**www.alpinenationalpark.com.au**

UNOFFICIAL FREE PLANNER

# Alpine National Park Practical Planner

Overnight vs Melbourne · Bright vs Mount Beauty · three fee systems · Razorback vs Bogong vs Falls to Hotham · packing · official Parks Victoria links

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**Verify everything officially.** Track status, seasonal roads, camping bookings and temporary closures change. Use Parks Victoria — Alpine National Park and change of conditions. Independent unofficial guide — not affiliated with Parks Victoria or alpine resorts. Planning from official sources — we have not walked these tracks for this guide.

**Keep the money systems split.** Park vehicle day-entry: none currently for Alpine National Park itself — re-check parks.vic.gov.au. Standard day walks: no walk permit. Falls Creek / Hotham winter vehicle entry is a *resort* fee, not a park fee. Camping is mostly free dispersed / designated; Falls to Hotham tent platforms are the booked/paid exception (Parks Victoria 2026–27 camping schedule lists $19.60 peak per site up to 3 persons / $17.70 concession — published schedule, not a live quote). This planner never sells park camping.

## 1. Before you leave base

- ☐ Parks Victoria park page + change of conditions — this morning
- ☐ One outdoor goal chosen out loud: hut / one ridge / Falls to Hotham (booked) — not all three
- ☐ Overnight already solved: Bright, Harrietville, Mount Beauty, Mansfield, Omeo or a resort village
- ☐ Melbourne same-day return for Bogong or the Razorback? No. Overnight first
- ☐ Fuel / food last towns: Bright, Mount Beauty, Harrietville, Mansfield or Omeo — not "we'll find something on the high plains"
- ☐ Alpine forecast, not only Melbourne or Bright café weather
- ☐ Screenshot alerts, bookings and maps on town Wi-Fi (coverage is not reliable on ridges)
- ☐ Tell someone your plan and expected return
- ☐ Hard turn-around time written down for summit days

## 2. Two bases — pick one primary path

### Bright / Harrietville / Hotham

- ☐ Town day + one extra, or Razorback from Diamantina Hut
- ☐ Feathertop: Razorback *or* Bungalow Spur from Harrietville — not both unless planned
- ☐ Falls to Hotham finish: Mt Loch carpark
- ☐ Not the right base for Staircase Spur / Bogong

### Mount Beauty / Tawonga

- ☐ Staircase Spur trailhead: Mountain Creek
- ☐ Victoria's highest summit — first light start
- ☐ Bivouac Hut is halfway emergency only — limited water
- ☐ Bright brunch first is how Bogong days fail

This is **not a capital day-trip**. Drive time Melbourne to Bright / Mount Beauty is typically 3.5–5+ hours depending on gateway and conditions. Success is one named outdoor block after an overnight — not Bogong plus Razorback plus a winery.

## 3. Walk / day decision tree

> **First visit / mixed ability / junk weather**
> High-country day from Bright: one valley walk, one hut if the High Plains Road is open, or a town rest day. Feathertop is a separate itinerary.

> **Fit, clear ridge, alpine forecast not ugly**
> Razorback day from Diamantina Hut. If the ridge is in cloud at the carpark, cancel. Wallace's Hut is Plan B if the road is open.

> **Very fit, based in Mount Beauty, first light**
> Bogong via Staircase Spur. Tree-line turnaround if weather fails. Overnight only if you carry a real camp — huts are emergency refuge.

> **Three days already booked on platforms**
> Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing: book Cope Hut and Dibbins Hut platforms first, car shuffle second, walk third. Not recommended June–October except experienced winter parties.

> **Shoulder season / ice / seasonal roads shut**
> Shrink to Wallace's Hut (if open), a west-side waterfall, or town. Do not invent a 4WD Wonnangatta add-on.

> **No platform booking / ridge in cloud / you are already behind time**
> You do not have Falls to Hotham. You do not have the Razorback. Plan B is still a good trip.

## 4. Fees — three systems, do not mix them

- ☐ Park vehicle day-entry: none currently for Alpine National Park itself — re-check parks.vic.gov.au and the Fees and Charges Schedule
- ☐ Day walks: no walk permit for standard signed walks
- ☐ Resort winter vehicle entry: Falls Creek / Hotham — resort fee, not park fee. Link the resort; do not call it park entry
- ☐ Camping: mostly free dispersed / designated; follow Parks Victoria fire / fuel-stove-only rules
- ☐ Falls to Hotham platforms: book on bookings.parks.vic.gov.au — 2026–27 schedule $19.60 peak / $17.70 concession per site up to 3 persons — check live
- ☐ This site may earn on stays, tours and gear. Park camping fees never are affiliates.

## 5. Classic day skeleton — one outdoor block

**Timing (typical)**

- Already overnight in a gateway
- Leave town with layers and a reverse clock
- Do the one named walk or hut
- Eat. Dry socks. Tomorrow's forecast
- Do not add a second mountain because the first felt easy

**Success metrics**

- Whole group finishes the walk you named
- Did not invent Feathertop as an afternoon add-on
- Did not base Bogong from Bright
- Did not treat a Melbourne leave as a summit day

## 6. Packing — day visitor baseline

- ☐ Waterproof / wind shell
- ☐ Insulating mid-layer
- ☐ Headlamp
- ☐ Map + compass or offline GPS

- ☐ Grip boots
- ☐ Day pack
- ☐ Water 2 L+ per adult on summit days
- ☐ Lunch + emergency snacks
- ☐ Simple first aid + blister care
- ☐ Offline alert screenshots + power bank
- ☐ Emergency+ app; 000 needs reception
- ☐ Sun / snow glasses on high plains

## 7. Packing — overnight / Falls to Hotham (extra)

- ☐ Official platform booking screenshot (Cope + Dibbins)
- ☐ Tent that fits a 2–3 person platform (eyelets + movable pegs)
- ☐ Fuel stove (fuel-stove-only zones exist; high-plains firewood is scarce)
- ☐ Sleep system for alpine nights, any month
- ☐ Navigation offline + official FHAC notes
- ☐ PLB / sat messenger as a planning note, not a costume
- ☐ Food for full days + reserve
- ☐ Car shuffle already solved (~2.5 h Heathy Spur ↔ Mt Loch) or a booked shuttle

## 8. Alpine safety realism

- ☐ Ridge in cloud, strong wind or snow: turn around. Wallace's Hut is Plan B, not "push on"
- ☐ Seasonal high-elevation roads can stay closed into late October — check VicRoads + Parks Victoria, not a blog
- ☐ Pinnacles Lookout and other fire-recovery sites may stay closed on published dates — read today's notice
- ☐ Deer ground-shooting can be underway; the park stays open — stay on signed tracks
- ☐ Huts are emergency refuge, not booked beds
- ☐ Emergency: call **000**. Parks Victoria 13 1963 is information, not rescue

## 9. Official links (verify live)

- Park home: **Parks Victoria — Alpine National Park**
- Change of conditions: **parks.vic.gov.au**
- Fees schedule: **Fees and charges**
- Falls to Hotham: **Official crossing page**
- FHAC bookings: **bookings.parks.vic.gov.au**
- The Razorback Walk: **Official site**
- Mt Bogong via Staircase Spur: **Official site**
- Wallace's Hut walk: **Official site**
- BOM Mount Beauty: **Forecast (still check alpine)**

## 10. On-site itineraries (full timelines)

- **High-country day from Bright**
- **Razorback day (Feathertop)**
- **Bogong day (or self-sufficient overnight)**
- **Falls to Hotham — how to start planning**
- **Quieter shoulder-season plan**
- High-country day checklist (packing / order of stops): **HTML** · **PDF**