

Walks Around Walhalla

See [Rawson walking_trail_map overview.pdf](#) for an overview of Walhalla walks.

Note that there are three routes for walking from the Thomson Station to Walhalla:

1. **Australian Alps Walking Track** (from the station, take the steep Mormon Town Track initially). At the Walhalla end, it comes out above the Walhalla Witchery Cafe where signs at the Walhalla Pearson Memorial explain that this is the start of the walking track that ends up in Canberra!
2. **Mormon Town Track** then the Telecom Track, which comes out at the Long Tunnel Extended Gold Mine. It seems that the Mormon Town Track is not maintained as well as the Australian Alps Walking Track, and is also quite a bit steeper.
3. **Rougher Track**: The [overview map](#) shows a third option going from Thomson Station to the Walhalla Station (probably following the train line fairly closely), passing through Leechville and Happy Creek.

Walhalla Region Maps: see folder **Maps / Walks / [Walhalla Region](#)**.

[Tyers Junction Rail Trail](#): 7 km officially documented trail - basically a 4WD track.

[Baw Baw Plateau walks](#) - AllTrails.

Random Note: If looking for a driving route, take South Face Road between Mt Baw Baw and Erica - very scenic.

FedWalks Walks

The Bushwalking Victoria Walk Finder tool lists the following walks (with maps) in the Walhalla region. There are some options for mixing and matching sections of these walks:

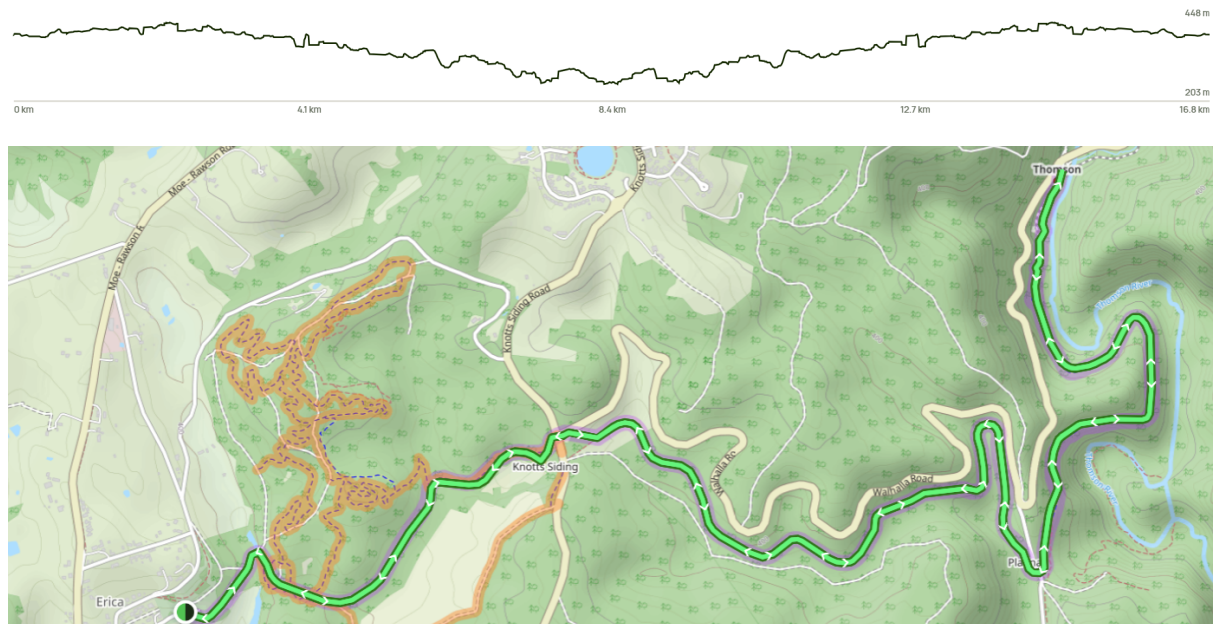
- **[Walhalla to Britannia Creek Circuit](#)** (17 km, 5 hrs)
Walhalla to Long Tunnel Mine, Cricket Ground Track, Mormon Town Track and Australian Alps Walking Track. See map:
[FedWalksA5_Walhalla_to_Britannia_Creek_Circuit_06.pdf](#).
- **[Walhalla Poverty Point Circuit](#)** (16 km: 4 km: Walhalla to Mormon Town Track + 4 km to the closed Poverty Point Bridge + 4 km to Old Depot Rd/Thomson Station). The closed bridge wrecks this walk, but there are options to do sections in different ways, including returning by foot to the Mountain Rivers Resort.
See map:
[FedWalksA5_Walhalla_to_Thomson_Station_via_Poverty_Point_07.pdf](#).
- **[Walhalla to Maiden Town Circuit](#)** (15 km circuit)
Follows the Maiden Town Track through Maiden Town remnants to Tubal Cain, then the Britannia Spur Track and finally the Cricket Ground Track back to Walhalla. See map:
[FedWalksA5_Walhalla_to_Maiden_Town_Circuit_18.pdf](#).
- **[Walhalla to Thomson Station via Weeping Rocks](#)** (10 km; challenging 8 hours)
Walhalla to Thomson Station via Little Joe's Creek, Sargent's Firewood Tramway #12, Weeping Rock, Happy Creek and the A-21 track, Stockriders Spur, and Horseshoe Bend Tunnel. See map:
[FedWalksA5_Walhalla_to_Platina_via_Weeping_Rocks_09.pdf](#).

Walhalla Rail Trail (Erica to Thomson)

Trailhiking.com.au: <https://www.trailhiking.com.au/hikes/walhalla-goldfields-rail-trail/>

AllTrails: <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/australia/victoria/walhalla-rail-trail>

Google Route Map: [Erica to Thomson via Walhalla Rail Trail](#)



Length: 8.5 km **Elevation gain:** 604m **Route type:** one way

A short rail trail in beautiful mountain countryside, featuring tall forests and the meandering Thomson River. An old mining area with the historic village of Walhalla close by. Walk or cycle through steep cuttings with many twists and turns along the old railway formation.

The walk can be extended by walking directly back to the Mountain Rivers Tourist Park via Old Depot Rd, which adds about 3.8 km to the route, giving a total length of around 12.3 km (see [Old Depot Rd via Steel Bridge Track](#) details below).

Gold was discovered at Walhalla in 1863, and created an impetus to build a railway. A campaign started in the 1880's, but it wasn't until 1910 that a narrow gauge line was built from Moe to Walhalla. However by the time the line was finished, the gold had started to peter out, and the miners used the railway to leave the area. The line was closed in stages, and the final section from Moe to Erica was closed in 1954.

The wonderful concrete and steel bridge at Thomson was almost used by the army for demolition training, but a campaign by the Walhalla Goldfields Railway group finally succeeded in overturning that decision. The railway is open between Thomson and Walhalla with a collection of completely restored rolling stock, and bikes can be carried on board.

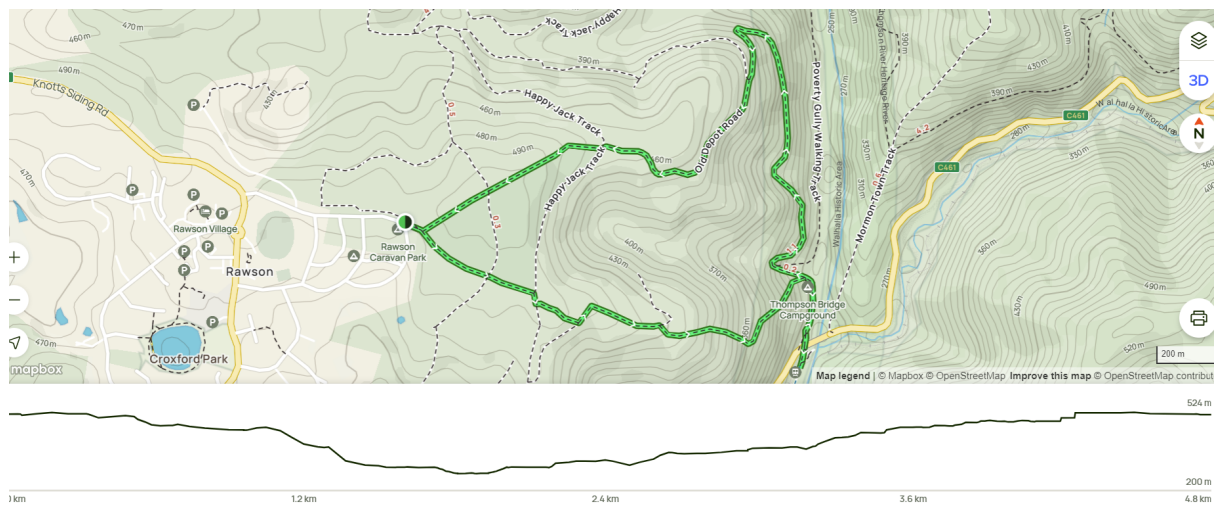
This rail trail follows the former route of the narrow gauge railway line between Erica and Thomson station.

The track is dirt with coarse gravel, so is not apt for bikes with narrow tyres; a mountain bike or gravel bike are better options, and note that after rain it can be muddy and large puddles form.

This trail links up with several other trails, like Old Steel Bridge Track or Stringers Creek Track, so it can be extended to be a longer route. Note some are not mountain biking routes.

Old Depot Road via Steel Bridge Track

AllTrails: <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/australia/victoria/old-depot-road-via-steel-bridge-track>



Length: 4.8 km **Elevation gain:** 298m **Route type:** loop

Explore this 4.8-km loop trail near Rawson, Victoria. Generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes an average of 1 h 53 min to complete. This trail is great for hiking, running, and walking, and it's unlikely you'll encounter many other people while exploring. The trail is open year-round and is beautiful to visit anytime.

A lovely short walk starting just outside the township of Rawson that leads you down into the valley and the Thomson River.

There is of course a gradual slope as you descend into the valley and a fairly manageable switchback as you ascend back up.

There are a few other trails in this area to explore if you have the time and energy.

Horse Shoe Bend Tunnel

AllTrails: <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/australia/victoria/horse-shoe-bend-tunnel>

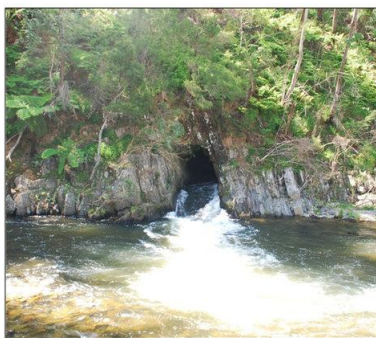


Length: 3.5 km **Elevation gain:** 161m **Route type:** out & back

A 3.5-km out-and-back trail near Rawson, Victoria. Generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes an average of 1 h 11 min to complete. This trail is great for hiking and walking, and it's unlikely you'll encounter many other people while exploring.

The Horse Shoe Bend Tunnel is an interesting hydrological feature along the Thompson River that is easy to access and experience.

Not far from the town of Rawson in Gippsland, this trail leads you over a short distance to the banks of the Thompson River where you can view both the tunnel inlet and outlet, where the water flows freely through the hillside along the 'Horse Shoe Bend'. There is seating along the trail, as well as picnic facilities at the start.



Construction of the Thomson River Diversion Tunnel by the Thomson River Alluvial Gold and Tailings Recovery Company was begun in August 1911 (at the outlet end) and completed around October 1912 by blasting through rock at the inlet end. After completion, the river would flow through the tunnel, allowing (in summer time)

most or all of the flow to be diverted so that the river bed could be sluiced for alluvial gold.

The Thomson River Diversion Tunnel is of historical, social and archaeological significance, and was classified by the National Trust in May 2011:

- It provides evidence of one of the dying stages of an industry that had dominated Gippsland for over fifty years, initially with the first prospectors

working for gold in Stringers Creek in the early 1860s, followed by reef mining in the 1860s, 1870s and 1880s, and finally turning the wheel full turn with this alluvial sluicing.

- It is one of the last and longest diversion tunnels constructed for winning gold in Victoria.
- The tunnel and riverbed contribute to a unique cultural and historical landscape, which was dominated by gold in the nineteenth century.

The working of the horseshoe bend of the Thomson River is not believed to have brought significant dividends.

References

- [Thomson River Diversion Tunnel & Horseshoe Bend riverbed alluvial mining area](#)
- ResearchGate:
https://www.researchgate.net/figure/a-Thomson-River-relocation-also-known-as-Horseshoe-Bend-62-Source-Victorian_fig3_327979842

Cricket Ground Track

AllTrails: <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/australia/victoria/cricket-ground-track>



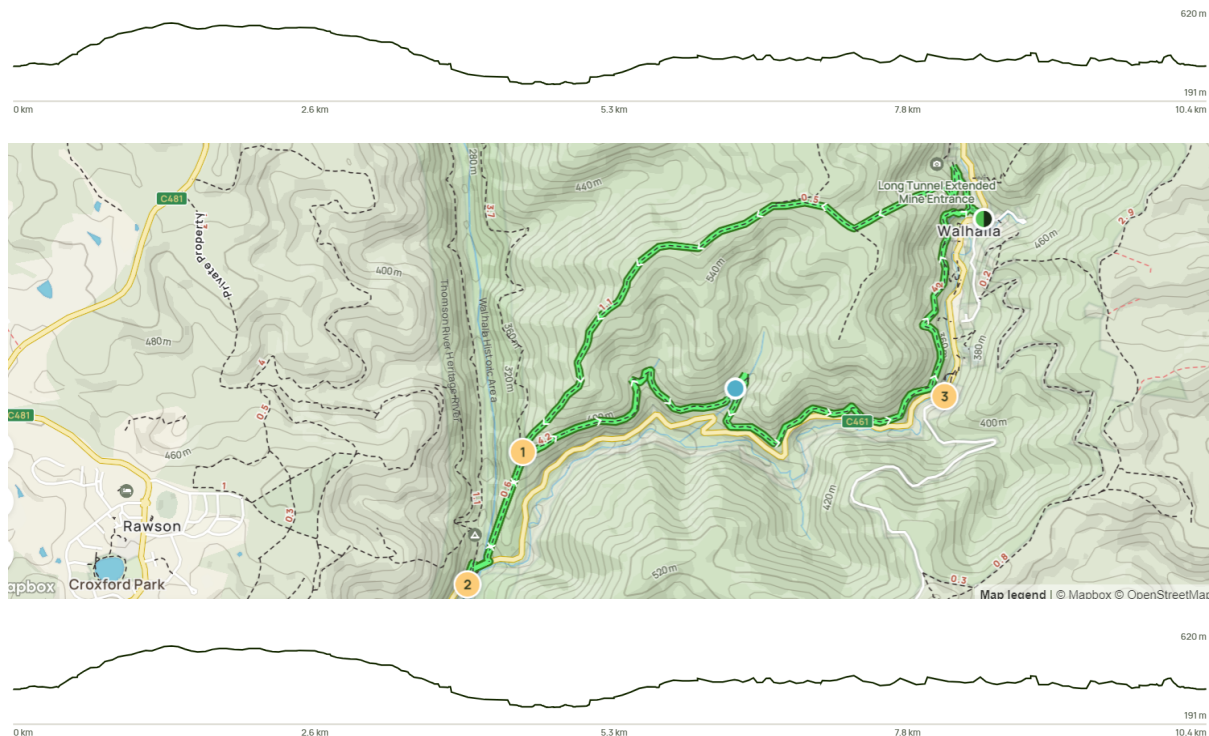
A 1.8-km out-and-back trail near Walhalla, Victoria. Generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes an average of 53 min to complete. This is a popular trail for hiking and walking, but you can still enjoy some solitude during quieter times of day.

This short but steep track leads you up beautiful native Australian bush to the famed Walhalla Cricket Grounds.

Along the way you can find informative signs that detail the history of the cricket grounds. The pitch is truly a sight, perched high above the town and nestled in a clearing surrounded by lush bush. Despite only being about 2km return, there is lots of elevation gain so be sure to have some water and take your time going up and down the switchbacks.

Walhalla to Thomson Station via Mormon Town Track

AllTrails: [Walhalla to Thomson Station via Mormon Town Track](#)



Length: 10.5 km **Elevation gain:** 664m **Route type:** Loop

Explore this 10.5-km loop trail near Walhalla, Victoria. Generally considered a challenging route, it takes an average of 4 h 10 min to complete. This trail is great for hiking and walking, and it's unlikely you'll encounter many other people while exploring. The best times to visit this trail are February through March. You'll need to leave pups at home — dogs aren't allowed on this trail.

This route connects Walhalla Town to Thompson Station via two trails through the bush. Once at the point where Mormon Town track meets the Australian Alps track you have the option to continue onto Thompson Station and catch the Train back to Walhalla Station, a spectacular journey along Stringers River in an old steam engine, or to walk back via the Alps tracks.

If you catch the train back you have to walk a short way along Main Rd to get back to the parking area this route starts at. See more info on the train here:

www.walhallarail.com.au

This trail links up with several other trails, like Old Steel Bridge Track or Walhalla Rail Trail, so it can be extended to be a longer route.

Waypoints

1. **Turn for Thomson Station:** If you do not want to catch the train back, just continue back along the Australian Alps Walking Track.
2. **Thomson Station:** Catch the antique railcar back to Walhalla from here.
3. **Walhalla Train Station**