
★ FREE SAMPLE ★
ROUTES
THE ALPINE BACKROAD - CORRYONG TO OMEO
about 160 km
4 days
VIC
Corryong
Nariel Creek
Staceys Bridge
Ah Syes Camping Area
Taylors Crossing
Benambra
Omeo
Mountain Trail
Luxury Offroad LXV 4.7
Staceys Bridge, VIC
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Staceys Bridge, VIC

# The Alpine Backroad - Corryong to Omeo

Corryong, VIC → Omeo, VIC ★ about 160 km ★ 4 days ★ Spring to autumn ★ 4WD and AWD in dry conditions - 65 km unsealed

What we loved most about this trip is that so few people know about it. The road was quiet, the campgrounds were almost empty, and it links two very cool corners of Victoria.

Start in Corryong, Banjo Paterson's Man from Snowy River country, and finish in Omeo, the gateway to the alpine playgrounds. In between, the Benambra-Corryong Road climbs dirt ridges with views to Mt Bogong and Dartmouth Dam, then drops you beside crystal-clear rivers and creeks.

This is gold country too. 'For a time there was more gold being produced per man than from any other goldfield in the country,' said historian John Morrow.

We were here in summer - warm enough for a swim, cool enough at night for a campfire (when conditions allow). Pack the fishing rod - you'll be free camping beside creeks, in beautiful valleys west of Kosciuszko.

Watch us talk about this route on our Blog: www.campsaustraliawide.com/amazing-high-country-free-camping-and-route-in-victoria

## Highlights

- ✓ Free creekside camps with hardly anyone else around
- ✓ Swimming holes and trout fishing
- ✓ Epic dirt-road and lookout to Mt Bogong and Dartmouth Dam
- ✓ Gold rush history
- ✓ Country pubs

## Tips

Around 65 km is unsealed, with steep climbs, tight bends and sharp rocks, and logging trucks use the road. Caravans only with experienced towers, a UHF and a suitable tow vehicle. Avoid after heavy rain. Fuel up and stock up in Corryong - the next store is at Benambra.


Ah Syes Camping Area, VIC


Staceys Bridge, VIC


Wild blackberries

# Your trip at a glance

The Alpine Backroad - Corryong to Omeo ★ about 160 km ★ 4 days

| | | DISTANCE | SUGGESTED OVERNIGHT STOP |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01 | Corryong to Nariel Creek Recreation Reserve<br>In the full Route | 11 km | Nariel Creek Rec Reserve |
| 02 | Nariel Creek Recreation Reserve to Staceys Bridge<br>In the full Route | 29 km | Staceys Bridge |
| 03 | Staceys Bridge to Ah Syes Camping Area<br>In this sample | 50 km | Ah Syes Camping Area |

3 more legs in the full Route






## 03 Staceys Bridge to Ah Syes Camping Area

50 km

Now for the epic part. The dirt starts as you leave Staceys Bridge and the road climbs steadily over Sassafras Gap (1207 m), which regularly has snow and is best avoided during winter. Watch for logging trucks.

The lookout was a highlight for us. At 1,986 metres above sea level, Mt Bogong is Victoria's highest mountain, located near Mount Beauty and Falls Creek ski resorts. Dartmouth Dam has the tallest dam wall in Australia and the largest water storage in the state - 7.5 times larger than Sydney Harbour! It's on the Mitta Mitta River, feeds into the Murray River in dry seasons, via Lake Hume.

In Gibbo State Forest (say “Jib-oh”), stop at Turnback Creek Bridge. We were told this is where European miners forced Chinese miners to turn back. We picked wild blackberries here, thorns and all. Heatley was delighted. Check for signs first in case the bushes have been sprayed.

Gold is what brought people out here. By 1884, quartz mines were booming on the Dart River and nearby creeks, and it took five bullock teams (100 bullocks) to haul 18 tons of machinery over Mt Gibbo.

Then take your pick of several camps on the Gibbo River. Ah Syes is a big, open area in the Alpine National Park, well off the road. It’s maintained by the Friends of Dartmouth and named after a Chinese storekeeper and gold miner who was the last person to live here, and his grave is still on site.

Gibbo River Bush Camping is huge, with the best river access and views on this route, and you reach it through a small water crossing.

### Must see and do

* Lookout to Mt Bogong and Dartmouth Dam

### Side trips

* Dart River and Glendart (4WD) - historic gold mining settlement Alpine National Park (watch for shafts, camps here)
* Cattlemans Creek 4WD tracks and camps
* Eustace Gap Track and Windfall Camp (4WD, tents, campertrailer)

### Where to camp

**Ah Syes Camping Area**
free • no pets • toilets
OUR PICK

**Gibbo River Bush Camping**
free • pets
OUR PICK

**Kings Flat Camping**
$ • pets • toilets • showers

Images: Ah Syes Camping Area, VIC & Mount Bogong and Dartmouth Dam Lookout

# There’s more where that came from

The Alpine Backroad - Corryong to Omeo ★ about 160 km ★ 4 days

## What’s in the full Route

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 01 | Corryong to Nariel Creek Recreation Reserve | 11 km |
| 02 | Nariel Creek Recreation Reserve to Staceys Bridge | 29 km |
| +3 | 3 more legs, each with camps, must-sees and blog links | |

* 10 essential tips every traveller should know
* ROUTES 101: things to remember before you set out

| | |
|---|---|
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Image: Taylors Crossing, VIC