



# Main Range Track - Charlotte Pass to Blue Lake

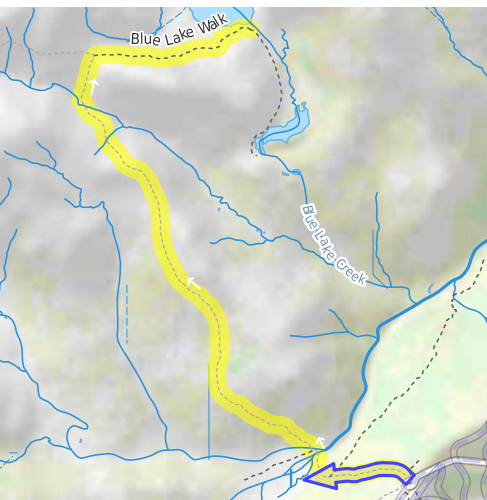
(Ngarigo Country)

 3 h 45 min to 5 h 30 min

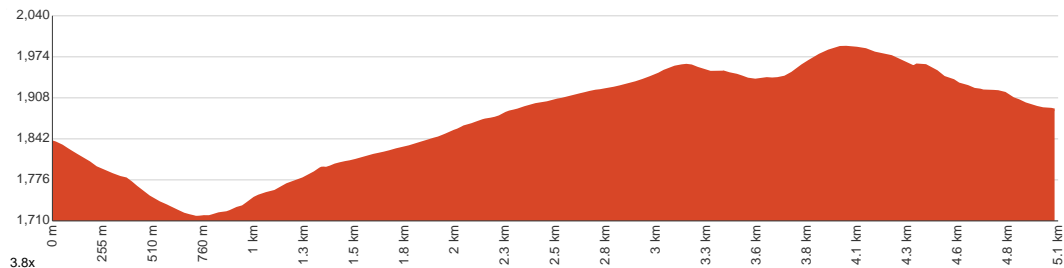
  
10.1 km  
Return

  
↑ 553 m  
↓ 553 m

  
Hard track



This walk starts from the end of Kosciuszko Road, at Charlotte Pass, and follows the signposted Main Range Track to the Blue Lake lookout. The walk crosses the famous Snowy River along the way. The Blue Lake lookout is located a short walk down sidetrack and provides stunning views of the lake. There are a series of information signs that provide information on how this lake and other features in the area where formed. Let us begin by acknowledging the Ngarigo people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we travel today, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



Class 4 of 6

Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely

<b>Quality of track</b>	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
<b>Gradient</b>	Short steep hills (3/6)
<b>Signage</b>	Clearly signposted (1/6)
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Limited facilities (such as cliffs not fenced, significant creeks not bridged) (4/6)
<b>Experience Required</b>	Moderate level of bushwalking experience recommended (4/6)
<b>Weather</b>	Foretasted & unexpected storms and severe weather may impact on navigation and safety (4/6)

## Before you start any journey ensure you;

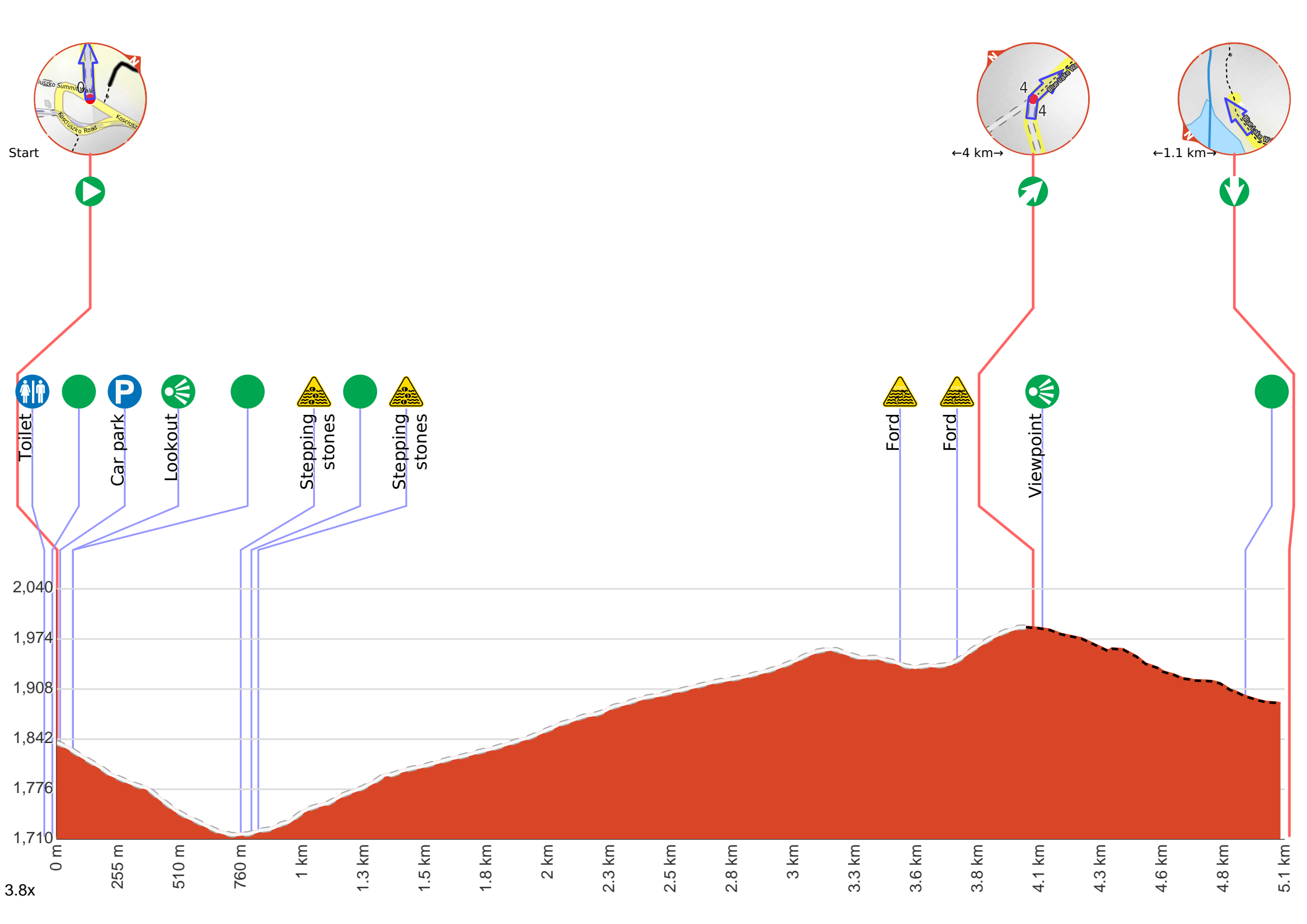
- Tell someone you trust where you are going and what to do if you are late returning
- Have adequate equipment, supplies, skills & knowledge to undertake this journey safely
- Consider weather forecasts, park/track closures & fire dangers
- Can respond to emergencies & call for help at any point
- Are healthy and fit enough for this journey

If not, change plans and stay safe. It is okay to delay and ask people for help.

Share  
[Bushwalk.com](https://bushwalk.com/ij/008UD3)  
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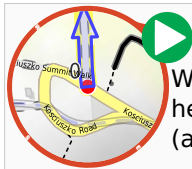








**Getting started:** From Charlotte Pass (at the turning circle at the end of Kosciuszko Rd), this walk follows the 'Main Range Track' - 'Blue Lake Lookout' sign downhill along the wide paved path. The walk winds down past the stone path (on your right) and continues beside the 'Glaciers shaped this ancient landscape' information sign. The path continues down through lightly scattered snow gums to the bottom of the valley, approximately 650m further. Just past the 'From the mountains to the sea' information sign, this walk crosses the Snowy River using the stepping stones and comes to a strip of land between the two creeks. (Crossing the river is dangerous and is not advisable when the water is flowing over the stepping stones).



At the intersection of Main Range Walking Track & Kosciuszko Road **Start** heading along *Main Range Walking Track* (a vehicle track).



There is a toilet (about 70 m back from the start).



Covered in snow part of the year (about 35 m back from the start).



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. Between May and the end of October, this walk is likely to be covered in snow/ice, visitors should carry and be prepared to use snowshoes or cross country skis. When there is a chance of significant snow on the ground, visitors will need particularly strong navigation and snowcraft skills - tracks and signage may not be visible. For most visitors, it is best to consider this walk closed during the colder months. Between the long weekend in June and October, the road between Perisher Village and Charlotte Pass is closed by the [RTA](#). It is possible to organise [oversnow transport](#).



There is a car park.



After another 55 m find the "Charlotte Pass lookout" (30 m on your right).



The Charlotte Pass lookout is a partially fenced lookout, north of the turning circle at the end of Kosciuszko Rd. The view is great, looking up the headwaters of the Snowy River up to the Main Range. To the left is Charlotte Pass (the actual pass only - there is no view of the village from here). There are also a few information signs explaining the local flora and geology.



Then find the "Snow Gums and the Alpine Tree Line" (30 m on your right).



Snow gums (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) are the dominant tree found in Kosciuszko National Park. These slow-growing, distinctive plants have a light grey trunk with smooth red-brown bark, which peels unevenly with a mottled effect. They can be found south along the tablelands into Victoria, and also in Tasmania. Trees are covered with beautiful white flowers from October through to January, which attract lots of bird life. The alpine tree line is the highest altitude at which trees can survive, due to the cold temperatures. However, you will notice that, in some areas, there are no trees in the valleys, while they thrive on the surrounding hills. This is because cool air settles in the alpine valleys, making them colder and less hospitable than slightly higher altitudes.



After another 690 m cross the stepping stones.



After another 45 m find the "Snowy River crossing" (on your left).



At the lowest point of the the Main Range circuit track is the confluence (meeting) of the Snowy River and Club Lake Creek. The walking track uses stones in the river to try to get across with dry feet. Since the track crosses just above the confluence there is an 'island' halfway across. These creeks may become impassable after rain and snow melt. This is lovely place to rest and enjoy the water and valley.



After another 30 m cross the stepping stones.



After another 2.6 km cross the ford.



After another 235 m cross the ford.



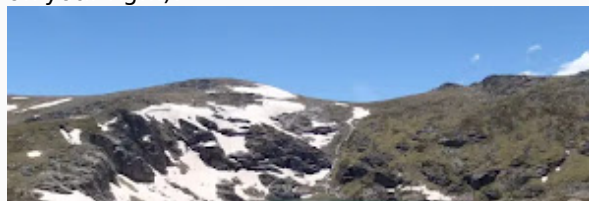
After another 310 m (Blue Lake lookout) **veer right**, to head along Blue Lake Walk (a walking track).



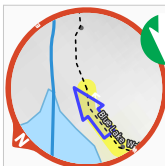
After another 40 m come to the "Blue Lake lookout".



After another 830 m find the "Blue Lake" (9 m on your right).



Blue Lake is the best example of a glacial lake in the alpine area. At 28m deep, this lake was formed when glaciers, flowing from the Great Dividing Range, converged and carved out a basin in the rock. This is visible in the cliffs behind the lake, where the glaciers have plucked out blocks of stone and carried them away. There is also a stream that flows from Blue lake, feeding Hedley Tarn just to the south.



Continue another 180 m to find the end. Then turn around here and retrace the main route for 5.1 km to get back to the start.