



Precipice Plain Walk



9km return (3 hours), Grade 4 Walking Track

Walk or bike along the Dinner Plain 4WD Track through Snow Gum woodlands and grassy plains to the rim of high cliffs at the edge of Precipice Plain and overlooking Precipice Creek. Precipice Plain is a unique geological feature which lies 4km south of Dinner Plain. With its spectacular outlook across the remote Dargo Valley, this is a great place to enjoy sunset in the high country and soak up fresh mountain air and cool breezes in summer.

From Dinner Plain, the Dinner Plain Track starts at the Great Alpine Road at the western boundary of the village. After about 1km a side track is available to Carmichael Falls via a 2km return walk. The falls are well worth a visit with twin cascades plunging over a 25m basalt cliff to the Precipice Creek below (*for more information, see Carmichael Falls track note*).

The Dinner Plain Track follows the ridgeline of the Great Dividing Range from Dinner Plain, beyond Precipice Plain and down to Mayford Spur above the Dargo River. The road reserve was widened after back-burning during the 2013 bushfires, creating a permanent firebreak. The western edge of Precipice Plain drops almost vertically to a narrow valley below that joins the Dargo Valley. Mt. Tabletop is directly opposite and there are sweeping views of the Dargo catchment.

The Montane Track – another fine walking trail from Dinner Plain - parallels the road near Precipice Plain and two access points are clearly marked, offering a return option to Dinner Plain for walkers or bikers wishing to complete a (much longer) trail loop (*see Montane Walking Trail track notes*)



Precipice Plain Hut, circa 1920s.
Photographer, Austin Mehrens, courtesy Tanya Crisp (Petersen Family)

Precipice Plain itself is on private land, surrounded by the Alpine National Park to the west, State Forest to the south and north and private land to the east. The freehold lot resulted from conditional purchase rights granted over crown land in 1926. It was originally part of a large grazing lease taken out by Jens Petersen around 1865 that extended from JB Plain eastwards into the Victoria River catchment and downstream towards Cobungra. The land was purchased in the 1940s by Cobungra Pastoral Station. Until it was destroyed in the 1939 fires cattlemen used a log hut (pictured) on the Plain as shelter in bad weather or while mustering.



White Lipped Snake and young.
Image courtesy of Peter Robertson, Wildlife Profiles

Gold History

Overlooking the Upper Dargo River, this wild and trackless country was once a bustling goldfield, with a peak population of 500. The field was rushed in the spring of 1863 after a party led by James Bloomfield discovered gold in the upper reaches leading up to winter. Bloomfield tried to return to the field before winter had ended. He was lost and never seen again. Several townships and large mining camps existed, the principal of which were Louisville, Brocket and Verdon. Every flat alongside the river was occupied, by huts or workings. Miners worked the river and adjacent banks for alluvial gold and a number of quartz reefs were also discovered. Stamp batteries were erected at numerous reef workings.

Vegetation

On the rocky outcrops of Precipice Plain low growing alpine grasses and herbs are the dominant vegetation. From the edge of the Plain dead Alpine Ash trees cover the valley below, a legacy of the 2003 and 2013 fires which swept through the Alpine National Park. These areas have been reseeded by helicopter to ensure their future survival.

Be Prepared

The best months for walking in the alpine environment are from November through to April, however, weather conditions can change rapidly, and snowfalls and blizzards can occur at any time of the year. (*The Bushwalking Season is from the November Melbourne Cup Weekend to mid May.*)

Be prepared with:

- Wind and waterproof jackets
- Warm clothing – hat, gloves, sunglasses, and strong footwear
- Food and water
- First aid kit and sunscreen
- Map and compass
- Check the weather forecast before departing
- Let someone know where you are going
- Mobile phone (reception in some areas)

Caution

Bushfires have damaged snowgums, which are now regenerating but dead branches are shedding with the new growth. High wind days may result in falling limbs and branches. It is not recommended to use the track on windy days. Please be aware that snakes are active during warm months.



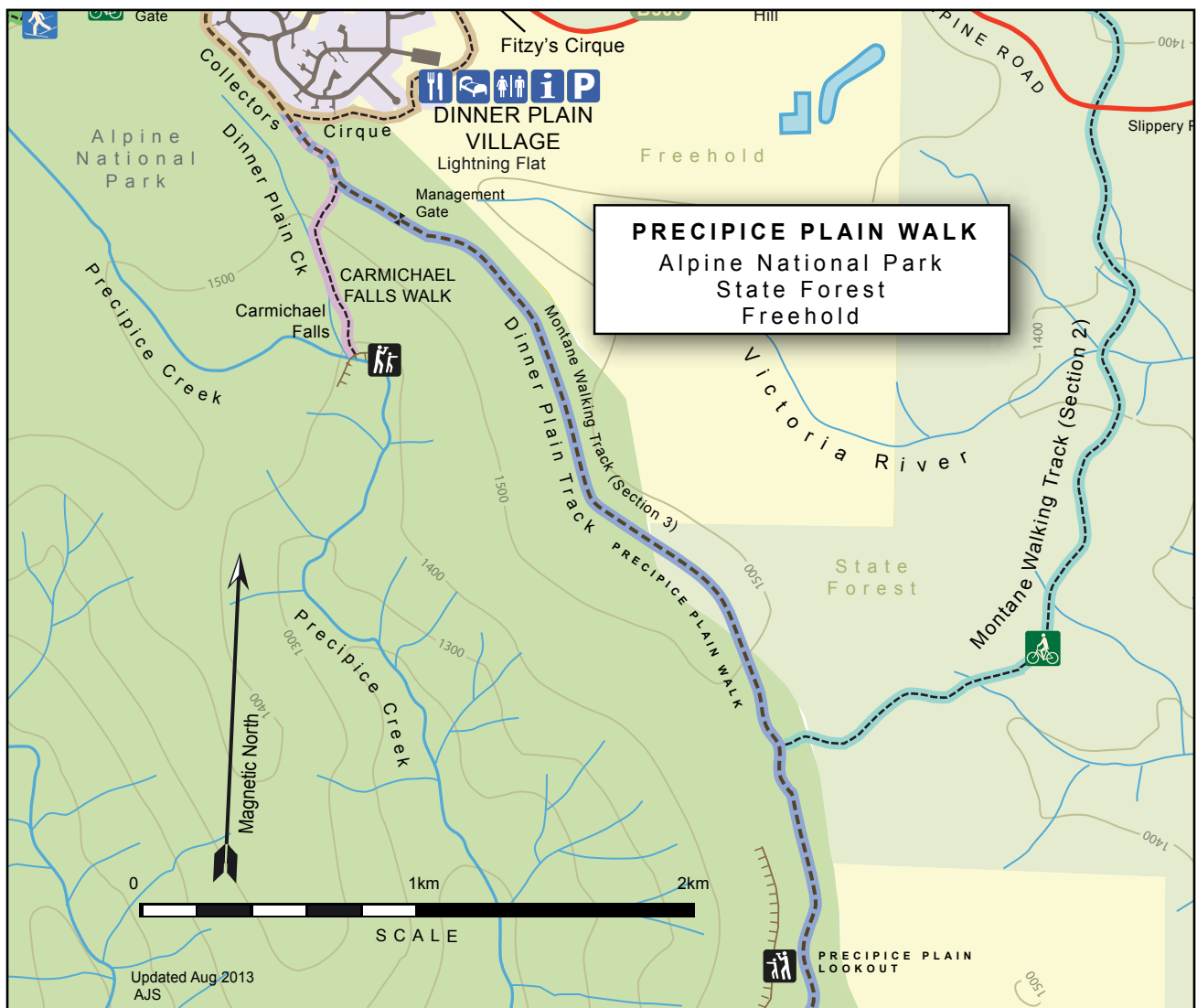
Precipice Plain Walk

Grade of Walk:	Grade 4, as per <i>The Australian Walking Track Grading System</i>
Distance:	9km return
Time:	3 hours
Gradient:	Mostly level with some gradual steep sections on the entry and exit
Quality of Path:	Mostly formed track, with some obstacles
Steps:	Occasional steps
Experience required:	Some bushwalking experience recommended

For more information on Dinner Plains Tracks & Trails, visit www.visitdinnerplain.com.au.



Alpine Shire



Dinner Plain Village - Alpine Shire