

# Snowy River National Park



## Silver Mine Walking Track

Explore relics from early 1900s silver mining operations adjacent to the Snowy River in this 15.5km loop walk from McKillop Bridge in the Snowy River National Park. The walk is recommended as an overnight trip.

### Location and access

Starting from McKillop Bridge, the Silver Mine track links fire access and other minor tracks in a varied and interesting 15.5km route, including a section of the bank of the Snowy River. The path is broad, well graded and carefully benched where it sidles steep hillsides.

### Things to see

The track passes through quite extensive stands of native White Cypress-pine (*Callitris columellaris*). This is one of the distinctive botanical features of this section of the Snowy River National Park.

The broad ridge separating the Deddick and Snowy River valleys, provides truly spectacular views of the rivers and surrounding mountains. The Pilot and Mt Cobberas can be seen to the northwest, Mt Tingaringy on the state border is the big plateau to the east. Nearby peaks include the massive Mt Bulla Bulla and the triple topped Mt Deddick.

### Walking track

The first section of the Silver Mine Walk follows the Deddick Trail. This may be joined below the northern end of McKillop Bridge or about 500m along the main road to Deddick on its southern side. The track climbs fairly steadily and soon affords views of the river, the bridge and surrounding peaks. About 2km from the bridge you come to a junction with the Snowy River Nature Walk. (For a moderately easy day walk, you could turn off the Deddick Trail here and follow the walking track down to the river and return along the bank to the bridge.)

To continue on the Silver Mine Walk, keep to the Deddick Trail as it drops a little into the valley of the Deddick River and passes close by adjacent farmland. Soon the climbing resumes onto a long spur with good views of the Deddick Valley. The track swings southwest and after a further 2km reaches the northern edge of Sugarloaf (Grid

reference 251910 Murrindal Sheet) which affords the most expansive view from any other of the lookouts, as far as the Pilot and Mt Cobberas. Here turn sharply to the right to follow a lesser vehicle track along a narrow spur.

The loss in height is sudden and almost continuously steep, past the various silver mine sites down to the river. Walking over the sand and boulders along the river bank is not difficult. Continue for just over 1km to a small creek junction distinguished by a rocky knob above the eastern side of the confluence (Grid ref 242942).

Climb up the river bank, with the stream on your left, to reach a campsite close to the walking track. Continue along the track and soon pass the ruins of a log cabin on the right. The track closely follows the stream bed for 1km to the start of a steep climb up to the crest of a lightly wooded spur.

Before continuing towards McKillop Bridge, you should be sure to walk northwards from this point along the slender spur for about 200m. The going is rocky, but generally open to a breathtaking vantage point, with the river almost directly beneath you and Mt Bulla Bulla and Tingaringy providing dramatic contrasts beyond.

Rejoin the Silver Mine Track which winds down the flank of the spur, crosses a gully and climbs in easy stages to meet the Deddick Trail about 2km from McKillop Bridge.

### A history of optimism

The isolation of the area, the discontinuous silver loads, and the miners' lack of skill, combined to bring most of the mines to an early end by about 1905. Prospectors continued to scratch the surface from time to time, but never won great rewards for their efforts. Even today, there is unmistakable although unobtrusive evidence of the miners' activities. This includes adits, shafts, mullock heaps and tracks.



**For further information**

Parks Victoria  
 Information Centre  
**Call 13 1963**  
 or visit our website at  
**www.parkweb.vic.gov.au**

Bendoc Office  
 Dowling St, Bendoc 3888

Orbost Office  
 171 Nicholson St, Orbost 3888

Buchan Caves Reserve  
 Caves Rd, Buchan 3885

**Caring for the environment**

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the park

Please do not disturb or remove any native plants, animals or rock formations

Vehicles including trail bikes may only be driven or ridden on formed roads open to the public, and must be fully road registered. Drivers and riders must hold a current license

No fires, including BBQs may be lit on a day of Total Fire Ban (Eastern District)

Take your rubbish home with you. Most rubbish will not burn or rot

Do not pollute streams and rivers with refuse, detergents or human wastes

Use a portable stove instead of lighting a fire

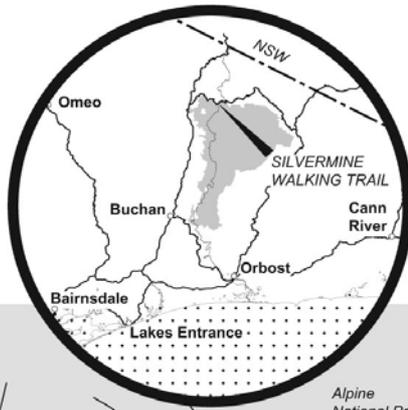
Leave the park as you find it

Camp at existing campsites. If none exists, camp at least 30m from any water. Use existing toilets or bury your waste at least 100m from any water

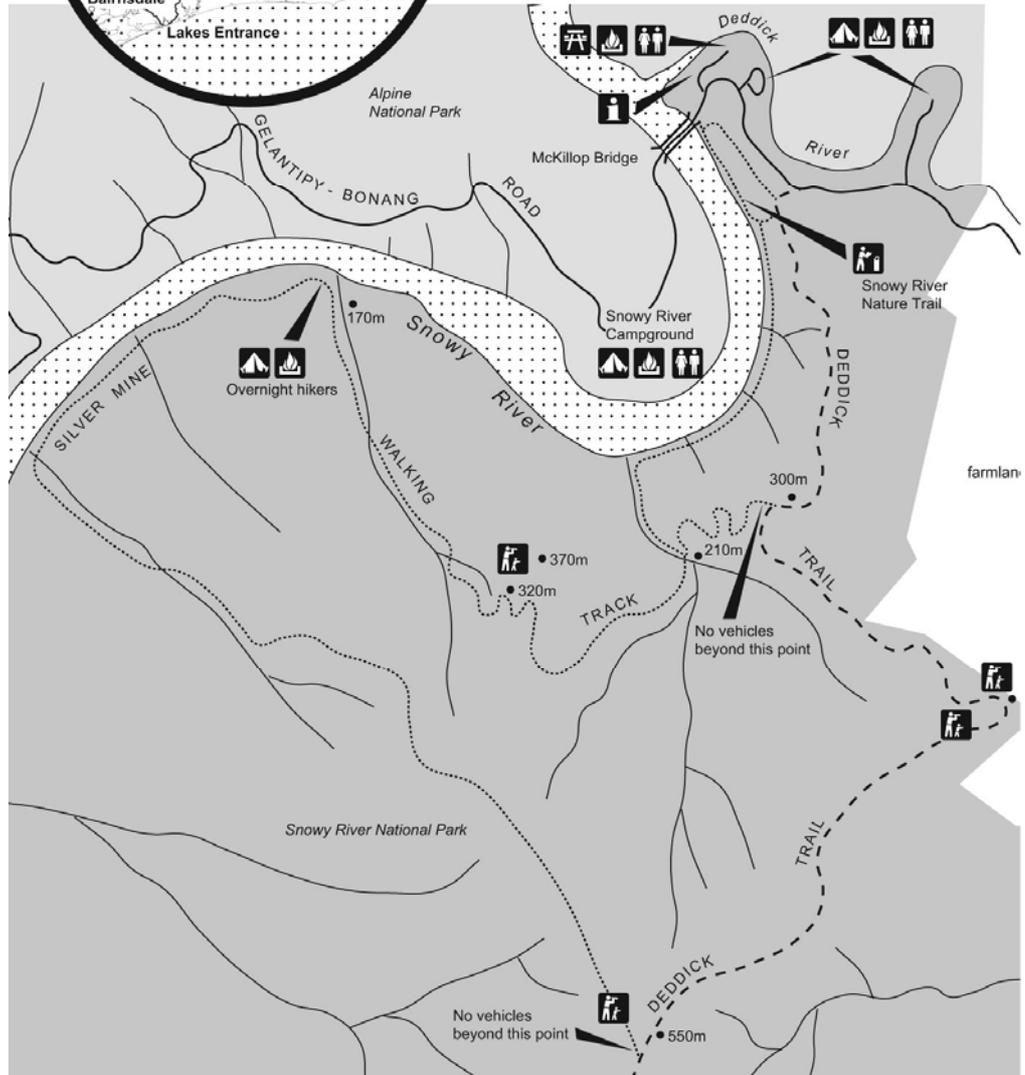
*Please don't throw this park note away. Keep it, return it for others to use, or recycle it*

**Healthy Parks Healthy People**

*Visiting a park can improve your health, mind, body and soul. So, with over four million hectares of parkland available to Victorians, why not escape to a park today!*



The Natmap 1:100 000 Murrindal sheet covers this area. In addition the DSE 1:100 000 Orbost Bendoc sheet provides a more detailed picture of stream patterns, the same amount of track information, but no contours.



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Unsealed road</li> <li>- - - Vehicular track (4WD)</li> <li>..... Walking track</li> <li>■ Snowy River National Park</li> <li>■ Australian Alps National Park</li> </ul>	<p><b>Recreation facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Camping</li> <li> Fireplace</li> <li> Information board</li> <li> Lookout</li> <li> Picnic tables</li> <li> Self guided walk</li> <li> Toilets</li> </ul>	<p>0 0.5 1.0 KILOMETRES</p> <p>Cartography by Charles Walsh Nature Tourism Services 08/05</p>
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