

Rainbow Lake Trail



1 Hr

Moderate track

3

2.5 km Return

↑ 109m

This popular walk explores the snow gums and alpine grasslands between Kosciuszko Rd and Rainbow Lake. The lake is the main focal point for the walk and is a great place to rest or have lunch. The man-made lake was built in the early 1900's to provide water to the Hotel Kosciuszko, it is now a natural, historic and beautiful point of interest to visitors.

Are you ready to have fun?

Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. Check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating before setting out. Optional side trips and alternate routes noted are not included in this walks overall grade, length or time estimate. Please allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing this information but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury you may experience. Please take care, have fun - Happy Walking.

Getting there Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Rainbow Lake walk car park (gps: -36.3698, 148.4745). Car: A park entry fee is required for driving into the park.

This is a return, so you will finish back at the start.

Find up to date and more information including; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at <http://wild.tl/rlw>

0 | Covered in snow part of the year

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 be carrying 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.

0 | Rainbow Lake walk car park

(1.2 km 26 mins) From the lower end of the car park on Kosciuszko Rd (about 2.4km east of Guthega Rd), near the 'Rainbow Lake Walk' sign, this walk follows the track heading into the Snow Gums. The track winds through the gums until joining onto an old management trail. The walk follows the management trail down the hill and across the small creek, then continues under the power lines and starts to climb up through clumps of snow gums and open alpine grassy areas. After a little while, the walk levels out and comes to a great view of Rainbow Lake. From here, the walk

heads down the hill, following the clear management trail to the bottom end of the lake. The walk passes a few clearings (nice for picnics) near the lake, then comes to an intersection just before the creek (which drains out of Rainbow Lake).

1.21 | Lower end of Rainbow Lake

(60 m 1 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk crosses the creek and follows the dam wall. About half way along the dam wall, the walk arrives at an old timber platform heading out into the lake.

1.27 | Rainbow Lake

Rainbow Lake is a body of water in Kosciuszko National park, providing a lovely focal point for walkers and skiers. Diggers Creek was dammed to create a water supply for the then 'Hotel Kosciusko' which burnt down in 1951 (first opened in 1909). The resulting Rainbow Lake left a bit of heritage for people to enjoy. A faint track exists around the perimeter of the lake, providing a variety of views of the lake and access to some of the old fence line from the days when cattle were grazed in the area. The lake is a great place for picnickers, photographers and walkers, a magical spot on sunny days.

