

This brochure describes three routes (plus alternates and side trips) to help you discover the history and heritage of the Walhalla to Jamieson gold belt. Each tour takes you past a series of interpretative signs whilst traversing some of the most beautiful and scenic four-wheel drive routes across the Great Divide.

Each tour is described with detailed directions and distances. Tour descriptions are numerically matched with the tour route map on the reverse side and key points of interest highlighted.

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Four Wheel Drive Victoria
www.fwdvictoria.org.au

1 MAIN ROUTE Donnellys Creek

(Commencing from Walhalla)

Classification: Easy, Medium

Distance: 74 km

Duration: Full day of driving, two full days if undertaking walks

Warnings: Log trucks, narrow and steep forest roads

Recommended UHF Channel: McEvoy's Track: Channel 40, Donnellys Creek Road: Channel 3 (with duplex on).

Note: Donnellys Creek Road may also be referred to as **other mapping material as 'Donnelly Creek Track'**.

4WD Track Classification

The 4WD track ratings for these tours are advisory only and have been estimated for travel in dry conditions. Even after very light rain, many tracks can become extremely slippery, and more difficult to negotiate safely. The stated ratings may not be accurate after rain or heavy dew and greater care needs to be exercised.

Fieldwork has revealed that odometer readings can vary from +/- 200 metres per 10 km depending upon the vehicle used. All measurements used in this brochure are approximate and should be taken as a guide only. The tour description distance does not include optional side trips.

The Four Wheel Drive Recreational Track Classification System provides a standard four level colour coded system to indicate the degree of difficulty of 4WD tracks and routes. The classification enables visitors to understand the nature of a track before beginning their journey and allows them to plan their trip for enjoyment, safety and comfort.

A number of areas have been classified in Victoria's State Forest and National Parks along with Victoria's Iconic 4WD Adventures.

For further details on Victoria's Iconic 4WD Adventures visit www.4wdvictoria.org.au/iconic4wd/

Please note - All tracks are classified in dry conditions and will be more difficult in wet conditions.

Some roads along this route are subject to Seasonal Road Closures, while others may be temporarily closed for various reasons. Current closures may be viewed at <https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/webmap/publicaccess/>, or contact regional Forest Fire Management Victoria offices or Parks Victoria.

	EASY	MEDIUM	DIFFICULT	VERY DIFFICULT
Overview Description	All-wheel drive and High Range 4WD/ Novice drivers.	Mainly High Range 4WD but Low Range required. Some 4WD experience or training required.	Significant Low Range 4WD with standard 4WD ground clearance. Should have 4WD driver training.	Low Range 4WD with high ground clearance. Experienced drivers.
Advisory Sign	Green Circle	Blue Square	Black Diamond	Double Black Diamond
Expected terrain and track conditions	Mostly unsealed roads with no obstacles and minor gradients.	Tracks with some steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. Possible water crossings.	Tracks with frequent steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy track sections. Possible water crossings.	Tracks with frequent very steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy track sections. May have difficult river crossings.
Vehicle Suitability	All-wheel drive and High range 4WD. Can be low clearance with single range and road tyres.	Suitable for medium clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain or road tyres.	Suitable for medium clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain or road tyres.	Suitable for high clearance vehicles with dual range and tyres suitable for the terrain. (Mud terrain tyres).
Recovery Equipment			Winch/ Recovery Equipment required.	Winch/ Recovery Equipment required.
Driver Training / Experience	Suitable for novice drivers.	Recommended that drivers have experience or 4WD training. Recommended to be done in groups of vehicles.	Recommended for drivers with reasonable experience or 4WD training. To be done in groups of vehicles.	Drivers with extensive experience and advanced training should only attempt as there are several technical challenges. Recommended to be done in groups of four or more vehicles.
Weather	May be more difficult in wet.	May be more difficult in wet.	May be more difficult in wet.	May be more difficult in wet.



Walhalla

down to the township of Store Point. The Store Point Hut (restored by the Victorian High Country Hut Association and the Pajero Club of Victoria) is available to shelter from the elements with its cosy indoor fireplace. A short walk to the Store Point Burial Ground and School House is available for those wishing to stretch their legs, or enjoy a picnic morning tea/lunch at the hut site.

Continuing along Donnellys Creek Road. The Morning Star and Crinoline Walking Tracks commence off Middle Star Track (also known as Willowbush Spur Track) to your right at the 8.2 km mark. Allow two hours return to complete both tracks, where you will view the Water Wheel nestled in a steep valley and erected in 1905, which was used for the Morning Star Mine. The walk onwards to the Crinoline will allow you to view other old mining relics such as a boiler and stamper. Beware of snakes.

As Donnellys Creek Road continues, you will pass the compounds of O'Tooles Flat and Little O'Tooles. Both have firepits, toilets and plenty of grassy areas and shady trees to pitch your tent or throw your swag.



Store Point Hut

Continuing north towards Mt Useful, learn of the colourful history of the pioneers through interpretation material at Dawes and the Bark Hut site.

At the 10.2 km mark from Binns Road/McEvoy's Track intersection, turn left into Donnellys Creek Road. Donnellys Creek once comprised many smaller townships including Store Point, Edwards Reef, Toombon, and Codes Flat (previously known as Clarkes Flat) to name a few. It also played host to many immigrants and early pioneers.

Switch to UHF Channel 3 for Donnellys Creek Road and depress the duplex button on your unit.

At the 18 km mark along Donnellys Creek Road, you will find the Edwards Reef Burial Ground at the top of a short track to your left - established around 1863.

A bit further along Donnellys Creek Road, lies the township site of Edwards Reef (1863 - 1880) including the lone grave of Eliza Alderson. Take a few minutes to read about the colourful history of this township on the interpretation signs.

As you leave Edwards Hill, a series of hairpin bends wind

Starting in Walhalla (distances measured from Walhalla Post Office), head north on the Walhalla Road. At 6.3 km, you will pass the Cricket Ground Track on your right, which will take you up to the historic Walhalla Cricket Ground.

Read about the history of Kellys Flat - an area converted from trees to tramways.

At the 10 km mark, veer right onto Binns Road. Pass the historic sites of Holmedale (on your right) which was predominantly used as a mail pick-up depot for the nearby gold mines, and steal views through the trees to your left of the Thomson Reservoir in the distance.

At the end of Binns Road and site of the Binns Hotel (1871 - 1873), turn left onto McEvoy's Track (12.6 km from Walhalla Post Office). McEvoy's Track boasted many hotel sites in the late 1800s, enabling people to travel from the coast to the goldfields in search of their fortune.



River Crossing

2 MAIN ROUTE Jordan Valley

(Commencing from Aberfeldy)

Classification: Easy, Medium

Duration: One full day, 1 1/2 days with walks included

Warnings: Narrow and steep forest roads

Recommended UHF Channel: Channel 3

Note: This route is subject to seasonal road closures from 1st May to 30th November each year. No vehicle-based camping or camp fires are permitted in the catchment area.

Commence your journey from the historic township of Aberfeldy. After 12.5 kms, turn sharp left onto Victor Spur Track where you are now entering the Thomson Water Supply Catchment. You can view the interpretation board on the man who discovered a reef in this area and who was later known to be one of Australia's greatest prospectors - Mr Thomas Rudolph Victor. You are now heading towards the historic townships of Red Jacket and Jericho where you can read about the history of the Jordan Valley Goldfields through a series of interpretation signs. Continue in a south westerly direction where you will shortly cross the bridge over the Jordan River.

Turn left after the bridge onto Red Jacket Track and pass by the old school site on the way to Blue Jacket. After Blue Jacket, continue onto Violet Town, also known as 'Jollys' as it was founded by George and Mary Jolly in 1862. Mr and Mrs Jolly grew fruit trees and vegetables, and Mrs Jolly filled the valley with fields of violets - their colour and perfume vivid when in flower.

After visiting Blue Jacket and Violet Town, return to Red Jacket and head in a north westerly direction towards Jericho. Learn about the Red Jacket church, hotel, post office and sports ground. Ensure you visit the historic Red Jacket Cemetery high on the hillside to your left. It is well worth a walk to view the graves of miners buried almost 150 years ago.

The Red Jacket Track runs alongside the Jordan River. The track 'B.B. Jordan Divide Track' intersects with Red Jacket and Jericho Tracks. B. B. Track was once known as 'Bare Bottom Track' as it was so steep that miners sat down to slow their descent - the result was that it wore out the seat of their trousers! When the female population arrived at the goldfields, the words 'Bare Bottom' were not appropriate, and the track then became known as B. B. Jordan Divide Track.

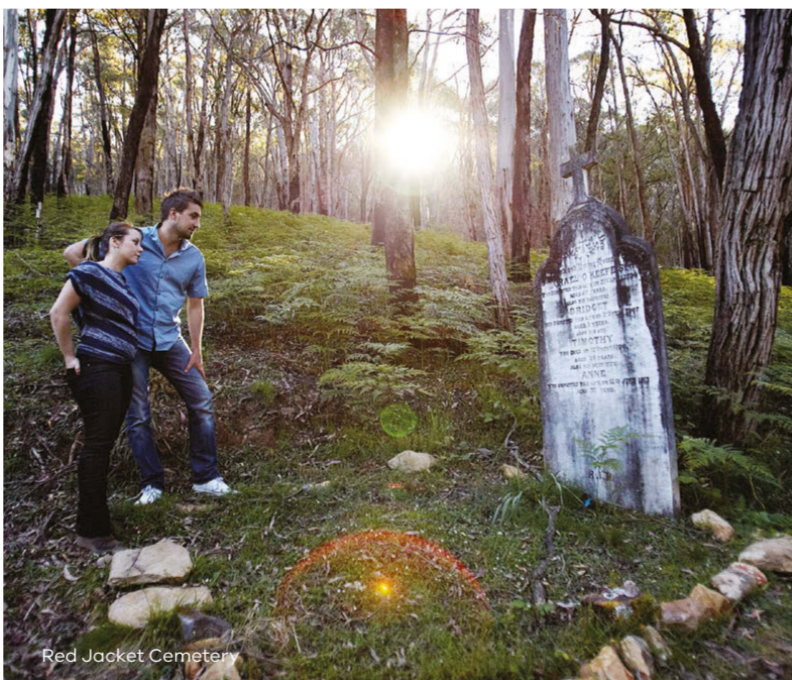
Upon arriving in Jericho, learn about the history of the Jericho school, police station, church and bank, as well as local families who resided in the area. Be sure to visit the magnificent Jericho Oak Tree which was

planted in 1902 from an acorn taken from the family home of Elizabeth and Robert Clarke at Codes Flat. Here, you will also learn of the significant contribution of the Chinese to the Jericho area, and view a monument erected in 2015 by the Victorian Chinese Memorial Foundation.

A visit to the Jericho Cemetery is a must, gazetted in 1870 with the first burials preceding this date. Viewing the Jericho diversion tunnel is also worthwhile, blasted from solid rock in the 1870s. This may have been to obtain gold from the river bed or alternatively to keep the township safe from floodwaters.

To continue your journey towards Matlock, take the Jericho Track past the Oak Tree heading in a northerly direction, until you reach the Walhalla Road. Turn left, and in 3.2 km, you will reach the township of Matlock.

In Matlock you will find Grants Reserve, which is a lovely location for a picnic or break.



Red Jacket Cemetery

3 MAIN ROUTE Woods Point to Jamieson

(Commencing from Woods Point)

Classification: Easy

Duration: One full day

Warnings: Side trips include narrow, steep forest roads

Recommended UHF Channel: Channel 40

The roads from remote Woods Point to picturesque Jamieson are dotted with the relics of settlements and mines telling the gold mining story that commenced with the discovery of gold at Enoch's Point in 1857. Steep terrain, harsh climate and densely forested ranges didn't deter those seeking their fortune from the gold hidden in the rivers and mountains. Settlements were quickly established at Gaffneys Creek, Woods Point, Kevinington and Ten Mile.

Today Woods Point is a fascinating home to a small community, it was however a thriving township boasting 36 hotels, stores, business offices, police station, churches, medical clinics, banks, post office, and factories. The decrease in mining saw the population plummet from around 2000 in the 1870s, to one or two hundred in the 1890s. The 1939 Black Friday fires destroyed the township, killing one person at each of Woods Point and Aberfeldy and 17 in nearby Matlock. Survivors sheltered in mine tunnels or plunged into the Goulburn River.

A town walk is available in Woods Point, highlighting many of the old mining sites, including the tunnel where townfolk sheltered in the 1939 Black Friday fires.



Beware of snakes, particularly during the summer months

The Kevinington Hotel is over 150 years old and marks the current township. The original township was located at the head of nearby Macks Creek. Star of the West mine was the main goldfield for Kevinington. Both Macks Creek and Star of the West are optional 4WD side trips with walking tracks to further explore these sites. From Kevinington continue towards Jamieson. The 'Old Sweat' dig diggings are located on the east side of the road. Read about these at Scots Mist Reserve, a small pleasant site located by the Goulburn river.

Another short drive brings you to Jamieson. Allow enough time to complete the historic walk around the tree lined streets of Jamieson, visit the Historic Museum and relax on the lawns by the cool, clear Jamieson River.



Autumn in Jamieson, "Anglican Church"

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE Entry to Donnellys Creek

(Commencing from Seaton)

Classification: Easy

Distance: 21.5 km

Duration: 50 mins

Warnings: Log trucks

Recommended UHF Channel: Springs Road : Channel 40.

Note: the historical McEvoy's Track is signposted as Springs Road throughout the tour.

Commencing at the Seaton-Glenmaggie Road intersection with McEvoy's Track, heading north-west.

McEvoy's Track has a long and rich history, dating back to before 1862. Around this time, a public meeting was held in Sale and a reward of £50 was offered for the discovery of the best track to the Jordan River diggings.

Tom McEvoy and Portugee Joe's Track was deemed to be the best route, commencing at Seaton, climbing



Toombon

Donnellys Creek Road then winds its way up to Toombon with spectacular views over the mountain ranges. The Toombon Walking Track (at 22 km mark from McEvoy's Track intersection) will take approx 45 minutes to complete. Toombon was a booming mining town in the late 1800s to early 1900s with a population of around 700 people. There are plenty of old mining relics to view at this site. Not far from here is the Toombon Cemetery which was gazetted in 1886 and functioned until the turn of the century.

At the 24.5km mark, you will pass by 'Smoko Point', named after Australia's new soldier recruits who arrived at Aberfeldy for a grueling three day training march through the challenging terrain prior to their deployment overseas. The first stop was 'Smoko Point' for a rest, where most soldiers would fashionably light up a cigarette whilst recovering from the climb.

Donnellys Creek Road now winds its way down to the Aberfeldy River and Codes Flat. There is a small but comfortable camping site just prior to the Aberfeldy River Bridge, named after the old home site of the gold mining family 'Andersons'. At Codes Flat, you can view the original telegraph office made of stone on your left. 3 km further and the road adjoins the Walhalla Road. Turn right onto Walhalla Road heading north once more, where you will shortly arrive in the quaint township of Aberfeldy. Be sure to undertake the short Aberfeldy Heritage Walk and view the historic Aberfeldy Cemetery which was established in the 1860s and is still a working cemetery to this date. View the 'Seat of Remembrance'



Mattlock Cemetery

The historic settlement of Matlock and also the All Nations Gold Mine are showcased at this site. The historic Matlock cemetery is a short 150 metre stroll westerly from the reserve. Matlock was once the highest gold mining town in Australia.

From Grants Reserve at Matlock, take a short detour west (towards Warburton). At the 0.6km mark, lies the old township of Thackery, and a further 1.1 km marks the historic settlement of Alhambra (1864 - 1867), where the local bakery once advertised its bread as being 'better and cheaper than that available from Woods Point'.

Return to Grants Reserve, this time heading down into Woods Point on the Woods Point-Warburton Road, stopping at the Harpers Creek Township Site.

Continue your journey of discovery by choosing one of the two main routes (easy or difficult) that will take you into Jamieson (more detail below).

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES Old Coach Road and German Spur Track

Classification: Difficult

Distance: 14 km

Duration: 2 hours

A difficult 4WD alternative to travelling along the Woods Point - Jamieson Road, with short rocky sections and a long steep decline where it joins up with the main road just south of Knockwood.

Just out of Woods Point you can take the Old Coach Road turnoff just before Jack Scotts Reserve as an alternative route. This takes a moderate 4WD trip along to the site of the Barretts Mountain Home Hotel, Charles Brothers Sawmill and Frenchman's Hotel. Then proceed right down German Spur Track at Frenchmans Gap intersection. This takes you 14km along a difficult 4WD track past German Spur Settlement and the Alpine Hotel. In the late 1800s this was the original track to Woods Point from the north.

German Spur track was used to detour around Gaffneys Creek to access the Upper Goulburn diggings more directly. The track is likely to be named after Charles Yuket who operated the German Alpine Hotel. The site of this hotel, which burnt down in 1865 when the wooden chimney caught fire, and a settlement site are located along this track.

the ridge with the Thomson Watershed on the left and the Glenmaggie Creek on the right, going over the top of Mount Useful. Due to the efforts of Tom McEvoy and Portugee Joe, the goldfields of Woods Point and the Jordan were connected into the commercial centre of Gippsland, Sale. These men claimed their reward for discovering the track, which was soon populated by people hoping to find their fortune.

Shortly after, John Donnelly, travelling along McEvoy's Track, left its safety and followed a spur down to an unknown creek. Here he found good gold and the Donnellys Creek goldfield was born. McEvoy's Track had clearly opened the way from Sale to the major goldfields.

One year later, Ned Stringer with three others, left Donnellys Creek and in 1862 discovered Walhalla.

Take the time to explore the sites of Porters Halfway House (1862 - 1869), Bridget Romes Hotel (1863 - 1865), the Bark Hut Boarding House (1862 - 1863) and the controversy of Murderers Hill.

This link from Seaton now joins the Donnellys Creek Route.



Wedge-tailed Eagle

celebrating the lives of the fifteen men from the district who fought for Australia during World War I. Three of these fifteen were brothers, all from Aberfeldy. Their mother is buried at the Aberfeldy Cemetery after tragically tripping and falling whilst pregnant with her eleventh child. Both the child and mother died, leaving the father with ten children to raise. Learn about the Fair Haven Guest House which also served as the Post Office and Telephone Exchange, and take a moment to absorb the amazing views of the surrounding landscape.

Return to Erica/Rawson via the Walhalla Road, view the spectacular Great Divide mountain range to your left, and learn about the colourful characters of the past including Kitty Cane and 'Holy Joe' Knapping. Stop and absorb the stunning views at Cast Iron Point looking across the Thomson Reservoir to the Baw Baw plateau, whilst learning the history of the naming of this area.

17 km from Aberfeldy township, turn right onto the Thomson Reservoir Access Road which takes you to the dam wall itself. This ends the Donnellys Creek route. Alternatively, from Aberfeldy township, commence the Jordan Valley route (see section below).

This route can be completed in either direction.

SIDE TRIP Meringtons and Junction

Classification: Difficult

Distance: 5.6 kms one way

Duration: 20mins, 1hr including walk

Warnings: Deep river crossing at Junction, check depth prior to crossing.

This alternate route takes you past Junction Hut and Meringtons Campgrounds. At Meringtons, take the walking track and view the Lone Grave of Charles Brown.

SIDE TRIP Aberfeldy Crossing

Classification: Difficult

Distance/duration (driving): 2.7 km / 14 mins one way

Walking track distance / duration: 300 metres / 15 minutes return

Travelling north from the Aberfeldy township for approximately five minutes (or 1.9 km), turn right into O'Keefes Track. Travel 2.7 km down O'Keefes Track to the start of the walking track which takes you into Aberfeldy Crossing where interpretation material tells of the history of this area and the previous residents who lived there, including Thomas Fawkner, Thomas Theobald, Sarah Matthews and William 'Billy the cook' Bryant.



Hanging Rock



Aberfeldy Back Road Tours GUIDE

3 Back Road Tours and optional side trips to help you discover the rich history and heritage of the Walhalla to Jamieson gold belt whilst enjoying the beautiful scenic views across the Great Divide.



SIDE TRIP White Star Township

Classification: Easy

Distance: 10.7 km from Donnellys Creek Road / McEvoy's Track (otherwise known as Springs Road) intersection

Duration: 30 mins (including short walk into Smiths Hotel Site and William Watts' lone grave.)

Warnings: Log trucks on Springs Road / McEvoy's Track

Recommended UHF Channel: Channel 40.

A short alternative route exists to the township site of White Star, which sprang up after the discovery of quartz by good natured Welshman, Jack Middleton, known for his generosity within the area.

En route to White Star is The Germans, Mt Pleasant Hotel Site as well as Smith's Hotel site with a short walk into the lone grave of William Watts.

The Mt Pleasant Hotel site (1864 - 1869) was run by the Crooks family. Mr Crooks was not favoured within the community, having a reputation for his kleptomaniac tendencies - i.e., Mr Crooks was a crook!



Sarah Bowler's Tree

SIDE TRIP Hanging Rock Walking Track

Classification: Difficult, Very Difficult

Distance/duration (driving): 4.6 km / 20 mins one way

Walking track distance / duration: 1.2 km / 30 minutes return

Commencing from the Aberfeldy township, take the track opposite the telephone box, known as Cullens Track. At the 2 km mark, veer right onto Comet Spur Track, which is a steeply rutted track - traverse in dry weather only. Travel 1.8km before turning left onto Eaton Track, a further 800m along you will find the start of the Hanging Rock Walking Track.

Located on the banks of the Aberfeldy River, 'Hanging Rock' was a particularly popular picnic spot in the late 1800's / early 1900s. It was previously situated along a pack track which travelled from Codes Flat to Cullens Farm and then up to the township of Aberfeldy.



Hanging Rock

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Aberfeldy Back Road Tours

Legend

- Sealed Road
- Unsealed Road
- 4WD Track
- Walking Track
- Seasonal Road Closure
- Parks and Reserves
- State Forest

Recreation Facilities

- Interpretation Material
- Lookout
- Camping
- Toilets
- Picnic Area
- Shelter
- Walking
- Camp Fire
- Kayaking
- Museum
- Caravan

- Donnelly's Creek
- Donnelly's Creek Side Trip
- Jordan Valley
- Jordan Valley Side Trips
- Woods Point - Jamieson
- Woods Point - Jamieson Side Trips

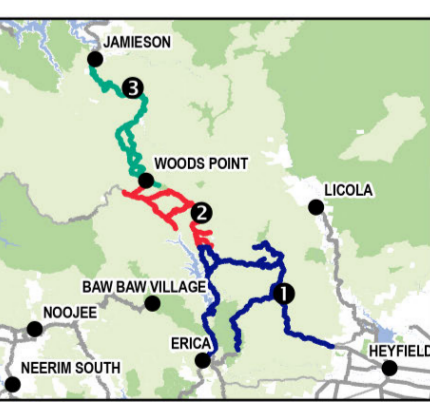
High Country Back Road Tours east of here

Dry Conditions
AWD & 4WD
Easy

Dry Conditions
4WD
Medium

Dry Conditions
4WD
Difficult

Dry Conditions
4WD
Very Difficult



0 1 2 3 4 5
Kilometers

Scale: 1:
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Township	Available	Limited	Not Available
Aberfeldy	×	○	×
Erica	×	○	○
Jamieson	×	○	○
Kewington	×	○	×
Matlock	×	○	×
Rawson	×	○	○
Walhalla	×	○	○
Woods Point	×	○	○

