

This brochure describes four main Back Road Tours (and eight side trips) to help you discover the history and heritage of the Walhalla to Jamieson gold belt through a series of interpretative signs, whilst traversing some of the most beautiful, scenic, four wheel drive routes across the Great Divide.

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

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Four Wheel Drive Track Classifications for this Back Road Tours Guide were carried out in association with Four Wheel Drive Victoria and the Pajero Four Wheel Drive Club of Victoria.



Four Wheel Drive Victoria
www.fwdvictoria.org.au



Pajero Four Wheel Drive Club of Victoria
www.pajeroclub.com.au

Donnelly's 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. Donnelly's Creek Road; Channel 3 (with duplex on).

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

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

As you continue north along Walhalla Road, you will see lush vegetation and spectacular tree ferns that have returned following the 2013 Aberfeldy-Donnelly's Creek fire event.

Read about the history of Kelly's 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 predominately 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.

Jordan Valley (commencing from Aberfeldy)

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. Please obey all signs.



Classification: Easy, Medium
Duration: One full day, 1½ days with walks included

Warnings: Narrow and steep forest roads

Recommended UHF Channel: Channel 3

Commence your journey from the historic township of Aberfeldy. After approximately 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 material in situ. 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 passing the old Red Jacket School site, through to Blue Jacket township and onto Violet Town, also known as 'Jolly's' 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.

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 and settlements quickly established at Gaffneys Creek, Woods Point, Kevington 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 a person at Woods Point and at 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.

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. 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.iconic4wd.com.au.

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

	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 high ground clearance. Experienced drivers.	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. May have shallow 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 tyres suitable for the terrain. (Mud terrain tyres).
Recovery Equipment			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. Recommended 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.	Will be more difficult in wet.	Will be more difficult in wet.	Will be more difficult in wet.

A bit further along Donnelly's Creek Road, you will find 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 material in situ.

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



Continue along Donnelly's Creek Road. The Morning Star and Crinoline Walking Tracks commence off Middle Star Track (also known as Willoughby Spur Track) to your right at approximately 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 1906, 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.

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 Code's 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 possibly 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, a scenic and relatively easy 4WD Track, until you reach the Walhalla Road. Turn left, and in approximately 3.2 km, you will reach the township of Matlock.



Red Jacket Cemetery

Link to Donnelly's Creek Route (commencing from Seaton)



Classification: Easy
Distance: 21.5 km
Duration: 50 mins
Warnings: Log trucks
Recommended UHF Channel: McEvoy's Track ; Channel 40.

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

McEvoy's Track (otherwise known as Springs Road) has a long and rich history, dating back to before 1862, when a public meeting was held in Sale, and a reward of £50 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 the ridge with the Thomson Watershed on the left and the



As Donnelly's Creek Road continues, you will pass the camping grounds of O'Toole's Flats and Little O'Toole's. Both have firepits, toilets and plenty of grassy areas and shady trees to pitch your tent or throw your swag. Donnelly's Creek Road then winds its way up to Toombon with spectacular views over the mountain ranges. The Toombon Walking Track (at approx 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. Passing by 'Smoko Point' at the 24.5 km mark, named after Australia's new soldier recruits 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.

Donnelly's Creek Road now winds its way down to the Aberfeldy River and Code's Flat. There is a small but comfortable camping site just prior to the Aberfeldy River Bridge, previously the old home site of the gold mining

Grants Reserve is a lovely location for a picnic or break. 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 approximately the 0.6km mark, lies the old township of Thackeray, 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.



Matlock Cemetery

Alternative Route: German Spur Track



Classification: Difficult

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.

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 Yukert who operated the German Alpine Hotel. The site of this hotel, that burnt down in 1865 when the wooden chimney caught fire and a settlement site are located along this track.

Distance / Driving time from Woods Point – Jamieson Road to Woods Point – Jamieson Road: 14.0 km / 2 hours



Autumn in Jamieson, Anglican Church



Beware of snakes, particularly during the summer months

Glenmaggie Creek on the right, going over the top of Mount Useful. Because of the efforts of Tom McEvoy and Portugee Joe, Sale, which was then the commercial centre of Gippsland, was linked with the thriving goldfields of Woods Point and the Jordan. McEvoy and Portugee Joe rightly claimed the reward for discovering the track and soon bullock drivers thronged with their wares including tea, flour, sugar, salt, mining picks and long-handled shovels in the hope of finding 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 Donnelly's 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 Donnelly's 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 Murderer's Hill.

This link from Seaton, now joins the Donnelly's Creek Route.

Aberfeldy Track Back Road Tours Guide Walhalla to Jamieson via Woods Point



Cast Iron Point



Side Trip: White Star Township



Classification: Easy
Distance: 10.7 km from Donnelly's Creek Road / McEvoy's Road (otherwise known as Springs Road) intersection
Duration: 30 mins (including short walk into Smith's 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 favourable within the community, having a reputation for his kleptomaniac tendencies – i.e., Mr Crooks was a crook!



Satin Bowerbird

Side Trip: Aberfeldy Crossing



Classification: Difficult

Travelling north from the Aberfeldy township for approximately five minutes (or 1.9 km), turn right into O'Keefe's Track. Travel 2.7 km down O'Keefe's 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.

Distance / driving time from Walhalla Road to Aberfeldy Crossing Walking Track: 2.7 km / 14 mins one way
Walking track time / distance: 15 minutes return / 300 metres



Side Trip: Hanging Rock Walking Track



Classification: Difficult, Very Difficult

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 a further 1.8 km before turning left onto Eaton Track. Travel 800 metres to 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 1900's and was previously situated along a pack track which travelled from Code's Flat to Cullen's Farm and then up to the township of Aberfeldy.

Distance / driving time from Walhalla Road to Hanging Rock Walking Track: 4.6 km / 20 mins one way
Walking track time / distance: 30 minutes return / 1.2 km



Hanging Rock

Acknowledgement of Country
We respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land. We also pay respect to all Aboriginal community elders both past and present, and their respective clans, who have resided in these areas and who have been an integral part of the history of Victoria.

Acknowledgement to our Pioneers
The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning proudly acknowledges and pays its respects to our early pioneers. Without our forebears and their pioneering skills and endeavour to discover further gold fields, this area would not have been developed.

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning regional locations:
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Noojee McCarthy's Spur Road, Noojee 3833 Phone (03) 5624 8100

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