



## THE HIGH COUNTRY AND BRIGHT

### High Plains and River Valleys

This new tour in Victoria explores the wild mountain scenery of the famous ski village at Falls Creek and the charming country town of Bright on the banks of the Ovens River. In November this region springs to life with alpine flowers and, as usual, we blend our great passion for hiking with the very best food and wine of north east Victoria. The tour combines spectacular hiking on well-graded mountain trails with more leisurely walking in the hills around beautiful Bright, and this is equivalent to one of our Level 3 hikes in Europe. In addition we have a fantastic evening cooking class and dinner with one of the region's best-loved Italian chefs, Patrizia Simone. First-time travellers to the area could extend their trip by exploring some of the High Country's historic towns, gourmet regions or wineries, and we would be happy to offer advice and ideas to make the most of your visit.

#### What's included?

- Two professional guides to look after your every need
- Six nights' B&B accommodation: 3 nights in a luxury alpine lodge and 3 nights in a luxury motel
- Six fully-guided hikes
- Free transfers to and from Albury NSW (airport or train station)
- Fabulous dinners every evening with excellent local and award-winning wines
- Cooking class with Patrizia Simone
- Exceptional picnic lunches
- Comprehensive pre-trip information

#### Itinerary

##### Day 1

We meet you at Albury Airport at 10am. As soon as we leave Albury we cross the Murray River and enter Victoria. A pretty drive follows the Kiewa Valley – with stunning views of Victoria's highest mountain, Mount Bogong - through Mount Beauty to Falls Creek Alpine Village (2hrs). After a picnic lunch we enjoy an easy hike which takes us past the historic Wallaces Hut, built by cattle grazers in 1889. After the hike



we settle in to our cosy accommodation before we gather for a welcome drink and a delicious home-cooked dinner in our private lodge, served with award winning local wines. **(10.5km)**

***As there is the opportunity for a short walk before we check into the accommodation please ensure you are in your hiking gear.***

## Day 2



We start our hike by Pretty Valley lake and follow a wide trail which climbs gently, passing a monument to the cattleman Ben Cooper, before winding its way down to Tawonga Huts. The huts are in an idyllic setting, huddled together in a grassy bowl by a creek. From here, for people up for more of a challenge there is the option to continue, climbing up to the summit of Mount Jaithmathang (1852m). After reaching the summit we return to Tawonga Huts for our picnic lunch. In the afternoon we hike back to Pretty Valley from where we return to Falls Creek by minibus. Time to relax before pre-dinner drinks and a delicious and well-deserved dinner. **(10km + 5km)**

## Day 3

After breakfast we head out onto the Bogong High Plains. We start our hike on the shore of Rocky Valley Dam. The trail climbs gently, with lovely views to the dam and Mount Nelse before heading across the snow plains to a couple of remote huts where we have our picnic which is hiked in for you by your two guides. On a clear day we can see Mount Kosciuszko, 180km away in the distance. In the afternoon we follow an easy aqueduct trail which brings us to the end of the hike. Dinner in a local restaurant in the village. **(18.5km)**



## Day 4:



We depart Falls Creek after breakfast and drive, via Mount Beauty, to Bright. We drive over Tawonga Gap and stop to take in the view to Mount Bogong at a popular lookout. When we reach the valley we start our hike, following a pretty trail which follows the pristine Ovens River and leads to the charming town of Bright. **(7.5km)** After our picnic lunch we check into our accommodation. Time to relax and explore the shops and cafés in Bright before a cooking class and dinner at Simone's Country Cooking School. Patrizia Simone came

to Australia as a young woman and her cooking celebrates the local produce with recipes inspired by north east Victoria and her native Umbria.

## Day 5:

After breakfast a short drive takes us to the start of our walk in Porepunkah. We climb into the hills on wide forestry tracks and enjoy views over the valley before we descend and walk alongside a canyon carved by the Ovens River to arrive in Bright for our picnic. In the afternoon we continue, following a pretty trail along a small creek which climbs gently to arrive in the heritage listed gold mining village of Wandiligong, where our walk ends. **(14km)**. There will be time to indulge in a massage or spa treatment before dinner in a local restaurant.



**Day 6:**

After breakfast we drive up Mount Buffalo. Our hike today takes us to beautiful Lake Catani, with a climb up Mount Dunn, before our picnic lunch on the shores of the lake. In the afternoon we continue on foot to the famous Mount Buffalo Chalet, once one of the greatest tourist attractions of the area and the jewel in the crown of the National Park. At the end of the walk we return to Bright by road. Delicious dinner in a popular local restaurant. **(15km)**

**Day 7:**

Return to Albury for 10.30am

**Hiking information:**

**Shortest/Longest Day 6km/18.5 km**

We walk on well-graded tracks in mountainous terrain. The hiking is fairly rugged in sections so sturdy walking boots, with good ankle support, are recommended. Walking poles would be an advantage, especially on steeper sections. The hikes on Days 2 and 3 have no van access at lunchtime although there is a shorter option available. On these days both guides accompany the group and carry the picnic for you.

The weather in the mountains is prone to sudden changes so be prepared for varied conditions and have suitable warm layers and waterproof clothing. We will send you a full kit list with packing tips before the tour.

**Accommodation:**

We stay in two different locations on this tour.

In **Falls Creek:** Altezza 1570 apartments and Diana Alpine Lodge\*

In **Bright:** The Colonial Motor Inn

\*Solo travellers will stay in the Diana Alpine Lodge

**Cost: \$3150 per person based on two sharing**

**Single Supplement: \$300**

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