

HIDDEN IN A DEEP VALLEY IN THE VICTORIAN ALPS, WALHALLA HISTORIC TOWNSHIP WAS A BOOM TOWN OF THE 1880s THAT WENT BUST IN THE EARLY 1900s AND WAS DESERTED FOR MOST OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

Just a short drive east of Melbourne you'll discover a village that time has passed by. From 1863 until 1914, Walhalla was one of the richest gold areas in Australia with a population of over 3,000 people. There were 10 hotels, 7 churches, several dance halls, a school with more than 500 students and over 30 shops.

Walhalla's picturesque location in the Gippsland mountains combines the wild Australian bush environment with a colonial style reminiscent of the gold era.

Exotic trees and cute miner's cottages line the meandering street and twisting creek in the steep valley. Walhalla's unique topography in a narrow mountain gorge meant that the early townsfolk needed to think vertically.

Walhalla's iconic cemetery clings to the side of the hill at a 45 degree angle and the slopes are dotted with cottages built on narrow ledges cut into the steep hillsides. When gold mining became unprofitable in 1914 and the mines closed, Walhalla's decline was rapid.

Most of the houses and buildings were pulled down and shipped to other towns on the newly opened railway, while others were simply abandoned.

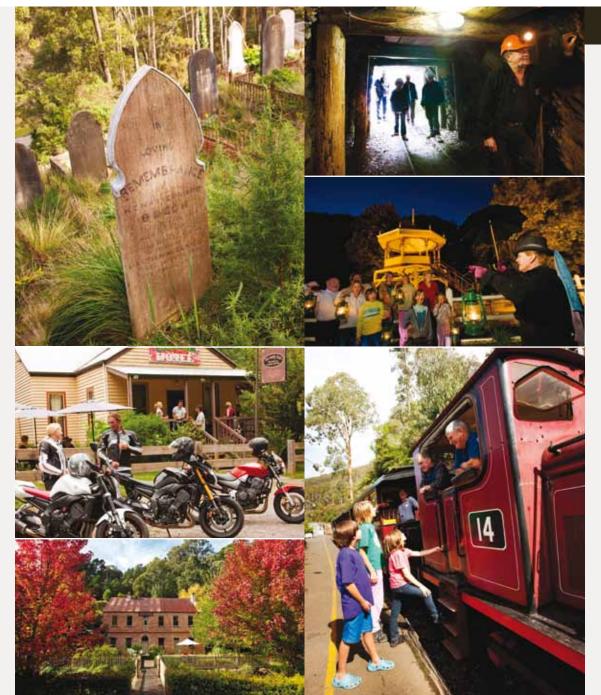
The structures that remained were mostly destroyed by fire or fell apart over the following decades. Walhalla was virtually a ghost town with the bush slowly reclaiming the village. In the 1990s, following a renewed interest in Australia's heritage, many of the homes and shops began to be rebuilt.

The most impressive is Walhalla's Star Hotel which re-opened in 1999. The original Star Hotel started life during Walhalla's heyday in 1873 but was destroyed by a fire caused by a faulty hot water service in 1951.

Walhalla is truly a step-back-in-time to another era. For example, on the 21st of December 1998 it became the last town to be connected to electricity in Victoria!

Today, Walhalla is home to about twenty permanent residents but it attracts over 130,000 visitors a year.

This once forgotten hamlet is now a popular and beautiful tourist destination for everyone to enjoy all year round.



#### THINGS TO SEE AND DO

# LONG TUNNEL EXTENDED GOLD MINE

Discover a golden past on an informative 45 minute tour of an original gold mine with a local guide. Over 13 tonnes was removed from this mine making it one of the most successful in Victoria.

Tours operate Mon-Fri 1.30pm / Weekends & Holiday periods 12noon, 1.30pm & 3pm.

www.walhallaboard.org.au

#### WALHALLA GHOST TOURS

A guided walk of Walhalla in the dark with old fashioned lamps and many spooky tales of 'things that go bump in the night'. Bookings are essential.

www.walhallaghosttour.info

#### WALHALLA GOLDFIELDS RAILWAY

This unique narrow gauge train winds its way down Stringers Creek Gorge from Walhalla to the Thomson River. The railway opened in 1910 but was never a success, closing in 1944 and the line was pulled up. It has now been reopened by enthusiasts who have lovingly restored this picturesque journey.

Trains depart Walhalla at 11am, 1pm & 3pm.\* Sat, Sun, Wed & holiday periods.

www.walhallarail.com.au

4 www.visitwalhalla.com WALHALLA VISITOR GUIDE 5

<sup>\*3</sup>pm service does not operate from the Tuesday after the Queen's Birthday Long Weekend [mid June] until 31 August.

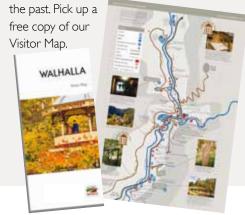


# BUSHWALKING & BAW BAW NATIONAL PARK

Explore the many tracks and trails around Walhalla by foot at your own pace. Walhalla is the start of the Australian Alps Walking Track, a 680km trek to Canberra! For a small taste of the trail, enjoy the first section of the walk from Walhalla to the Poverty Point Bridge (8km) or to Thomson Station (5km) or the Great Walhalla Alpine Trail (40km) to Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort. Nearby Baw Baw National Park offers fabulous walks from the Mt Erica carpark. The Myrtle Gully walk is a short loop through the Mountain Ash rainforest and the longer walk to Mushroom Rocks is highly recommended.

#### WALHALLA SELF-GUIDED TOWN WALK

Follow the trail of over 30 interpretation signs from one end of Walhalla township to the other on this fascinating journey back to Walhalla's gold-era with photos and stories of



# 4WD TOURS AND 4WD DRIVER TRAINING

These exciting and adventurous 4WD tours take you to long forgotten gold sites and abandoned villages around Walhalla. 4WD driver training courses are highly recommended to improve your skills and safety.

www.mountaintopexperience.com

#### WALHALLA CEMETERY

Visit one of the most unusual cemeteries in Australia that's perched on a steep hillside. More than 1100 graves tell a story of great hardship and provide an insight into what life and death was like during the gold era.

#### WALHALLA CRICKET GROUND

Back in Walhalla's heyday, flat land was at a premium so the solution for a sports field was to slice the top off a nearby mountain! Take the 1 km walk up the zig-zag track to see if you can hit a six onto the roof of the Star Hotel

#### STAY THE NIGHT

The best way to fully appreciate the area is to take a well earned break and stay for a few days. Whether you're looking for a B&B, a boutique hotel, camping or self-contained cottages, there are plenty of options. We recommend you plan and book in advance as accommodation can be at a premium.

6 www.visitwalhalla.com
WALHALLA VISITOR GUIDE 7



#### **ERICA**

A welcoming mountain timber town with a strong pioneering heritage surrounded by picturesque valleys just 15 minutes from Walhalla Historic Township. If you're into mountain bikes, there are excellent MTB trails to the south and east of the town. Walkers will love the Erica to Thomson Rail Trail which starts at the recreation reserve. Erica is the gateway to the snow. Hire your wheel chains and snow gear in Erica before heading up to the plateau for heaps of snow fun.

#### **RAWSON**

Scenic mountain views abound from the town of Rawson, with its own mountain retreat and spa chalets inviting you to stay and explore this fascinating region. See the ancient Myrtle Beech forest, walk to Mushroom Rocks or spend the day with friends at the adrenalin-packed paintball range. Don't forget to visit the town's crater lake.

#### POVERTY POINT BRIDGE

Four kilometres upstream of the Thomson River road bridge is the amazing Poverty Point Bridge. It can only be reached by foot via a loop walk starting at the Thomson Station carpark. The two hour return walk allows you to cross the river at the bridge for your return on the other side. The bridge was pre-fabricated in England in 1901 by the Westinghouse Foundry at a cost of £1,496.

#### **LAKETHOMSON**

The north of the Walhalla & Mountain Rivers region is dominated by Lake Thomson. Rawson was built as a construction village for dam workers, many of whom came from the Snowy Mountains Hydro Scheme in the 1960s. Completed in 1984, the dam is home to half of Melbourne's drinking water. At 165 metres high it is the biggest earth and rockfill dam in the southern hemisphere.

#### MT BAW BAW

The perfect place to visit all year. Only a short drive via the South Face Road (wheel chains required in winter), this delightful cosy village has welcoming terrain and family friendly areas. For more information: www.mountbawbaw.com.au

#### MT ST GWINEAR

Mt St Gwinear is well known for some of the best cross-country skiing and snowplay in Gippsland, with a 3.25km trail to the summit and breath-taking views of the Great Dividing Range.

#### MUSHROOM ROCKS & MT ERICA

Explore the huge granite boulders that create a fairy wonderland surrounded by thick forest. From the carpark allow one hour to walk to Mushroom Rocks. Venture further to Mt Erica and beyond to the ruin of the Talbot Peak Hut encircled by snow gums.

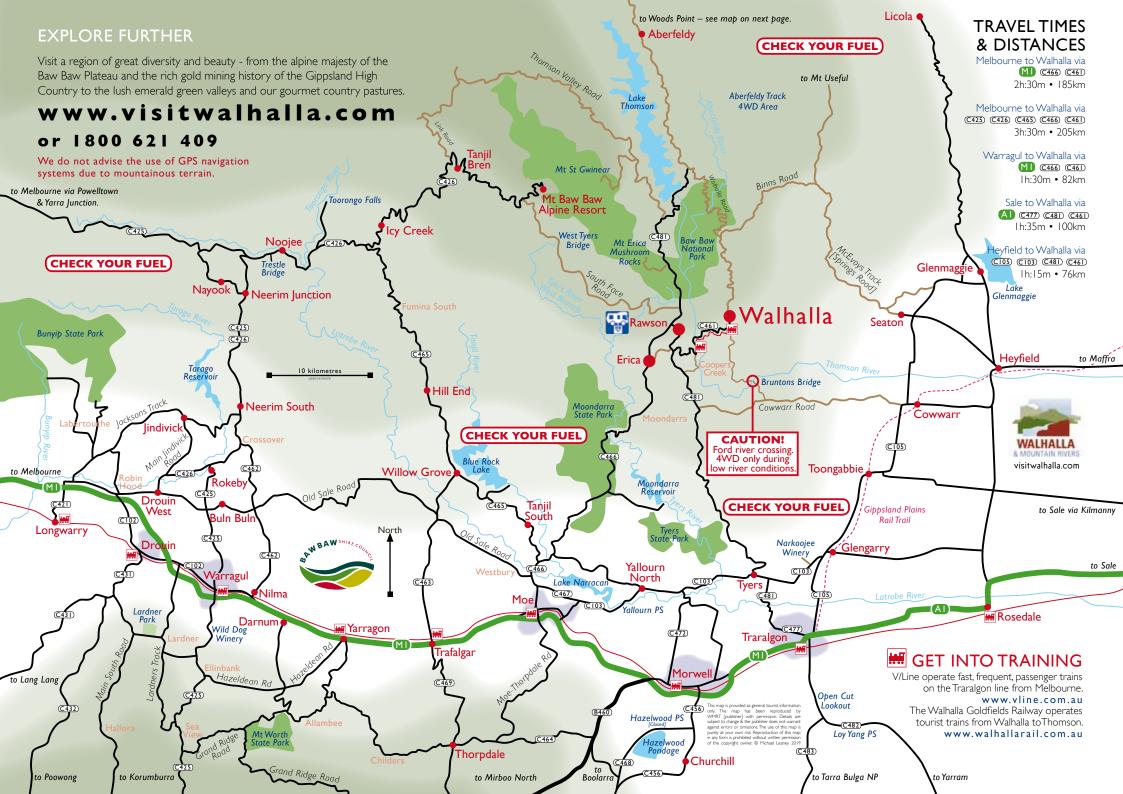
#### **BRUNTONS BRIDGE**

Head along the Happy Go Lucky Road to discover the huge iron Bruntons Bridge. Crossing the Thomson River, this was the original access road to Walhalla. The bridge was made in England in 1886 and was intended for use as the Victoria Street bridge across the Yarra River in Richmond. Unfortunately it was the wrong size and was sent to Bruntons to replace a timber bridge. Today the bridge is for foot traffic only.

#### **CAMPING**

Spending nights in the bush under the stars is one of the best ways to fully appreciate the beauty of our mountains and rivers. You'll find camping areas accessible by vehicles in Walhalla, Aberfeldy River, Bruntons Bridge and Coopers Creek. For those who wish to hike, excellent remote camping sites are located in the Baw Baw National Park including Mushroom Rocks and Talbot Peak Hut.

8 www.visitwalhalla.com WALHALLA VISITOR GUIDE 9





## THE ABERFELDY TRACK – WALHALLA TO JAMIESON

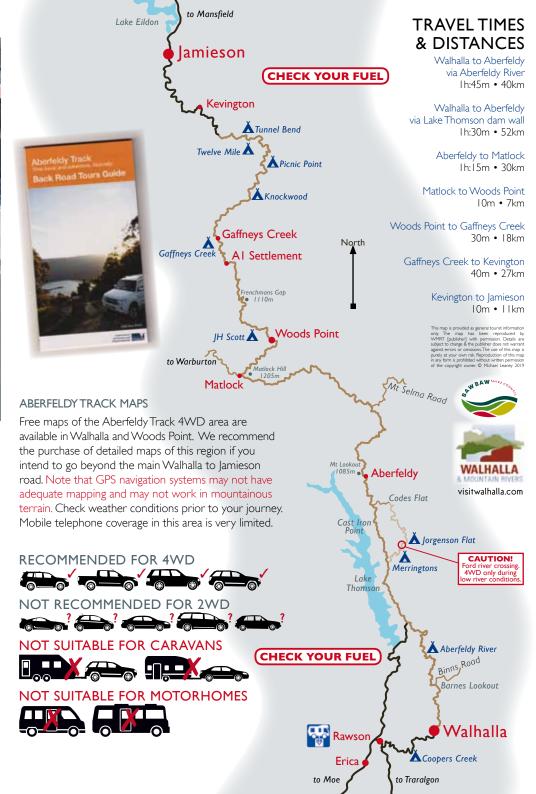
In the mountains and valleys to the north of Walhalla an amazing adventure awaits. The road from Walhalla to Jamieson via Aberfeldy and Woods Point dates back to the gold era. The very first prospectors crossed the Great Divide at Matlock to enter the prosperous goldfields of the Gippsland mountains. Today, this route is the domain of adventure seekers in 4WDs and SUVs who want an experience well beyond the tourist trail. Cross the range and step back in time.

With stunning views, abandoned gold sites, quaint mountain pubs, fabulous camping sites and a driving experience unrivalled in the state, anyone who has a 4WD or SUV should plan to take the drive across the divide. This drive however is not for everyone and does require some experience. Pre-planning is required and you need to be aware of the weather conditions that can effect the track. Sections of the route can become very slippery even with light rain so only 4WDs are recommended.

The track is always winding and can be quite rough in some sections. In winter it may be subject to snow and a chain saw would be a wise inclusion after storms. Make sure you're all fuelled up as you won't find any petrol stations in these remote mountains and mobile telephone coverage is patchy.

To make the most of the Aberfeldy Track from Walhalla to Jamieson you must slow down. It isn't a super highway, it's a twisting mountain journey to places few people venture today. Total driving time for the 133 kilometre distance is more than 4 hours. Allow extra time to really enjoy the trip.

Stop at the unique mountain pubs in Walhalla, Woods Point or Kevington, venture down to Codes Flat to buy some local honey, stop and pay your respects at Kitty Cane's Grave, experience the solitude at the desolate Aberfeldy Cemetery atop the mountain range and admire the view of the mighty Lake Thomson from Cast Iron Point.



#### **BREWERY CREEK COTTAGE**



- Elegant self contained cottage
- Boutique style accommodation Spiral staircase to a loft bedroom
- Traditional dining room
- Set amongst towering gums
- Linen & towels provided
- Slow combustion fire
- Fully self contained

TEL: 03 5165 6237

WEB: www.brewerycreekcottage.com.au ADDRESS: 48 Main Road, Walhalla 3825

#### CHINESE GARDENS CAMPGROUND



- Located on site of historic Chinese market gardens
- North end of Walhalla
- Free electric BBQs
- Bathroom facilities for campers
- Coin operated showers & laundry
- Communal fire pits
- Advanced bookings required
- Fees apply

TEL: 03 5165 6250

WEB: www.walhallaboard.org.au

ADDRESS: 235 Main Road, Walhalla 3825

#### CREEK COTTAGE



- · Child friendly accommodation at rear of the Mechanics Institute
- Fully self contained
- Sleeps up to four people
- Centrally located in the township.
- Air-conditioned
- Electric blankets
- Garden alongside Stringers Creek

TEL: 03 5165 6245

WEB: www.walhallaboard.org.au

ADDRESS: 104 Main Road, Walhalla 3825

#### ERICA CARAVAN PARK



- One & two bedroom cabins
- Powered sites
- Unbowered sites
- BBQ area & camp kitchen
- Showers & amenties
- Full laundry for guests
- Communal campfire pit
- Pet friendly
- Gas Swap n Go

TEL: 03 5165 3315

WEB: www.ericacaravanpark.com.au ADDRESS: 14 Station Street, Erica 3825

#### **GUATTA'S COTTAGE**



- Beautifully renovated original miner's cottage
- Fully self contained
- All linen & towels supplied Cosy wood heater
- Sleeps up to four people
- Lovely garden with creek frontage
- Short walk to town centre
- Very private location

TEL: 0497 626 672

WEB: www.guattascottage.com

ADDRESS: 215 Main Road, Walhalla 3825

## JACOMBS COTTAGE



- Charming old-style cottage
- Two bedrooms
- · Cosy wood heating
- Self contained kitchen
- · Linen & towels provided
- Sleeps up to six people
- Decking onto courtyard garden

TEL: 03 5165 6237

WEB: www.iacombscottagewalhalla.com.au ADDRESS: 184 Main Road, Walhalla 3825

#### MOUNTAIN RIVERS TOURIST PARK

**ACCOMMODATION** 



Luxurious Spa Chalets

- Perfect romantic getaway
- 2nd storey loft style bedroom & spa
- Picturesque views of the state forest
- Spacious Family Chalets
- Beautiful views of Mount Erica
- Accommodates up to 6 adults
- 2 comfortable bedrooms
- Large lounge & dining area

## Budget Albine Cabins

- Perfect for young families
- Cosy 2 bedroom cabin

#### Budget Motel & Lodge

- · Six motel rooms with ensuites
- Communal kitchen, dining & lounge
- Small group or large family bookings



- Bunkhouse sleeps up to 9 adults
- Unbowered tent & 4wd trailer sites
- Large ablutions & camp dining area
- Close to all local attractions
- Phoenix Paintball field onsite
- Mountain Tob Experience tours
- 40 minutes from Mt Baw Baw
- 15 minutes from Walhalla

TEL: 03 5165 3231

WEB: www.mountainrivers.com.au ADDRESS: Depot Road, Rawson 3825

#### SILVERTOP COTTAGES



- **Ouality forest accommodation**
- Story-book cottages
- 12 acres of private native forest
- · Cosy log fires
- Fully equipped kitchens
- BBQs for outdoor cooking
- Spa baths in studio & one bedroom cottages

TEL: 0414 537 267

WEB: www.silvertopcottages.com.au ADDRESS: McLelland Road, Erica 3825

#### STRINGER'S COTTAGE



- · Charming miner's cottage
- · Self contained one bedroom
- Wood fire
- Oueen sized bed
- Galley kitchen
- Linen provided
- Perched above Stringers Creek

TEL: 0419 732 427

WEB: www.stringerscottage.com.au

ADDRESS: 20 Happy-Go-Lucky Road, Walhalla 3825

#### TANIIL CREEK LODGE - MT BAW BAW





- Centrally located in the albine village
- 5 bedrooms
- 3 bathrooms
- High quality furnishings & fittings
- Full kitchen for self catering
- · Log fire & centrally heated
- Includes a one bedroom luxury
- apartment with ensuited bathroom Spa deck
- · Entertainment area
- Drying/sports equipment room
- · Close to walking trails
- Total sleeping capacity 20 people
- Nestled in the snowgums
- · Full length picture windows
- Overlooking ski run &

toboggan park

TEL: 0428 740 186

WEB: www.taniilcreeklodge.com.au

ADDRESS: 19 Frosti Lane, Mt Baw Baw 3825

14 www.visitwalhalla.com WALHALLA VISITOR GUIDE 15

#### ACCOMMODATION / SNOW SPORTS & CHAIN HIRE / TOURS

#### WALHALLA'S STAR HOTEL





- · Boutique, stylish accommodation in the heart of Walhalla
- Replica façade of original gold era Star Hotel
- 12 large first-class bedrooms
- Rooms open to verandah or garden
- · All rooms with ensuite
- Rooms with king or twin beds
- · Fully air-conditioned
- Comfortable guest lounge
- · Central courtyard
- Contemporary dining room
- Non-smoking property
- WiFi & Telstra mobile service
- 24 hour self-serve guest bar • Tea & coffee making facilities
- · Limited mobility suite & full access
- People's Choice Award winning venue
- Owner operated for over 20 years

TEL: 03 5165 6262

WEB: www.starhotel.com.au

ADDRESS: 130 Main Road, Walhalla 3825

#### WINDSOR HOUSE



- Established in 1878
- Fully restored gold era house
- National Trust classification
- Cellar dug into rock hillside Five guest rooms
- Original features
- Private lounge
- Cooked breakfast
- Cottage garden

TEL: 03 5165 6237

WEB: www.windsorhouse.com.au

ADDRESS: 12 Right Hand Branch Road, Walhalla 3825

#### ERICA SKI HIRE



- Diamond pattern wheel chain hire
- XC & downhill skis for hire
- · Snowboards for hire
- Toboggans for hire
- · Albine clothing for hire
- · Snow shoes for hire
- Goggles, gloves & sunnies for sale
- Pre-booking of chains & toboggans
- Open 7 days during snow season

TEL: 03 5165 3353

WEB: www.ericaskihire.com.au ADDRESS: School Road, Erica 3825

#### WALHALLA COACH HOUSE



- Two storey house
- Polished floors with period furniture
- 2 lounge rooms, 2 dining rooms
- 3 bedrooms
- Pool table
- Piano & gramophone
- Master bedroom with Captain's
- Fully equipped kitchen

TEL: 0419 732 427

WEB: www.walhallacoachhouse.com.au

ADDRESS: 20 Happy-Go-Lucky Road, Walhalla 3825

#### LONG TUNNEL EXTENDED GOLD MINE



- Explore Victoria's 5th largest gold mine of the 19th century
- Venture 250 metres underground
- Features Cohen's Line of Reef
- Interpretive signage throughout
- Gold museum & blacksmith shed
- Group bookings available
- Daily guided tours

TEL: 03 5165 6259

WEB: www.walhallaboard.org.au

ADDRESS: 165 Main Road, Walhalla 3825

#### ATTRACTIONS / TOURS / FOOD SERVICE

#### OLD WALHALLA POST OFFICE



- · Victorian heritage listed building
- Restored to original style
- Postal & telecommunications disblay • Explore the original residence
- Staffed by volunteers
- · Group bookings by arrangement
- Donations for entry welcomed
- · Open weekends & public holidays

TEL: 03 5165 6250

WEB: www.walhallaboard.org.au

ADDRESS: 94 Main Road, Walhalla 3825

#### WALHALLA GHOST TOURS



- Odd & mysterious tales to tell
- Spooky stories of a forgotten past
- Public tours every Saturday night
- · Lanterns brovided
- · Allow 2 hours
- Be afraid, be very afraid!
- Not suitable for children under 7yo
- Group bookings arranged
- Pre-bookings required

TEL: 03 5165 6250

WEB: www.walhallaghosttours.info

ADDRESS: 124 Main Road, Walhalla 3825

#### WALHALLA GOLDFIELDS RAILWAY





- An unforgettable experience
- Ride through Springer's Creek Gorge & cross eight historic trestle bridges
- One hour return journey
- Disabled access & toilet facilities
- Gift shop & souvenirs
- Fully equipped function room
- Trains available for events/functions Runs every Wed, Sat, Sun & public
- holidavs
- Runs daily Boxing Day through to 2nd weekend of January
- Runs daily in Easter school holidays
- Runs daily in Seb/Oct school holidays Depart Walhalla at 11am, 1pm
- & 3pm [no 3pm train in winter] Fully operated & maintained by
- volunteers
- Check full timetable on website

TEL: 03 5165 6280

WEB: www.walhallarail.com.au

ADDRESS: 2 Main Road, Walhalla 3825

#### MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCE



- Award winning 4WD adventures
- Passenger tours of Walhalla's ghost towns, mines & mountains
- Tag-along tours of Gippsland's high country
- Driver training courses 4WD vehicle recovery
- · Mt Baw Baw snow transport
- Mini bus hire up to 25 seater

TEL: 03 5134 6876

WEB: www.mountaintopexperience.com

#### **GREYHORSE CAFE**



- Great pies, cakes & coffee
- Eat in or take away
- Central location
- Obbosite Band Rotunda
- · Enjoy the sun on the deck
- Air-conditioned & heated
- Comfv lounge & gallery
- Open daily

TEL: 03 5165 6293 WEB: www.visitwalhalla.com

ADDRESS: 130A Main Road, Walhalla 3825

#### FOOD SERVICE / RETAIL

#### MISS HOLLY'S GIFT SHOPPE



- · Quality giftware
- 24kt Australian gold
- Official distributor of the Gold Makers of Australia
- · Classic artisan jewellery
- · Local history books & maps
- Located in the Mechanics Institute building
- · Open Wednesday to Sunday

TEL: 03 5165 6219

WEB: www.visitwalhalla.com

ADDRESS: 104 Main Road, Walhalla 3825

#### WALHALLA LODGE HOTEL [WALLY PUB]



- Located on arrival into Walhalla
- Meals available
- Great bar service
- Indoor & outdoor seating
- Meet the locals at 'the local'
- Friendly staff
- Open everyday except Tuesday

TEL: 03 5165 6226

WEB: www.visitwalhalla.com

ADDRESS: 62 Main Road, Walhalla 3825

#### **RAGGEDY IACKS**



- Pop-up shop at GreyHorse Cafe
- Unique gift items
- All things country
- · Quilts & patchwork
- Scented candles
- Dolls & Teddies
- Rustic furnishings
- · Signs & "Man Cave" items

TEL: 0490 110 607

WEB: www.visitwalhalla.com

ADDRESS: Outside 130A Main Road, Walhalla 3825

#### WALHALLA LOLLY SHOPPE



- A sweet tooth's delight
- Traditional Iollies galore
- · Ice-cream, coffee & hot chocolate
- Soft serve & milk shakes
   Located in the Mechanics
- Institute building
   Hours 10am to 4:30pm
- Open Wed, Sat & Sun plus all public and school holidays

TEL: 03 5165 6243 or 0413 589 252

WEB: www.visitwalhalla.com

ADDRESS: 104 Main Road, Walhalla 3825

#### WALHALLA COFFEE & KITCHEN



- Open for breakfast & lunch
- Opposite Stringer's Park
- Indoor & outdoor seating
- Fresh local coffee
- Catering available
- Pleasant garden outlook
- · Located in the historic corner stores
- Great milkshakes & iced coffee

TEL: 03 5165 6220

WEB: www.visitwalhalla.com

ADDRESS: 120 Main Road, Walhalla 3825

#### WALHALLA MUSEUM & CORNER STORE



- Explore Walhalla's past
- Rare & unique artefacts
- Extensive range of maps
- Souvenirs & memorabilia
- Operated by Walhalla Heritage &
- Development League
- Open daily

TEL: 03 5165 6250

WEB: www.walhalla.org.au

ADDRESS: 124 Main Road, Walhalla 3825

## North Gardens Poverty Point Bridge Camping Area Long Tunnel Extended Gold Mine Australian Alps Walking Track Learn about the history of the remote settlements to Mt Baw Baw & Canberra 2 Steel gates Enjoy the wonderful scenery around Walhalla on an extended walk on the Tramline Walkway to Thomson Station or to the historic CAUTION! Poverty Point Bridge. You can link with a rail journey to return to miss on sharp ben of vehicle track Walhalla or do a river walk loop from the Thomson Station carpark. Thomson Please check the railway timetable at www.walhallarail.com.au

EXTENDED TRAMLINE WALKS TO POVERTY POINT BRIDGE

## I. WALHALLA TO THOMSON VIA MORMONTOWN TRACK

Join the Tramline Walkway opposite the Star Hotel or bank vault. Just after the steel gate turn left down Mormon Town Track [steep] crossing the road bridge at the bottom for the station.

Approximately 5km or 1.5 hours.

# 2. WALHALLA TO THOMSON VIA POVERTY POINT BRIDGE

Join the Tramline Walkway opposite the Star Hotel or bank vault. Cross Mormon Town Track passing through two steel gates. Turn left over the bridge to head downstream to Thomson station.

Approximately 12km or 4 hours.

## 3.THOMSON TO THOMSON LOOP VIA POVERTY POINT

Start at Thomson Station walking north on Old Depot Rd being careful not to miss the trailhead at first sharp bend. Turn right at bridge & right onto Mormon Town Track [steep] after the steel gate.

Approximately 8km or 2.5 hours.

18 www.visitwalhalla.com WALHALLA VISITOR GUIDE 19





### HEADING TO WALHALLA

Walhalla is located 180km [111miles] east of central Melbourne via CityLink or EastLink to Monash Fwy then Princes Fwy (M1) taking signed exit at Moe. Allow 2.5 hours. Alternative route via Lilydale, Yarra Junction and Noojee.

From Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Sydney via the Princes Hwy (A1) turn off at Traralgon. Alternative route via Maffra, Heyfield and Tyers, turn off Princes Hwy (A1) at Stratford.

We do not advise the use of GPS navigation systems due to mountainous terrain.

There are NO petrol stations in Erica, Rawson, Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort or Walhalla.

CHECK YOUR FUEL

## www.visitwalhalla.com or freecall 1800 621 409

# #walhalla to share your beautiful photos





Published by Walhalla & Mountain River. Tourism Inc. to provide tourist information of a general nature which may be subject to change. The publisher is not responsible fo any errors or omissions

> Brochure © 2019 • W.M.R.T. Inc Maps © 2019 • Michael Leaney Printed in January 2019

No part of this brochure may be produced without written permission

Thank you to Michael Lean or producing the artwork and maps f