High-country day checklist

Overnight in a gateway first. Pick one outdoor goal. Pack for a summit even if you only walk a hut. From **alpinenationalpark.com.au** — print this page or save as PDF from your browser.

Verify before you go. Track status, seasonal roads and closures change. Always check Parks Victoria — Alpine National Park and change of conditions. Not walked. Not live status. Independent unofficial guide — not Parks Victoria. Melbourne same-day return for Bogong or the Razorback is not this checklist.

1. Before you leave the gateway town

Status & weather

- ☐ Parks Victoria park page + change of conditions this morning
- ☐ VicEmergency + VicRoads for the road you will actually drive
- ☐ Alpine forecast, not only Bright or Melbourne café weather
- ☐ One outdoor goal said out loud (hut / lookout / one ridge)
- ☐ Plan B if the ridge is in cloud at the carpark
- ☐ Someone knows your plan + return window
- ☐ Alerts and maps screenshot on town Wi-Fi

Packing (day pack)

- ☐ Waterproof / wind shell
- ☐ Insulating mid-layer (snow possible any month on summits)
- ☐ Grip boots — not fashion sneakers
- ☐ Water 2 L+ on summit days
- ☐ Lunch + extra food
- ☐ Headlamp
- ☐ Map + compass or offline GPS
- ☐ Simple first aid / blister kit
- ☐ Phone + Emergency+ app (000 needs reception)

2. First high-country day from Bright (one outdoor block)

- **Night before** — you already slept in Bright (or Harrietville). Not a Melbourne 4 am leave hoping for Feathertop.
- **Morning** — write one goal: Harrietville / valley walk, *or* a High Plains hut if Bogong High Plains Road is open, *or* a town rest day if the weather is junk.
- **Do not add** Feathertop, Staircase Spur, or a 4WD "quick look" at Wonnangatta.
- **Afternoon** — back in town before you get clever. Tomorrow's Razorback is a separate itinerary and an early Hotham leave.

3. Razorback / Feathertop day (fit parties, clear window only)

- Base: Harrietville, Bright or Hotham — not Melbourne.
- Trailhead: Diamantina Hut, Great Alpine Road, about 2.5 km Harrietville side of Hotham Village. Same car in, same car out.
- If the ridge is in cloud at the carpark: Wallace's Hut (if High Plains Road is open) or a Bright rest day. Not "we'll see."
- About 22 km return, mostly above treeline. Turn around if you are late before the final climb.
- Do not pair Bungalow Spur the same day. Do not drive home to Melbourne after the walk.

4. Order-of-stops cheat sheet

First-timer priority

1. Overnight in Bright, Mount Beauty, Harrietville or Mansfield — say which town before you leave Melbourne
2. One outdoor block only
3. Wallace's Hut is a legitimate high-plains day if the seasonal road is open

Skip if short on time / bad weather

- Feathertop summit
- Staircase Spur / Bogong
- Falls to Hotham without booked platforms
- Any improvised 4WD
- Stacking two ridges because the first felt easy

5. Parking, fees & crowds

☐ Signed trailhead parks only. Do not block Great Alpine Road verges
☐ Alpine car parks get broken into — take valuables
☐ Park vehicle day-entry: none currently for Alpine National Park itself — check parks.vic.gov.au
☐ Falls Creek / Hotham winter vehicle entry is a resort fee, not a park fee
☐ No general walking permit for standard day walks
☐ Falls to Hotham tent platforms are a booked/paid exception — not this checklist (use the practical planner)

6. Safety non-negotiables

- Alpine weather is not the Ovens Valley café temperature. Shell on. Turn around in cloud, wind or snow.
- Seasonal high-elevation roads can stay closed into late October — a hut walk is closed to you if the road is closed.
- Coverage is patchy on ridges and high plains. 000 needs reception. Emergency+ app. PLB / sat messenger is a remote-day planning note, not theatre.
- Huts (Bivouac, Cope, Dibbins, Wallace's) are heritage / emergency — not booked accommodation.

- **Emergency: call 000.** This checklist cannot help with rescue. Parks Victoria 13 1963 for park info, not emergency.

7. Useful links

- **This guide:** https://www.alpinenationalpark.com.au/ — itineraries, trails, plan visit
- Practical planner (fees / overnight / FHAC): https://www.alpinenationalpark.com.au/downloads/alpine-practical-planner.html
- Official park: https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/alpine-national-park
- Change of conditions: https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/safety-in-nature/change-of-conditions
- The Razorback Walk: https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/sites/the-razorback-walk
- Wallace's Hut walk: https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/sites/wallaces-hut-walk
- Parks Victoria 13 1963 · Triple Zero 000

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