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|--|---------------------|--|--|--|----------------------|
| | Princes Highway | | Snowy River Country Trail Main Route | | Petrol |
| | Major sealed road | | Snowy River Country Trail Side Trip | | Accommodation |
| | Major unsealed road | | Snowy River Orbost Visitor Information Centre - start of the Snowy River Country Trail | | Camping |
| | Minor sealed road | | National Parks, Coastal Parks & reserves | | Picnic area |
| | Minor unsealed road | | Snowy River Country Trail Route Marker | | Highway route number |
| | State border | | | | |
| | Snowy River | | | | |

Snowy River Country Trail

The Snowy River Country Trail is an enjoyable 1 to 2 days drive featuring magnificent natural attractions and places of heritage along the way. Distance around the Trail is approximately 284kms.

Some of the Trail can be windy in parts – but the views simply magnificent!

The Trail is suitable to 2 wheel drive vehicles but is not suitable for caravans or trailers. Take your time along the Trail as roads may be unsealed, narrow or windy in parts

The Snowy River Country Trail may be driven year round.

A loop route, the Trail may be followed in either direction or started at any point along the way.

Road Conditions Before you go, contact a Visitor information Centre for more detailed information about the roads and road conditions. Some roads along side trips may be subject to seasonal road closures.

Great Ideas For information about other activities along the way, accommodation and bookings, contact **Lakes & Wilderness Visitor Information** 1800 637 060

For more detail about any of the Parks and Reserves along the Trail, download an informative **PARK NOTE** from the Parks Victoria website at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

1 Snowy River Orbost Visitor Information Centre

Discover the special nature of East Gippsland's rainforest through the Centre's magnificent displays and audiovisual. Explore the landscaped rainforest setting with self guided short trails. The centre's friendly staff can also help you with activity, tour and accommodation information and bookings. From the Centre, wander across to the Snowy River to take a short walk upstream or downstream.

2 Buchan Caves

Near the township of Buchan lies a honeycomb of caves full of spectacular limestone formations. These formations have been created by rainwater seeping through cracks and dissolving some of the limestone. As each droplet comes through the roof it deposits calcite which crystallises in a small ring. In time, stalactites have been formed on the roof of the cave, and stalagmites built

up from droplets that have fallen to the floor.

Amongst the hundreds of deciduous trees growing in the Reserve, there is a swimming pool, picnic ground, playground, toilets, kiosk, powered campsites and an information centre.

Guided tours are conducted daily in Royal Cave and Fairy Cave between 10am and 3.30pm. Both caves are lit and have walkways with Royal Cave featuring calcite rimmed pools, and Fairy Cave elaborate stalactites and stalagmites. Tours to 'wild' unlit caves can be arranged for small groups.

Entry to the Reserve is free, and optional guided tours attract an admission fee. For more information about the Buchan Caves and Reserve powered campsite bookings (essential over Easter and during summer holiday period), contact Lakes & Wilderness Tourism (freecall) 1800 637 060 or Parks Victoria Information on 13 1963.

3 Little River Falls

From the carpark, take a short 400 metre wander to the viewing platform of the Little River Falls. These falls are quite spectacular and plummet more than 600 metres to meet the Snowy River.

4 Little River Gorge

Downstream from the Little River Falls, Little River Gorge is Victoria's deepest gorge. The drive to the Gorge is a short 800 metres from a turn-off on the Trail route, where you can park and follow a 400 metre walking track to the cliff-top lookout over the gorge. Information boards will give you a great insight to the geographical significance of this area.

5 McKillops Bridge

McKillops Bridge is one of the Trails sites of historical interest as it represents an example of early European settlement and land use. This bridge is one of only 2 bridge crossings of the Snowy River in Victoria, and significantly, marks the area that was worked for silver and lead in the 1890s.

The original McKillops Bridge was washed away in January 1934, and the remaining bent steel dividers are testament to the force of the waters during a flooding of the Snowy River. Take a closer look at the gauging posts. How wide would the river be during an 8 metre or even a 13 metre flood?

Just upstream of the bridge, wide sandy beaches with shallow rock pools between rapids are a real find.

For adventurers, this is also the best canoe-launching spot to explore the gorges downstream. The Snowy offers thrilling canoeing or rafting with rapids, flat sections, sand bars and beautiful scenery.

6 Alpine National Park

Bordering the northern end of the Trail, the Alpine National Park contains a wide range of natural environments, from the dry river valley of the Snowy River to the alpine summit. The park supports a large diversity of animals and a number of threatened species such as the Broad-toothed Rat and the Powerful Owl.

As you drive along the Trail, majestic mature Alpine Ash forests dominate this section of the Alpine Park.

7 Martins Creek Flora Reserve

The pristine environment at Martins Creek Flora Reserve features the flora and fauna of a warm temperate rainforest. Rich with mosses, ferns and vines, keep an eye out for kanukas and waratahs. Birdlife is abundant in the picnic grounds and eucalyptus proudly crown the reserve.

