



TRIP NOTES

VICTORIAN ALPS—PACKHORSE HIKE

Park Trek has partnered with Bogong Horseback Adventures to bring you a truly unique tour where you traverse some of Victoria's highest mountains on this one-of-a-kind hiking adventure. As a hiker, you will require a high level of fitness to comfortably complete this walk.

Visit Mount Feathertop and Mount Bogong, along with some of the oldest Cattlemen's huts in the high Country.

Hike with a day pack only where the packhorses carry comfortable camping equipment, food and wine through the stunning Alpine environment. This unique tour is catered using some of the region's best local produce.

As a hiker, you walk into camps that are generally inaccessible and set up your tent or swag. The Bogong horseback team will show you what to do on the first day.

Guests will be required to sign our waiver before departing on the tour (hard copies will be provided the night prior at Spring Spur Stay). This waiver covers riding the 'hospital horse' if there is a **medical emergency** and also general risks associated with camping with horses. The hospital horse can take weight up to **100kgs** only.

INCLUSIONS

- Experienced, knowledgeable local guide.
- Horsemen from Bogong Horseback Adventures
- Pack horses
- Park Trek walking guide
- Spring Spur accommodation pre and post tour
- All camping equipment - twin share tent or single swag (rollout style)
- Meals as per the itinerary
- Beer and table wine with evening meal
- National Park fees
- Amazing hiking in the Victorian Alps
- Max 10 guests

Park Trek guides will collect guests from:

1. Outside the National Gallery of Victoria, St Kilda Road at 10am on the day of departure

Bogong Horseback Adventures can collect guests from

2. Albury airport (pick up can be organised between 10am and 4pm)
3. Albury railway station (pick up can be organised between 10am and 4pm)

We can drop you back to the National Gallery or Albury following the tour. Spring Spur stay is a five hour drive from Melbourne and one hour 20 minutes from Albury. Expected arrival in Melbourne on Day 9 is approximately 4pm.





SPRING SPUR ACCOMMODATION

Guest rooms are situated on Bogong Horseback Adventure's Spring Spur property, with beautiful views of Mount Feathertop and the Kiewa Valley.

Guests rooms are designed to give you a sense of privacy with secluded outdoor spaces and framed vistas of the native gardens, horse paddocks and surrounding mountains.

Enjoy a bottle of wine or cup of tea privately on your verandah or come up to the shared lounge and socialise with the group (own expenses). Each room has an en-suite bathroom and luxury bed.

There are six rooms at Spring Spur which can be set up as twin single or King beds. As there is no single supplement on tour, if you are travelling solo we will match you with a same gender traveller at Spring Spur, and you will be sharing a tent while out camping in the Alpine ranges.

ABOUT THE FOOD

The homestead kitchen features home grown and locally sourced produce with a menu that has an Italian, Mediterranean Australian Asian fusion - homestead influence. Freshly baked breads, pizza, pastas, risottos, Spanish tapas, fresh salads, with home made mustards, relishes, preserves, baked cakes and pastries, all prepared in the Spring Spur Kitchen.

Meals prepared at the Spring Spur kitchen are transported, miraculously, into the pack horse load and prepared on the campfire in remote area camps. Water is sourced from the creeks while out on the trail.

Pack water purification tablets to add to your drinking water supply.

Day 1 (Arrival day)

We can collect you from Melbourne or Albury and transfer you to Spring Spur Homestead. If you are coming from Melbourne we will stop enroute for lunch (at guest expense). Upon arrival, stretch the legs around the gardens and property at Spring Spur. Pre walk information and meet the crew.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 (Hard 13—19 km) descent

Enjoy taking in the amazing 360dg vistas as you walk along the Razorback and from Mt Feathertop. The track is at times uneven and rocky whilst the gradual but steady climb gives walkers the opportunity to warm up, adjust and get into a rhythm.

The descent down Diamantina Spur is particularly unforgiving, with a lot of loose, shaly rock and extended steep descents. Some sections require balancing and scrambling down almost vertical rock face. Not for the faint hearted; This is the most challenging day of the whole trek.

Alternate route—trailhead Alpine Walking Track at Mt Loch to Diamantina Horse Yards via Dibbins Hut and Dungey Track. Walking approx. 15 km (moderate)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

GENERAL CAMPING INFORMATION

We provide excellent quality tents and rollout style swags, Ex-ped mattresses and sleeping bags. Guests will be comfortable for camping in the mountains. Upon booking please advise preference for either a tent or swag (tents will be twin share).

The camp will be set up with a bush kitchen, campfire, camp stools, 6x6 meter tarpaulin in case of bad weather, a 'thunderbox' latrine, and wash basin (water can be heated if requested) The 4WD camps on **Day 2** and **Day 6** will have access to a hot camp shower.

Day 3 (moderate 12 km) ascent

The day starts with a divert to Dibbins Hut followed by a steady climb for approximately 2 hours with the track zig-zagging steeply uphill through forested hillside before reaching Westons Hut for a well earned break.

Onward and upward to the exposed High Plains via Cobungra Gap where you can look back with satisfaction to the view taking in most of the previous days walk.

The walk undulates along the ridge line of the High Plains followed by a gentle descent to Tawonga Huts which offer a great spot to set up camp, a lovely creek near by with rocky cascades offers a great opportunity for a bracing wash for those who are brave enough to have a dip.

Meals—Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Camping accommodation

Day 4 (easy to moderate 7 to 13 km) relatively flat terrain

The optional hike up to the summit of Mt Jaitmaithang offers yet more amazing views both towards Mt Feathertop and Hotham and across the High Plains. Track surface includes loose rock and reasonably open terrain as the majority of this area is above the treeline.

With the exception of the initial gradual climb out of Towonga Huts back onto the High Plains, the track is undulating and includes gentle gradients with open, exposed landscapes

Meals—Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Day 5 (moderate to hard 19 km) relatively flat terrain

The generally even track surface throughout the day makes for easy hiking with the terrain reasonably flat, with some gentle gradients. Stops at Pretty Valley Cope Hut, Wallaces and Fitzgerald's Huts provide welcome opportunity for breaks.

Meals—Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Camping accommodation

Day 6 (easy 10 km)

Two creek crossings along the early part of today's walk may require some rock hopping and nimble footwork and balance, depending on the amount of water flow. A climb followed by a steady descent leads us down through heavily forested steep terrain to Big River. Beware of leaches when stopping for a rest break.

Once camp has been set up Big River offers the opportunity for a bracing but refreshing swim for those who dare.

Meals—Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Camping accommodation





Day 7 (moderate 13 km) ascending 4wd transfer to the Long Spur

After being transferred to the Long Spur, we follow the steep 4 wheel drive track which leads to a rocky, uneven walking track along the spur. Definitely a place to tread carefully due to uneven, rocky and at times steep surfaces, but beautiful none the less with the skeletons of Snow gums standing proudly along the ridgeline.

The boggy peat-like terrain near Ceve Cole Hut is an added challenge to the final stages of today's hike.

Meals—Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Camping accommodation

Day 8 (14 km) descending

The loose, rocky surface of the track to the exposed summit of Mt Bogong together with a very steep descent down Eskdale Spur and steep drop offs either side provides a final challenge as the track descends below the sheltered treeline for the final stretch.

Meals—Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Spring Spur accommodation

Day 9

Mid morning checkout.

Meals—Breakfast.

We can return you back to Melbourne CBD to our same pick up location outside the National Gallery of Victoria by approx. 4.30pm. Bogong staff can drop you at Albury Railway Station or Albury Airport. If returning to Albury please arrange departure times after 10 am. If departing from Melbourne please organise a flight after 6pm.

Please note: There is no single supplement charge for this tour.

GEAR LIST—WHAT TO BRING

Please bring your gear in a soft duffle bag (with wheels if preferred) rather than a hard suitcase to help guides pack the trailer. Bag weight limit 10kg per person. We recommend guests have a small clothes/shoe resupply pile. These extra supplies are left at Spring Spur Homestead, packed into bags supplied by Bogong and ready for transfer in the 4WD vehicle on Day 2 and Day 6.

DAY PACK—recommend approx. 20 litres, with a load bearing harness. Water bladder /bottle and suitable hiking shoes/boots. Here is a suggested list of what walkers will need to be wearing or have in their day pack:

- rain jacket and waterproof over pants
- a fleece jacket
- wide-brimmed hat for sunny days
- beanie or woollen hat / gloves / scarf
- water bottle or drinking bladder, min 2 litre
- high factor sunscreen
- blister pads and / or tape
- antiseptic hand gel, lip balm
- water purification tablets for creek water
- sun glasses
- walking poles (essential) gaiters (optional)
- Camera, binoculars (in zip lock dry bag)
- Battery power bank to charge phone

MAIN BAG

You only carry your light day pack while walking. Your belongings will be transferred to a dry sack supplied by Bogong for transport via horseback. Weight for dry sack is limited to 5kg per walker.

- 2 pairs long and/or short pants. Preferably loose fitting, lightweight and quick drying
- 2 long sleeved shirts, 4 t-shirts
- fleece jacket/woollen sweater
- rain jacket/ spray jacket
- small quick drying travel towel
- walking socks / underwear
- if rain is expected, then having a set of thermal under garments can keep you warm
- woollen or fleece hat for cooler weather
- waterproof, reusable bag for worn clothing
- comfortable shoes and clothing for evenings
- head torch and spare batteries
- toiletries— shampoo / deodorant etc
- water purification tablets for creek water
- spare batteries for all devices/charger

RESUPPLY BAG –Supplied by Bogong-max 3kg

- dry hiking / walking shoes
- extra socks, underwear and clean clothing



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SPRING SPUR:

Spring Spur Stay, is the result of a generational change. It has been created by all four Baird's over many passionate conversations around the well used dinner table.

The Buildings are divided into three slab levels. The top slab is home to a rough timber lounge, red gum bar, commercial kitchen and toilets. On the lower level sits an office, laundry and two en-suite studio rooms. The third juxtaposes six en-suite guest rooms, all with their own verandas and a view of Mount Feathertop. All the building have been designed and built to minimise the environmental impacts, and create pleasant bright spaces. With double glazing and good thermal mass the rooms are warm and bright.

LIST OF WHAT WE PROVIDE:

- Park Trek and Bogong Horseback guides, who will cook and care for you.
- Transport which includes collection from Melbourne or Albury and return transfers back.
- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 8 dinners.
- Plus trail mix, nibbles and fresh fruit
- 2 night's accommodation on a twin share basis at Spring Spur Homestead
- 6 night's comfortable camping accommodation;
- Choice of tent (twin share) or roll out style swag. Please advise on booking.

ABOUT THE WEATHER:

The weather in the mountains in the summer is generally fine and mild. However, summer heat waves and blizzards do happen so be prepared. A tight knit jumper or good quality polar fleece and thermal under garments provide extra insulation when needed. And a good waterproof jacket is essential.