

Daylesford

WALKING TRAILS



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Lake Daylesford. Image: Visit Victoria

Daylesford offers many opportunities to stretch the legs and enjoy the pristine natural environment surrounding this Victorian-era township. From lovely lakeside trails to winding bush tracks, you'll find a walk to suit your ability and fitness level. Stay safe and enjoy exploring the region on foot!

Use the QR codes provided in this brochure to access a Google map for each walk.



Acknowledgement of country

We would like to acknowledge and pay our respects to the Dja Dja Wurrung as the traditional owners of the land we walk on. On these lands, the Djaara have performed age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal. We acknowledge their living culture and the unique role they play in the life of this region.

Visit
Hepburn Shire



Daylesford Regional Visitor Information Centre
98 Vincent Street, Daylesford
Phone: 1800 454 891
Open 7 days 10am to 4pm
www.visithepburnshire.com.au
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1 History of Daylesford Self-Guided Walk

Distance: 3-kilometre loop | Time: 1 hour | Grade: Easy

Before the discovery of gold, the Daylesford area was heavily forested and home of the Dja Dja Wurrung First People. The town was founded on the back of the Gold Rush, but saw-milling, agriculture, and of course, tourism all played a part in its development. From as early as 1865, the region's mineral springs began to attract visitors from Melbourne, and the numbers increased dramatically with the opening of the railway station in 1883.

Pick up a detailed self-guided heritage walking tour map from the Daylesford Regional Visitor Information Centre and head off to admire the town's magnificent municipal buildings, imposing stone churches, and characterful cottages. If you're visiting on a Saturday, it's also well worth visiting the excellent Daylesford & District Historical Society Museum for more information on the town's history. It's open from 11am to 3pm.

Map



The Convent Gallery

Please note: While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication and its associated maps, Hepburn Shire Council disclaims any liability for any error, loss, or other consequence that may arise from the reader relying on any information in this publication.



Walk from Central Springs Reserve to Sutton Spring. Image: Adam Ford

6 Goldfields Track Taster from Lake Daylesford

Distance: 2.6-kilometres loop | Time: 1.5 hours | Grade: Moderate

As an extension to the Lake Daylesford circuit, consider walking a short section of the Goldfields Track towards Castlemaine (also known as Dry Diggings Track). Start this walk at Central Springs Reserve below the south-west corner of the Lake (just a short walk downhill from the spillway). Follow the course of Wombat Creek along the wide gravel path until you arrive at Sutton Spring. From here, you can either cross the footbridge and walk back up the other side of the Creek to your starting point – or do a longer walk towards the Midland Highway and Twin Bridges, before returning to this point and heading back up to the Lake.

If you choose to do the latter, look for the uphill track spur when you reach Sutton Spring. It's marked by a sign pointing towards Twin Bridges. The track is clearly defined but very narrow, and there are steep drops towards the creek – so take extra care. Continue for one kilometre until you reach the carpark adjacent to the Midland Highway. **We do not advise crossing this major road.** Instead, turn left and cross the footbridge, following the signs to The Three Lost Childrens Walk and Lake Daylesford. Climb the stairs, then take the left-hand turn back towards the Lake. Continue along this narrow track until you reach Sutton Spring, followed by Central Springs Reserve.

5 Daylesford Two Lakes Walk

Distance: 4 kilometres/2 hours one way | Grade: Moderate

It's possible to extend your walk around Daylesford's two lakes by hiking between them. This walk covers a distance of four kilometres one way and requires a good level of fitness. There is limited signage in places and the walk has some hilly sections. However, it's a wonderful experience and will show you parts of the landscape that few visitors get to see. You'll follow a section of the famous Goldfields Track and trek along a portion of the old Daylesford/Ballarat railway line.

Pick up a detailed map and guide from the Daylesford Regional Visitor Information Centre, then head for the Lake Daylesford carpark off Leggatt Street to begin the walk.



Lake Daylesford

Tips for safe walking

- Wear suitable walking shoes and lower leg protection, and carry plenty of water, a hat, and sunscreen.
- Always inform friends or family of your plans and estimated time of return.
- Keep to designated paths and stairways, and obey all safety signs.



Lake Daylesford. Image: D Callahan



2 Lake Daylesford Circuit

Distance: 2.6-kilometre loop | Time: 45 minutes | Grade: Easy

The circuit walk around Lake Daylesford is one of the town's most popular recreational activities. Set off in either direction from the car park off Leggatt Street (where you'll find toilets and BBQ/picnic facilities). A gravel path follows the shoreline for most of the 2.5-kilometre walk, which is split in half by the Bleakley Street bridge. The walk is relatively flat and suitable for all levels of fitness.

It's hard to believe looking at it today, but Lake Daylesford is actually man-made! It was originally the site of a series of gold diggings and a Chinese market garden. Construction of the ornamental lake began with the building of a dam wall across Wombat Creek in the late 1920s. The landscaping was designed by none other than American architect Walter Burley Griffin (who planned the nation's capital Canberra). Today, the Lake is cherished by locals and visitors alike.

Don't forget to taste the region's famous natural mineral water at Wombat Flat (in front of the Lake Springs House hotel and restaurant) and in the newly rejuvenated Central Springs Reserve.

3 Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens Circuit

Distance: 1-kilometre loop | Time: 30 minutes | Grade: Easy

Coating the top of an extinct volcano right behind the Daylesford township is the historic Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens – an opportunity to immerse yourself in the shaded splendour of a mature English-style garden. The one-kilometre Elm Circuit Drive, originally a carriage trail, loops right around the Gardens and is shadowed for most of the way by a walking trail known as Wildwoods Walk. The path is undulating and uneven in places, but is doable for anyone of a reasonable fitness level. If you're planning to walk a full loop of the Gardens, start at the southern gate off Central Springs Road. You'll need to walk on a section of Elm Circuit Drive initially – so be aware of passing vehicles.

The Gardens have a rich history to explore. A piece of government land on Wombat Hill was set aside for the establishment of a public garden in 1860 and initial clearing and planting by the community took place. The carriage trail was established as part of a professional landscaping plan enacted in the 1880s. Today the Gardens are a credit to everyone involved, including the Friends of Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens.



Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens carriage trail. Image: Adam Ford



Jubilee Lake



4 Jubilee Lake Circuit

Distance: 1.6-kilometre loop | Time: 45 minutes | Grade: Easy

Located just a few minutes' drive from the town centre, Jubilee Lake is less well known and slightly smaller than Lake Daylesford – but no less amazing. Enjoy a relaxed walk around the shoreline and through an avenue of elm trees that lead to the Jubilee mineral spring. The path is relatively flat, but can be muddy in places (which is due to water seeping out from old gold mine tunnels beneath Italian Hill).

Veer left from the public carpark and follow the lakeside trail past a rotunda and over the old railway bridge and weir. Continue on to the eastern end of the Lake. Cross the wooden bridge and turn left to reach Jubilee Spring. From there, it's an easy walk back to the carpark.

Jubilee Lake, originally called Hepburn Goldfields Reservoir, was built in 1860 to supply water to Daylesford and the Hepburn goldfields. It was renamed Jubilee Lake in 1887 in honour of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. A caretaker's house, kiosk, boatshed and rustic shelters were provided in those early years to attract tourists, and the lake precinct remains popular with visitors to this very day.