

Mt. Baw Baw Xmas period 2019 (v1)

Mt. Baw Baw is one of the highest mountains in the Gippsland area, with an alpine village and small downhill skiing area during winter. The Mt. Baw Baw national park includes its name-sake, but also Mt. Erica and Mt. St. Gwinea (cross country skiing area), and a section of the Great Alpine Walk. The plateau is typical of alpine terrain with twisted snow gums, open snow grass plains, spongy yellow sphagnum moss dotted with large granite tors.



Executive summary

- Trip is from evening 27th December to approx noon 31st.
- Twin share rooms at Ed Ski Lodge in Mt Baw Baw
- BYO linen & most supplies
- Walks will be around the Mt Baw Baw NP + surrounds
- Cost is \$123 + trip fees

Accommodation

Accommodation is at the Ed Ski lodge (32 Currawong Road, Baw Baw Village, VIC, 3833). It has 10 rooms, full kitchen & common bathroom. The lounge includes a billiard and table tennis table, books, TV, and games. There is also an outside deck.

(<https://mountbawbaw.com.au/Edski-Lodge>)

The rooms have a variable configuration but generally consisting of a mix of single beds, single bunk beds, and some double beds.

The entire lodge has been booked for this trip. The intention is to only have 2 people per each of the 10 rooms.

Note that you will need to bring all your own bedding. This includes towel, pillow, pillowcase, blankets and sheets/doona/sleeping bag as desired.

Check-in time is from 9am on the 27th December. Check-out is by noon 31st.

Location

The Mt. Baw Baw village is quite small and will be relatively quiet at this time of the year. The expectation is that there will only be one or two restaurants open at any one time. It is recommended that most of your grocery items (as required for breakfast, lunch and possibly dinner) are brought with you.

Mt Baw Baw is located approximately 160km from Melbourne, travelling either via Maroondah/Warburton Hwy or Princes Hwy. There are two main routes for the last section:

1. Mt Baw Baw Tourist Route

Features stunning views and scenery. The road is fully sealed however does have very steep gradients and several hairpin turns. This road will lead you through the town of Icy Creek and Tanjil Bren. Continue along the road until you reach Mt Baw Baw Gate Entry Intersection on the left.

2. South Face Road

Follow the Princess Hwy (M1 - A1) Turn off at Moe exit and then continue via Erica and Parkers Corner. The South Face Road is approximately 3km after Parkers Corner.

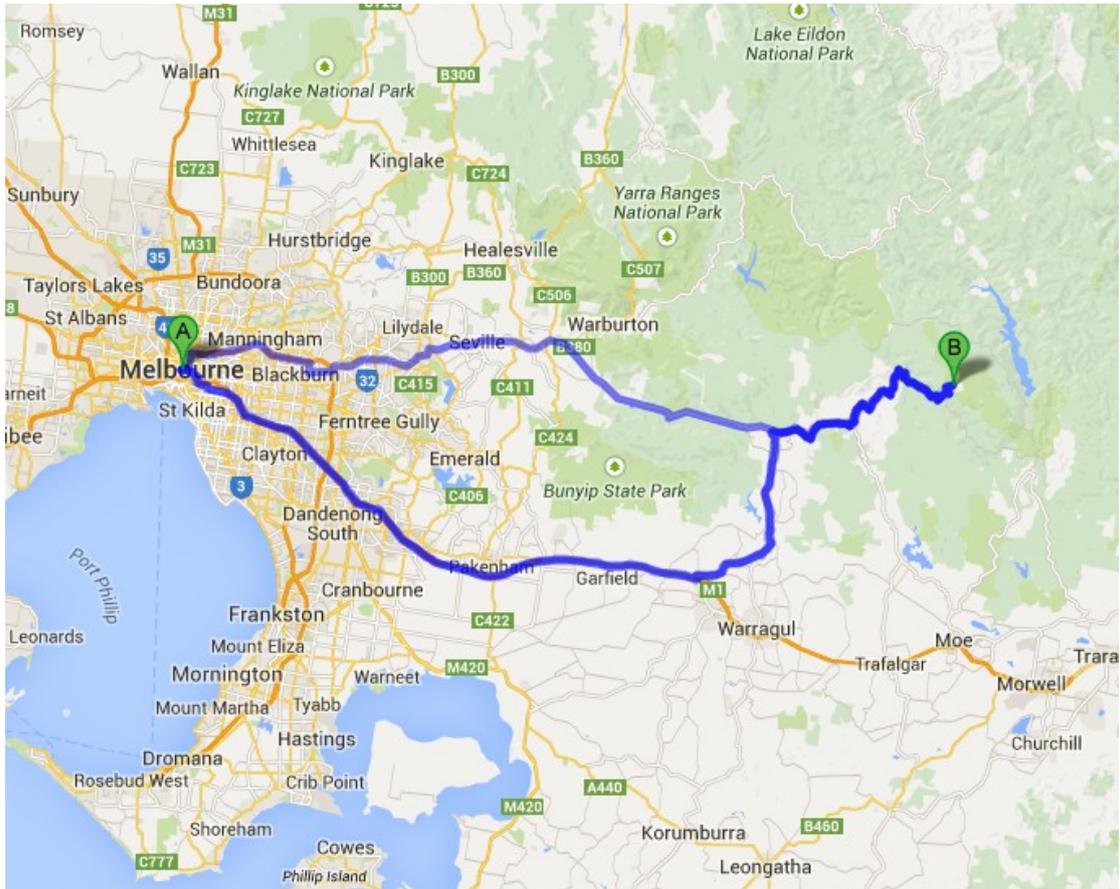
Note: 25km of the South Face Road is unsealed but provides all weather access without steep gradients and hairpin turns.

Transportation

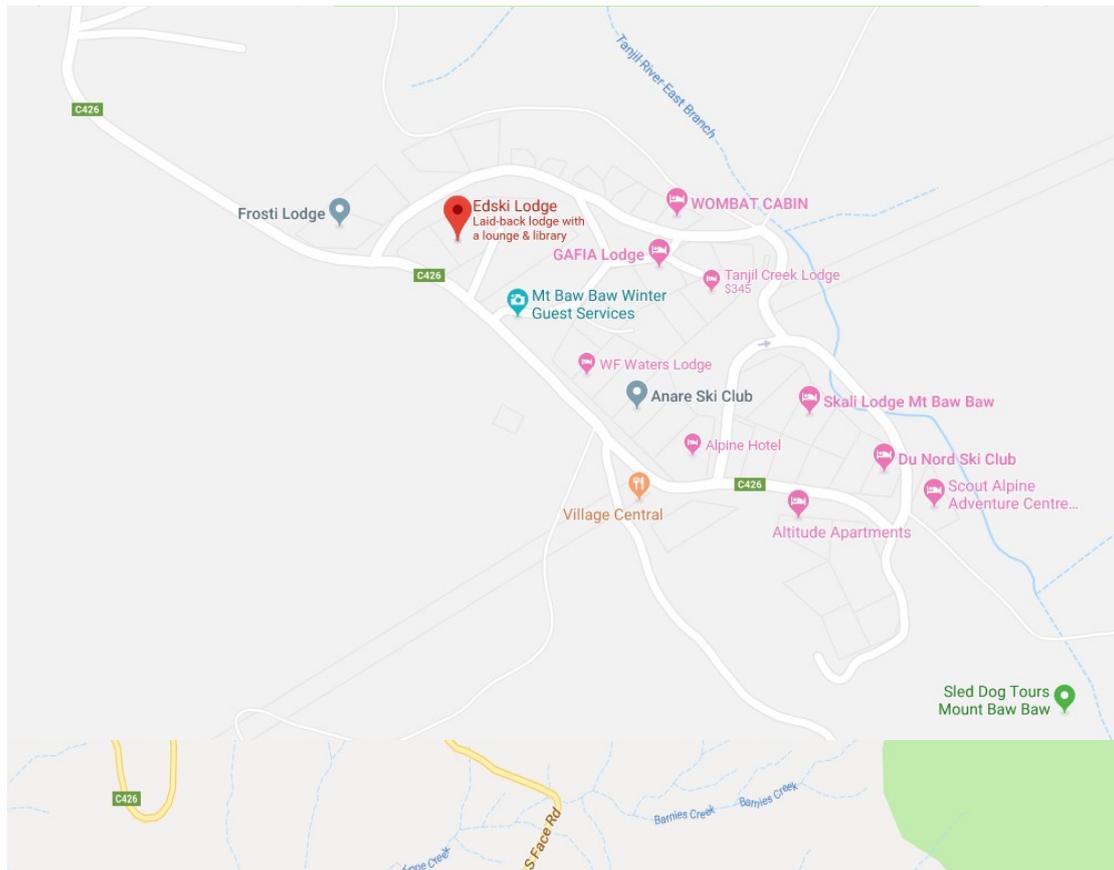
Transportation is by private transport and car pooling, which relies on the generosity of car owners. The car pooling will be organised by the leader 2-3 weeks prior to the trip.

Passengers should note that this is not a taxi service and strive to make circumstances (eg. pickup location) as convenient as possible for the driver. Also, due to a potentially limited number of drivers, passengers may need to accept non-ideal arrangements. In extreme cases, it may not be possible to accommodate all passengers.

There will also be petrol costs for passengers. This is determined by the driver. The maximum amount payable per passenger as per the club policy is to double the fuel cost (use 1.5 if there is only one



passenger) or \$0.30/km and divide by the total number of people in the car. Of course, drivers can charge less.



Costs & payments

Cost per person is \$123 for the 4 nights, plus trip fees. Trip fees are \$0 (trip card), otherwise \$10. Payment can be made at a Westpac branch or via electronic funds transfer into the YHA bushwalking account. The account information is as follows:

Bank=Westpac

BSB=733083

Account no. =00560115 (don't use the leading zeroes for a branch deposit)

Account name = YHA Bushwalking Account

Use '271219_' + your initials for the message (EFT), or the last 5 digits of your phone number (branch deposit).

It is possible to cancel without penalty providing there is someone to replace you. Note that reimbursements are made by the club treasurer after trip completion.

Itinerary

There will be a full day walks for the 1st 3 days and a ½ walk on the last day prior to returning to Melbourne. Participation is optional. The walks are expected to be the following although they may change to accommodate group preferences, weather, etc. Note that alpine areas have a highly variable and cooler weather pattern –

snow can occur at any time.

The walks are to the east of the lodge, which entails travelling along the gravel South Face Road. Although there is additional travelling, the accommodation at Mt Baw Baw is preferable to other options.

Nominal departure time for the walks is 9am, although this may change for various circumstances (you will be advised if this is the case).

Friday 27/12

Arrive afternoon or evening from 2pm onwards.

Saturday:

Walk: Mt. Baw Baw to Mushroom Rocks via Mt. Erica (16km). Starts from Mt. Baw Baw and follows the AAWT via the Talbot Hut ruins, Mt Erica and Mushroom Rocks to the end point. [Requires initial car shuffle.]

Evening: Individual choice of eat-in or eat-out

Sunday:

Walk: Erica weir - O'Sheas Mill (13km)

This walk follows a vehicular track through the forest to Erica weir which supplies the township of Erica. There will be a river crossing and a short 300m off-track section through thick bush to the AAWT, which is followed downhill to the former site of O'Sheas Mill (lunch) and eventually returning to the start. [Option to avoid the 'off track' section is to return the same way.]

Evening: Individual choice of eat-in or eat-out

Monday:

Walk: Wirilda Track (14km)

Commencing from the Moondarra Dam spillway, the track winds through open forests, Boola State Forest & Tyers Regional Park to the Wirilda Environmental Park. It generally follows the Tyler River and passes an old lime quarry and kilns. There will be at least one creek crossing. [Note: 40km car shuffle required.]

Evening: Group pub or restaurant dinner

Tuesday:

Walk: Thompson Station <-> Horse Bend (approx 10km)

This follows the former train line (now used for a tourist train service) to Horseshoe Bend. This is a tunnel created to divert the river flow to permit alluvial gold mining. The area was deforested for gold mining but is now heavily reforested.

Return to Melbourne early afternoon.

Other options:

Mt. Baw Baw to AAWT (north) - ~16km heading north along the AAWT.

Rawson-Poverty Bridge-Thompson St cct (14km)

Marble Quarry (8km rtn, 3h)

What to bring

The following is a non-exhaustive list of suggested items to bring:

- torch
- Towel, pillow, pillowcase, sleeping bag/blankets/sheets/doona
- supplies as required (and/or purchase locally)
- walking gear (plus items for hot, cold and/or wet conditions)
- optional earplugs
- groceries (breakfast, lunch, dinner as required)