

EXPERIENCES WALKS

Walk 1 - Blue Lake circuit

The Blue Lake circuit is 3.6 kilometres around the circumference. Walk in a clockwise direction starting at the Pioneer Memorial parking area, past the entrance to Aquifer Tours. Head up the track to Apex Lookout for views of the lake and walk past the broadcasting studio of WIN Television.

The Tower, The Pumping Station and Mount Schank can be viewed from the Rotary Lookout. Toilets are available at the Blue Lake Reception Centre.

Walk 2 - Mountain Trail

Begin this 4.2 kilometre walk at Mark's Lookout Car Park. Start in an anti-clockwise direction along the trail between the Valley and Leg of Mutton Lake Crater, viewing both craters from The Saddle. Turn west towards the tower to see spectacular views of The Valley Lake and the City. Potter's Point, the lookout built by Mount Gambier's three Rotary Clubs and the City Council, marks the Centenary of Rotary International in 2006. An optional walk leads to the RSL Lookout. Continue along the exposed ridge called the Sugarloaf overlooking the city. At the fork, choose between The Blue Gum Trail, the easier walk to the right or The Mountain Trail which continues up to Centenary Tower. Continue to the car park and Lions Lookout and Devil's Punch Bowl, one of several blowholes in the area. View Centenary Tower. Continue to the Cactus Garden near the car park. A viewing area is provided with wheelchair access.

Past the roundabout is the Adam Lindsay Gordon Monument, marking the place where Gordon leapt on horseback, over an old guard fence onto a narrow ledge on the side of the Blue Lake. Walk down the steps near the tunnel under the road for a different view of the lake and the dolomite Pumping Station or through the tunnel to The Leg of Mutton Lake Lookout. **Do not cross the road.** Appreciate the significance of Rook Wall which was constructed in one day by 800 men in 1918.

Walk 3 - Leg of Mutton Lake

Start this 1.6 kilometre walk at the carpark near the tunnel under the road. Walk down the access road to the lake past the area once used as a tree nursery. Follow the track around the circumference of the now dry lake bed. It was nearly dry in 1859, but levels rose again and the lake regained the leg of mutton shape from which it has been named. Re-join the access road to return to the car park.

Walk 4 - Rook Walk/Pepperpot Trail - 1.7km

Start the 1.7 kilometre walk at the carpark near the tunnel under the road. Up the steps to the stone "rest house" then continue up the steps behind the Rook Walk, past the surge tank and The Stephen Henty Lookout on to the Hoo Hoo Lookout. Follow the markers past the carpark, around the eastern side of the ground tank and down the hill towards Keegan Drive. Walking parallel to Keegan Drive, cross the lawns to meet the road at the water tower then follow the direction markers through the park, down onto the track to the lowest point of The Saddle. Continue along the top of The Saddle to Mark's Lookout, The Leg of Mutton Lookout, and returning back to the start.



Walk 5 - Valley Lake Conservation Area - 1.2km

Begin the 1.2 kilometre walk at the boat ramp at the edge of the Valley Lake; enter the Conservation Park through the main gates. Water birds and animals can be seen at various times of the year. Walk back into the heart of the park. Take the track to the left for views from higher ground or to the right which leads up into the bushland area. Walk quietly in this area as many animals including Koalas may be present. Birdlife can be seen from the raised boardwalk and bird-hide which provides a closer look at the bushland canopy and views over the park. Follow this track down the hill, over the swamp back to the start of the walk. The final volcanic activity in the Mount Gambier area were

steam ejections from Blow Holes. The Devil's Punchbowl is the most notable and perfectly shaped example of a blowhole.

Inland Parks & Reserves

The location of Mount Gambier means that many National Parks on both sides of the South Australian and Victorian border are only an hour's drive from the city. Some of the smaller parks preserve particular flora and fauna species. Others have been designated for the protection of the natural environment whilst offering visitor use and enjoyment.

Other Short Walks

There are many short walks in the area including

- Valley Lake Walk
- Blue Gum Walk
- Oaks Walk

For further information on all walks including a comprehensive guide to all interest points, flora, fauna and history, a booklet has been produced by The Mount Gambier History Group.

LOOKOUT LEGEND

- 1 Adam Lindsay Gordon Lookout
- 2 Blue Lake Lookouts
- 3 Rook Walk Lookouts
- 4 Stephen Henty Lookouts
- 5 Apex Lookouts
- 6 Rotary Lookouts
- 7 Cactus Garden Lookouts
- 8 Leg of Mutton Lake Lookout
- 9 Hoo Hoo Lookouts
- 10 Rotary Clubs Lookout
- 11 RSL Lookouts
- 12 Centenary Tower Lookout
- 13 Lions Lookout
- 14 Marks Lookout