reasonable level of fitness recommended

For more information on Mt Hotham's Iconic Tracks & Trails, visit [www.mthotham.com.au](http://www.mthotham.com.au). For Resort track & trail conditions, email [mhar@mthotham.com.au](mailto:mhar@mthotham.com.au), or telephone 03 5759 3550 during business hours.

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