

Thredbo to Cootapatamba lookout return



3 hrs 45 mins

Hard track

7.5 km Return

287m

4

This walk starts at the Thredbo Village and takes a ride up the Kosciuszko Express chairlift to the Eagles Nest restaurant. Then on foot, you head along the footpath, winding up towards Mt Kosciuszko, passing North Rams Head and the Kosciuszko lookout. The walk soon arrives at the metal platform overlooking Lake Cootapatamba. There are great views through this alpine area along this popular walking track.

2109m

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 walks 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.tl/tklrxx>

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 you 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

(550 m 9 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'.

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.