

SWIFTS CREEK + SURROUNDS WALKS AND RIDES

We would like to acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people as the traditional owners of the country on which we walk and ride. We pay our respects to their elders past, present, and emerging, and recognise their ongoing connection to this land and waters.

Please note that no responsibility is taken for any issues encountered by walkers or cyclists. Check the weather, wear weather appropriate clothing and covered footwear, and ensure you carry water, especially in the summer. These walks are in rural areas and walkers should be aware that snakes may be around in the warmer months. Be safe and we hope you enjoy your time in our part of the world. Any feedback, photos and suggestions are welcome to our FB page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/visitswiftscreeksurrounds>

Public Toilets: Ensay Recreation Reserve, Swifts Creek Hall, Cassilis Recreation Reserve

TAMBO CROSSING

Explore, replenish

Turn off at Tambo Spur Road and take a break in the picnic area. There is an interesting history board including details of a fatal fight over cattle, in 1861. Named by early explorers in 1839, Tambo River is believed to derive from the Ngarigo language word meaning fish.

REEDY FLAT

Drive, walk, ride

Reedy Flat Memorial, Sandy Creek Road, Hammonds Road

Difficulty: Easy, gently rising terrain. Sealed road, then a natural surface | **Length:** 20 km return

The Reedy Flat World War One memorial is 10 km off the Great Alpine Road, south of Swifts Creek, on Sandy Creek Road. Follow the road for 7km and then turn right into Hammonds Road. (You could walk from here). The memorial is 2.5 km from the turn off. Park at the Memorial and walk for 2km further along Hammonds Road for gorgeous views of rolling hills, pastoral land and the Nunniong Ranges looming up in the distance. Return to the Memorial for refreshments on the bench seats. The First World War memorial was conceived of, designed, funded, built and maintained entirely by local people. Thirty three men enlisted, nine of whom lost their lives. Descendants of these men still reside in the district. Peaceful, quiet country.

ENSAY

Replenish

Ensay Winery, 5094 Great Alpine Road (03) 5157 3203

Ensay Winery specialises in Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir wines, 100% grown, made and sold on the property. Open most weekends (call ahead if travelling far), daily during public and school holidays, or by appointment. Closed Christmas Day. Outdoor picnic tables provided so feel free to pack a lunch and enjoy the scenery! <https://ensaywinery.com.au>

Eat, drink, stay

Little River Inn, Horsfall Street (03) 5157 3311

The Little River Inn started as a shack in the 1840s and is believed to be the oldest hotel in East Gippsland. A welcoming place where you can enjoy a cold beer, good pub meal and budget accommodation. The Inn features local history memorabilia which includes stories about past residents and early settlers. There is a good chance you will sit next to a local related to one of those people, if you call in, and if you want to hear some good yarns. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057310065661>

Walk, ride, photograph

Horsfall Street

Difficulty: Moderate, slight incline. Sealed road. | **Length:** 5 km return

Head east along Horsfall Street past the Little River Inn noting on your right the historic Ensay Calf and Sheep yards and the accompanying mural on your left. Sheep and calf sales have been held annually in the Ensay yards since 1920, the last sale being held in 2025. Follow the road over the bridge across the Little River bearing left onto the Little River Road. Proceed up the hill past picturesque cattle properties. As you reach the summit the view opens out onto historic Ensay Station, where the much photographed ruins of the Ensay Station Woolshed can be seen. The beautiful Little River wends its way across paddocks managed by high country cattle producers for more than 100 years. Ensay Station Homestead can be seen in the distance. Please note that **no public access** is available to the Ensay Station Woolshed, Ensay Station property nor the Ensay Station Homestead.

Stay, refresh, explore

Ensay Recreation Reserve, 59 Ensay-Doctors Flat Road

Ensay Recreation Ground offers a peaceful camping experience with a range of facilities and activities. Travellers praise the site's natural beauty, with kangaroos, sheep, and a nearby river featuring swimming holes. The current non-powered sites cost \$5 per night, with access to older public toilets. Powered sites are available at a price of \$20 per night which includes access to the all-new shower and toilet facilities. A coin and card laundry facility is available, along with an electric BBQ area and playground facilities. The caretaker collects payment daily. Pavilion hire and larger group booking are also available by contacting Emma on 0438758598.

Walk, ride, stay

Ensay-Doctors Flat Road

Difficulty: Easy to moderate. Sealed road | **Length:** 15km return

Start at the Ensay Recreation Reserve and head off along the picturesque Ensay-Doctors Flat Road to the Great Alpine Road in Doctors Flat. Check out the mural featuring the old Doctors Flat Pub, and settler Dr Alexander Arbuckle, who was the first doctor in East Gippsland, arriving in 1840, and also (allegedly) the first planter of potatoes in the area. The pub was moved to Swifts Creek in 1926.

Walk, explore, ponder

Ensay Cemetery, 5255 Great Alpine Road

The Ensay Cemetery was gazetted on 22 December 1893, and the first burial noted in the cemetery register for the new site was Norah Hamilton, aged 16 years. She died 30 January 1894 and was buried 31 January 1894. Her parents were Thomas McKnight Hamilton, Grazier, and Martha Rutledge. The next set of burials were on 22 April 1895 when two children; Charlotte Helen McCoy (aged 7 years) and Duncan Robert McCoy (2 years), were interred. Both children died of diphtheria. Their parents were James McCoy (Farmer) and Margaret McDougall. Charlotte died 18 April 1895, and Robert died 19 April 1895. Thomas Taylor, a well-known early pioneer who arrived in Ensay in 1887 as a young man of 20 was buried at the cemetery in March 1953 at the age of 85.

Rest, photograph

Connors Hill Lookout

On your right coming into Swifts Creek, left leaving Swifts Creek, Connors Hill Lookout overlooks a sweeping valley of paddocks and the Angora mountain range. The expansive, picturesque view provides a great opportunity for a rest, photographs, and refreshments. Named after dray driver Tom Connors who was fatally injured in 1859 when he hit a stump and his dray overturned.

CASSILIS

Drive, walk, ride

Swifts Creek>Cassilis Road> Omeo >Swifts Creek Loop

Difficulty: Easy to moderate on sealed road but some very steep sections on the run up to Omeo. Return along the Great Alpine Road to Swifts Creek | **Length:** 60km return

Travelling from Swifts Creek to Omeo via the fully sealed Cassilis Road offers a scenic alternative to the Great Alpine Road. Watch out for mobs of emus, especially in the middle section, and kangaroos and wallabies, particularly in the evening. The road ascends from 330m at Swifts Creek to 685m at Omeo. The first 5km of Cassilis Road are gently undulating until Ben's Crossing, where the road starts gently upwards for the next few kilometres to the Charlotte Spur Rd, around 10km from the ride start. The road flattens for a while, and the more open country offers a chance for a short rest under a shady tree. The road then gets steeper until Mt Delusion Road, 18km from the start. Cassilis Road then undulates with a downhill run to Livingston Creek. The road then continues to the Great Alpine Road, turn right into Omeo, 32km from the start.

Walk, ride, relax

Rileys Creek Road (just by Ben's Crossing)

Difficulty: Easy on sealed road leading to dirt road | **Length:** 4km return (no through road)

A nice walk/ride to take a breather and meander. Following Rileys Creek, emus, wallabies and possums take advantage of the quiet area to look for food and water. There have been reports of platypus in the creek. Lots of shady trees to sit under.

Walk, reflect

Jirnkee Race Walk

Difficulty: Hard. Very steep sections, unformed track, directional markers | **Length:** 2km (1.5 hours return est)

This walk of the final section of the historic Jirnkee Race begins 900m north-west of Charlotte Spur Track on the Cassilis Road. A large tree stump on the left side of the road (coming from Swifts Creek) marks the start of the walk. Look for the orange markers. The track, flat at first, follows an old miners' path which heads uphill towards the final section of the Jirnkee Water Race. It is well worth the steep climb through the Box Eucalypt forest to see the trench where the race once gave way to a steel pipeline used for both water sluicing of the gravel beds below and for power generation, and up to the race termination point where gates once controlled water flow. From here the track is almost flat as it hugs the plateau where the race was dug into the rocky ground using hand tools. The views from the plateau to the surrounding ranges are spectacular in places. The track veers back downhill to the starting point after about 300 metres. Follow the markers to the bottom – beware, the descent is steep and the surface sometimes unstable.

<https://www.visiteastgippsland.com.au/itinerary/cassilis-bushwalking-trails/>

Walk, reflect

Mt Hepburn (King Cassilis) Mine & Treatment Works

Difficulty: Hard. Steep sections | **Length:** 2 km (1.5 hours return est)

To visit this historic gold mining area, drive 10km from Swifts Creek or 20km from Omeo on the Cassilis Road. Turn on to Charlotte Spur Track, and you can park here by the notice boards or cross the Swifts Creek ford after 150m and turn left 30 metres past the ford on to an unmarked track. The walk to King Cassilis Mine follows a 4WD track up the hill. After 200m pass a mullock heap and adit (horizontal tunnel) – site of a mine known as the Boatman. Continuing on a lower track leads to the main adit of the Mt Hepburn Mine. Continue back up the hill and along the main track to the workings known as the Chamber of Horrors. This large cavity is where the gold-bearing stone was mined. Continue along the steeply descending track. At the bottom of this section see the fireplace remains in the gully above the track. A short distance along are the remains of an old explosives magazine store. Continue through the treatment works to complete the loop. <https://www.visiteastgippsland.com.au/itinerary/cassilis-bushwalking-trails/>

Walk, ride, replenish

Cassilis Estate, 1314 Cassilis Road, Cassilis

This small vineyard provides a range of wine styles such as Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Gris. At times they produce a Field Blend, Rosé or Traminer depending on the season. The orchard was planted in 2010 with Heritage and Cider apples to produce a range of ciders which includes a Heritage Cider, Ginger Cider, Kingston Black and Brown Snout with other varietal ciders being produced as the harvest improves. The Estate also produce a Perry made from pears and an apple cider vinegar and verjuice as well. Cellar Door is generally on weekends and holidays but check online for specific times and days. It will also open by appointment, and

visitors can enjoy a chilled wine or cider along with a lovely grazing platter. The Cellar Door is also the production space and there is a variety of local produce and crafts available for sale. <https://cassilisestate.com>

Walk, ride, stay

Cassilis Cemetery and Recreation Reserve, Cemetery Gully Road

Difficulty: easy natural surface | **Length:** 1.5km return

Cassilis Recreation Reserve

Perfect for a break in a serene and shady spot. Kangaroos and wallabies are often seen resting and mobs of wild emus regularly wander about the area. The Reserve was gazetted in 1896 and has served as a location for picnic races and community events for many years. In 2012 a Memorial Arboretum was established within the Reserve to remember loved ones, with plantings of deciduous & native trees and an orchard for the community to enjoy. Facilities include an undercover shelter, two toilets with disabled access, water, BBQ facilities, fire pit, tables and chairs. There is also a gazebo, picnic tables and chairs available for hire. This is a free campsite with a limit of up to 10 sites. To gain access to the Recreation Reserve for camping visitors can call Howard Reddish on 0437571266 or Debra Herbertson on 0425850148. Community Markets are held seasonally for both visitors and locals to enjoy.

Cassilis Cemetery

Cassilis Cemetery, also known as Tongio West/Cassilis Cemetery, is a historic rural cemetery serving the local gold rush villages, with its reserve gazetted in 1877. While the earliest headstone dates to 1884, it may contain around 200 burials. The cemetery has limited surviving headstones due to vandalism in the mid 20th century, but recent geophysical surveys have identified potential grave sites which have been marked with pavers. The cemetery is known as a serene, peaceful, and shady location and has a number of beautiful large trees which are on the National Trust Significant Tree Register.

SWIFTS CREEK

Named for a gold prospector who worked the alluvial gold deposits here in 1850. The Indigenous name for Swifts Creek is Bun Jirrah Gingee Munjie, meaning 'big kangaroos go to this place'. Which they still do.

Walk, replenish

Poets Walk Swifts Creek

Difficulty: Easy, natural surface | **Length:** 1.2m loop

Tables and seating are provided for breaks. Please remove any rubbish or dog poo (bins available outside the IGA/Village Store). *A River's Mark*, a poem by the late Swifts Creek artist, John Butler, inspired the creation of this Poet's Walk and his poem is immortalised on a series of cairns along the walk. Start at the Great Alpine Road bridge (just past the police station) and follow the trail along Swifts Creek to its junction with the Tambo River, then along the Tambo River to McMillan Road by the Caravan Park. The walk has been carefully regenerated and planted with native shrubs, plants and trees. This is an ideal break and a quiet spot for lunch or coffee.

Stay, explore

Swifts Creek Caravan and Tourist Park, 11 McLarty Road, Swifts Creek, just off the Great Alpine Road

The park has both powered and unpowered sites, along with a range of facilities including showers and toilets, a large undercover fireplace area (suitable for groups), undercover barbecue, and children's playground. The caravan park sits on the banks of the Tambo River. Bookings are made at the Village Store in Swifts Creek (03) 5159 4205.

Walk, ride

Swifts Creek Caravan Park to McLarty's Gate

Difficulty: Easy, natural surface | **Length:** 2 km return

Popular with locals, this walk begins at the caravan park at the McMillan Street bridge over the Tambo River and continues for one kilometre to the farm gate across the road. This quiet country lane, with its rustic wooden fences and pleasant views of the surrounding farmland, hugs the course of the river. It is shaded by a number of magnificent, mature eucalyptus trees, predominantly Yellow Box. In the early hours of the morning or evening, especially during cooler months, keep a look out for the platypus – *Ornithorhynchus anatinus* – which forage for worms and aquatic insects in and along the banks of the river.

Walk, ride

Swifts Creek to Sheltons Lane

Difficulty: Easy, along a natural surfaced pathway | **Length:** 2km round trip

A great little walk to stretch the legs after a long drive and ideal exercise for a dog or small children. Start outside the Junction Hotel, past Creekers Café, Swifts Creek School and the post office, the stately avenue of Plane Trees that were planted by members of the Swifts Creek Country Women's Association in 1934 to mark the Centenary of Victoria. Stop for a rest on the Mosaic Seat created by Great Alpine Gallery Artists with the help of children from Swifts Creek Primary School. Cross the small pedestrian bridge into Sheltons Lane and enjoy the sweeping views of the river flats and the high forested ridges of the hills above the Tambo Valley.

Visit, admire, buy

Great Alpine Gallery, 6881 Great Alpine Road, Swifts Creek

The Great Alpine Gallery is an artist-run gallery featuring the work of local artists in all media as well as a range of exhibitions throughout the year. The Gallery was established in 1998 by local artists as a cultural focal point and outlet for selling their works. It has become the creative hub for the Tambo Valley, not only featuring quality works and exhibitions, but presenting workshops, openings and multi-arts projects for the wider community. Run entirely by volunteers, the gallery is supported by memberships, donations, sales and grants for specific projects. Entry to the gallery is free, and everyone is welcome. <https://greatalpinegallery.org.au>

Thursday to Monday 10.30am – 3.30pm

Eat, drink

Creekers Cafe

6864 Great Alpine Rd, Swifts Creek

Creekers offers a wide range of cafe style food, coffee and giftware. Renowned for their generous burgers, they also have a range of home baked pies, sandwiches and yummy chips. <https://www.facebook.com/p/Creekers-Cafe-and-giftware-100054622741433/>

Monday to Friday 8am to 4.00pm. Closed Saturday. Sunday 9.30am to 4.00pm

Eat, drink

Swifts Creek Bakery

6875 Great Alpine Road, Swifts Creek

Great coffee, pies and sandwiches, and home baked bread. Particularly known for their delicious cakes, made on site.

<https://www.facebook.com/swiftscreekbakery/>

Monday to Friday 7.00am to 3.00pm. Saturday 7.00am to 2.00pm. Closed Sunday

Eat, drink

Junction Hotel

6880 Great Alpine Road, Swifts Creek. Currently closed, and for sale (as of July 2026)

<https://www.facebook.com/junctionhotelswiftscreek/>

Replenish

Village Store (IGA)

6887 Great Alpine Road, Swifts Creek

Monday to Friday 7.00am to 7.00pm. Saturday and Sunday 8.00am to 7.00pm. Bookings for Swifts Creek Caravan Park.

<https://www.facebook.com/SwiftsCreekIga/>

Walk, ride

Swifts Creek Road East to Doctors Flat

Difficulty: Easy to moderate | **Length:** 7km (14km return)

The route starts at Swifts Creek East Road opposite the Swifts Creek Caravan Park, beside the scenic Tambo River. The road is sealed, and winds through riverside eucalypts and lush farmland to Doctors Flat (named after Dr Arbuckle as depicted on the mural). Lots of stops to check out the Tambo and even throw a rod in to see if the trout are biting.

BINDI

Drive, walk, ride | Bindi Road, Bindi

Difficulty: Easy | **Length:** 5km loop

Ride or drive to the Bindi Road turn off along the Great Alpine Road. Park at the bus stop and walk/ride the 8km to the water tank, or park at the water tank and turn right towards the yellow house, along Old Bindi Road for the 5km loop. This route crosses the small Junction Creek, which is generally navigable at ankle depth (stones are in place to help the crossing), but a walking stick is recommended to cross if uncertain. Locals leave sticks/branches here for visitors to use, but sometimes local dogs run off with them. Continue to the junction with Nunniong Road and turn right, past horses and farmland to the bridge across the Tambo River. At the junction with Bindi Road, turn right looping back to the water tank. A lovely quiet route across pastoral land and friendly horses, kangaroos at dusk, with views of the state forest, Mt Bindi and the beginnings of the Nunniong Forest Drive.

Play, stay

Tambo Valley Golf Club, 203 Nunniong Road, Bindi

Green Fees are \$20.00 per person for all day play. Visitors welcome. Ph: 5159 4326 or Bill Cooper 0409 994 311.

Buy

Nullamanjie Olive Grove

290 Bindi Road, Tongio

Nullamanjie is a true single estate olive oil, grown, pressed and bottled on the estate. The olives are processed within 2-4 hours of being harvested fresh from the trees. Produce may be bought on site (go up the drive and park) or from the Village Store in Swifts Creek.

Drive, walk, camp | Nunniong Forest Drive

Length: 67km one way

The Nunniong Forest Drive starts in Bindi or Ensay.

Good natural surface road, suitable for 4WD and 2WD but winter weather can be treacherous for 2WD so best not to go through if it's been snowing or raining or be prepared to turn back if unsafe. This forest drive winds deep into the heart of Bentley Plain and showcases the scenery of the Nunniong State Forest. There are camping and picnic facilities, as well as great walks.

<https://www.visiteastgippsland.com.au/itinerary/bentley-plain-walks>

Helenka King | August 2026 | with special thanks to Tracey Joyce, Kim and Ken Skews, Jane Rowe and John O'Neill

Map created by <https://alexshotchin.com>

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