

Walk 15: Fortress Views

Victoria Range

Length: 7km

Style: Return

Difficulty: Medium-hard **Duration:** 4 hrs

Total uphill: 430m **Gradient:** Steady climb

Path: Formed track.

Highlights: Located deep in the Victoria Range, enjoy views of the iconic Fortress.

Start: From Laharum, drive south and take the Brimpaen Road across to the Henty Hwy. Continue south for 26km. Turn left onto the gravel Billywing Road and follow this onto Harrops Track and past the turn-off to Buandik campground. After 3.2km past this turn-off, you'll reach the start of the Fortress walking trail. Park here (Grid Ref 122730) **Distance to start:** 58km **Driving time:** 50 min.



Walk Description: This walk while rated medium-hard, should allow the walker the chance to experience the wonders of the Victoria Range with the remoteness and the grandeur of the Fortress as a back drop to your meal breaks. Without the effort of the climbs in and out of Oasis Camp, this will make for a more relaxing walk.

Commence the walk as for the Fortress walk, but take time to admire the rock overhang as you ascend to the ridge. Morning tea should be taken with views across the Deep Creek valley towards Mount Thackeray with the Fortress looming large to the south east.

Simply follow the ridgeline track for just under 2 kilometres and at a wider spot in the track, simply scramble up onto rocks on your left. This should be lunch with similar views as before, but now the Fortress appears much closer and the sun should hopefully be shining on the cliff faces. This is clearly as remote and wild as the Grampians can be, so enjoy the moment before re-tracing your steps back to the vehicles.

For those interested in things botanical, note the difference in flowers along the sandy track at the start of the walk and those found higher on the ridge line. Even the same plant may be at a different stage in its flowering cycle.

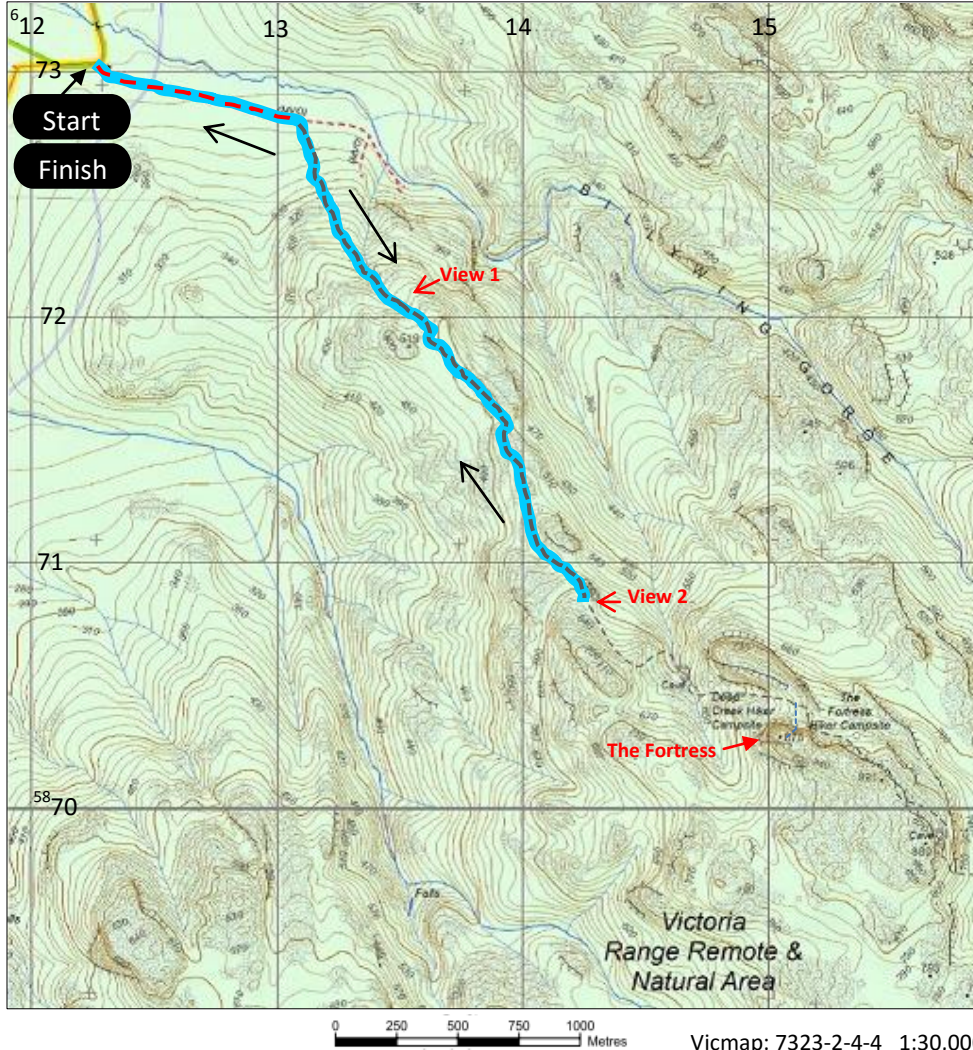
Cautions: The track may be uneven in places, so watch your footing.

Facilities: Nearest toilets are at Buandik campground – approx 4km from the starting point.

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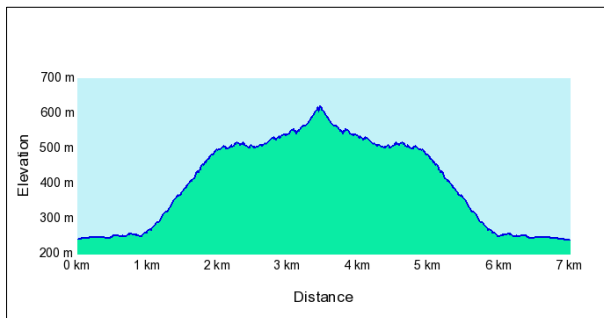


FORTRESS VIEWS



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