

Merritts Nature Track



2 hrs 30 mins

Hard track



3.7 km Circuit

▲ 65m

This walk explores the native bushland around the winter skiing area. After riding the Kosciuszko Express chairlift up the hill, arriving near the Eagles Nest restaurant, the walk winds through the snow gum forest, following ski runs and bush tracks back down the hill. The walk passes the popular Thredbo Bobsled and continues around the back of the tennis courts, back to the village.

1361m

1928m

Kosciuszko National Park

Covered in snow & closed part of the year

This walk leads through an extreme alpine environment and all walkers must be well prepared. During summer, be prepared for both very hot and cold weather, high winds, rain, snow, extreme UV levels and some sections of snow or ice on the ground. Before starting this walk, check advice with [Snowy Region Visitor Information Centre](#) (02) 6450 5600, the [weather forecast](#) and the [snow conditions](#) then change your plans as needed. These notes, grades and walking times have been written for use in the summer months only. Part of this walk is used as a groomed winter ski run. This walk is closed and should not be attempted when there is a chance of significant snow on the ground.

Kosciuszko Express Chairlift

This is one of the few lifts operating in the summer months at Thredbo, and is made quite popular by thousands of people walking to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko each year. Lift tickets can be purchased from the store at the bottom of the chairlift. Lift tickets are \$31 return (\$25 one way) per person. This lift is generally closed during November and May for maintenance each year, but the the Snowgum chair can be used at this time instead, this will add extra walking time to you walk. [More info.](#)

Eagles Nest Restaurant

This is Australia's highest restaurant, providing great food and outstanding views. It is easily accessible, nestled on the mountain directly opposite the top of the Kosciuszko Express chairlift, and is open year-round. For more information, call (02) 64576019.

Lower bench seat

This small lookout on Merritts Nature Track provides a seat and a view looking north across a wide gully. A small creek cascades down the rocks through the gully. There is limited natural shade from the snow gums here. A nice place to rest and enjoy the view whilst giving your knees a rest.

Picnic Lookout

This partially fenced lookout platform is perched on a rock and provide great views down across Friday Flats to the range on the other side of Thredbo River. There is a picnic table and a bench seat, but limited shade. This make a great place to stop, rest and enjoy the valley views.

Before You walk

Bushwalking is fun and a wonderful way to enjoy our natural places. Sometimes things go bad, with a bit of planning you can increase your chance of having an enjoyable and safer walk. Before setting off on your walk check

- 1) Weather Forecast ([BOM Snowy Mountains District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Monaro Alpine](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ([Kosciuszko National Park](#))
- 4) Research the walk to check your party has the skills, fitness and equipment required
- 5) Agree to stay as a group and not leave anyone to walk solo

Think before you TREK

The 'Think before you TREK' program developed by NSW Police & NPWS promotes the benefits of planning ahead for your bushwalking trip by using an easy to remember acronym:

- T** Take adequate supplies of food, water, navigation and first aid equipment.
- R** Register your planned route and tell friends and family when you expect to return.
- E** Emergency beacon (PLB's) should be carried on walks with significant gaps in mobile coverage (check terrain profile).
- K** Keep to your planned route and follow the map and walking trails.

Topo Maps

The maps provided on wildwalks are helpful, but there are times where you may need maps covering a broader area. Maps that cover this walk include;

1:25 000 Map Series:85252S PERISHER VALLEY, 85241N CHIMNEYS RIDGE

1:100 000 Map Series:8525 KOSCIUSZKO, 8524 JACOBS RIVER

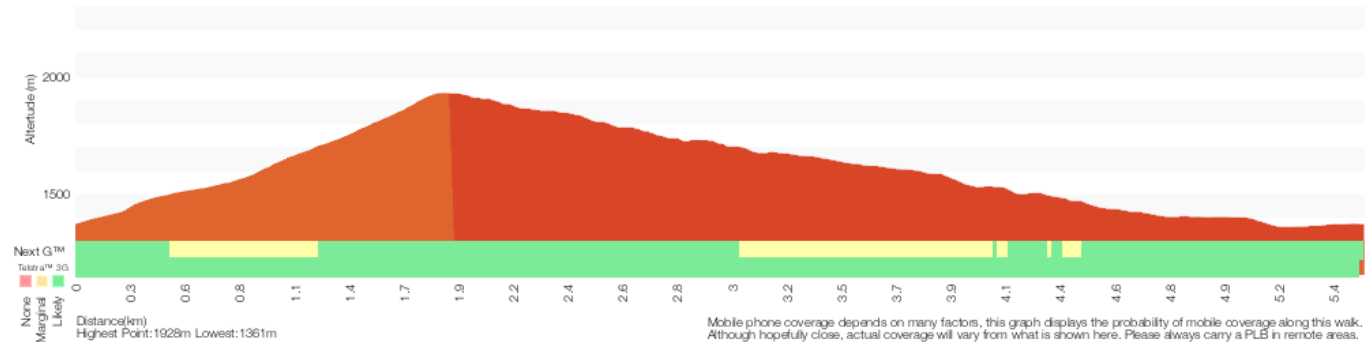
Grade

This walk has been graded using the AS 2156.1-2001. The overall grade of the walk is determined by the highest classification along the whole track.



Grade 4/6
Hard track

Length	3.7 km Circuit
Time	2 hrs 30 mins
Quality of track	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
Signs	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
Experience Required	Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)
Weather	Storms may impact on navigation and safety (3/6)
Infrastructure	Limited facilities, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6)



Are you ready to have fun?

Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. Check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating before setting out. Optional side trips and alternate routes noted are not included in this walk's overall grade, length or time estimate. Please allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing this information but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury you may experience. Please take care, have fun - Happy Walking.

Getting there Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Bottom of Kosciuszko Express chairlift (gps: -36.504, 148.304). Car: A park entry fee is required for driving into the park.

This is a circuit, so you will finish back at the start.

Find up to date and more information including; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at <http://wild.tl/mnt>

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0 | Bottom of Kosciuszko Express chairlift

(1.9 km 20 mins) This walk heads into the 'Valley Terminal' building, where you can buy a ticket for the lift. Continue through the building and up the steps, where this walk turns right to find the bottom terminal of the 'Kosciuszko Express'. Walk up to the platform as directed by the chairlift operator and sit down in the seat, letting it scoop you up. Once seated, pull down the safety bar and enjoy the ride to the top of the ridge. :) At the top step of the chair lift and turn left to find the restaurant (now on your right) and track information signs ahead.

1.86 | Eagles Nest Restaurant

This is Australia's highest restaurant, providing great food and outstanding views. It is easily accessible, nestled on the mountain directly opposite the top of the Kosciuszko Express chairlift, and is open year-round. For more information, call (02) 64576019.

1.86 | Top of Kosciuszko Express chairlift

(420 m 12 mins) Turn sharp left: From the top of the chairlift, this walk heads straight downhill (keeping the chairlift to your left) following paved management trail. After about 25m, this walk veers right to leave the paved trail, now following the dirt track marked by the 'Merritts Nature Track' sign. The track follows the arrow posts among the granite boulders and down the long series of steps that leads under the chairlift. The track continues to wind steeply down the hill and after some time, comes to a clear 'T' intersection

with a dirt management trail marked with another 'Merritts Nature Track' sign. Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Merritts Nature Track' sign downhill along the wide management trail, keeping the main valley to your right. The trail soon leads to a four-way intersection marked with a 'Kosciuszko Walk' sign, just above the top of Snowgums chairlift.

2.28 | Top of Snowgums chairlift

(290 m 8 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the track that leads down the left side of the Snowgums chairlift, where the track soon passes a 'Merritts Nature Track' sign. The track heads left, away from the chairlift through some snow gums and winds steeply down the hill. About 100m from the chairlift, the walk turns right at a minor intersection (the left branch leads to a view of a small fall) - here, the main track leads down more steep steps to come to a small clearing, with a view of the creek and a wooden bench seat.

Veer right: From the bench seat, this walk follows the clear track downhill, which soon heads down the steep steps, coming to another bench seat (and another good excuse for a rest).

2.57 | Lower bench seat

This small lookout on Merritts Nature Track provides a seat and a view looking north across a wide gully. A small creek cascades down the rocks through the gully. There is limited natural shade from the snow gums here. A nice place to rest and enjoy the view whilst giving your knees a rest.

2.57 | Lower Bench Seat

(570 m 16 mins) Veer right: From the bench seat, this walk follows the track heading downhill away from the creek. The track passes over a timber then metal section of boardwalk, before heading down a series of steep steps. The track winds down the hill, passing some large boulders before heading down a timber ramp to a four-way intersection with a wide management trail.

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Merritts Nature Track' sign down the steps, following the track through the snow gum forest. After about 130m, the track heads along a few sections of metal and timber boardwalks before heading down more steps and coming to a four-way intersection with another management trail, marked with another 'Merritts Nature Track' sign (on the other side of the trail, next to the safety barrier).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Merritts Nature Track' sign down the steps. The track leads steeply down through the alpine heath and snow gums to soon come to a partly fenced rock promontory and picnic table with great valley views.

3.14 | Picnic Lookout

This partially fenced lookout platform is perched on a rock and provide great views down across Friday Flats to the range on the other side of Thredbo River. There is a picnic table and a bench seat, but limited shade. This make a great place to stop, rest and enjoy the valley views.

3.14 | Picnic Lookout

(430 m 10 mins) Turn right: From the picnic table and rock platform, this walk heads gently downhill following the track along the side of the hill, keeping the main valley to your left. The track immediately passes a bench seat and, after a short time, heads down some steps then a timber staircase, coming to an intersection with a grassy management trail.

Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the grassy management trail south, gently downhill (keeping the valley to your left). After about 80m, the trail passes under the chairlift, where the trail bends left and then becomes wider. The walk continues along the trail and soon comes to a 'T' intersection with a clearer management trail and a 'Merritts Nature Track' sign.

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows 'Merritts Nature Trail' sign

downhill along the clear management trail passing under the chairlift. Soon after passing under the chairlift, this walk comes to a 'Y' intersection marked with another 'Merritts Nature Track' sign, just above 'Bunny Walk Station' (the midway station on Snowgums Chairlift).

3.57 | Bunnywalk chairlift station

(240 m 5 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Merritts Nature Track' sign, off the main management trail and along the grassy strip (keeping the management trail through the trees on your left). The walk heads through the grassy clearing to come to the start of a narrow track marked with another 'Merritts Nature Track' sign, just beyond the small hut.

Continue straight: From the end of the clearing, this walk follows the 'Merritts Nature Track' sign down along the narrow track, leading through dense alpine heath and snow gum forest. The track gently winds downhill, then heads down a series of steps leading to a clear four-way intersection with a management trail where there is another 'Merritts Nature Track' sign pointing back up the steps.

3.82 | Int of Merritts nature walk and chairlift service

(620 m 17 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Merritts Nature Track' sign down the steps and along the narrow track through the dense bushland. The track winds steeply through a couple of switch-backs then gently winds around the side of the hill before heading down more steps. In time, the track comes to a 'T' intersection signposted as an intersection with both 'Merritts Nature Track' and 'Meadows Nature Track'.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Merritts Nature Track' sign along the fairly flat track, keeping the valley to your right. The track soon passes a bench seat where the track turns sharply right and heads steeply downhill. The track bends a few more times, passing another seat and heading through a grove of tall stringybark trees. As the track approaches the valley, it passes another bench seat then crosses the creek (just below a weir) on a metal bridge to find a three-way intersection (with a short track on the left leading to the weir).

4.44 | Optional sidetrip to Weir

(20 m) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads up the narrower track, keeping the creek a short distance to your left. The track leads a short distance to the concrete weir (no swimming). At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn left.

4.44 | Thredbo Village Weir

The Thredbo Weir can be found on the Merritts Nature Track, along a creek that flows from the Rams Head Range. The weir is used to supply water to the village below.

4.44 | Int of weir track and Merritts nature track

(230 m 6 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, the walk follows the track down the hill, keeping the creek to your right. The track winds gently through the mossy valley with tall snow gums and, in time, comes to a clear open intersection with the wide Sundowner ski run (between a water tank and safety barriers), marked with a blue arrow post.

Continue straight: From the opposite side of the clearing to the water tank, this walk follows the blue arrow down the steps along the narrow track. The track then leads down a more gentle series of steps with the mossy creek to your right, and soon comes to a three-way intersection and a 'Birraleee Bush Camp' and a 'Merritts Nature Track' sign (and a footbridge to your right).

4.67 | Optional sidetrip to Birraleee Bushcamp

(50 m 2 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the

'Birralee Bush Camp' sign across the creek using the footbridge. The bridge bends over the mossy creek then the track bends left to reveal the campsite and picnic area. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn right.

4.67 | Birralee Bush camp

Birralee bush camp is a signposted clearing just on the other side of a small creek from Merritts Nature Track (north of Merritts chairlift). Accessed by a bridge, this flat clearing has a picnic table and a bench seat and access to the creek (treat water before drinking). This is naturally shaded, making a great place to cool off and rest on hot days.

4.67 | Int of Merritts nature track and Birralee bushcamp

(290 m 7 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Merritts Nature Track' sign downhill. The track leads alongside the creek and, after a short while, the bush opens up and the track leads under Merritts Chairlift. The walk then finds a 'T' intersection with a management trail marked with another 'Merritts Nature Track' sign.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Merritts Nature Track' sign down along the management trail (keeping the chairlift to your right) and soon crosses the flat wooden bridge. The trail then climbs up the hill for about 60m and just before the crest of the hill, the trail leads to a 'Y' intersection, marked with an arrow post (and a timber-lined track on the left).

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the arrow marker along the timber-lined track and down the steps. The track leads through the bush for a short time and soon comes to a 'T' intersection with another management trail, near the top of the bobsled run, marked with a 'Merritts Nature Track' sign.

4.96 | Int of Merritts nature track and Bobsled service t

(340 m 8 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the wide management trail downhill, keeping the bobsled and main valley to your right. A short distance later, just past the bobsled, this trail leads to a 'Y' intersection (with a timber-lined track on your right) marked with an arrow post.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the arrow post down the track and steep steps. The track zigzags beside the bobsled run (on your right) and then continues down towards the view of Thredbo Village, coming to a 'T' intersection with paved footpath where there is a 'Merritts Nature Track' sign pointing back up the steps.

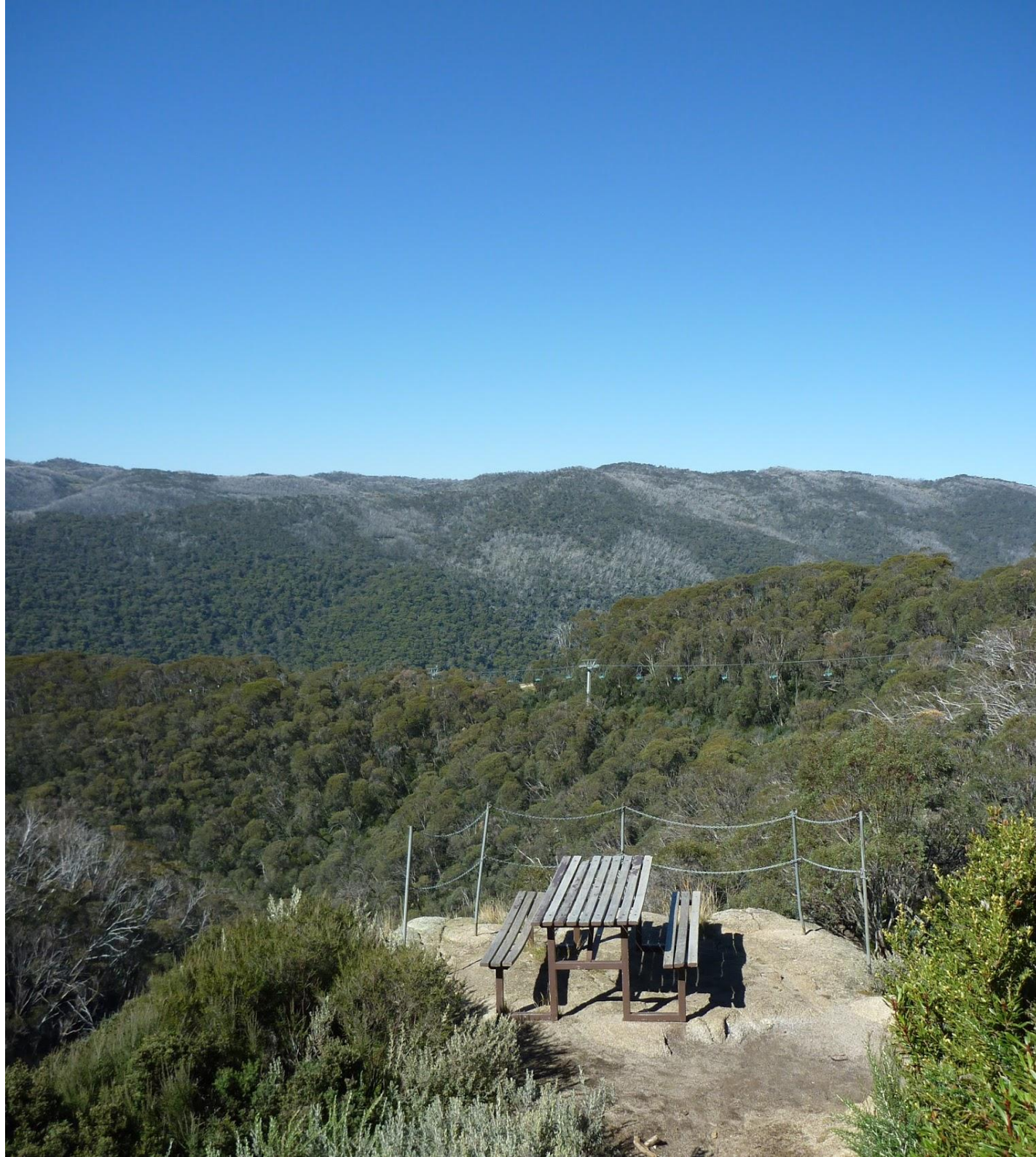
Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the paved footpath west towards the clearing, keeping the valley to your left. The footpath soon leads out of the bush and then along side the bobsled run to find the building at the bottom of the run.

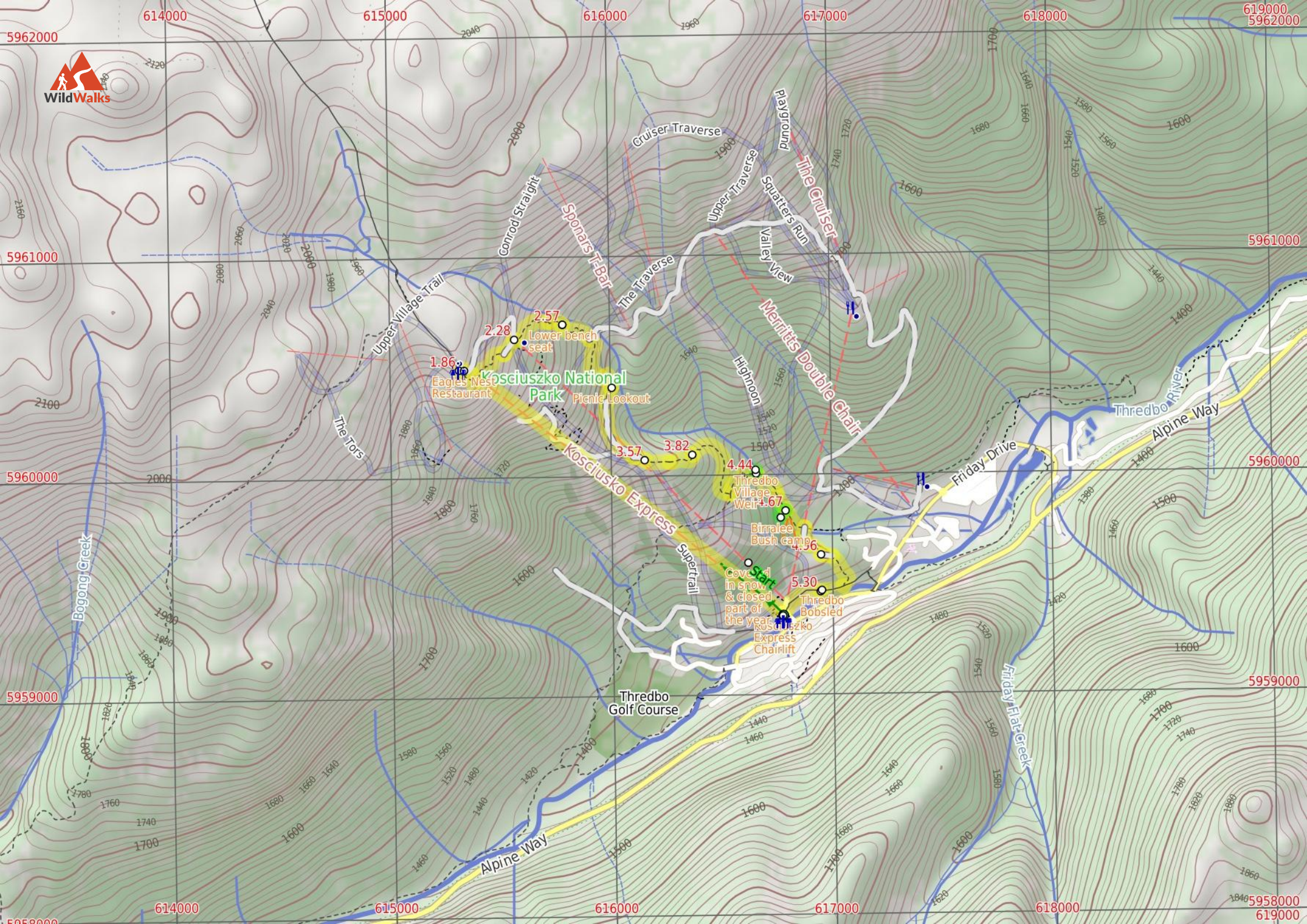
5.3 | Thredbo Bobsled

With a twisting and turning path more than 700m long, this luge-style track is a great summer activity for the family to enjoy whilst staying in Thredbo. Offering individual rides or day passes, allowing you to enjoy this fun ride as many times as you want as you whizz down the mountain on your cart, controlling your speed with a neat hand-break system. [More info.](#)

5.3 | Bottom of bobsled run

(230 m 5 mins) Continue straight: From the bottom of the bobsled run, this walk heads around the building, down the ramp and along the sealed path towards the tennis courts. The walk follows the path beside the tennis courts, then through the car park, and around the front of the buildings to find the entrance to the ticket sales for the Kosciuszko Express chairlift, and a large map.





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Summary navigation sheet for the Merritts Nature Track



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
0.00	Bottom of Kosciuszko Express chairlift -36.504,148.304 (GR Chimneys Ridge, 168594)	558 -1	1.9 km 20 mins	This walk heads into the 'Valley Terminal' building, where you can buy a ticket for the lift.
1.86	Top of Kosciuszko Express chairlift -36.494,148.2875 (GR Perisher Valley, 153605)	11 -84	420 m 12 mins	Turn sharp left: From the top of the chairlift, this walk heads straight downhill (keeping the chairlift to your left) following paved management trail.
2.28	Top of Snowgums chairlift -36.4927,148.2903 (GR Perisher Valley, 156606)	2 -73	290 m 8 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the track that leads down the left side of the Snowgums chairlift, where the track soon passes a 'Merritts Nature Track' sign.
2.57	Lower Bench Seat -36.4921,148.2927 (GR Perisher Valley, 158607)	10 -119	570 m 16 mins	Veer right: From the bench seat, this walk follows the track heading downhill away from the creek.
3.14	Picnic Lookout -36.4947,148.2952 (GR Perisher Valley, 160604)	6 -62	430 m 10 mins	Turn right: From the picnic table and rock platform, this walk heads gently downhill following the track along the side of the hill, keeping the main valley to your left.
3.57	Bunnywalk chairlift station -36.4976,148.2969 (GR Perisher Valley, 162601)	0 -32	240 m 5 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Merritts Nature Track' sign, off the main management trail and along the grassy strip (keeping the management trail through the trees on your left).
3.82	Int of Merritts nature walk and chairlift service trail -36.4974,148.2993 (GR Perisher Valley, 164601)	12 -127	620 m 17 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Merritts Nature Track' sign down the steps and along the narrow track through the dense bushland.
4.44	Int of weir track and Merritts nature track -36.4982,148.3026 (GR Perisher Valley, 167600)	2 0	20 m	Optional sidetrip to Weir. Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads up the narrower track, keeping the creek a short distance to your left.
4.44	Int of weir track and Merritts nature track -36.4982,148.3026 (GR Perisher Valley, 167600)	0 -46	230 m 6 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, the walk follows the track down the hill, keeping the creek to your right.
4.67	Int of Merritts nature track and Birralelee bushcamp tracks -36.4997,148.3041 (GR Perisher Valley, 168598)	7 -1	50 m 2 mins	Optional sidetrip to Birralelee Bushcamp. Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Birralelee Bush Camp' sign across the creek using the footbridge.
4.67	Int of Merritts nature track and Birralelee bushcamp tracks -36.4997,148.3041 (GR Perisher Valley, 168598)	6 -26	290 m 7 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Merritts Nature Track' sign downhill.
4.96	Int of Merritts nature track and Bobsled service trail -36.5015,148.3059 (GR Chimneys Ridge, 169596)	5 -44	340 m 8 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the wide management trail downhill, keeping the bobsled and main valley to your right.
5.30	Bottom of bobsled run -36.503,148.3058 (GR Chimneys Ridge, 169595)	13 -6	230 m 5 mins	Continue straight: From the bottom of the bobsled run, this walk heads around the building, down the ramp and along the sealed path towards the tennis courts.