



THE DANDENONG RANGES, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Walking trails cover the Dandenong Ranges and it is possible to hike for hours without using the same track twice. Short walks from under 1 km up to the 'big 20 km hike' from the summit of Mt Dandenong down to the Thousand Steps provide an option for every hiker.

Some trails are dog-friendly, on lead. Pram-friendly trails generally require solid 'off-road' type prams.

Before starting out, it is recommended that a **map app** of walking trails in the Dandenongs be downloaded. Heed weather warnings. Use caution and do not hike in high winds, extreme heat or fire bans days.

The website has images for each walk and interactive maps. Go to www.explorethedandenongs.com.au to search for places to eat, attractions, activities, accommodation options and retailers.

Enjoy hiking in the Hills, please share this E-book!

DANDENONG RANGES WALKING TRAILS: SHORTEST TO LONGEST

1. **Neuman Track/Lyrebird Walk:** Kallista – from 900 metres return *Pram Friendly, just.*
2. **Hardy Gully Nature Trail:** Kallista – 700m return.
3. **Burkes Lookout:** Mt Dandenong – Under 1km return. *Pram Friendly.*
4. **Olinda Falls:** Mt Dandenong – 600m – 1.6 km return.
5. **Kalorama Park:** Kalorama – Under 2 km's return.
6. **Doongalla Homestead:** The Basin / Mt Dandenong – Multiple Walk from 2kms
7. **Hamer Arboretum & Woolrich Lookout:** Olinda – 1 Hour return walk. *Dog-friendly*
8. **Sherbrooke Falls:** Sherbrooke – 2.4 km return.
9. **The Tan Track:** Sherbrooke – 2.7 km return.
10. **Birdsland Reserve:** Belgrave South – 2.85 km's circuit walk. *Pram and Dog-Friendly.*
11. **Rock Track Circuit Walk:** 3 km's | 1 Hour. *Dog-Friendly.*
12. **Valley Picnic Ground:** Olinda / Silvan– Eagle Nest Loop – 3km's circuit. *Pram-friendly*
13. **Cardinia Reservoir Park:** 3km's Messmate Trail, Kangaroos! *Dog & Pram friendly.*
14. **1000 Steps** – Kokoda Memorial Walk: Upper Ferntree Gully / Ferny Creek – 4.3km circuit.
15. **True Grit:** Kalorama – 5.5km's | 2 hours.
16. **Glenfern Valley Bushlands:** 6 km's | 1.5 Hours ... *Dog-friendly*
17. **Mathias – Rock Track Circuit Walk:** Hamer Arboretum – 6km circuit *Dog-friendly*
18. **Bartletts Track – Blackhole Track Loop:** Mt Dandenong/ Olinda– 6km's return.
19. **Monument Track:** Sherbrooke Falls: Sherbrooke Forest – 6km's Return.
20. **Olinda to Sassafras:** 7km's Return.
21. **Bellview Terrace Loop:** Upper Ferntree Gully – 7km's | 2/2.5 hours..
22. **Mathias Track:** Olinda/Mt Dandenong – 7km return *Dog-friendly, Pram Friendly*
23. **Silvan to Mt Evelyn:** Olinda Creek Track – 9.2km's return *Dog-friendly, Pram-friendly*
24. **Emerald to Cockatoo:** 12km's Return, Walk or ride bikes. *Dog-friendly, Pram Friendly*
25. **Western Slopes Circuit Walk:** 12km's return approx.
26. **Mountain Circuit Walk:** 16km's Approx.
27. **Mount Dandenong to Mt Evelyn:** 9 km's One-way or 18 km's return approx.
28. **Olinda or Mt Dandenong Village to SkyHigh, Mt Dandenong** -One-Way Approx. 10 km
29. **Sassafras to Belgrave:** 12 km's One-Way.
30. **Sherbrooke – Sassafras to Mt Dandenong Summit:** 13 Km's, one-way / 3-4 hours.
31. **Sassafras to Emerald:** Tourist Track- 15km, one-way/ 5 hours *Dog-friendly.*
32. **Ferntree Gully to Mt Dandenong & SkyHigh:** 20 km's One way / 6-8 hours.

1. NEUMAN TRACK/LYREBIRD WALK – From 900 metres return

A wonderful part of the Dandenong Ranges. Walk quietly at any time of the day (early and later is best) and you may see a lyrebird.

An unexpected surprise is in store for walkers, wonderful hand-made nests are tucked away along the track, there to be found as you wander – we will not say exactly where... Enjoy the fun of the nests, but leave them undisturbed...

WALK NOTES: Parking on Grantulla Road, Kallista (about 200 metres from Cooks Corner)

- **Distance** from about 900 metres to 6km's in a loop | **Walking time** – 10 minutes to 1,5 hours or so.
- Toilets – none unless diverting into Grants Picnic Ground.
- No Dogs | Mostly pram friendly though the track narrows at the end section -see images on website notes perhaps.

Directions -

From the car park on Grantulla Road, enter Neuman's Road/Track or use the car park area at the entrance to Foden's Track and walk down Foden's to join Neuman's (see the map). A short distance in walkers will be rewarded with a surprise. Made by locals, giant 'bird's nests' have been created and are a delight. Leave the area as it is found please and do not disturb.

To make this a short circuit walk: If starting at the beginning of Neuman's – walk up Foden's Track to the road and turn left back to the car or do the reverse if you have started at the top of Foden's Track. **Otherwise:** Continue down Neuman's, staying on the track and passing through a gate into a sensitive Lyrebird habit.

Keep on Neuman's, watching and listening for Lyrebirds, wallabies, echidnas etc. The track dips down through tree ferns and the joins Lyrebird Walk.

At the junction of the tracks, it is not far to Grants Picnic Ground, toilets and cafe if you head left or continue the circuit walk following the Lyrebird Walk track off to the right.

Lyrebird Walk comes out near Grantulla Road, pass through the gate and turn right onto Halls Track.

The track narrows and runs alongside Grantulla Road. There is just one more fork in the track, both options return to the car park area and are the same distance.

2. HARDY GULLY NATURE TRAIL – 700 metres return

Hardy Gully has everything the Dandenongs are famous for, cool rain forest gullies and massive eucalyptus trees. Lyrebirds can very often be seen, go early in the morning or in the evening when it is quiet for more chance of seeing them without too many people on the trail.

This would have to be the easiest short walk in the Dandenongs. Parking at Grants picnic ground, walk past the bird feeding area and a little further on to your right, the beginning of the track is clearly marked.

Walk Notes: Location – Grants Picnic Ground, 70 Monbulk Rd, Kallista

- Total Distance: 700 metres
- Walking time: 15-30 mins
- Easy grade walk, can get a little muddy in winter.
- Toilets and parking available at Grants picnic ground.
- Possible to push baby buggies.
- No dogs allowed.
- Parking at Grants Picnic Ground

3. BURKES LOOKOUT – Under 1 km return

Burkes Lookout, as it is known locally, is also marked as Mt Dandenong Lookout on Google Maps. It is a beautiful spot and the walk can be extended on numerous trails.

Spectacular views across Melbourne, Port Phillip Bay and to the Macedon Ranges. Grab a cuppa and some munchies from one of the hills villages or b.y.o. picnic and relax a while on a rock or the grass...

Plenty of other tracks lead off from this area and walks can be extended down to Doongalla Homestead or even all the way to Upper Ferntree Gully park and the Thousand Steps!

WALK NOTES: Location - Osprey Road, Mount Dandenong.

- Total Distance: Just under 1 km
- Walking time: 20 minutes return
- Easy grade walk.
- Parking available on Osprey Road (off Ridge Road).
- Public Transport: Bus service along Ridge Road, Mt Dandenong from Croydon or Ferntree Gully. Ask the driver to let you off at Osprey Road/Kyeema Memorial.
- No toilets. Nearest public toilets: Olinda or SkyHigh, Mt Dandenong
- Pram-Friendly
- No dogs, bikes or horses allowed.
- Picnic Tables: No

DIRECTIONS

From the car park, head left and follow Kyeema Track along the ridge to the view point. Visit the Kyeema Memorial site also, signage is clear, a short distance from the car park.

SkyHigh is about 2kms away, walking along Kyeema Track to the right from the car park and then turning up Trig Track.

4. OLINDA FALLS WALKING TRACK – 600 mtr – 1.6 km's return

Olinda Falls would have to be one of the most popular walks in the Dandenongs. Weekends get quite busy. The section of Falls road coming from Olinda is unsealed and generally quite rough.

To access the Olinda Falls car park, drive along the Mt Dandenong Tourist Road to the Junction of Falls Road, Kalorama. Follow down until the car park sign is visible, about 1 km. The walk to the falls is pretty, though a little steep in parts. The falls themselves are not huge, but worth the walk. After heavy rains and in winter, the flow over the falls is obviously greater.

WALK NOTES: Location – Corner of Falls Road & Doughty's Road, Mt Dandenong

- Parking at the Olinda Falls Car Park on Falls Road | Total **Distance: 600m** to 1.6km (depending on route taken).
- Medium grade walk, reasonable fitness level required.
- Toilets and parking available at Falls car park | Picnic tables, water and a fire pit.
- No Dogs allowed

WALKING DIRECTIONS

From the car park, it is a 300 metre walk to the falls (each way). Simply head straight down and follow the signs. Coming back it is an uphill climb.

TO MAKE THE WALK A LITTLE MORE INTERESTING

Exit the car park onto Falls Road (on foot) turn left and walk down the road for about 3 minutes. When the creek passes under the road on the bend turn left and follow Mechanics Track through the bush. This section follows the Olinda Creek and the chance of seeing a Lyrebird is quite good. We saw 2 on our last walk there.

Walk for about 5 minutes, before joining the path that comes directly down from the Falls car park. Turn right and follow the signs down to the falls. Return by walking back up the path to the car park.

- Total Walk, if doing the extra little bit, is 1.6 km and takes about 35 minutes. Not allowing for resting and enjoying the falls.

5. KALORAMA PARK – Less than 2 km's return

VIEWS, A PRETTY WALKING TRACK, PLUS A PRETTY PICNIC SPOT AT KALORAMA.

Kalorama Park is below the view point at 5 Ways, Kalorama. BBQ's, picnic tables and toilets.

The remnants of an orchard planted over 100 years ago still exists in the park. It is a lovely spot for a picnic as well as walking. The walk starts from the lower picnic ground.

WALK NOTES: Location- Barbers Road, Kalorama

- Less than 2kms | 40 minutes walking on a circuit track
- OR The same distance return from the beginning of the walk to the end of Jeeves Avenue, avoiding the lower section which is steeper and a bit overgrown towards the end.
- The whole track is undulating, quite steep and can be slippery.
- Easy > Moderate walking
- Parking within 2 designated areas | Toilets | Tables & BBQ's

From the lower car park, the track leads off to the left passing by the remnants of the old orchard and into the forest.

Option 1: Stay on this track for approximately 900 metres, all the way to meet Jeeves Avenue. A further 10 minutes walking up Jeeves Avenue leads to the Tourist Road with Kalorama Reserve opposite. Return the same way.

Option 2: Follow the path for a few hundred metres and then turn down the first track to the right. This is a steeper section and can be very slippery. It narrows towards the end and then comes out into a clearing. The track is not well defined at this point, turn right and head back up to the start.

6. DOONGALLA HOMESTEAD WALKING TRACKS – 2.3 km's return

WALK NOTES: Location - Doongalla Road, Mt Dandenong (via The Basin)

- Walks vary in distance, all tracks have some steep sections and can become slippery when wet.
- Mountain Bike Riders and Horse Riders may be present on some tracks, take care.
- Toilets are available at the Stables picnic area.
- Open fireplaces (B.Y.O. wood)
- Picnic tables | Water taps available
- Parking at Stables Picnic area or Homestead area.

STABLES LOOP TRACK

- 45 mins – 1 hour 2.3km
- Easy > Moderate > Hard
- The relatively short stretch of this walk when it joins Bill's Track is steep, though not impossible. Stop and breathe...

From the Stables parking area, walk across the picnic ground to find the beginning of Stables Track. Follow this track until it joins Bill's Track and then turn right. Trudge uphill on Bill's for less than 10 minutes until it joins Camelia Track. Turn right and continue along Camelia track until it reaches the unsealed road where you then walk back down to the car park and picnic area.

OR

Turn left on the unsealed road and walk up to the top picnic area and the old steps. From here you can join Channel 10 track and go all the way to the top by Burke's Lookout or do a circuit walk that joins into Camelia Track again (3.6km)

7. THE HAMER ARBORETUM – 3 km's return

The Hamer Arboretum, named after the Premier of Victoria from 1972 -1981, Sir Rupert Hamer, contains approximately 200 species of exotic and deciduous trees and shrubs creating 'mini forests' as opposed to the usual planting of single specimen trees that most arboretums display.

The expansive forest, Silvan Dam and the mountains in the distance, makes this one of the best viewpoints in the hills.

WALK NOTES: Location – Chalet Road, Olinda

- 1 hour / under 3kms or more, depending on the route chosen.
- Easy to moderate walk with some steep hill climbs. **Dog-friendly (not all tracks)**
- Public toilets are located at the Hamer Arboretum | Electric BBQ's | Picnic tables | Water taps

The main walking track from the Woolrich Lookout passes by the BBQ area. Dam Track meanders downhill, past a small dam where Lyrebird Creek begins.

WALK OPTIONS VARY, AS NUMEROUS TRACKS INTERSECT THE ARBORETUM.

1. Walk down Dam track and link onto Sequoia Track which leads, sharply, off to the right and continues downhill to join Mathias Track (there is a smaller track which leads off to the right before Sequoia Track which goes down to join at Red Dog Hut too). Turning right on Mathias Track, you will soon pass by 'Red Dog Hut'. The hut was built by one of the workers who helped plant the arboretum, though it has burnt down and been rebuilt a couple of times since. The dog was known to remain at the hut until his owner returned after a day of planting trees.

A small track beside the hut leads uphill, a good workout for calf muscles. The track narrows and then opens up onto a grassy area, the path is not very clear but walkers simply need to keep following up the hill, through the Cryptomeria and back to the Woolwich lookout area.

2. Another option is to walk along Dam Track until it joins Golf course Track. Head left up the hill until reaching Chalet Road where there is a pleasant track beside the road back to the lookout.

3. Get adventurous, if the above suggestions are not enough for you – download the Parks Map App, then plot a walk of your own, as the forest below the Arboretum stretches for miles with many tracks criss crossing. Valley Picnic Ground can easily be reached from the arboretum, as a longer walk option.

8. SHERBROOKE FALLS WALKING TRACK – 2.4 km's return

Sherbrooke Falls, one of the most popular walks in the Dandenongs. The falls are not huge by any means and are best seen after heavy rains. It is the 'Journey, not just the destination'. The walk is very pretty, easy to do, involving some steps when crossing over the bridge by the falls.

A number of tracks intersect the walk, making it a little confusing at times.

WALK NOTES: Location – Sherbrooke Picnic Ground, Sherbrooke Road, Sherbrooke

- Total Distance: 2.4km
- Walking time: 45 minutes
- Easy grade walk
- Possible to push baby buggies, though some steps to negotiate at the falls.
- No dogs allowed.
- Picnic Tables and BBQ's at Sherbrooke Picnic ground
- Toilets available.
- Parking at Sherbrooke Picnic Ground

SHERBROOKE FALLS WALK:

- From the car park, follow the sign to the falls. The track is easy to follow initially, passing by a wonderful old tree with a hollowed centre, kids love to go inside.
- At the first junction point, the signage is not at all clear. The falls can be accessed from either track. To make a loop walk, follow the track on the left and continue, another track joins in, but keep heading in a clockwise direction.
- The viewing area is from the walkway across the falls. As mentioned, the falls are not huge by any stretch of the imagination, but it is a really pretty spot and the walk is through superb forest. Visiting in winter and after heavy rains is the best time to see a good flow over the falls.
- After crossing the bridge, turn right and follow the path back up the hill.
(Turning left will take walkers down towards Belgrave and Micawber Tavern...)
- The path forks again, to the left it heads to the west side of Sherbrooke Forest. Continue right to return to the car park.

9. THE TAN TRACK, SHERBROOKE – 2.7 km's return

The Tan Track is dog and pram friendly and is an easy walk with a bit of an uphill climb which can be started from the Ferny Creek Recreation Reserve- as long as an event is not being held.

Horse riding, dog walking, jogging and walking. The track is open to dog walkers and horse riding too. The centre of the park is forested with some open grassy areas.

WALK NOTES: Location – Sherbrooke Road, Sherbrooke

- 2.7 km | 40 minutes walking.
- Easy walking on a good surface with some hill walking, though not too steep.
- Park at the Ferny Creek Recreation Reserve
- Toilets, BBQ's, some picnic tables available.
- Playground for the kids.

THE TAN:

- Walk out of the car park between the toilets and the tennis courts onto the track beside the road, heading left.
- The track soon merges into the Tan itself, with signage allowing horses etc. Follow down the avenue of pine trees and keep heading left in a loop until returning to the start of the Tan.

10. BIRDSLAND RESERVE – 2.85 km's return

- Total Distance: 2.85 kms return
- Walking time: 1 leisurely hour
- Easy walking on level trail
- Toilets and parking available at the reserve
- BBQ's and picnic tables
- Very suitable for baby buggies!
- Dogs allowed

WALKING NOTES: Location – Mt Morton Road, Belgrave South

Birdsland is a 75 ha bushland reserve. Cleared for growing crops and to use as grazing land over 150 years ago, it was owned by the Bird family from around 1940 and managed as a sheep farm. The land was bought by the local shire in 1981 and opened to the public in 1984.

Over 130 different native birds have been identified in the reserve including the Wedge Tail Eagle and Powerful Owl.

- From the main car park, the walk starts just past the BBQ area and is easy to follow. It initially passes between bush land on the left and open pastures to the right.
- Continue along the track and follow the lake in either direction. Return via the same track to the car park area or follow the other track leading from where the track first meets the lake. It passes below the Birdsland Environmental Education Centre and Southern Dandenong Ranges Community Nursery.

11. ROCK TRACK & HAMER ARBORETUM – 3 km's return

DOG-FRIENDLY CIRCUIT WALK, OLINDA

The Hamer Arboretum is the start of this dog-friendly walking trail through the forest with some spectacular views across the valley. Not just for fur-babies, of course, the walk is up and down trails in a 3km circuit, passing through native bushland as well as the edges of the Arboretum.

WALK NOTES: Location – Woolrich Lookout, Chalet Road, Olinda

- 3km's circuit walk / 1 hour
- Easy > Moderate
- Parking at Hamer Arboretum
- BBQ's with views
- **Dog-Friendly**
- Toilets

WALK DIRECTIONS

- Parking at the Hamer Arboretum on Chalet Road, follow Dam Track down past the BBQ area, stunning views are off to the right and a small dam is at the base of the hill.
- Stay on the track until it junctions with Rock Track (sometimes known as Golf course Track).
- A slight detour on the circuit, go left on Rock Track for about 10 metres and 'Rock Track Lookout' is on the right. No views really, but a good place to stop and appreciate the area. Be cautious on these rocks as they can be slippery.
- Return to the track and follow it up the hill until it joins into Chalet Road.
- Turn right and follow the small track beside the road back to the Hamer Arboretum car park.

12. VALLEY PICNIC GROUND TO EAGLE NEST LOOP – 3 km's return

Valley picnic ground to Eagle Nest picnic ground is a superb walk on well-maintained tracks through the lush forest. Situated in the newest section of the Dandenong Ranges National Park, not far from Silvan Reservoir.

It is, possibly, the most remote of all the walks in the Dandenong Ranges. A number of trails branch off this track and walks can be extended. Download the Parks Map App to have as a guide to trails on the go.

WALK NOTES: Location – Boundary Road (off Silvan Road) Olinda

- 3kms / 1 hour
- Easy to moderate walk with some gentle hills
- No toilets (nearest public toilets are located at the Hamer Arboretum).
- Open fireplaces (B.Y.O. wood)
- Picnic tables | No water taps
- Pram-friendly, with some small hills, trails can get muddy.

This loop walk can be started from either Valley Picnic Ground or Eagle Nest picnic ground. These walk notes start from Valley Picnic Ground.

PARKING AT VALLEY PICNIC GROUND

- 1.Access to the Picnic Ground is from Boundary Road, off Silvan Road.
- 2.From the car park, walk past the old toilet block and follow Georges Road until it intersects with Eagle Nest Road.
- 3.Turn right onto Eagle Nest Road and continue until reaching Eagle Nest Picnic Ground.
- 4.From Eagle Nest Picnic Ground, turn left and follow Hermon Road, down across a small bridge.
- 5.Georges Road again joins Hermon Track. Continue straight on, Rifle Range Track joins in from the right before too long (do not take Rifle Range Track though).
- 6.Keep on Georges Track until again meeting at the point where Eagle Nest Road joins Georges. Turn right and head back to Valley Picnic Ground.

13. KANGAROO VIEWING AT CARDINIA RESERVOIR & CRYSTAL BROOK PARK – 3 km's return

Kangaroo spotting, a great playground, BBQ's with wood provided and a pretty bush walk, Crystal Brook Park is an unexpected surprise and a super family day out, dog-friendly too. The walk along the reservoir wall takes 1-hour return, though dogs are not allowed in this section of the park. Walkers can also go one-way on the wall and return via walking tracks. The park offers well-made tracks that are pram friendly, the bush trails are able to be navigated with a pram that is designed for rougher terrain though it does involve some uphill and downhill sections that can become eroded.

Kangaroos are here by the hundreds, though it is possible to believe that to be a myth as some days the 'roos are hard to spot. Early morning and before dusk are generally the best times to see them grazing.

WALK NOTES: Location – Wellington Road, Cardinia Reservoir

- Messmate Track is approximately 3 km's | 1 hour on a circuit walk.
- The reserve is open from dawn till dusk, do check these times though as they can vary.
- Dogs must be on-lead at all times** and are not allowed on the reservoir wall or kangaroo viewing trail.
- Plenty of parking areas.
- Toilets are at the Crystal Brook area near the playground.
- Wood burning BBQ's are for public use with wood provided in nearby bins. BBQ's are not to be used on fire-ban days.
- The open grassy areas do get soggy in winter months, but paths are firm.
- Download the [Parks Victoria Notes](#).

MESSMATE TRACK

From the Crystal Brook parking area simply walk across the parkland to join the trail from either end in the forest.

The walk passes through messmate forest and onto a ridge at Duffy's picnic area and then down again to the open grass area.

14. 1000 STEPS - KOKODA MEMORIAL TRACK – 4.3 km's return

- Total Distance: 4.3 kms (doing the loop of Lyrebird Track too).
- Walking time: 1.5 - 2 hours
- Steep inclines, many steps. Reasonable fitness required, take your time!
- Toilets and parking available at Upper Ferntree Gully Park and One Tree Hill
- Not suitable for baby buggies!
- No dogs allowed.
- Parking at the base or at One Tree Hill (a wiser choice possibly).

WALK NOTES: Location - Burwood Highway & Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, Upper Ferntree Gully

1000 Steps -The Kokoda Trail - Thousand Steps walk must surely be the busiest in the hills - at all hours! It is a stunning walk, steep and one of the most popular areas for people improving their fitness levels.

The Kokoda track was built in the early 1900's, as a memorial and reminder of the famous track in Papua New Guinea, location of the World War 2 battle between Japanese and Australian forces in 1942.

This is a beautiful walk and does not need to be done at a running pace. It can be tackled in a circular direction, taking in Lyrebird track, or straight up and down the (nearly, but not quite) 1000 steps. Signs request 'No Running' on the steps.

START:

From either end, it is easy to find. Simply walk along the main trail until you see the signs. I walked from One Tree Hill and followed the Lyrebird track down and the 1000 Steps back up. Lyrebird Track has been upgraded with bluestone steps beside the gravel track now and quite a good surface to walk on.

15. TRUE GRIT WALKING TRACK – 5.5 km's return

True Grit is not an official walking trail as such. It was marked on the 'Open Street' map, but seems to no longer be there. Rather a shame, as the name was appealing somewhat. Hence, this walk has been dubbed 'True Grit' anyway!

This walk has steep, roller coaster, hills and is a great workout for the lungs and legs. It can be slippery underfoot when wet.

WALK NOTES: Location – Inverness Road, Kalorama

- Distance: 5.5km's | 2 hours
- Medium > Hard
- No toilets
- No Dogs
- Parking on Inverness Road, just off the Mt D Tourist Road, on the lower side.
- The Open Street Map shows the 'True Grit' track, but it is not visible. The Parks Map App does not show the track.

TRUE GRIT WALK DIRECTIONS

- From the car park, walk to the right about 50 metres until a small trail leads off to the left.
- This joins into Wols Track, walk straight ahead.
- Stay on Wols Track for about 1km until it joins into Richardsons Track, then turn left.
- Follow Richardsons Track until it junctions with Alpina Track, turn left.
- Alpina Track follows a ridge line and the scenery changes to, predominantly, Messmate forest.
- The track slowly descends and joins into Pipeline Track, turn left.
- Pipeline and Olinda Creek Tracks both cross over one another a few times, follow Olinda Creek Track as this is a prettier option, though both will come to the same point eventually.
- After about 2km's, the tracks merge at the end of Murrumbung Road, turn left onto Wols Track again and head up the hill.
- (Turning right and heading down the open grassy slope will take you to the Mt Evelyn Recreation Reserve).
- At the next junction, turn left to stay on Wols Track and return to where you first joined it or walk straight ahead to return to the parking area. Both options are more or less the same distance.

16. GLENFERN VALLEY, UPWEY – 6 km's return

Glenfern Valley Bushlands is a great little walk in the foothills near Upwey. Restoration of the bushland began in 2001 when local residents formed a Friends Group to conserve the natural beauty and vegetation.

WALK NOTES:

- 6 km's | 1.5 Hours
- Easy > Moderate Walking on mostly well-made paths.
- Dog-friendly
- Picnic tables and benches to use.
- No toilets.
- Parking in several locations, please refer to the map.

Starting from any of the parking areas, follow the marked trails in a loop.

17. MATHIAS TRACK - ROCK TRACK CIRCUIT WALK, OLINDA – 6 km's return

Rock Track, also referred to as Golf course Track, passes between the Old Olinda Golf Course and the Hamer Arboretum. Paths lead off in various directions, so the walk can be extended easily. This circuit does involve about 1.5 km's walking on Falls and Olinda-Monbulk roads.

- **Total Distance:** Just under 6 km's | **Walking time:** 1 to 1.5 hours | **Medium grade walk**, reasonable fitness level required.
- **Parking** available at Olinda Oval, Mathias Track or Chalet Road | **Toilets** available at Olinda Recreation Reserve.
- **Dog Friendly**

WALK DETAILS: Location – Olinda

This walk can be started from three main locations, where parking is generally easy. My preferred start point is Mathias Track and do the walk in either direction from there. This then means a hill climb is done first and not as a 'punishment' at the end of the walk!

ASSUMING WALKERS ARE STARTING FROM THE FALLS ROAD/MATHIAS TRACK CAR PARK:

- This is a circuit walk, follow the directions below or in reverse order.
- Walk up Falls Road along the verge, past the Rhododendron Gardens to the Olinda-Monbulk Road junction.
- Turn left at Olinda-Monbulk Road by the Olinda recreation oval and continue for less than 10 minutes to Chalet Road on the left.
- Follow down Chalet Road for about 100 metres until the track is seen heading off to the left, alongside the old Olinda Golf course.
- At this point, you are on Rock Track/ Golf course Track. It is a little steep in parts with some tree roots exposed on the trail, can be slippery too. The rocks, that the track is named after, are visible on the right and kids love to roam on them. Take care if walking on the rocks.
- Continue on down until you see the sign for Cornus Track forking off to the right. Both these trails will lead to Mathias Track, Cornus is generally a little over-grown, it is slightly further, so take your pick!
- Less than 10 minutes walking, and you will arrive at Mathias Track. It is a well-used trail and quite obvious when you get there. Turn left and walk directly for about 1km until you reach the car park at the end of Falls Road.

18. BARTLETT TRACK – BLACKHOLE TRACK LOOP – 6 km's return

Bartlett track, another wonderful walk in the woods. Covering about 6 km's, this loop walk is reasonably easy with the main uphill stretch on Blackhole Track being the only real challenge, a reasonable level of fitness is required.

A number of trails branch off this track and the walk could easily be extended.

WALK NOTES: Falls Road, Mt Dandenong

- 6kms approx / 1.5 – 2 hours
- Easy to moderate walk with reasonably steep climb up Blackhole Track
- No toilets (nearest public toilets are located by Olinda Recreation Reserve or Olinda)
- Open fireplaces (B.Y.O. wood) – Valley Picnic Ground
- Picnic tables | No water taps

Parking at the end of Bartlett track on Falls Road is limited, the other option is to park a couple of hundred metres further up Falls Road at the end of Mathias Track.

WALK DETAILS

- Starting at Mathias car park, walk down Mathias Track about 50 metres and take the small, unmarked track to the left (Predator track) which joins into Bartlett Track (or walk down Falls to the junction of Bartlett track).
- Follow down Bartlett Track for about 500 metres until the junction with Rifle Range Track, turn right and continue along Rifle Range Track. Walk quietly and be on the lookout for Lyrebirds and other native critters.
- At the junction of Rifle Range and KC track, turn right and follow KC Track until it joins Blackhole Track and continue up the hill to meet Mathias Track. Head right and follow Mathias Track back to the car park.

19. ANZAC MEMORIAL & SHERBROOKE FOREST WEST – 6 km's return SHERBROOKE FALLS CIRCUIT WALK

Anzac Memorial to Sherbrooke Falls via Lloyd's, Hackett's & Monument Tracks is another excellent walk in the Dandenongs. As with almost every trail in the hills, other tracks intersect and the walk can be shortened or lengthened in a number of ways.

WALK NOTES: Locaton – Corner of Sherbrooke Road & Mt Dandenong Tourist Road

- Return Distance: 6 kms approx. From Anzac Memorial, returning via Sherbrooke picnic grounds | Time: 1.5 hours approx.
- Easy > Moderate Walking
- Limited parking is available near the Sherbrooke – Tourist Road junction or in the Ferny Creek Recreation Reserve.
- Public toilets at Ferny Creek Reserve, O'Donohue or Sherbrooke Picnic Grounds.
- Picnic tables & BBQ's at both Sherbrooke & O'Donohue picnic grounds make ideal options for lunch. Parking at either picnic area and making that the start of the circuit walk is also an alternative.
- Ferny Creek Recreation Reserve is also an ideal place for a picnic with BBQ's and a playground for kids.

WALK DETAILS

From the Anzac Memorial signs on the corner of the Tourist Road and Sherbrooke Road, walk to the right, following Lloyd's Track, continue through the forest, until joining Hackett Track. Hackett Track merges into Ridge Track, continue until the steps and path to Sherbrooke Falls can be seen on the right.

Cross over the small bridge above Sherbrooke Falls and at the other side, turn left onto Hillclimb Track. A short distance up this track and another junction will be encountered. Decisions, decisions...

- Walk up Ridge Track to join Wattle Track or further on to join Monument Track to return to the Anzac Memorial.

Or

- Turn right and follow the track up, passing close to O'Donohue picnic ground and then to Sherbrooke picnic ground where Lloyd's Track starts by the exit to the picnic grounds. Following alongside Sherbrooke Road to the start of the walk by the Anzac Memorial.

20. OLINDA TO SASSAFRAS – 7 km's return

The Olinda to Sassafras walk follows a few tracks and is a moderate to hard walk between the villages with a loop section. The walk can easily be modified to be direct between the villages or include the longer loop option.

WALK NOTES:

- Time: 2 Hours return approximately
- Return Distance: Approximately 7kms
- Easy > Moderate > Some reasonably hard uphill climbing.
- Parking is available in Olinda or Sassafras. It is suggested that vehicles are parked near the Olinda Recreation Reserve. Parking is limited in both Olinda and Sassafras villages.
- Loads of cafes and shops in both Sassafras or Olinda.
- Public toilets in both villages.

WALK DIRECTIONS

- Range Road leads off from Olinda, it is about 1 km to the start of the forest section of this walk. At the end of Range Road, turn left immediately and follow the track down until it joins Mason Grove. Mason Grove then joins into the Mount Dandenong Tourist Road. It is a short walk to the right into Sassafras.
- To return to Olinda from Sassafras, walk down Mountain Highway (beside Geppetto's Toy Shop) to join Old Coach Road on the right and continue all the way down until it becomes a walking track.
- Turn right from Old Coach Road onto School Track for a short distance, then turn left onto Bradley Track and continue until joining Range Road again. This then leads straight back up to the sealed section of Range Road and down into Olinda.

21. BELLVIEW TERRACE LOOP – 7 km's return

The Bellview Terrace loop is an ideal workout walk with a constant uphill climb on Bellview Terrace, pretty forest tracks and a visit to One Tree Hill before returning via Lyrebird Track or the 1000 Steps / Kokoda Memorial Trail.

A number of trails lead off this walk and it can easily be shortened if preferred (or lengthened). The steepest section of the walk is the last section of Tyson Track as it goes up to One Tree Hill.

WALK NOTES: Location – Burwood Highway & Mt Dandenong Tourist Road

- Distance: 7km's | 2 – 2.5 hours
- Moderate > Hard
- Toilets & BBQ's at the lower picnic grounds and One Tree Hill
- No dogs
- Parking at the lower picnic grounds or start from One Tree Hill
- Public transport to Upper Ferntree Gully Station and then 1 km walk to the start

WALK DETAILS

- Starting from near the entry to the Ferntree Gully Park, walk up Bellview Terrace.
- At the top of the track there is a small intersection with options to choose from. Go left onto Ramu Track (or another if you want to either extend or shorten this walk).
- Left again onto Outlook Track.
- Follow straight on Outlook Track to Tyson Track.
- Tyson Track winds around and then climbs steeply to One Tree Hill Picnic area.
- From One Tree Hill, walk straight through the picnic area and across the access road to the top of the Kokoda Trail/ 1000 Steps and Lyrebird Track.
- Choose to return to the lower picnic area via either trail as they both merge at the base.

22. MATHIAS TRACK – 7 km's return

Mathias Track is an easy, straight forward walk that is very popular with dog owners, horse riders and mountain bikers. It does not get too busy though and is always a joy to hike along.

The main access points are from the Falls Road end or Silvan Road. Parking is available at both points.

Mathias Track passes below the National Rhododendron Gardens and Hamer Arboretum.

Numerous trails lead off in all directions, a whole day can easily be spent hiking the trails in this part of the Dandenong Ranges National Park.

Dense forest on either side of the track opens up with occasional views across to Silvan and the Yarra Valley.

WALK NOTES: Location – Falls Road, Mt Dandenong by Mathias Track or Silvan Road

- Dog friendly
- Open to horse riding and mountain biking
- 3.5 km each way. Easy Walking
- Access from Falls Road or Silvan Road

WALK DIRECTIONS

•Stay on the main trail for this walk and no further information is required, it is one of the most straightforward walks in the hills.

Please note: This track was previously known as Mathias Road. It is still marked as such on some maps.

23. SILVAN TO MT EVELYN – 9.2 km's return. DOG-FRIENDLY WALK ON THE OLINDA CREEK TRACK

The Olinda Creek walking track is 4.6 km's One-way, the Silvan to Mt Evelyn is a great walk that is also dog-friendly. Starting from the Silvan overflow car park on Silvan Road, the walk is easy with some undulations. Parking a car at Silvan and another at Mt Evelyn Recreation Reserve and doing the walk one-way is an option or the return hike is just under 10kms. This is a great walk to do either one-way or return, it is 'almost' pram friendly, the section heading down to Olinda Creek and across the bridge is the only section that needs extra effort to negotiate if a pram is being pushed. Not impossible by any means, though can get muddy.

WALK NOTES: Location – Silvan Road Overflow Carpark near Silvan Reservoir

- 4.6 kms each way | 9.2kms return | 1 to 1.5 hours each way.
- Easy walking on mostly firm tracks apart from Olinda Creek Track where it can get a bit muddy and is narrow.
- Park at either the overflow parking on Silvan Road or Mt Evelyn Recreation Reserve | Toilets available at Mt Evelyn Rec Reserve or in the Silvan Reservoir
- Picnic facilities at Silvan Reservoir Park or Mt Evelyn Recreation Reserve.

WALKING DIRECTIONS:

- Enter the Overflow Parking area from Silvan Road. **Start the walk** from the left end of the parking area. The track is clearly marked to Mt Evelyn Reserve, -4.6 km
- Follow the track towards the Silvan Water Treatment Plant until reaching the fence line where Grey Gum Track leads off to the right.
- Follow Grey Gum Track along the fence line for a short way until Olinda Creek Track branches off to the left.
- A few steps to walk down and then a small bridge crossing over Olinda Creek, the track continues a short distance to then meet the main trail which is clearly marked to Mt Evelyn.
- Once on the wider section of Olinda Creek Track, follow all the way. The last section of the trail heads down a reasonably steep hill...
- At the base of the big hill, turn right onto a small track that leads into the Mt Evelyn Reserve.
- It is a 20-minute walk into Mt Evelyn township from the reserve. Toilets, picnic area and a small playground are just across the playing field.

24. EMERALD TO COCKATOO – 12 km's return

Bike ride or walk. A dog and pram friendly walk. **Leaving from Emerald or Cockatoo**, the trail follows the Puffing Billy Railway line for some of the way, passing through Emerald Park Lake and Wright's forest.

- **Parking** is available in Emerald along Kilvington Drive, Emerald Park Lake (fees apply) or in Cockatoo | Cafes in Emerald, Emerald Park Lake & Cockatoo
- Public toilets in Emerald, Emerald Park Lake and Cockatoo | Picnic & BBQ facilities in Emerald on the corner of Kilvington Drive and at Emerald Park Lake
- Public bus transport is available between villages, it could be an option to ride or walk one way, use public transport to return to collect a vehicle.
- Walkers can also use Puffing Billy as an Option, the station in Cockatoo is not attended, but the train does stop and passengers may board. Check timetables and costs via the [Puffing Billy website](#)

WALK NOTES

- **Distance Return:** 12 kms | Easy > Moderate | **Bike Ride:** 2-3 Hours approximately |
- Walking:** 4-5 Hours approximately

WALK DIRECTIONS

- From Emerald, the trail begins where the Puffing Billy Railway line crosses Kilvington Drive, behind the Gemco Players Community theatre.
- A short distance along the track, cross over the train tracks and follow the path to the left. Carefully cross over Beaconsfield – Emerald Road and head down Crichton Road.
- The yellow arrows and signage point off to the right, heading down into Emerald Park Lake. Pass through the main car parking area at the Lake and follow the main entry road around the lake to join the trail again.
- Cross over Bellbird Crescent, turn right, and follow the road a short distance until the track starts again on the left, heading uphill and over the Puffing Billy Train line and into Wright forest and follow the arrows along Wright Track. The trail through the forest is gently undulating and has a good firm surface most of the time. The trail comes out on Bailey Road in Cockatoo, close to the main street. Plenty of cafes and a small IGA in Cockatoo.

25. WESTERN SLOPES CIRCUIT WALK – 12 km's return

MT DANDENONG'S WESTERN SLOPES PROVIDE EASY TO CHALLENGING HIKES.

The western slopes of Mt Dandenong roll down to the outer suburbs of Melbourne with some stunning views and tough walking as well as easy, undulating terrain.

WALK NOTES: Location – corner Falls Road & Ridge Road, M Dandenong

- Distance: 12kms approx. | 3 – 3.5 hours
- Moderate > Hard
- Parking – Opposite the CFA Station on Ridge Road (near Falls Road), Kyeema Parking area, Osprey Road (off Ridge Road), or SkyHigh, Mt Dandenong.
- Toilet facilities at SkyHigh, Mt Dandenong and also in Destiny Point Cafe at 5 Ways, Kalorama (if eating in the cafe).

WALK DIRECTIONS

These notes start from the Trig Track Parking area opposite the C.F.A. on Ridge Road. They are simple to adapt if you are parking in one of the other suggested locations. The walk can, of course, be done in either direction.

- Follow Trig Track heading off to the right from the car parking area, through the forest and down onto the steep and rather difficult section of the walk. The track has gravel that can be slippery, so take care.
- Trig Track evens out again and finally emerges by 5 Ways Kalorama.
- From 5 Ways, walk down Old Coach Road to the left a very short distance to then join Old Mountain Road, continue on Old Mountain Road as it becomes a track again.
- At the first junction, follow Fireline Track up to the left.
- Stay on Fireline Track for about 2 km's until Dacite Track leads off to the left...
- Follow Dacite Track up the slope until meeting ZigZag Track.
- Stagger up ZigZag Track to the top where it joins Towers Track, heading left.
- Walk up Towers Track to Kyeema Track, heading to the left and passing by Burkes Lookout.
- It is about 1.5 km's on Kyeema Track until reaching Trig Track going off to the left. Follow Trig Track for about 1km until reaching the starting point opposite the C.F.A. on Ridge Road.
- To access SkyHigh, turn right at Trig Track instead of left on the last section and head uphill.

26. MOUNTAIN CIRCUIT WALK – 16 km's return

CIRCUIT WALK FROM OLINDA TO THE TOP OF MT DANDENONG AND RETURN
ARBORETUM, FOREST TRAILS, WATERFALLS, SPECTACULAR VIEWS, RAINFOREST...

Mountain Circuit Walk – Another superb walk in the Dandenong Ranges, 16 km's in a circuit starting in Olinda. Definitely, a good one to pack a picnic lunch to enjoy on the way or stop in at a cafe'.

WALK NOTES: Location – Start of walk at Olinda

- Distance: 16km approx.
- Duration: 4.5hrs approx.
- Parking at Olinda Recreation Reserve, Olinda-Monbulk Road or the Old Golf Course next to the reserve.
- Toilets in Olinda village, Olinda Recreation Reserve, Olinda Falls & SkyHigh, Mt Dandenong
- Rock Track / Golf Course Track is the same track, marked differently on various maps

WALK DIRECTIONS

- From the Olinda Recreation Reserve walk along the Olinda-Monbulk road towards Monbulk, past the old Golf Course and then turn left down Chalet Road, just by the Olinda Pool.
- A short way down Chalet Road, turn left onto the Golf Course Track / Rock Track.
- Follow Golf Course Track/Rock Track, at the junction with Cornus Track, keep left.
- At the 4 way junction with Mathias Track, go straight ahead onto Blackhole Track.
- Join KC Track where it junctions with Blackhole Track.
- Follow KC Track, turn left on Rifle Range Gully Track, look and listen for Lyrebirds...
- Turn left after a couple of km's onto Bartlett Track.
- Bartlett Track joins onto Falls Road, walk down Falls Road for about 200 metres to join Mechanics Track on the right, which leads to Olinda Falls (if you prefer to miss Olinda Falls, turn left onto Mechanics Track).
- Sign posting is clear to Olinda Falls.
- Return the same way and join the top section of Mechanics Track from the other side of Falls Road. OR walk up to the Olinda Falls Picnic Area (toilets available) turn left on Falls Road then right onto Mechanics Track.
- Mechanics Track crosses over Farndons Road and then continues up to finish at the Mt Dandenong Tourist Road(beside the Mt Dandenong Pre-School).

- Cross carefully over the Tourist Road, there is a small track visible, walk up through the Mt Dandenong Arboretum.
- Stay to the trail on the right through the Arboretum, coming to Ridge Road where you cross over to Kyeema Track.
- Follow Kyeema Track, about 100m on the left is Trig Track, going up to the Mt Dandenong Summit. Cafe, views, toilets.
- Return the same way down Trig Track, turning left onto Kyeema Track towards Burkes Lookout, about 1.5 km's away.
- At the junction with Tower Track, turn right and head down the hill.
- Turn right onto ZigZag Track, then left onto Channel 10 Track.
- Follow Channel 10 Track until meeting Dandenong Creek Track, turn right, staying on Dandenong Creek Track until coming to the Olinda-Basin Road.
- Turn left onto the Olinda-Basin Road and walk about 200 metres until Caterpillar Track on the right. Follow up Caterpillar Track which joins Dodds Track and then continues onto Dodds Road OR keep walking up Olinda-Basin Road for 1.2km's to Mt Dandenong Village and return to Olinda via the roads).
- Dodds Road joins Range Road, turn left and walk the short distance back to Olinda.

27. MT DANDENONG TO MT EVELYN – 9 km's one-way

Mt Dandenong all the way to Mt Evelyn is a fair hike, downhill all the way of course. The return walk does involve an uphill slog which can be avoided by using public transport or car pooling, especially if kids are involved perhaps.

WALK NOTES: Location – Start of walk at SkyHigh, Mt Dandenong

- Return **Distance:** Approximately 18km's | **Time:** 4-5 Hours return approximately
- Easy > Moderate > Reasonable fitness required for the uphill sections from Mt Evelyn to Mount Dandenong.
- Parking available at Skyhigh, Mount Dandenong (parking charge applies) if starting from the top, along Ridge Road near the corner of Falls Road in a designated parking area, or at the Mount Dandenong Arboretum. Other parking options where the walking tracks cross a road is an alternative too.
- Parking is also available at the Mt Evelyn Recreation Reserve, doing the walk in reverse will mean the uphill walking is completed first...
- Picnic spots at Mount Dandenong (Cafe at SkyHigh), the Mount Dandenong Arboretum, by Olinda Falls car park and at Mt Evelyn Recreation Reserve – or trackside!
- Toilets available on Mt Dandenong, near Olinda Falls Car park and Mt Evelyn Recreation Reserve.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

A bus service operates from Mt Evelyn to Montrose where a connecting bus from Montrose to Mt Dandenong can be boarded to make this a one-way walk if a vehicle is parked at the beginning. From Melbourne: Trains run to Upper Ferntree Gully, then use a connecting bus to Mount Dandenong. Return via bus & train service from Mt Evelyn to Lilydale.

Check timetables with [Public Transport Victoria](#).

WALK DIRECTIONS

- Mount Dandenong | SkyHigh, walk down the exit road, turn left onto Trig Track then right onto Kyeema Track until reaching Ridge Road.
- Cross over Ridge Road and walk down through the Mount Dandenong Arboretum to the Tourist Road.
- Cross over the Tourist Road and look to the left for the beginning of Mechanics Track (beside the Pre-school) Follow Mechanics track down, over Farndons Road and continue to Falls Road.

- Falls Road – when you reach Falls road, turn right and walk, along the road, a few hundred metres until Bartlett Track is on the left. Follow Bartlett Track.
- 3-way intersection of walking tracks. Continue straight ahead on Bartlett Track until joining Barges Track where there is a right hand turn to walk down to meet Georges Road (still just a track despite being called ‘road’).
- At Georges Road/Track, turn left and walk about 100 metres until Olinda Creek Road is reached.
- Cross over Olinda Creek Road and join Track 13 which continues a couple of kilometres to Pipeline Track.
- Track 13 – keep walking until meeting Pipeline Track and then turn left, follow Pipeline or Olinda Creek Track as both intersect each other. Pass close by the end of Murremburg road and keep walking... Walking down an open grassy slope, keep going...
- After walking down the grassy slope, turn right at the gate onto a small track which soon comes out by the Mt Evelyn Recreation Reserve.

REVERSE WALK DIRECTIONS:

Mt Evelyn Recreation Reserve – From the car park walk onto the track.

- Turn left where it joins the main trail and continue up the hill.
- Follow Olinda Creek Track/Pipeline Track a couple of km’s until the turn off for No. 13 Track on the right.
- Continue on No. 13 Track for a couple of km’s, cross over Olinda Creek Road onto George’s Road.
- Turn right onto Barges Track and continue to the junction with Bartlett Track.
- Follow Bartlett Track to Falls road, turn right and walk down Falls Road about 300 metres until Mechanics Track is on the left.
- Walk up Mechanics Track, crossing over Farndon’s Road, until coming to the Mt Dandenong Tourist Road.
- Cross over the Tourist Road and enter the Mt Dandenong Arboretum, the track is visible to the left.
- Walk up through the Arboretum, keeping to the right-hand track until meeting Ridge Road.
- Cross over Ridge Road onto Kyeema Track, walking along to the left until Trig Track leads off to the left. **Follow Trig Track** all the way up to SkyHigh, Mt Dandenong.

28. OLINDA OR MT DANDENONG VILLAGE TO SKYHIGH, MT DANDENONG – 10 km's one-way

MT DANDENONG VILLAGE

Mt Dandenong Village, the name locals generally use, is technically Olinda North. A little confusing as there is about 1km between the two shopping precincts. We shall call it Mt Dandenong Village on this website.



Walking from Olinda or Mt Dandenong Village to SkyHigh, Mt Dandenong takes 2.5 to 3 hours or so and covers some of the prettiest areas on the western flanks of Mt Dandenong. Misty days are a delight, don't avoid a walk in the hills on these days necessarily.

WALK NOTES

- Approximately 10 kms from Olinda & Approximately 9kms from Mt Dandenong Village | 2.5 – 3 hours EACH WAY.
 - Moderate > Almost hard walking on mostly well-maintained tracks.
 - Parking: Olinda has limited parking, parking is advised at the Olinda Recreation Reserve which is about a 5-minute walk from the village.
 - Parking: Mt Dandenong Village has limited parking available. Some parking is available behind the shops or opposite the Rhodo-Glade Retirement Village along the Tourist Road. | Public Toilets in Olinda and at SkyHigh.
-

WALKING FROM OLINDA:

Head up Range Road a short way, turn right onto Dodds Road and follow this all the way down to the end where the gate to the walking track is. Continue through the gate and down the hill, ignoring the first track to the left. This track becomes Caterpillar Track and is quite wide as it winds down to the Olinda-Basin Road where you then turn left and follow the public road about 200 metres to reach Dandenong Creek Track, clearly signposted, on the right... follow Dandenong Creek Track...

WALKING FROM MT DANDENONG VILLAGE:

Two Options available: 1. Simply walk down the Olinda-Basin Road for about 1.2kms until reaching Dandenong Creek Track on the right and then join this track

2. **OR** Walk up Ridge Road from Mt Dandenong Village for under 1km until Viola Avenue is on the left (a footpath runs along Edith Court and joins Viola). At the very end of Viola is a gate into the forest. Walk through the gate and head straight down the hill, under the power line, until joining into Dandenong Creek Track. Turn right on the track...

WALKERS STARTING AT EITHER OLINDA OR MT DANDENONG VILLAGE WILL NOW BE ON THE DANDENONG CREEK TRACK, HEADING TOWARDS SKYHIGH, MT DANDENONG.

- Continue on Dandenong Creek Track until the junction with Channel 10 Track
 - Turn right onto Channel 10 Track until the junction with ZigZag Track
 - Turn right and head up Zig Zag Track, this is the steepest part of the walk, until reaching the junction with Towers Track
 - Turn left onto Towers Track until meeting Kyeema Track
 - Turn left onto Kyeema Track and follow it along past Burkes Lookout, continuing all the way on the track which runs below SkyHigh until Trig Track finally leads off to the right (at the time of these notes being written there is no sign post for Trig Track)
- From Burkes Lookout it is 1.5kms to Trig Track.
- Turn right, follow Trig Track all the way up to SkyHigh!

29. SASSAFRAS TO BELGRAVE – 12 km's one-way OR DO THE WALK FROM BELGRAVE TO SASSY...

Tree Ferns, tall forests, cafes along the way and a great walking track. This is a super walk that can be accessed easily by public transport. From the city, catch a train to Upper Ferntree Gully and bus to Sassafras to start the walk or take the train all the way to Belgrave and do the walk in reverse order to Sassafras. Buses run via Sassafras back to Upper Ferntree Gully. This walk could be combined with the Olinda to Sassafras walk to extend it further... and even further still by walking to SkyHigh, Mount Dandenong!

WALK NOTES:

- 12 kms | 3 Hours – One Way
- Easy > Moderate walking. Can be muddy in parts.
- Doing this walk from Sassafras to Belgrave will mean it is mostly downhill, with the exception of a steep walk up through Nicholas Gardens.
- Picnic grounds and toilets at Sassafras, Nicholas Gardens, Sherbrooke picnic ground, O'Donohue's picnic ground, and Grants picnic ground.
- Parking: If not using public transport, please note that parking is very limited in Sassafras and it is advised to park outside the village if possible.
- Nicholas Gardens opening times: 10am – 5pm

WALK DIRECTIONS

- It is all downhill apart from the Nicholas Gardens climb, though even in the opposite direction, this is not a tough walk.
- Head down the start of the Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track, beside the Hall in Sassafras (opposite Gepetto's). At the bottom of the steps, head right until 'The Crescent', cross the road to continue the trail until coming to the road again.
- Turn right at this point and enter the lower section of the Alfred Nicholas Gardens. Walk to the top of the gardens. (Gates open at 10am, closing at 5pm).
- At the main entrance gates to the Nicholas Gardens, cross the road and follow the track, heading left until reaching Sherbrooke Picnic Ground.
- Either divert through the main track and visit the Sherbrooke Falls or go just past the picnic grounds and turn right onto Sherbrooke Lodge Road.
- Follow Sherbrooke Lodge Road, past a few tracks leading into the forest and O'Donohue's picnic ground. **Keep walking alongside Sherbrooke Lodge Road until Clematis Track is**

marked, off to the right.

- Walk on Clematis track, past fabulously tall tree ferns, all the way down to Clematis Creek. If time allows, do the 'Fern Tree Loop'. A circuit walk of just under 600 metres.
- Cross the little bridge and walk until coming out on the Belgrave-Monbulk Road and cross over to Grants Picnic Ground.
- At the main entry to Grants picnic ground, turn immediately right and the last section of the walk is via Bleakley Track.
- Bleakley Track follows close to the main road, though is still a pretty walk. (It is possible to extend the walk via East Sherbrooke Track or by walking down through the car park and following signs to Belgrave).
- When Bleakley Track merges with the footpath by Micawber Tavern it is another 10 minutes walking on the footpath to Belgrave.

WALK DIRECTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER – BELGRAVE TO SASSAFRAS

- From Belgrave, follow the footpath beside the Belgrave – Monbulk Road until it becomes Bleakley Track.
- Continue up Bleakley Track to Grants Picnic Ground.
- Cross the road immediately opposite Grant Picnic Ground, Clematis track is visible on the other side.
- Follow Clematis Track all the way until it finishes on Sherbrooke Lodge Road, turn left.
- Walk along Sherbrooke Lodge Road to the end where it junctions with Sherbrooke Road and turn left.
- Keep on the small trail for a few hundred metres until the Alfred Nicholas Gardens can be seen on the right.
- Cross over the road and go through the main entrance gate to the gardens.
- Walk all the way down to the bottom of the gardens and exit via the gate which comes out on The Crescent.
- Turn left immediately and follow the Tourist Track, crossing over 'The Crescent' and back on the track.
- Take the next track to the left which leads up some steps and into Sassafras!

30. SHERBROOKE – SASSAFRAS TO MT DANDENONG SUMMIT – 13 km's one-way

The Sherbrooke to Mt Dandenong Summit walk can also be started from Ferny Creek. Passing through the Alfred Nicholas Gardens to Sassafras and then descending the mountain on the other side of Sassafras to then make the ascent to the top.

This walk can also be combined with the Belgrave-Sassafras walk, making it rather an epic hike.

WALK NOTES:

- Distance – 13kms | 3-4 hours ONE-WAY
- Moderate > Hard, though not extremely hard by any means.
- Toilets: Alfred Nicholas Gardens, Sassafras, SkyHigh, Mt Dandenong.
- Park opposite the Alfred Nicholas Gardens or start the walk from Ferny Creek Recreation Reserve and walk along Sherbrooke Rd / Tan Track to the gardens.
- Alfred Nicholas Gardens close at 5pm. The walk can follow down Nobles Lane as an alternative.

STARTING FROM ALFRED NICHOLAS GARDENS

- Walk down through the gardens to the gate at the very bottom corner which comes out on 'The Crescent'.
- Turn left immediately and follow the track to where it again meets The Crescent.
- Cross over the road and re-join the track. Follow it until the steps lead off to the left.
- Go up the steps and this will take walkers into Sassafras.
- Cross over the Mt Dandenong Tourist Road and walk a short way down Mountain Highway, past Gepetto's Toy Shop, to Old Coach Road.
- Stay on Old Coach Road as it becomes a walking trail, it is about 1km to the next section of this hike.
- At the junction of School Track, turn right and then, almost immediately, left onto Bradley Track
- Follow Bradley Track all the way until it joins Range Track, then turn left and walk down to Olinda – Basin Road.
- Turn right and walk 300 metres up Olinda-Basin Road until Dandenong Creek Track, on the left.
- Follow Dandenong Creek Track until the junction with Channel 10 Track

- Turn right onto Channel 10 Track until the junction with ZigZag Track
- Turn right and head up Zig Zag Track, until reaching the junction with Towers Track
- Turn left onto Towers Track until meeting Kyeema Track
- Turn left onto Kyeema Track and follow it along past Burkes Lookout, continuing all the way on the track which runs below SkyHigh.
- Trig Track finally leads off to the right. (from Burkes Lookout it is 1.5kms to Trig Track) Turn right to SkyHigh!

REVERSE WALK NOTES: MT DANDENONG SUMMIT TO SHERBROOKE VIA SASSAFRAS

From SkyHigh walk down the exit road until Trig Track, turn left and walk down to Kyeema Track.

- Turn left onto Kyeema Track and follow for 1.5Km's to Burkes Lookout.
- Continue on Kyeema until it joins with Towers Track, turn right and walk down the hill.
- Towers Track joins ZigZag Track, turn right and continue down to the next junction.
- Turn left onto Channel 10 Track and follow until the junction with Dandenong Creek Track.
- Follow Dandenong Creek Track all the way to Olinda-Basin Road and walk down the road 300 metres until Range Track/Road is on the left.
- Follow Range Track a short way, then turn right onto Bradley Track.
- Continue walking on Bradley Track until it reaches School Track, turn right and then the next left onto Old Coach Road.
- Follow Old Coach for about 1km to Sassafras.
- Cross the road at Sassafras to continue the walk on the other side, beside the Sassafras Hall.
- Walk down the steps and then turn right, continue until reaching 'The Crescent'.
- Cross over the road and re-join the trail, walking down until again meeting the road.
- Turn right immediately and enter the Alfred Nicholas Gardens.
- Keep walking up through the gardens to the main entrance.

31. SASSAFRAS TO EMERALD – 15 km's one-way

From Sassafras to Emerald, the Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track is a 5 hour hike through superb forest, crossing streams, boardwalks and roads along the way. Graded moderate to easy, the walking track can be tackled from either direction, done as a whole or divided into smaller sections.

The walk is 15kms to Telopea Steps or 16.5 km's to Emerald. Puffing Billy Steam Train could be boarded for a return trip option from Emerald or Emerald Park Lake. Public transport can also be used, buses run from Emerald to Belgrave.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT FROM THE CITY:

- Feeling energetic? Needing a city escape and a BIG day out? Catch a train to Belgrave station then Puffing Billy Steam Train or a connecting bus to Emerald.
- Follow the map to the beginning of the walk at Telopea Road Steps.
- Walk the 15km / 5 hours to Sassafras, eat, drink, rest and revive.
- Catch the bus from Sassy to Upper Ferntree Gully train station and return to the city. Check timetables depending on day of travel.

NOTES:

- Limited parking is available in Sassafras beside the Dance Hall (opposite Geppetto's Toy Shop) This is the beginning of the Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track.
- Parking at Emerald – If walking from this direction, parking is available in Emerald. Telopea Road Steps has very limited parking.
- The Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track skirts around Monbulk and does not go through the actual town. Take some nibbles and a drink, stop along the way at numerous picnic grounds or walk into the villages en-route.
- Dogs are allowed on-leash.
- Not suitable for baby buggies.
- Toilets en-route available in Sassafras, Baynes Park & Emerald.

WALK DIRECTIONS – SASSAFRAS TO EMERALD - 15 km's one-way

15 Km's | 5 Hours One-Way Sassafras:

- Follow down the steps beside the hall. Turn right at the base of the steps Continue until 'The Crescent'
- Cross over The Crescent and continue following the track until it again crosses The Crescent,

just below the Alfred Nicholas Gardens

- Cross the road and follow the track until it emerges on a small side road called Boucher Lane.
- Turn right and walk to the end of Boucher Lane to join Perrins Creek Road.
- Turn right on Perrins Creek Road and walk a short way to the junction with Sassafras Creek Road.

Either turn right into Sassafras Creek Road and then join the track again very soon on the left for a short walk to Beagleys Bridge picnic ground, or walk down Perrins Creek Road to Beagleys Bridge picnic ground.

- From Beagley's Bridge picnic ground, follow the orange markers and cross over Belgrave-Monbulk Road and continue on the track.
- The track passes by a few picnic grounds before crossing over the Belgrave-Monbulk Road again.
- On the other side of the road, the track drops down and goes along behind the Monbulk Swimming Pool and into Baynes Park Reserve.
- Walk around the playing field on the track until coming to Baynes Park Road, cross over and continue following the orange markers.
- The track continues until a junction with Moxham Road. Cross over the junction back onto the track and continue to the next road crossing.
- Cross over the road again and keep walking... There is another small road crossing before coming to David Hill Road where you again cross the road and follow to arrive at Butterfield Reserve.
- Cross over the Emerald-Monbulk Road to the next section of the trail following Menzies Creek.
- One more road crossing (Kallista-Emerald Rd) and then straight on through the forest to A'vard picnic area.
- The track joins the unsealed A'Vard Road, passing by the little picnic area and then branches off through a gate on the right a little further down.
- Stay on the trail all the way to Telopea Steps.
- From the steps, it is a 1.7 km walk uphill and along both unsealed and sealed roads to Emerald. Emerald Park Lake is a further 1.5 kms for anyone wishing to extend the walk.

WALK DIRECTIONS: EMERALD TO SASSAFRAS

15 Km's | 5 Hours One-Way Emerald:

- From Emerald, it is a 1.7 km walk downhill and along both unsealed and sealed roads to Telopea Steps.
- A taxi could be used for this section so that you can get straight onto the main walk... Direct Bookings: (03) 5968 4670
- From Telopea Steps, follow the track all the way until coming out at a gate on A'Vard Road.
- Turn left and walk up past the small picnic area to the top of the road where the track continues.
- Stay on the track, crossing over Kallista-Emerald Road until it then crosses Emerald-Monbulk Road and comes to Butterfield Reserve.
- Follow the track leading out of Butterfield Reserve, crossing David Hill Road then Rankins road before coming to Monbulk – Emerald Road again.
- Cross over and re-join the track, look for the orange markers.
- Continue on, crossing the Moxham Road junction and re-joining the track again.
- Follow until crossing over Baynes Park Road and walk through the Baynes Park Reserve, the track goes behind the Monbulk Swimming Pool.
- Continue walking, the track crosses over the Belgrave – Monbulk Road and passes by a few small picnic grounds...
- Cross over Belgrave-Monbulk Road and through Beagley's Bridge Picnic Area.
- Continue up the track until meeting Sassafras Creek Road junction with Perrins Creek Road.
- Turn right, then left onto Perrins Creek Road for a short distance...
- Then turn left onto a small side road called Boucher Lane, follow until the track is visible on the left...
- Continue to 'The Crescent', cross over and follow the track again off to the right.
- The track eventually crosses The Crescent again...
- Cross over The Crescent again, follow the track until the steps are on the left, heading up into Sassafras.

32. (UPPER) FERNTREE GULLY TO MT DANDENONG – 20 km's one-way

The Mt Dandenong Hiking Trail from Upper Ferntree Gully is one of the longest and most challenging of all the walking tracks in the Dandenong Ranges. It can be broken up into two sections perhaps, or even three... [Download the Maps App](#), bring food and water, plus anything else for a safe hike and spend hours in the Dandenongs keeping to the forest trails.

Depending on how much walking is preferred, the walk could easily be started at One Tree Hill Picnic Ground where parking is generally easier to find.

Traversing the Dandenong Ranges on the western slope is a hike to add to any bucket list of things to do in the hills.

WALK NOTES:

- **20 Kms | 6-8 Hours ONE WAY | Moderate > Hard Walking** with plenty of steep hill climbs and descents.
- Travel by train or bus to Upper Ferntree Gully Station perhaps, it is a 10-minute walk to the beginning of the trail.
- Check [Bus timetables](#) if planning to use public transport for the return trip from Mt Dandenong or to start from SkyHigh, Mt Dandenong.
- Picnic Grounds and toilets at Upper Ferntree Gully Park, One Tree Hill, Doongalla Homestead and SkyHigh, Mount Dandenong.
- Heed weather warnings. Use caution and do not hike in high winds, extreme heat or fire bans days.

WALK DIRECTIONS – FERNTREE GULLY TO SKYHIGH. MOUNT DANDENONG STARTING AT UPPER FERNTREE GULLY PARK BY THE STONE MEMORIAL ARCHWAY:

Follow the main trail past the Kokoda Memorial and playground to the junction of the 1000 Steps/ Kokoda Trail and Lyrebird Track.

- Walk to One Tree Hill picnic ground via the 1000 Steps or Lyrebird Track. Both join up at the top and continue into the picnic area.
- From One Tree Hill picnic area, walk straight ahead through the picnic area, past the public toilets on your right.
- Continue down the steep descent of Tyson Track. Join onto Janesdell Track, heading right.
- From Janesdell EITHER go left onto Dobson Track which joins Alpine Track
OR continue walking until reaching Alpine Track and turn left.

- Follow Alpine Track until Danieda Track leads off to the right. Walk up Danieda Track to Stewart Track then turn right.
- Follow Stewart Track until Helen Track then turn left. Keep walking on Helen Track until coming to Hilton Track and then turn left, heading down the hill to cross over Mountain Highway...

BEWARE OF CARS AND CYCLISTS! USE EXTREME CAUTION CROSSING MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY AS CYCLISTS CAN COME VERY QUICKLY AROUND THE BEND.

Two options once across Mountain Highway and onto Hilton Track again:

- Turn right immediately and follow a small, unmarked trail that descends steeply down to Old Coach Road.
- OR Follow Hilton Track straight down to Ferndale Road junction and turn right onto Old Coach Road. Both these options entail a steep descent that can be particularly slippery in wet conditions.
- Head up Old Coach Track until joining School Road which branches off to the left, then turn onto Bradley Track leading off to the left.
- OR Make a pit stop in Sassafras by continuing up Old Coach Track. It is about 15 minutes walk into Sassy... then return down to continue the walk.
- Bradley Track goes down past a gateway onto Basin-Olinda Road, turn onto the road at this point. Walk a short distance up the road to the right and then turn left down onto Banksia Track...
- Banksia Track is a pretty walk through lush forest to then join Ridge Track, head left on Ridge Track until reaching Doongalla Road.
- Right-turn up Doongalla Road for about 1km to the picnic reserve. There is a walking track alongside Doongalla Road that can be used.
- From the top parking area of Doongalla Reserve (Toilet block on the right), follow Channel 10 Track all the way up and up...
- Until Zig Zag Track leads off to the right. Head up Zig Zag Track to until it joins Towers Track, follow Towers Track, walking close by the TV Transmission Tower, until meeting with Kyeema Track.
- Turn left onto Kyeema Track, passing Burkes Lookout. A smashing spot to stop and gaze across the city to Port Phillip Bay, the You Yangs, Melbourne and Macedon Ranges...
- Kyeema Track undulates somewhat and runs along below SkyHigh. It is 1.5km's from Burkes Lookout to Trig Track which leads off to the right, follow this track all the way up to Mt Dandenong and SkyHigh... Cafe, view-points, maze, gardens...

REVERSE WALK DIRECTIONS: SKYHIGH TO UPPER FERNTREE GULLY

SkyHigh, walk down the exit road to Trig Track on the left. Follow Trig Track to Join Kyeema Track, turn left.

- Follow Kyeema for about 1.5kms, past Burkes Lookout and turn right onto Towers Track. Down Towers Track to ZigZag track, turn right and head down...
- At the bottom of ZigZag Track, turn left onto Channel 10 Track.
- Follow Channel 10 Track all the way to Doongalla Homestead, (toilets available) across the car park and keep walking on the Doongalla Road to the entrance.
- Turn left onto Ridge Track, by the entrance gates to Doongalla Homestead grounds.
- Follow Ridge Track until Banksia Track, then turn right. Follow Banksia all the way until coming to Olinda-Basin Road.
- Turn right, walk down the road a short way then join Bradley track.
- Go right on Bradley Track, keep walking to join School Track, turn right.
- School Track soon joins into Old Coach Road... follow Old Coach Road down until reaching the gate across the track.
- 2 Options: From just past the gate a small trail to the left leads straight uphill to where Hilton Track crosses Mountain Highway.
- OR Go through the gate and continue down Old Coach to the end, then turn left onto Hilton Track and walk up the hill to Mountain Highway.

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BEWARE OF CARS AND CYCLISTS! USE EXTREME CAUTION CROSSING MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY AS CYCLISTS CAN COME VERY QUICKLY AROUND THE BEND.

- Continue up Hilton Track, turning right onto Helen Track. Follow Helen Track until Stewart Track leads off to the right.
- Turn left onto Danieda Track. Follow Danieda until it joins Alpine Track, turn left onto Alpine and keep walking...
- TWO OPTIONS:** From Alpine you can turn right onto Dobsons Track and walk up to JanesdellTrack then turn right... OR Continue up Alpine Track until meeting Janesdell Track and turn right...
- Follow Janesdell Track until it joins with Tyson Track... walk up Tyson Track to One Tree Hill Picnic Ground.
- Walk through the picnic ground, following the signs to the lower picnic grounds...
- TWO OPTIONS:** Take the 1000 Steps down to the Upper Ferntree Gully Picnic Ground or follow Lyrebird Track down.
- That's it! 20kms and 6 hours or so of walking continuously in the Dandenong Ranges!**

Thank you for downloading the Dandenong Ranges
Walking Tracks E-Book.

I hope you have many hours a fabulous walking in the
hills.

Please check by the website occasionally, it's often
updated and new articles added.

'Like' our FaceBook page to find out about special offers
and such.

The website also has detailed maps of the walks plus
horse riding trails.

The page below is a walks check list... print it out and
check off walks as you complete them!

Explore
The Dandenongs

<https://explorethedandenongs.com.au>

- ☐ 1. Neuman Track/Lyrbird Walk: Kallista – from 900m return.
- ☐ 2. Hardy Gully Nature Trail: Kallista – 700m return.
- ☐ 3. Burkes Lookout: Mt Dandenong – Under 1km return. **Pram Friendly.**
- ☐ 4. Olinda Falls: Mt Dandenong – 600m – 1.6 km return.
- ☐ 5. Kalorama Park: Kalorama – Under 2 km's return.
- ☐ 6. Doongalla Homestead: The Basin / Mt Dandenong – Multiple Walk options from under 2kms
- ☐ 7. Hamer Arboretum & Woolrich Lookout: Olinda – 1 Hour return walk. **Dog-friendly**
- ☐ 8. Sherbrooke Falls: Sherbrooke – 2.4 km return.
- ☐ 9. The Tan Track: Sherbrooke – 2.7 km return.
- ☐ 10. Birdland Reserve: Belgrave South – 2.85 km's circuit walk. **Pram and Dog-Friendly.**
- ☐ 11. Rock Track Circuit Walk: 3 km's | 1 Hour. **Dog-Friendly.**
- ☐ 12. Valley Picnic Ground: Olinda / Silvan– Eagle Nest Loop – 3km's circuit. **Pram-friendly**
- ☐ 13. Cardinia Reservoir Park: 3km's Messmate Trail, Kangaroos! **Dog & Pram friendly.**
- ☐ 14. 1000 Steps – Kokoda Memorial Walk: Upper Ferntree Gully / Ferny Creek – 4.3km circuit.
- ☐ 15. True Grit: Kalorama – 5.5km's | 2 hours.
- ☐ 16. Glenfern Valley Bushlands: 6 km's | 1.5 Hours ... **Dog-friendly**
- ☐ 17. Mathias – Rock Track Circuit Walk: Hamer Arboretum – 6km circuit **Dog-friendly**
- ☐ 18. Bartletts Track – Blackhole Track Loop: Mt Dandenong/ Olinda– 6km's return.
- ☐ 19. Monument Track: Sherbrooke Falls: Sherbrooke Forest – 6km's Return.
- ☐ 20. Olinda to Sassafras: 7km's Return.
- ☐ 21. Bellview Terrace Loop: Upper Ferntree Gully – 7km's | 2/2.5 hours..
- ☐ 22. Mathias Track: Olinda/Mt Dandenong – 7km return **Dog-friendly, Pram Friendly**
- ☐ 23. Silvan to Mt Evelyn: Olinda Creek Track – 9.2km's return **Dog-friendly, Pram-friendly**
- ☐ 24. Emerald to Cockatoo: 12km's Return, Walk or ride bikes. **Dog & Pram Friendly**
- ☐ 25. Western Slopes Circuit Walk: 12km's return approx.
- ☐ 26. Mountain Circuit Walk: 16km's Approx.
- ☐ 27. Mount Dandenong to Mt Evelyn: 9 km's One-way or 18 km's return approx.
- ☐ 28. Olinda or Mt Dandenong Village to SkyHigh, Mt Dandenong – One-Way – Approx. 10 km's
- ☐ 29. Sassafras to Belgrave: 12 km's One-Way.
- ☐ 30. Sherbrooke – Sassafras to Mt Dandenong Summit: 13 Km's, one-way / 3-4 hours.
- ☐ 31. Sassafras to Emerald: Tourist Track- 15km, one-way/ 5 hours **Dog-friendly.**
- ☐ 32. Ferntree Gully to Mt Dandenong & SkyHigh: 20 km's One way / 6-8 hours.