



32 Bushwalks in the **Dandenong Ranges**



DANDENONG RANGES NATIONAL PARK, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Bushwalking in the Dandenong Ranges

32 Fabulous walks in the hills, some are short strolls and then there is the longest hike of 20 km from the top of the mountain to Upper Ferntree Gully.

A number of good mapping/walking apps can be found for Android and IOS devices, we use 'Track My Trip'. Another popular one is WikiLoc.

On the website we have an interactive Google map with all the walks marked. [Browse the map](#) to find a walk near you.

Some of the walking tracks are dog-friendly, all the tracks require dogs to be on-lead apart from on the old [Olinda Golf course](#).

Pram-friendly walks - Any walk that is said to be pram-friendly does not mean the track is suitable for regular prams particularly, the off-road types are better as tracks can get muddy. The tracks are not made for prams and are not sealed, but can be navigated with the right equipment. See images and notes on the website to decide whether a track looks ok for you.

All the walks can easily be printed out individually or all together. Click on any link in the index to go straight to the walk notes.

Happy Hiking!

Jane

You are welcome to share this book with friends or on social media.

<https://explorethedandenongs.com.au>
<https://explorethegreatoceanroad.com.au>

Bushwalking in the Dandenong Ranges

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WF (Wheelchair-friendly) PF (Pram-friendly) DF (Dog-friendly)

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Bushwalking in the Dandenong Ranges

1. HARDY GULLY NATURE TRAIL – 700 metres return

Hardy Gully has everything the Dandenong Ranges are famous for, cool rainforest gullies and massive eucalyptus trees. Lyrebirds can often be seen, go early in the morning or in the evening when it is quiet for more chance of seeing them.

Grants Picnic Ground is very popular for bbq's and picnics. There is a great cafe and gift shop there as well as tables and free bbq's.

DISTANCE | TIME: 700 metres / 15-30 minutes

DIFFICULTY: Easy walking, though can get muddy.

PARKING: Grants Picnic Ground, 70 Monbulk Rd, Kallista

TOILETS: Yes

EATING OUT: Shop & Cafe, Picnic Tables and BBQ's.

DOGS NOT ALLOWED

WEBSITE LINK WITH IMAGES: [Hardy Gully Nature Trail](#)

This would have to be one of the easiest short walks in the Dandenongs. Parking at Grants picnic ground, walk to the left, past the Grants on Sherbrooke cafe and a little further on to your right, the beginning of the track is clearly marked. It is a loop walk and joins the Lyrebird Walking Track (walk no. 3), so the hike can easily be extended.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Grants Picnic Ground

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Belgrave Station then local bus route no. 694 (to Olinda) or 663 (to Monbulk) It will take about 5 minutes by bus to Grants Picnic Ground or you can walk, following directions on walk no. 29 (a 12 km walk from Sassafras to Belgrave which passes through Grants Picnic Ground, use the reverse walk notes)

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2. BURKES LOOKOUT – Under 1 km return

Spectacular views across Melbourne, Port Phillip Bay and to the Macedon Ranges and Kinglake.

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 and the 1000 Steps (walk no.32).

How about hiking to Burke's Lookout via the infamous Fire Trail? (also known as Glasgow Track) It's quite a strenuous, uphill climb. [See walk notes and photos on our website.](#)

DISTANCE | TIME: Just under 1 km | Walking time: 20 minutes return

DIFFICULTY: Easy grade walk.

PARKING: Osprey Road (off Ridge Road).

TOILETS: No. Nearest toilets - Skyhigh

OTHER: Wheelchair & Pram-Friendly. No dogs, bikes or horses allowed.

WEBSITE LINK WITH IMAGES: [Burkes Lookout](#)

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

WALK NOTES

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.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Burkes Lookout

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to either Upper Ferntree Gully or Croydon and then local bus route no. 688. The 688 bus alternates between going up Ridge Road and going along the Mt Dandenong Tourist Road. Make sure to be on the Ridge Road bus and get off at Osprey Road.

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3. LYREBIRD WALK – 5.9 km

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

DISTANCE | TIME: 5 kms in a loop | 1.5 hours or so

DIFFICULTY: Easy with some inclines

PARKING: Grants Picnic Ground

CAFE: At Grants or in Kallista nearby

TOILETS: Grants Picnic Ground

NO DOGS

WEBSITE LINK WITH IMAGES & VIDEO: [Lyrebird Walk](#)

WALK NOTES

Facing towards Grants on Sherbrooke cafe, walk to the left about 60 metres to see the entrance on the right to the Lyrebird walk and Hardy Gully Nature Trail.

Pass through the gates and turn right onto the pretty Hardy Gully Nature Trail which does a small loop and rejoins the main Lyrebird Walk trail.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

Where Hardy Gully meets up with the main track again, turn right and continue.

Follow to the next junction of tracks and keep on the left trail (Lyrebird Walk), to do this walk in a clockwise direction. It loops back to this point along Newman Track, so either way is fine to go.

Lyrebird Walk joins into Hall Track which runs alongside Grantulla Road for a short distance before arriving at Neuman Track where you then turn to the right and continue for a km or so.

At the next junction, go right along Newman Track to complete the loop or extend the walk by turning left and following Paddy's Track, which has steep sections and adds on a few km's to the hike.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Grants Picnic Ground

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Belgrave Station then local bus route no. 694 (to Olinda) or 663 (to Monbulk) It will take about 5 minutes by bus to Grants Picnic Ground or you can walk, following directions on walk no. 29 (a 12 km walk from Sassafras to Belgrave which passes through Grants Picnic Ground, use the reverse walk notes)

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

Olinda Falls is one of the most popular walks in the Dandenongs. On weekends, it does get quite busy.

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.

LOCATION– Corner of Falls Road & Doughty's Road, Mt Dandenong

DISTANCE | TIME: : 600m to 1.6km (depending on route taken) | 30 minutes approx

DIFFICULTY: Medium grade walk, reasonable fitness level required.

PARKING: Parking at the Olinda Falls Car Park on Falls Road

TOILETS: Yes

OTHER: Water tap, Tables & open BBQ fire pits.

NO DOGS ALLOWED

WEBSITE LINK WITH IMAGES & VIDEO: [Olinda Falls](#)

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

WALK NOTES

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. The best viewing area is at the lower section of the falls walk.

TO MAKE THE WALK A LITTLE LONGER & MORE INTERESTING

When returning from the falls, at the junction of tracks turn left onto Mechanics Track and follow to where it crosses Falls Road. Turn right and walk up Falls Road about 100 metres to the car park.

Mechanics Track continues up to the Mt Dandenong Arboretum, an alternative to parking at the Olinda Falls Car Park is to park on the Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, near the Pre-school and walk down Mechanics Track to the falls.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to the Olinda Falls car park

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to park near the preschool and walk down

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Upper Ferntree Gully or Croydon Station then bus route no. 688 This bus route alternates between going via Ridge Road or the Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, be sure to be on the bus the goes along the Tourist Road and get off at the corner of Falls Road, by the little stone church and walk about 1km down Falls Road to the Falls car park.

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

Kalorama Park is below the viewpoint 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.

DISTANCE | TIME: Less than 2kms | 40 minutes walking on a circuit track

DIFFICULTY: Easy to Moderate. Can get muddy in parts.

PARKING: Barbers Road, Kalorama

TOILETS: Yes

OTHER: Picnic Tables, BBQ's & Views

WEBSITE LINK WITH IMAGES: [Kalorama Park](#)

WALK NOTES

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 and the Kalorama Store to the right. Return the same way.

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Option 2: Follow the path from the car park 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.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Kalorama Park

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Upper Ferntree Gully or Croydon Station then bus route no. 688 which goes from one end of the Dandenongs to the other. Get off the bus at the 5-ways Junction (corner of Tourist Road/Ridge Road and Barbers Road) Walk down Barbers Road to the picnic area below.

This is a well known view point looking over the forest and down into the valley, with a great little cafe on the corner.

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6. DOONGALLA HOMESTEAD TRACKS – 2.3 km's return

From the Old Doongalla Homestead it is possible to walk for miles. Channel 10 Track winds up the Mountain all the way to the summit... or take a stroll along Stables Loop Track...

DISTANCE | TIME: 2.3 km or more ...45 minutes - 1 hour.

DIFFICULTY: Easy to Moderate

PARKING: Doongalla Homestead/Stables Picnic Areas, Doongalla Road, Mt Dandenong (via The Basin)

TOILETS: Yes

OTHER: Open fireplaces (B.Y.O. wood) Picnic tables | Water taps available

WEBSITE LINK WITH IMAGES: [Doongalla Homestead](#)

WALK NOTES

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.

STABLES LOOP TRACK

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.

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Trudge uphill on Bill's Track (stop...breathe...) 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.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Doongalla Homestead

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: There is no easy way to reach Doongalla by public transport as it would involve a hike to get there. It is possible to go to Burkes Lookout (walk no. 2) and walk down Zig Zag/Channel 10 racks to Doongalla.

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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. Stunning views across the Yarra Valley.

DISTANCE | TIME: Under 3 km's | 1 Hour

DIFFICULTY: Easy to Moderate with some steep climbs

PARKING: Hamer Arboretum/Woolrich Lookout, Chalet Road, Olinda

TOILETS: Yes

OTHER: Picnic Tables | BBQ's | Water Taps

DOG FRIENDLY on some tracks as marked (on leash)

WEBSITE LINK WITH IMAGES: [Hamer Arboretum](#)

WALK NOTES

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 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).

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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 Woolrich lookout area.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Hamer Arboretum

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Upper Ferntree Gully or Croydon then bus route no. 688 to Olinda. Connect to bus no. 696 towards Monbulk, get off at the corner of Chalet Road (this bus service does not operate after 2pm on Saturdays and not at all on Sundays).

Alternatively, from Olinda, walk along the Olinda/Monbulk, turn left down Chalet Road and follow the track beside the road to the Hamer Arboretum lookout. This will take about 30 minutes.

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8. SHERBROOKE FALLS – 2.4 km's return

Sherbrooke Falls, another really popular walk 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 with some huge trees, it is 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.

DISTANCE | TIME: 2.4 km return | 45 mins

DIFFICULTY: Easy grade walk

PARKING: Sherbrooke Picnic Ground, corner of Sherbrooke Road & Sherbrooke Lodge Road, Sherbrooke

TOILETS: Yes

OTHER: Picnic Tables | BBQ's

NO DOGS

WEBSITE LINK WITH IMAGES & VIDEO: [Sherbrooke Falls](#)

WALK NOTES

From the car park, follow the sign to the falls. The track is easy to follow, passing by a wonderful old tree with a hollowed centre, kids love to go inside.

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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.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Sherbrooke picnic ground

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Belgrave then connect on bus route no. 694 towards Olinda. Get off at the corner of Sherbrooke Lodge Road to start the walk. The bus will take about 15 minutes to get there.

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

The Tan Track is dog and pram friendly and is an easy enough walk with an uphill climb in one section. It can be started from the Ferny Creek Recreation Reserve - as long as an event is not being held.

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

DISTANCE | TIME: 2.7km's | 40 minutes

DIFFICULTY: Easy

PARKING: Ferny Creek Recreation Reserve, Clarkemont Road, Ferny Creek

TOILETS: At the Recreation Reserve

PRAM | DOG | HORSE FRIENDLY

Picnic Tables & Playground at the Rec Reserve

WEBSITE WALK NOTES AND IMAGES: [The Tan Track](#)

WALK NOTES

Walk out of the car park at the Ferny Creek Reserve, between the toilets and the tennis courts, onto the track beside the road, heading left.

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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.

It is also easy to visit the Alfred Nicholas Gardens from this walk. At the end of the avenue of pine trees, continue ahead beside the road for a short way to the gardens entrance. The Piggery Cafe is between the Tan and the Gardens, a good place to stop for lunch maybe.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to the Ferny Creek Reserve

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Upper Ferntree Gully then bus route no. 688 to the corner of Mt Dandenong Tourist Road and Sherbrooke Road (this bus ride takes about 15 mins), walk along Sherbrooke Road to the start of the track on the left.

OR Train to Belgrave and bus route no. 694 towards Olinda, get off the bus at the corner of Sherbrooke Road and the Tourist Road. This bus ride takes about 15 mins.

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10. BIRDSLAND RESERVE – 2.85 km's return

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.

DISTANCE | TIME: 2.85 km's return | 1 hour

DIFFICULTY: Easy

PARKING: 271 Mt. Morton Rd, Belgrave Heights

TOILETS: Yes

OTHER: BBQ's | picnic tables | Very suitable for prams

DOGS ALLOWED (on leash)

WEBSITE LINK WITH IMAGES: [Birdsland Reserve](#)

WALK NOTES

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.

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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.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Birdsland Reserve

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Public Transport is not available without involving a lot of extra walking.

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

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.

DISTANCE | TIME: 3 km's circuit walk | 1 hr hour

DIFFICULTY: Easy > Moderate

PARKING: Woolrich Lookout, Chalet Road, Olinda

TOILETS: Yes

Views | BBQ's | Picnic Tables | Dog Friendly

WEBSITE LINK WITH IMAGES: [Rock Track & Hamer Arboretum](#)

WALK NOTES

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 Sequoia Track.

Go left along Sequoia Track until meeting Rock Track (sometimes known as Golf course Track). If you walk to the right at this junction a short distance, you will come to 'Rock Lookout, no views, but interesting. Retrace your tracks and follow Rock Track uphill until it joins into Chalet Road.

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Turn left and follow the small track beside Chalet Road back to the Hamer Arboretum car park.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to the Hamer Arboretum and Woolrich Lookout

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Upper Ferntree Gully or Croydon then bus route no. 688 to Olinda. Connect to bus no. 696 towards Monbulk (service does not operate after 2pm on Saturdays and not at all on Sundays) or walk along the Olinda/Monbulk, turn left down Chalet Road to the Hamer Arboretum lookout. This will take about 30 minutes.

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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.

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 in all directions.

DISTANCE | TIME: 3 km's | 1 hour

DIFFICULTY: Easy with some small hills

PARKING: Boundary Road (off Silvan Road) Olinda

TOILETS: No toilets at either picnic ground, nearest are at Woolrich Lookout

OTHER: Open fireplaces (B.Y.O. wood) Picnic tables | No water taps

PRAM FRIENDLY WITH SOME INCLINES

WEBSITE LINK AND IMAGES: [Eagle Nest & Valley picnic Ground Loop](#)

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

WALK NOTES

1. Access to the Picnic Ground is from Boundary Road, off Silvan Road.
2. From the car park, walk down Georges Track until the T junction.
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 Track, down across a small bridge.
5. Stay on Hermon Track to the junction with Rifle Range Gully Track and turn left.
6. Stay on this track until again meeting at the point where Eagle Nest Road joins Georges Track. Turn right and head back to Valley Picnic Ground.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Valley Picnic Ground

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Public Transport does not go near this walk although, it could be started from the Hamer Arboretum (walk no. 11) and follow tracks down into the forest.

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

Kangaroo spotting, a great playground, BBQ's, and a pretty bush walk. Crystal Brook Park is an unexpected surprise and a super family day out, dog-friendly too (all on-lead though). 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 along the wall and return via walking tracks.

The park offers well-made tracks, some 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. You need to be a little 'rufty tufty' to take a pram, but it can be done.

Kangaroos are here by the hundreds, though it is possible to believe that is 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.

DISTANCE | TIME: Messmate Track is approximately 3 km's | 1 hour on a circuit walk

DIFFICULTY: Easy to Moderate

TOILETS: Yes

OTHER: Tables | Open wood BBQ's & Electric | Kids Playground

WEBSITE LINK AND IMAGES: [Cardinia Reservoir & Kangaroos](#)

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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.

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.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Crystal Brook Picnic area

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: It would be time consuming to get here by bus. The only way to do it would be to use a bus route along Wellington Road.

CAR RENTAL: [Compare prices from the best car hire companies](#)

STAY A NIGHT OR TWO... Browse [unique Air BnB properties](#) or find amazing deals for accommodation on [Booking.com](#)

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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

1000 Steps -The Kokoda Trail - This 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 wishing to improve 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, but there will usually be a few manic runners doing laps.

DISTANCE | TIME: 4.3 km's (doing the loop of Lyrebird Track) | 1 to 2 hours

DIFFICULTY: Medium to Hard

PARKING: Burwood Highway & Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, Upper Ferntree Gully or One Tree Hill

TOILETS: Yes, at the bottom of the steps or at One Tree Hill picnic area

Cafe | Tables | BBQ's | Playground

NO DOGS

WEBSITE LINK WITH IMAGES & VIDEO - [1000 Steps Walk](#)

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

WALK NOTES

Simply walk along the main trail under the Memorial Arch until you see the signs for the 1000 Steps. Walk up the steps and perhaps return via Lyrebird Track in a loop.

As an Alternative: Walkers can also park at One Tree Hill and come down following the Lyrebird track and then hike the 1000 Steps back up. Lyrebird Track has been upgraded with blue stone steps for a lot of the way and is quite a good surface to walk on.

HOW ABOUT GOING FURTHER INTO THE DANDENONGS?

At the top of the steps take Poacher's Track to the right, it is a very short walk to Churchill Drive.

Turning left on Churchill Drive, walk about 60 metres before crossing the road to the top of Titania Crescent, then walk down the Crescent, which is an unsealed road, and come out at the Dandenong Tourist Road in Tremont where there is a bus stop on Route 688 (Upper Ferntree Gully Station to Croydon service).

The bus passes through Sassafras, Olinda, Mount Dandenong and Kalorama

OR Follow walk **no.32 which is a 20km hike** from the Gully all the way to the top of Mt Dandenong!

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to 1000 Steps car park

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to One Tree Hill and start from the top of the walk

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Upper Ferntree Gully, turn left out of the station and follow the highway along to the corner of the Mt Dandenong Tourist Road and enter the National Park from there. This is just over 1km. OR take bus route no. 688 and get off at the first stop which is right outside the park.

CAR RENTAL: [Compare prices from the best car hire companies](#)

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Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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 go by that name. 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.

DISTANCE | TIME: 5.5km | 2 hours

DIFFICULTY: Medium > Hard

PARKING: Parking on Inverness Road, just off the Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, on the lower side.

OR Park at the Mt Evelyn Recreation Reserve where there is usually more parking, and start the walk from note no. 9 below.

TOILETS: No.

NO DOGS

Watch out for mountain bike riders as they use the tracks too.

WEBSITE LINK WITH IMAGES: [True Grit](#)

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

WALK NOTES

If you have parked at the Mt Evelyn Rec Reserve, follow Tramway Track to the top where it joins Wols Track and start from walk note 9 below.

1. From the Inverness Road car park area by the big water tank, walk to the right about 50 metres until a small trail leads off to the left.
2. This joins into Wols Track, walk straight ahead.
3. Stay on Wols Track for about 1km until it joins into Richardson's Track, then turn left.
4. Follow Richardson's Track until it junctions with Alpina Track, turn left.
5. Alpina Track follows a ridge line and the scenery changes to, predominantly, Messmate forest.
6. The track slowly descends and joins into Pipeline Track, turn left.
7. 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.
8. After about 2 km'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 where toilets can be found if needed).

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

9. 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.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to 'True Grit' parking on Inverness Road
GET DIRECTIONS TO MT EVELYN RECREATION RESERVE

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Croydon (closest) or Upper Ferntree Gully. Take bus route no. 688 up into the Dandenongs. About 10 minutes beyond Montrose, get off the bus at the corner of Inverness Road and walk down Inverness about 200 metres to the start of the walk.

CAR RENTAL: [Compare prices from the best car hire companies](#)

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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

Glenfern Valley Bushland 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.

DISTANCE | TIME: 6 km's | 1.5 Hours

DIFFICULTY: Easy > Moderate Walking on mostly well-made paths

TOILETS: No

OTHER: Picnic tables and benches to use.

DOG FRIENDLY (on leash)

WEBSITE LINK WITH IMAGES: [Glenfern Valley](#)

WALK NOTES

Starting from any of the parking areas, follow the marked trails in a loop. The walking is quite easy and follows through the bushland and down by the creek.

It would possibly be ok for pushing a pram or wheelchair, but please refer to the website notes and images.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Glenfern Valley Bushland

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Public transport is not an easy option. From Upper Ferntree Gully, Google maps shows the walking route to take just over 30 minutes.

CAR RENTAL: [Compare prices from the best car hire companies](#)

STAY A NIGHT OR TWO... Browse [unique Air BnB properties](#) or find amazing deals for accommodation on [Booking.com](#)

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

17. MATHIAS TRACK - ROCK TRACK – 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.

DISTANCE | TIME: 6 km's | 1 to 1.5 hours

DIFFICULTY: Medium

TOILETS: Olinda Recreation Reserve or Olinda Golf Course Playground

DOG FRIENDLY (on-leash)

WEBSITE NOTES AND IMAGES: [Mathias/ Rock Track Circuit](#)

WALK NOTES

This walk can be started from two main locations, where parking is generally easy. My preferred start point is from the former Olinda Golf Course.

ASSUMING WALKERS ARE STARTING FROM THE OLD GOLF COURSE

This is a circuit walk, follow the directions below or in reverse order.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

Starting from the old Olinda Golf Course car park: From the car park, walk a couple of minutes along Olinda-Monbulk Road to Chalet Road, turn left into Chalet Road for about 100 metres until a track is seen heading off to the left, alongside the old Olinda Golf course.

(**OR** if you have a dog, walk onto the golf course and follow signs to the off-leash area for a while and then continue on to Rock Track).

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 overgrown, 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 Falls Road.

Turn left and 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 5 minutes to the golf course parking again.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to the Old Olinda Golf Course parking

Public Transport: Train to Upper Ferntree Gully or Croydon and bus route no. 688 to Olinda. Get off the bus in Olinda: walk along Olinda Monbulk Road to The Olinda Golf Course car park and start the circuit track from there. This is the best option for people using public transport.

CAR RENTAL: [Compare prices from the best car hire companies](#)

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Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

18. BARTLETT / BLACKHOLE TRACK LOOP - 6 km

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.

DISTANCE | TIME: 6kms approx | 1.5 – 2 hours

DIFFICULTY: Easy to moderate walk with reasonably steep climb up Blackhole Track

TOILETS: No toilets (nearest public toilets are located by Olinda Recreation Reserve)

NO DOGS

WEBSITE LINK AND IMAGES: [Bartlett/Blackhole Loop](#)

WALK NOTES

If starting at Mathias Track 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 Road to the junction of Bartlett track).

Turn right and follow 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.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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, about 2 kms.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Mathias Track

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Upper Ferntree Gully or Croydon and bus route no. 688 to Mt Dandenong Village. Get off the bus on the corner of Dickens Street (by the Pig and Whistle Tavern) and walk down Dickens to Fordyce Road and turn left onto Falls Road to reach Mathias.

CAR RENTAL: [Compare prices from the best car hire companies](#)

STAY A NIGHT OR TWO... Browse [unique Air BnB properties](#) or find amazing deals for accommodation on [Booking.com](#)

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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

DISTANCE | TIME: 6 km's approximately | 1.5 hours

DIFFICULTY: Easy to Moderate. Can get muddy in some parts

TOILETS: Ferny Creek Recreation Reserve or Sherbrooke Picnic Area.

Picnic Tables at Sherbrooke Picnic Area | BBQ's

NO DOGS

WEBSITE LINK AND IMAGES: [Anzac Memorial & Sherbrooke Forest West](#)

WALK NOTES

From the Anzac Memorial sign 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 left.

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.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to the Anzac Memorial

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Upper Ferntree Gully then bus route no. 688 to the corner of Mt Dandenong Tourist Road and Sherbrooke Road (this bus ride takes about 15 mins), walk along Sherbrooke Road to the start of the track on the left.

OR Train to Belgrave and bus route no. 694 towards Olinda, get off the bus at the corner of Sherbrooke Road and the Tourist Road. This bus ride takes about 15 mins.

CAR RENTAL: [Compare prices from the best car hire companies](#)

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Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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.

DISTANCE | TIME: Approximately 7 km's | 2 Hours return

DIFFICULTY: Easy > Moderate > Some reasonably hard uphill climbing.

PARKING: Available in Olinda and Sassafras. It is suggested that vehicles are parked near the Olinda Recreation Reserve. Parking is limited in both Olinda and Sassafras villages.

TOILETS: Public toilets in both villages.

OTHER: Loads of cafes and shops in both Sassafras or Olinda.

NO DOGS

WEBSITE LINKS AND IMAGES: [Olinda to Sassafras Walk](#)

WALK NOTES

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, turn left.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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: Either retrace the same route or 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 and follow it to join Range Road or 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.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Olinda

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Sassafras

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Upper Ferntree Gully or Croydon and then bus route no. 688 to Olinda or start the walk in Sassafras.

CAR RENTAL: [Compare prices from the best car hire companies](#)

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Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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.

DISTANCE | TIME: 7 km | 2 – 2.5 hours

DIFFICULTY: Moderate > Hard

PARKING: Lower picnic grounds or start from One Tree Hill

TOILETS: Yes

NO DOGS

OTHER: BBQ's | Tables | Cafe at Upper Ferntree Gully Park & One Tree Hill

WEBSITE LINK AND IMAGES: [Bellview Loop](#)

WALK NOTES

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).

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Bellview Track walk

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Upper Ferntree Gully Station, then exit the station and walk left along the Burwood Highway to the park entrance (about 1km) or use bus route no. 688 and get off at the very first stop, right outside the National Park. Bellview Track is down to the left a short way.

CAR RENTAL: [Compare prices from the best car hire companies](#)

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Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

22. MATHIAS TRACK – 7 km's return

Mathias Track is an easy, straight forward walk that is very popular with dog owners (on-lead only), horse riders and mountain bikers.

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, the old Olinda Golf Course, 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.

DISTANCE | TIME: 3.5 km each way | 2 Hours approximately

DIFFICULTY: Easy

TOILETS: No. Nearest ones are at the top of the old golf course.

OTHER: Dog friendly (on-lead) | Open to horse riding and mountain biking

WEBSITE LINK AND IMAGES: [Mathias Track](#)

WALK NOTES

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.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

Dog Walkers – Where to run your pooch off-lead.

The old Olinda golf course is a fabulous walking area where dogs can be off lead and they will generally always have lots of company.

Many locals walk their dogs here and it has some of the best views in the hills.

From Mathias Track, walk your dog (on a leash, please) just under 2 km from the Falls Road end to the junction of Blackhole Track and Rock Track.

Right beside the start of Rock Track is a small pathway into the old golf course.

Dogs can be let off lead just inside the golf course. Markers indicate the boundaries.

The old golf course is a fabulous area, take a picnic or walk to the very top of the course where there is a playground for the kids, buy a coffee and snacks from Cathy who runs Oscar the Vintage Coffee Van from Thursday to Sunday. Check [‘Oscars’ Facebook page](#) out.

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

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to start from the Falls Road end

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to start from the Silvan Road end

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Upper Ferntree Gully or Croydon and bus route no. 688. Get off in Mt Dandenong Village or by the ig and Whistle Tavern and walk down Dickens Street to Fordyce Road then left onto Falls Road to Mathias Track.

CAR RENTAL: [Compare prices from the best car hire companies](#)

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Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

23. SILVAN TO MT EVELYN – 9.2 km's return

The Olinda Creek walking track is 4.6 km One-way. Silvan to Mt Evelyn is a great walk that is also dog-friendly.

DISTANCE | TIME: 4.6 kms each way | 9.2kms return | 1 to 1.5 hours each way

DIFFICULTY: Easy to moderate

TOILETS: Silvan Reservoir Park or Mt Evelyn Recreation Reserve

Picnic Area at the Silvan Reservoir & recreation reserve.

WEBSITE LINK AND IMAGES: [Silvan to Mt Evelyn Rec Reserve](#)

WALK NOTES

Start the walk from the left end of the Silvan overflow parking area. The track is clearly marked to Mt Evelyn Reserve.

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.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

Once on the wider section of Olinda Creek Track, follow all the way. The last section of the trail heads down a 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 from the reserve. Toilets, picnic area and a small playground are just across the playing field.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Silvan overflow car park

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Mt Evelyn rec reserve

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: The easiest way to do this walk by public transport would be to start at the Mt Evelyn end. Train to Lilydale station then bus route no. 663, get off the bus along York Road at the Mt Evelyn Recreation Reserve.

CAR RENTAL: [Compare prices from the best car hire companies](#)

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Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

24. EMERALD TO COCKATOO – 12 km's return

Bike ride or walk along this great trail, ideal for families. A dog and pram friendly walk from Emerald Village to Cockatoo, with an option to continue another 6.5 km on the newly opened (2018) section of the multi-use trail to Gembrook.

The trail follows the Puffing Billy Railway line for some of the way, passing through Emerald Lake Park and Wright's Forest.

Public bus transport is available between villages.

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.

DISTANCE | TIME: Return: 4-5 Hours approximately

Emerald to Cockatoo | 6 km each way

Cockatoo to Gembrook | 6.5 km each way

DIFFICULTY: Easy > Moderate

PARKING: Available in Emerald along Kilvington Drive by the Gemco Players Hall, Emerald Park Lake (fees apply) in Cockatoo or Gembrook

TOILETS: Emerald | Emerald Park Lake | Cockatoo | Gembrook

DOG-FRIENDLY | BIKE RIDING | PRAM FRIENDLY

WEBSITE LINK AND IMAGES: [Emerald to Cockatoo & Gembrook](#)

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

WALK NOTES - Emerald to Cockatoo | 12 km Return

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.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

WALK NOTES: Cockatoo to Gembrook | 13 km Return

From Cockatoo, turn left and follow McBride Street past the Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre and go up the main street through the town.

Turn right at the top onto Emerald-Gembrook Road and follow the footpath. The trail crosses over the road at times. It is possible to catch a bus from stops along this section if need be.

Fresh, free range eggs can even be purchased from a roadside stall! Expect to see horses, farms and curious alpacas along the way.

The path is easy to follow with clear markers, once in Gembrook, the trail comes out beside the Puffing Billy Station.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Emerald

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Cockatoo

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Gembrook

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Belgrave and then bus route no. 695 to Emerald or go to Cockatoo/Gembrook and start from there.

CAR RENTAL: [Compare prices from the best car hire companies](#)

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Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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

DISTANCE | TIME: 12 kms approx. | 3-5 hours

DIFFICULTY: Moderate > Hard

PARKING: [GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS](#) to the Doongalla Homestead Picnic Area

OR Start the walk at the top of the mountain: Opposite the CFA Station on Ridge Road (near Falls Road), Kyeema Parking area, Osprey Road (off Ridge Road), or SkyHigh, Mt Dandenong.

TOILETS: Doongalla & Skyhigh, Mt Dandenong

WEBSITE LINK AND IMAGES: [Western Slopes Circuit Walk](#)

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

WALK NOTES

Follow Camelia Track all the way to where it becomes Fireline track at the junction with Dacite Track. Continue on Fireline Track for a couple of km to join Old Mountain Road, turn right.

Follow Old Mountain Road up the hill and past a few homes to join Old Coach Road and immediately turn right and pass through into the grassy reserve which is right by 5 Ways Kalorama (there is a cafe here if you want to stop in).

Keep walking to the right, and follow Trig Track below the buildings and down the hill before climbing up the steepest section of this walk.

At the top, you will come to a level area of the forest near the CFA on Ridge Road. Keep following Trig Track down to the right to the next junction which is Kyeema Track, turn right. (There is the option to continue on Trig Track up the hill to Skyhigh and the cafe, then return to Kyeema Track).

Follow Kyeema Track for a couple of kilometres all the way, passing Burkes Lookout, to the junction with Zig Zag Track and head down the steep hill beneath the Channel 10 transmission tower.

At the next junction, turn left onto Channel 10 Track. Follow to the junction of Dandenong Creek Road and Doongalla Forest Road, turn right down the forest road back to the old Doongalla Homestead and picnic area. The Stables car park is a little further down the road.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to the Doongalla Homestead Picnic Area

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: If coming via public transport, it is best to start the hike at the top. Get the train to Upper Ferntree Gully or Croydon then bus route no. 688 to the Dandenongs. Make sure you are on the alternate bus that goes along Ridge Road, get off the bus near the CFA at the corner of Falls/Ridge Roads. You can also get off the bus at 5-ways Kalorama and start from there.

CAR RENTAL: [Compare prices from the best car hire companies](#)

STAY A NIGHT OR TWO... Browse [unique Air BnB properties](#) or find amazing deals for accommodation on [Booking.com](#)

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

26. MOUNTAIN CIRCUIT WALK – 16 km's return

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

DISTANCE | TIME: 16 km approx. | 4.5hrs approx. though I'd allow longer!

DIFFICULTY: Medium

PARKING: At Olinda Recreation Reserve, Olinda-Monbulk Road or the Old Golf Course next to the reserve.

TOILETS: Olinda village, Olinda Recreation Reserve, Olinda Falls & SkyHigh, Mt Dandenong

OTHER: Rock Track / Golf Course Track is the same track, marked differently on various maps

WEBSITE LINK AND IMAGES: [Mountain Circuit Walk](#)

WALK NOTES

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.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

A short way down Chalet Road, turn left onto Rock Track. Follow Rock Track, to the junction with Cornus Track, keep left.

At the 4 way junction with Mathias Track , go straight ahead onto Blackhole Track.

Join KC Track on the left 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, turn right and 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 instead). 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 for about 100m, 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.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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 for about 1km, 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.

Dodds Road joins Range Road, turn left and walk the short distance back to Olinda.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to park at the recreation reserve or golf course.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Upper Ferntree Gully or Croydon and local bus route no. 688 to Olinda. Walk along Olinda-Monbulk Road to the recreation reserve to start the walk.

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Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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

Mt Dandenong summit 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 carpooling, especially if kids are involved perhaps.

DISTANCE | TIME: Approximately 9 km one-way | Time: 2-3 hours approximately

DIFFICULTY: Easy > Moderate > Reasonable fitness required for the uphill sections from Mt Evelyn to Mount Dandenong.

TOILETS: Mt Dandenong, near Olinda Falls Car park and Mt Evelyn Recreation Reserve.

WEBSITE LINK AND IMAGES: [Mt Dandenong to Mt Evelyn](#)

Parking available at Skyhigh, Mount Dandenong (parking charge applies) if starting from the top **or** along Ridge Road near the corner of Falls Road in a designated parking area near the CFA.

Parking is also available at the Mt Evelyn Recreation Reserve, doing the walk in reverse will mean the uphill walking is completed first...

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

WALK NOTES

Mount Dandenong | SkyHigh, walk down the exit road, turn left onto Trig Track then right onto Kyeema Track until reaching Ridge Road.

Crossover 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 Preschool)

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 becomes Melba Track then joins No. 10 /Pipeline Track .

Turn left, follow No. 10/Pipeline or Olinda Creek Track as both intersect each other.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

Pass close by the end of Murremburg Road and keep walking... Walking down a steep, 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.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to start from Kyeema Track/Ridge Road

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Upper Ferntree Gully or Croydon then bus route no. 688 that runs along Ridge Road and through the Skyhigh parking area. There is a cafe here, so a good way to start the walk!

Bus route no. 679 towards Ringwood operates from Mt Evelyn to Montrose where a connecting bus (route 688) from Montrose to Mt Dandenong can be boarded to make this a one-way walk if a vehicle is parked at either end. The 688 runs alternate trips along the Tourist Road or Ridge Road and Skyhigh, make sure to get the one that goes to Skyhigh.

CAR RENTAL: [Compare prices from the best car hire companies.](#)

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Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

28. OLINDA OR MT DANDENONG VILLAGE TO SKYHIGH, MT DANDENONG – 7.5 to 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 as the atmosphere is wonderful.

DISTANCE | TIME: Approximately 10 kms from Olinda & Approximately 7.5 kms from Mt Dandenong Village | 2 -3 hours each way.

DIFFICULTY: Moderate > Almost hard walking on good tracks.

PARKING: 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.

TOILETS: Olinda and at SkyHigh

NO DOGS ALLOWED

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

WEBSITE LINK AND IMAGES: [Olinda/Mt Dandenong to Skyhigh](#)

WALK NOTES

The walk notes below details tracks to take from Olinda and Mt Dandenong Village to the same point on the Dandenong Creek Track and then continue from there.

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:

Walk down the Olinda-Basin Road for about 1.2 kms until reaching Dandenong Creek Track on the right and then join this track

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

CONTINUING FROM 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 Zig Zag 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 signpost for Trig Track) From Burkes Lookout it is 1.5kms to Trig Track.

Turn right, follow Trig Track all the way up to SkyHigh!

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Olinda (parking at the Recreation Reserve)

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Ferntree Gully or Crodon and then bus route no. 688. Get off in Olinda or Mt Dandenong Village.

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Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

29. SASSAFRAS TO BELGRAVE – 12 km's one-way

(or walk from Belgrave to Sassafras)...

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. See notes below.

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!

DISTANCE | TIME: 12 kms | 3 Hours – One Way

DIFFICULTY: Easy > Moderate walking. Can be muddy in parts

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

TOILETS: Sassafras | Nicholas Gardens | Grants Picnic Ground | Belgrave

Picnic grounds at Nicholas Gardens, Sherbrooke picnic ground, O'Donohue's picnic ground, and Grants picnic ground. Nicholas Gardens opening times: 10am – 5pm

WEBSITE LINK AND IMAGES: [Sassafras to Belgrave Walk](#)

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

WALK NOTES

Head down the start of the Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track, beside the Hall in Sassafras (opposite Gepetto's toy shop).

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 Grant's Picnic Ground.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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 NOTES 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.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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!

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Sassafras

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Upper Ferntree Gully then bus route no. 688 to Sassafras or train to Belgrave and walk from there to Sassafras. Catch 688 bus from Sassy to Upper Ferntree Gully or Croydon.

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Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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.

DISTANCE | TIME: 13kms | 3-4 hours ONE-WAY

DIFFICULTY: Moderate > Hard, though not extremely hard by any means.

PARKING: 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.

TOILETS: Alfred Nicholas Gardens | Sassafras | SkyHigh | Mt Dandenong.

OTHER: Alfred Nicholas Gardens close at 5pm. The walk can follow down Nobles Lane as an alternative.

WEBSITE LINK AND IMAGES: [Sherbrooke to Mt Dandenong Summit](#)

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.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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 Geppetto'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 & the summit!

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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 1.5 Km'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'.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

Cross over the road and re-join the trail, walking down until again meeting the road.

Turn right immediately and enter the lower section of Alfred Nicholas Gardens. Keep walking up through the gardens to the main entrance.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS from Nicholas Gardens

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Belgrave then bus route no. 694 towards Olinda. Get off the bus opposite the Alfred Nicholas Gardens on Sherbrooke Road to start the walk.

OR train to Upper Ferntree Gully station or Croydon station then bus route no. 688 to Mt Dandenong Summit and Skyhigh.

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Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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

From Sassafras to Emerald, the Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track is a 4-5 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 15 kms 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. A taxi or Public transport can also be used, buses run from Emerald to Belgrave.

The notes for doing this walk in reverse, starting in Emerald, are included below.

DISTANCE | TIME: 15 Km's | 4-5 Hours One-Way

DIFFICULTY: Easy > Moderate

PARKING: 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.

TOILETS: Sassafras | Baynes Park | Emerald

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

OTHER: 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.

DOG FRIENDLY ON-LEASH

WEBSITE LINK AND IMAGES: [Sassafras to Emerald](#)

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

Follow down the steps beside the Mechanics Hall in Sassafras onto the Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track.

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.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

From Beagleys Bridge picnic ground, follow the orange markers and cross over Belgrave-Monbulk Road and continue.

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.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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.

REVERSE WALK NOTES: EMERALD TO SASSAFRAS

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 rejoining 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.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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 Beagleys 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.

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Sassafras

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Upper Ferntree Gully or Croydon and then bus route no. 688 to Sassafras.

OR Start in Emerald - Train to Belgrave then bus route no. 695 to Emerald.

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Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

32. THE BIG HIKE! (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 a good Maps App (I use 'Track My Trip'), 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.

DISTANCE | TIME: 20 Kms | 6-8 Hours ONE WAY

DIFFICULTY: Moderate > Hard Walking with plenty of steep hill climbs and descents

PARKING: Skyhigh, Mt Dandenong or Upper Ferntree Gully Park

TOILETS: Skyhigh | Doongalla Reserve | One Tree Hill | Upper Ferntree Gully

Cafe at Skyhigh | Walk into Sassafras | Upper Ferntree Gully Park

NO DOGS

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

WEBSITE LINK AND IMAGES: [Mt Dandenong Hiking Trail The Big 20km Hike](#)

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.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

Follow Alpine Track until reaching the Mountain Highway.

Turn right onto Mountain Highway and walk less than 100 metres to Ferndale Road. Follow Ferndale Road. It passes through a couple of Parks Victoria gates.

Beware of cars and Cyclists! Use extreme caution crossing Mountain Highway as cyclists can come very quickly around the bends downhill and are very hard to hear coming.

Follow Ferndale Road, which is part public road and part National Park, until reaching a junction with Old Coach Road. Turn right onto Old Coach Road/Track.

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.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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 at the summit of Mt Dandenong. It is 1.5 km's from Burkes Lookout to Trig Track which leads off to the right, follow this track all the way up to Mt Dandenong and Sky High... 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.

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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.

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.

Follow Old Coach Road/Track, through the Parks Victoria gate and continue down until the junction with Ferndale Road. Turn left onto Ferndale Road and walk about 1km until coming to the Mountain Highway.

CAREFULLY cross Mountain Highway, looking out for cars and cyclists, especially cyclists coming down the hill as they are hard to hear and move fast!

Turn right onto Mountain Highway and walk for less than 100 metres until Alpine Track entrance is on the left, follow Alpine Track...

TWO OPTIONS: From Alpine you can turn right onto Dobsons Track and walk up to Janesdell Track then turn right... OR

Continue up Alpine Track until meeting Janesdell Track and turn right...

Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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! Personally, I'd advise to allow the entire day for this walk and to start early. Pack a picnic!

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Upper Ferntree Gully Parking

GET DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Skyhigh, Mt Dandenong Summit

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train to Upper Ferntree Gully then turn left out of the station and walk to the start or catch the route no. 688 bus and get off at the first stop outside the National Park.

OR Start at Mt Dandenong Summit, train to Upper Gully or Croydon and then bus route no. 688 going to Skyhigh.

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Bushwalking In The Dandenong Ranges

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