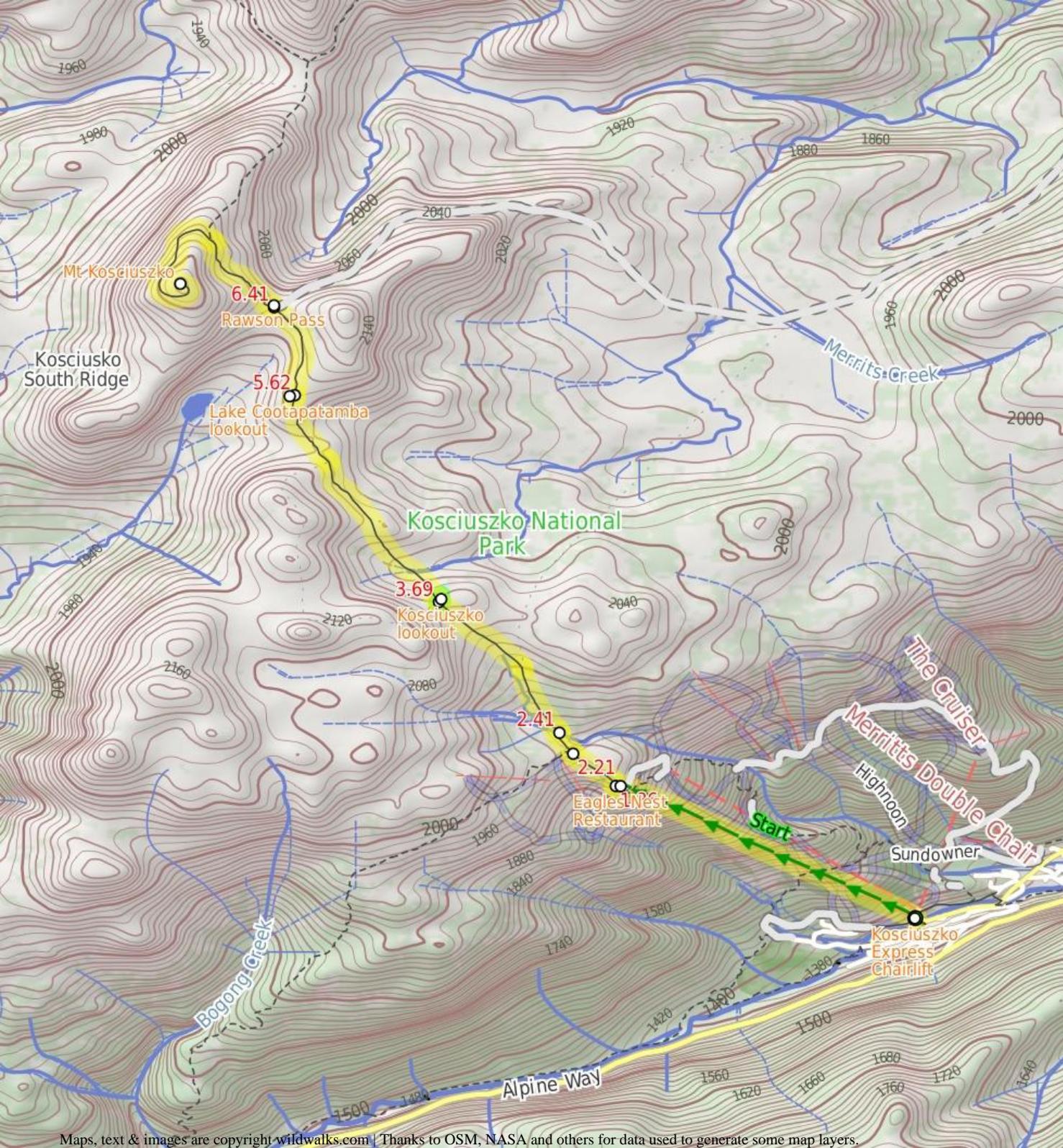


## Kosciuszko walk - Thredbo to Mount Kosciuszko



**6 hrs**

**Hard track**

**12.4 km Return**

**▲ 459m**

4

This popular walk starts with a ride up to the top of the Kosciuszko Express chairlift, and goes to the top of Mt Kosciuszko. From the top of the chairlift, the walk follows a footpath, passing the Kosciuszko and Cootapatamba lookouts, as it winds up to Rawson Pass. At Rawson Pass, the walk meets the old Kosciuszko road and Australia's highest public toilet. From here, the walk continues up the footpath to the top of Mt Kosciuszko. Enjoy the view, and return the same way. If you would prefer the extra walk, you can avoid the chairlift by following Merritts Nature trail or the Dead Horse Gap track.

2222m

1371m

Kosciuszko National Park

### 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 return, 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.it/tmkr>

### 0 | Covered in snow 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. Between May and the end of October, this walk is likely to be covered in snow/ice, visitors should be carrying and be prepared to use snowshoes or cross country skis. When there is a chance of significant snow on the ground, visitors will need particularly strong navigation and snowcraft skills - tracks and signage may not be visible. For most visitors, it is best to consider this walk closed during the colder months.

### 0 | 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 your walk. [More info.](#)

### 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

*(350 m 6 mins)* Turn right: From the top of the chairlift, this walk follows the footpath around Eagles Nest restaurant (keeping the building to your right). The walk passes the large map and information signs, heading up the gentle hill along the paved path. Near the top of the rise, the path leads to a

signposted intersection with the 'Dead Horse Gap' track (on your left), where there is also an arrow pointing back to 'Eagles Nest Restaurant'.

### 2.21 | Int of Dead Horse Gap track and Kosciuszko footpat

*(200 m 3 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Mt Kosciuszko Lookout' sign north along the paved path, heading up the gentle hill. The path soon leads past an alcove with two information signs, then leads gently downhill to cross a river on a steel bridge to find an intersection (with a narrow track on your right) at a lovely spot beside the creek.

### 2.41 | Start of metal walkway

*(1.3 km 31 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads away from the bridge and up the metal steps, keeping the creek to your left. The path soon leads past a large 'Kosciuszko Walk' sign and an 'Everything is connected' information sign. Soon after the 'Thredbo 1.0km' badge (welded to the track), this walk comes to a 'Plant communities - keeping a low profile' information sign, marking an intersection (where the snow-pole line starts to leave the main track).

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk continues along the metal walkway, heading up the hill. The walk soon passes a 'Flowers emerge with warmer weather' information sign, then heads up a series of steps to find 'A rocky mountain home' information sign and a 'Thredbo 1.5km' tag pointing back down the hill. The track mostly flattens out and heads over a gentle rise, soon leading to a clear 'Y' intersection on the metal track, marked with 'Mt Kosciuszko Lookout' tag welded to the track.

### 3.69 | Optional sidetrip to Kosciuszko lookout

*(50 m 1 mins)* Veer right: From the intersection, this walk heads north-east along the metal path that branches off the main path. The path leads a short distance up some steps to soon come to the metal platform at the Kosciuszko lookout. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn sharp right.

### 3.69 | Kosciuszko lookout

Kosciuszko lookout is about 30m off the main Kosciuszko walk, along a metal walkway. At the lookout, there is a larger platform with an information sign about how the landscape was formed over the years. Granting a great view of the Snowy Mountains to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko.

### 3.69 | Int of Kosciuszko path and lookout walkway

*(1.9 km 40 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the metal walkway north, down the gentle hill (initially keeping Mt Kosciuszko lookout to your right). The walk continues along the metal walkway as it dips to cross the upper reaches of the Snowy River. About 400m past the 'Endangered Mammals Live between boulders' sign, the path leads to a faint intersection with the North Rams Head track (where the spur comes down to the metal walkway on your left).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the metal walkway north into the saddle and up the spur. The path then crosses onto the left-hand side of the ridge as it comes to the signposted 'Lake Cootapatamba Lookout' and the great valley view.

### 5.62 | Lake Cootapatamba lookout

Situated on the Kosciuszko walk, this platform looks down over Lake Cootapatamba, in the valley on the western side of the path. This is a pleasant place to stop and enjoy the mountains and views.

### 5.62 | Lake Cootapatamba lookout

*(790 m 14 mins)* Continue straight: From the lookout, this walk follows the metal walkway north, down to the bottom of the small hill, keeping Lake

Cootapatamba to your left. The path then heads up and around the side of the hill to a clearly signposted intersection at 'Rawson Pass'.

### 6.41 | Rawson Pass

Rawson Pass is where the old Kosciuszko Road, from Charlotte Pass, meets the metal walkway from Thredbo. It is home to highest public toilet in Australia, this recently-added facility is perfectly positioned for those taking the walk up to the top of Kosciuszko. Rawson Pass is well signposted and 500m south east of Mt Kosciuszko (by straight line). There is also a place for to park mountain bikes for those cycling along the old road from Charlotte Pass.

### 6.41 | Rawson Pass

*(1.6 km 39 mins)* Veer left: From the intersection at Rawson Pass, this walk follows the 'Mt Kosciuszko' sign uphill along the stone pathway. The stone pathway soon becomes a gravel track and winds up and around the hill, keeping the peak of Mt Kosciuszko to your left. About 500m along the gravel track, this walk comes to a 'Y' intersection (with the Kosciuszko summit track on your left), just past the 'Alpine Walks' sign and map.

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Mt Kosciuszko' sign uphill along the upper track. This track winds steadily up and around the peak of the mountain, passing a stone-paved section of track, and also a metal grate before climbing a few steps to the cairn at the peak of Mt Kosciuszko.

### 8.06 | Mt Kosciuszko

Mt Kosciuszko is the highest peak on the Australian continent, at 2228m above sea level. It was named by the Polish explorer Count Paul Edmund Strzelecki and named in honour of the Polish national hero General Tadeusz Kościuszko. Now a popular tourist attraction, thousands of people walk up to the summit each year. On a clear day, the 360-degree views from the summit across the roof of Australia are fantastic. There are higher mountains elsewhere on Australian territory. The highest mountains in Australian Antarctic Territory are Mt McClintock (3490 meters) and Mt Menzies (3355 meters).'