



7. HAPPY GO LUCKY AND BRUNTONS BRIDGE

Happy Go Lucky and Bruntons Bridge are a short drive from Walhalla and well worth the detour. Happy Go Lucky, high on the ridge above the town, is a good place to take a picnic lunch on a fine day. Once the original coach road, the rough, unmade road to Happy Go Lucky leaves the valley near the railway station and climbs steeply away from Walhalla. At a junction, the right hand road leads on to Happy Go Lucky, a clearing high on the ridge top surrounded by pine trees with views across the surrounding countryside. The road continues to Bruntons Bridge where the old coach road crossed the Thomson River. The steel bridge still spans the river. It is now used as a walking track.

8. MT ERICA WALKS

There are several walks that begin from the Mt Erica Car Park on Mt Erica Road (off the Thomson Valley Road). The **Mushroom Rocks Walk** is a foot track that climbs steadily through mountain ash forest, passing a rocky outcrop and after walking for about 2kms the forest begins to open out and an area of huge boulders is revealed. These granite boulders and outcrops were created by an earthquake. If you walk an extra 500m from Mushroom Rocks you will come to McMahon's Bush Hut and a cave. You will also find good views from higher rocks and water is available at Mushroom Rocks. The **Mt Erica Walk** continues on from the Mushroom Rocks walk where the track climbs steeply for about 3kms and ends at an open lookout near the summit of Mt Erica.



The path is well marked and on a clear day the lookout provides excellent views across the Latrobe Valley and beyond to the Strzelecki Ranges. The **Beech Valley Walk** begins at the Mt Erica Car Park and takes you on a 1.5km jaunt through an area of cool temperate rainforest before looping back to the car park. The track is easy to follow and includes numerous steps down to the creek and a short climb to a bridge. Finally the **Mt St Gwinear View Point** is approximately a 3.5km walk from the Mt Erica Car Park. You follow the old railway to the view point and continue to Jeep Track Flat where you can return to the car park along the permanent pole line.



9. MT ST GWINEAR & MT BAW BAW

Beautiful in both Winter and Summer, there are plenty of cross country ski trails at Mt St Gwinear to be explored as well as a gentle walk that takes you to the summit of Mt St Gwinear where you have spectacular views across the valleys of the Thomson and Aberfeldy Rivers and into the Victorian Alps. If you fancy something a little more fast paced then head to **Mt Baw Baw** where there are several down hill ski runs.

10. RAWSON

Originally home to the hundreds of workers building the Thomson Dam, this small country town is now a popular base to explore the surrounding area including Mt St Gwinear. Rawson is also the home of "The Stockyard" which is an Aussie pub located on Depot Road, Rawson. Lunch and dinner are served Saturdays and Sundays.

11. ERICA

This historic timber town is a pretty little town surrounded by lush mountains and is still the home of one of the original timber mills, Micah's Mill. Erica is a great place to base yourself if you are heading on an adventure into the mountains. There is a general store in town and Erica Ski Hire where you can hire all of your equipment if you are heading to the snow. Erica Hotel/Motel provides accommodation and hearty pub meals for both lunch and dinner.

12. MOONDARRA STATE PARK

Moondarra State Park is located on the Moe Erica Road. From the Seninis Camping Ground, you can follow Seninis Track to the Tanjil Bren Road, or take a right hand turn about halfway into Ti Tree Creek Track. When Ti Tree Creek Track ends, turn right into Delpretes Road and continue on until you reach Tyers Road. Turn right again and follow the river back to Seninis Camping Ground. The **Moondarra Reservoir** picnic and BBQ area overlooks the reservoir, public toilets are provided. Features three nature trails ranging from a 10 minute leisurely walk to a 4 hour hike.

Route 91 concludes in the township of Moe with easy access to the M1 Freeway or stay the night in one of Moe's motels or sleep in amongst nature at Brigadoon Cottages in Newborough.

Follow the signs along Route 91 and experience the natural beauty of the *Walhalla & Mountain Rivers* region. Located on the southern edge of the Victorian Alps about a two hour drive from Melbourne (45 minutes from Traralgon or Moe). Take a look at some of our suggestions below and navigate your way through some of Gippsland's beautiful bush scenery as you head up to Walhalla.

ADDITIONAL BROCHURES TO COMPLIMENT YOUR TOUR: Walhalla Visitor Guide and Map, Tyers Park Notes, Walhalla Goldfields Railway, Long Tunnel Extended Gold Mine, Moondarra State Park Notes.

1. TYERS LOOKOUT

Heading out of Traralgon along the C481 towards Tyers you will begin to drive through farm and bush land. The Tyers lookout, located just on the other side of town, offers panoramic views of the Latrobe Valley and beyond. By day it is great for sightseers and photographers and by night you can see Latrobe Valley twinkle.

2. TYERS JUNCTION RAIL TRAIL

While Gippsland's rail trails generally follow the course of the Victoria's abandoned rail lines the Tyers Junction Rail Trail has been established along a timber tramway. The steel railed tramway was laid in the Tyers Valley in 1925 to provide timber mills in the area with more reliable transport for their sawn timber. The tramway closed in 1949 and it has now found new life as the 11km (22km) Tyers Junction Rail Trail. A favourite for enthusiasts who like gentle riding or walking in the bush. The trail passes through rainforest, fern gullies, messmate and stringy bark forest, and there are plenty of birds, mammals and seasonal wildflowers. Expect fallen branches across the trail and watch out for snakes during summer.

3. PETERSONS LOOKOUT

Keep your eyes open for a well signed turn off 4.5km on the other side of Tyers for Petersons Lookout. This lookout overlooks the Tyers River Gorge and has views of the Latrobe Valley. Turn left on to 'W2' from the Tyers/Walhalla Road. The car park is a further 2kms along a narrow gravel road. From the car park a steep loose gravel track takes you 200m to the Lookout. The Lookout was named in honor of Jim Peterson who worked tirelessly for the establishment of the Tyers Park. An historical marker has been erected on the walking track. **Please Note** – Seasonal road closures apply 1 July to 15 December for fauna protection. There are no facilities available at this site. See Tyers Park Notes.



4. THE TOWNSHIP OF WALHALLA

Walhalla is an old gold mining town located deep in a valley in the Victorian Alps. The historic town was a hive of activity during the Victorian Gold Rush and from 1863 to 1914, Walhalla was one of the richest gold areas in Australia. Today the town is a place that time forgot and its attractions are living history of an era long gone. The road into Walhalla is a winding one but it is worth the drive just for the beautiful bush land scenery and what awaits you when you arrive. For more information on the Walhalla township please refer to the 'Walhalla Visitor Guide'.

5. WALHALLA GOLDFIELDS RAIL TRAIL

This trail features tall forest, tree ferns, views of the Thomson River and a tourist railway from the Thomson River to Walhalla. This is a great idea for a weekend of walking and cycling. Options are to combine with the Tyers Junction Rail Trail or to walk some of the Australian Alps Track which begins a 660km journey to Canberra. Starting points are Erica Recreation Reserve or Thompson River railway station.

6. HORSESHOE BEND TUNNEL

The Horseshoe Bend Tunnel sometimes referred to as the Chinese Tunnel is located 4kms south west of Walhalla and 1.5km below where Stingers Creek joins the Thomson River. The tunnel was constructed by the Thomson River Alluvial Gold Company to divert the Thomson River from its course. The tunnel was driven through a ridge of land known as the Stockriders Spur, around which the river formed its characteristic horseshoe bend. Once completed, the river would flow through the tunnel, leaving the riverbed to be sluiced for alluvial gold. The tunnel was constructed around 1910-1912 and with a total length of 220m and height of around 4m, it is said to be possibly the longest gold diversion tunnel in Australia. The remains of some old gold mines can be seen in the bush opposite the tunnel inlet and caution should be exercised if exploring this area. Turn off the Walhalla Road at the Coopers Creek sign to the car park then a short walk down.

