

Merritts Traverse



3 hrs

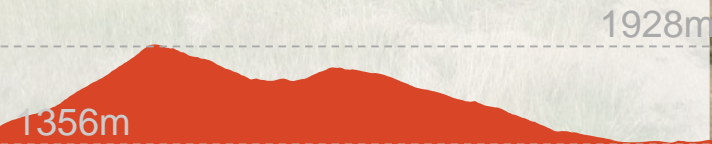
Hard track

5.8 km Circuit

▲ 167m



This walk starts with a scenic journey to the top of the hill on the chairlift. Starting along Merritts Nature walk, this walk soon detours down the hill by following a series of signposted management trails and ski runs. The walk visits a few scenic creeks, but the main highlights are the wide views of Thredbo Valley.



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.

Top of Gunbarrel Express

The top station of Gunbarrel Express provides shade, shelter and views into the valley. In winter, this chairlift provides access to the blue and green ski runs on the eastern side of Thredbo. There is a small weir behind the top station that would require treatment before drinking.

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

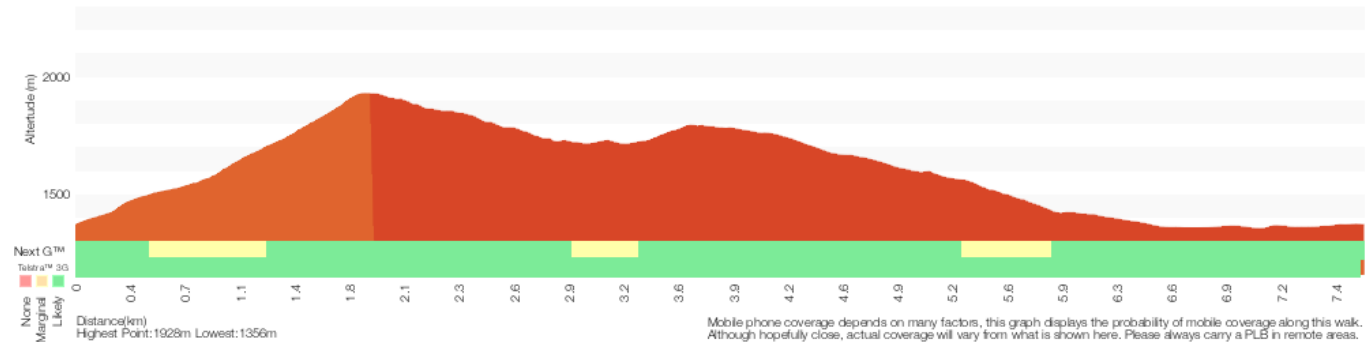
Grade

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	5.8 km Circuit
Time	3 hrs
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	Generally useful facilities (such as fenced cliffs and seats) (1/6)



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.it/1k>

0 | Covered in snow & closed part of the year

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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 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

(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

(210 m 6 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.

2.78 | Int of Merritts nature track and Village trail (up)

(470 m 11 mins) Turn left : From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Merritts Traverse' sign fairly steeply downhill along the wide management trail, as it bends to the right. Soon the walk comes to an intersection and turns sharply left following another 'Merritts Traverse' sign. Now fairly flat, the trail bends around the side of the hill, crossing a creek and then, about 200m later, coming to Sponars T-bar lower station. Continuing along the wide trail (following the arrow posts for just over 200m), this walk then comes to the station at the bottom of Antons T-bar.

3.25 | Bottom of Antons

(500 m 17 mins) Continue straight: From the station at the bottom of Antons T-bar, this walk follows the arrow post along the clear management trail, steeply up the hill. After about 150m, the trail passes just below 'Frostbite' cafe (only open in winter) and continues steeply up the hill. Just as the trail begins to flatten out, it passes an intersection (ignoring the trail on your left) marked with a 'Merritts Traverse' sign. Here the walk continues uphill and soon crosses a creek (with a small dam on your left), coming to the large station at the top of Gunbarrel Express chairlift.

3.75 | Top of Gunbarrel Express

The top station of Gunbarrel Express provides shade, shelter and views into the valley. In winter, this chairlift provides access to the blue and green ski runs on the eastern side of Thredbo. There is a small weir behind the top station that would require treatment before drinking.

3.75 | Top of Gunbarrel Express

(840 m 19 mins) Continue straight: From the station at the top of Gunbarrel Express, this walk heads east following the wide management trail, keeping

the main valley to your right. Soon this walk takes the right-hand fork at the 'Y' intersection, following the 'Merritts Traverse' sign gently downhill. After about 300m of following the arrow posts across a couple of ski runs, this walk comes to another 'Merritts Traverse' sign. Here the walk turns right and heads down the middle of the ski run. Soon the grassy trail leads to the left, following an arrow post through a grove of trees, and then turns right and follows beside the chairlift down to the station at the bottom of 'The Cruiser'.

4.59 | Bottom of The Cruiser

(1.5 km 37 mins) Turn left : From the the bottom of the chairlift, this walk follows the 'Merritts Traverse' sign downhill along the wide management trail, initially keeping the Cruiser station to your right. The trail leads down the hill, fairly steeply in places, and after about 270m, the trail bends sharply left then after a further 240m, it bends sharply right. The trail leads through the snow gum forest and past a few small service buildings to pass under a chairlift. Just over 200m after passing under Gunbarrel Express chairlift, the trail heads over a creek then follows beside Merritts chairlift to find a clear three-way intersection. There is another 'Merritts Traverse' sign pointing back up the hill.

6.11 | Schuss intersection

(480 m 10 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk heads away from Merritts Chairlift and the face of the 'Merritts Traverse' sign, to head downhill along the management trail. This section of the walk follows the 'Sundowner' ski run over a (lovely mossy) creek and down this hill to Friday Flats, a large open area at the bottom of Gunbarrel Express. Just beyond the chairlift station, this walk comes to an intersection at the start of the sealed driveway, marked with a 'Bridle Trail Loop' and 'Merritts Traverse' sign.

6.59 | Friday Flat

Friday Flat is an open flat area at the Bottom of the Easy-Does-it and Gunbarrel chairlifts. Friday Flat is a hub for beginner and hungry skiers in winter. In summer, all the facilities are closed, but the web cam seems to run most of the time.

6.59 | Friday Flats

(60 m 1 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the driveway down the hill, past 'Thredboland' to come to a 'T' intersection with Friday Drive (about 80m south of the roundabout).

6.65 | Thredboland intersection

(430 m 8 mins) Turn sharp right: From the intersection, this walk follows the footpath keeping Friday Dr to your left, heading away from the roundabout, to cross a bridge almost immediately. The walk continues along the side of the road past 'River Inn' and about 100m later passes the 'Thredbo Leisure Centre' (on the other side of the road). Just shy of 200m later this walk comes to an intersection with a set of steps signposted as 'Merritts Nature Track' (on your right), just before the Thredbo River bridge.

7.08 | Int of Friday Drive and Merritts Nature Track

(70 m 2 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Merritts Nature Track' sign up the steps and along the paved footpath, soon coming to a 'T' intersection marked with a 'Merritts Nature Walk' sign.

7.15 | Int of Riverview Terrace track and Merritts Nature

(240 m 4 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Merritts Nature Walk' sign along the paved footpath, keeping the road and valley to your left. The path soon crosses a metal grate and heads through a grove of trees, coming to a three-way intersection marked with an arrow post (and a 'Merritts Nature Track' sign pointing up the steps the right).

Continue straight: 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.

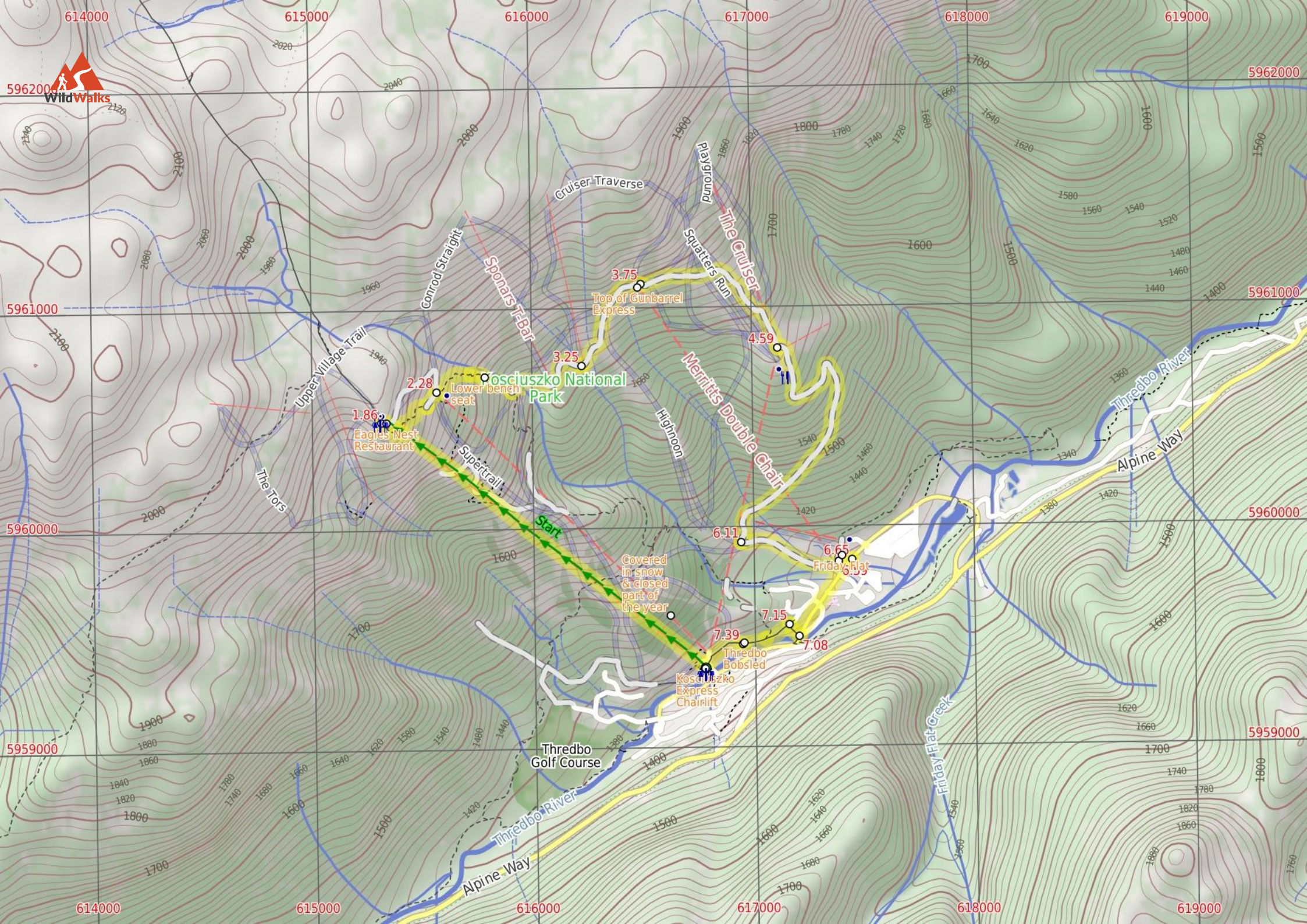
7.39 | Thredbo Bobsled

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.](#)

7.39 | 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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Wildwalks

Cruiser Traverse

Playground

Squatters Run

Meritts Double Chair

Conrod Straight

Sponars T-Bar

Top of Gunbarrel Express

3.25

3.75

4.59

Upper Village Trail

2.28

Eagles Nest Restaurant

1.86

Supertrail

Start

Covered in snow & closed part of the year

6.11

6.65

Friday Hat

7.39

Thredbo Bobsled

7.15

7.08

Kosciuszko Express Chairlift

Thredbo Golf Course

Thredbo River

Alpine Way

Friday Flat Creek

Thredbo River

Alpine Way

Summary navigation sheet for the Merritts Traverse



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)	1 -48	210 m 6 mins	Veer right: From the bench seat, this walk follows the track heading downhill away from the creek.
2.78	Int of Merritts nature track and Village trail (upper) -36.4927,148.2941 (GR Perisher Valley, 159606)	20 -42	470 m 11 mins	Turn left : From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Merritts Traverse' sign fairly steeply downhill along the wide management trail, as it bends to the right.
3.25	Bottom of Antons -36.4916,148.2976 (GR Perisher Valley, 162607)	85 -11	500 m 17 mins	Continue straight: From the station at the bottom of Antons T-bar, this walk follows the arrow post along the clear management trail, steeply up the hill.
3.75	Top of Gunbarrel Express -36.4883,148.3006 (GR Perisher Valley, 165611)	3 -125	840 m 19 mins	Continue straight: From the station at the top of Gunbarrel Express, this walk heads east following the wide management trail, keeping the main valley to your right.
4.59	Bottom of The Cruiser -36.4909,148.3076 (GR Perisher Valley, 171608)	9 -261	1.5 km 37 mins	Turn left : From the the bottom of the chairlift, this walk follows the 'Merritts Traverse' sign downhill along the wide management trail, initially keeping the Cruiser station to your right.
6.11	Schuss intersection -36.4988,148.3057 (GR Perisher Valley, 169599)	0 -55	480 m 10 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk heads away from Merritts Chairlift and the face of the 'Merritts Traverse' sign, to head downhill along the management trail.
6.59	Friday Flats -36.4996,148.3107 (GR Perisher Valley, 174598)	0 -2	60 m 1 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the driveway down the hill, past 'Thredboland' to come to a 'T' intersection with Friday Drive (about 80m south of the roundabout).
6.65	Thredboland intersection -36.4995,148.3114 (GR Perisher Valley, 174598)	7 -10	430 m 8 mins	Turn sharp right: From the intersection, this walk follows the footpath keeping Friday Dr to your left, heading away from the roundabout, to cross a bridge almost immediately.
7.08	Int of Friday Drive and Merritts Nature Track -36.5027,148.3087 (GR Chimneys Ridge, 172595)	11 0	70 m 2 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Merritts Nature Track' sign up the steps and along the paved footpath, soon coming to a 'T' intersection marked with a 'Merritts Nature Walk' sign.
7.15	Int of Riverview Terrace track and Merritts Nature Track -36.5022,148.3082 (GR Chimneys Ridge, 172596)	5 -8	240 m 4 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Merritts Nature Walk' sign along the paved footpath, keeping the road and valley to your left.
7.39	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.