



**A TRUE BACKCOUNTRY OVERNIGHT ADVENTURE
HOW ITT TO SPECULATION**

TELL US ABOUT OUR ADVENTURE!

Despite hosting areas with names such as the Terrible Hollow, the Devil's Staircase, and the Horrible Gap, this is truly the country of the gods. This terrain is humbling, awe-inspiring, terrifying, and breathtakingly, heavenly beautiful. It is nature at her finest, at her most raw, and her wildest.



A lone snow gum stands at the edge of the Terrible Hollow, blessed by rays of distant sunlight

This part of the world can only be accessed by foot, and is a prime example of Australian alpine wilderness. The sensations that accompany the journey, therefore, are all the more enriched, and it gives you a true chance to appreciate just how remote and removed from the civilised world we are when we are out here in the mountains.

BREAK DOWN OUR HIKE FOR US!

Over the course of this overnight trip, we will visit three individual mountains: Mt Howitt, Mt Buggery, and Mt Speculation. The link between these is an undulating, rocky ridge line appropriately known as the Crosscut Saw. The walking is moderately challenging, with a few rocky scrambles to overcome, which only compounds the sense of adventure that this incredible landscape invites us to experience.

DAY ONE: Mt Howitt to Macallister Springs (11km, approx 9hrs)

Our day begins with a 1.5hr drive from Mansfield to the Upper Howqua Camping area. From here we embark on our ascent of Mt Howitt via the eponymously named spur. This takes us up to Howitt's West Peak, where we will get our first glimpse of what lies ahead (providing Old Man Howitt's not hiding under a blanket of fog, as is his wont from time to time!).



Even blanketed in mist, Mt Howitt boasts a hauntingly beautiful landscape

This is the bulk of the distance done, but the tricky walking remains: our descent into Macallister Springs. Whilst only a short 1.5km, the steep gradient makes for slow going. This will be our camp for the evening - right on the edge of the awesome Devil's Staircase.

DAY TWO: Macallister Springs to Mt Speculation (approx 7hrs)

The Crosscut Saw is a knife-edge ridge line that undulates over a distance of 4 kilometres. Over its eastern frontier is an area known as the Terrible Hollow - a vast expanse of formidable wilderness that invokes a sense of overwhelming awe in all who lay eyes on it. I don't actually know that it's possible to look over this area and not feel completely meek and tiny. Its beauty and ferocious wilderness can only be described as overwhelming.



Left to right: the Terrible Hollow, the Crosscut Saw being trekked by the intrepid Mandy, and the Thorn Range

At the northern end of the Crosscut Saw is the very aptly named Mt Buggery, a perfect little pyramid of a hill that serves one purpose: to test. A steep ascent is complemented by a steep descent into an area known as the Horrible Gap (honestly, are they just trying to scare people off?!). Each time I've done this walk - so many I've lost count - this part has never failed to challenge me. It's by no means the hardest walk in the High Country, but there's something about it which certainly has you conversing with your higher powers...! What goes up, and then down, must inevitably go up again, and this final ascent is to the top of one of the most majestic mountains in our backyard: Mt Speculation. If any life has been sapped out of you by Buggery, Speculation serves to reinvigorate and bring you back to full energy.



Mt Speculation and, in the distance, the Viking being bathed in the golden light of dusk

From here remains a single kilometre of gentle descent down to our pickup point, where we will settle in for some snacks and a 3hr drive back to Mansfield.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THIS ALPINE HIKING ADVENTURE?

The idea behind a guided hike through this remote and wild part of the world is for you to not have to worry about things, right? So everything you need is provided (except your clothes and boots): pack, tent, sleeping equipment, homemade food, and transport. This also includes pickup from Melbourne if so required - we are all too happy to come and collect you if that means you not having to organise public transport to Mansfield!

If you need accommodation in or around Mansfield on either side of the trip I can arrange some options for you at an additional cost, and dependent on what style you're after (from backpackers to cute B&Bs and motel rooms and everything in between!).



Apparently we like green - your tent and pack (and sleeping bag and sleeping mat) are all matching!

WHERE CAN I SEE MORE PRETTY PICTURES OR GET MORE INFORMATION IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

If you'd like more info hit us up on any of the below!

-Email: info@skadiadventures.com.au

-Phone: +61 424 355 141

-Facebook: /skadiadventures

-Instagram: @skadi.adventures

-Website: www.skadiadventures.com.au

HAPPY TRAILS!

