

Charlotte Pass to Thredbo via Rawson Pass



5 hrs

Hard track

4

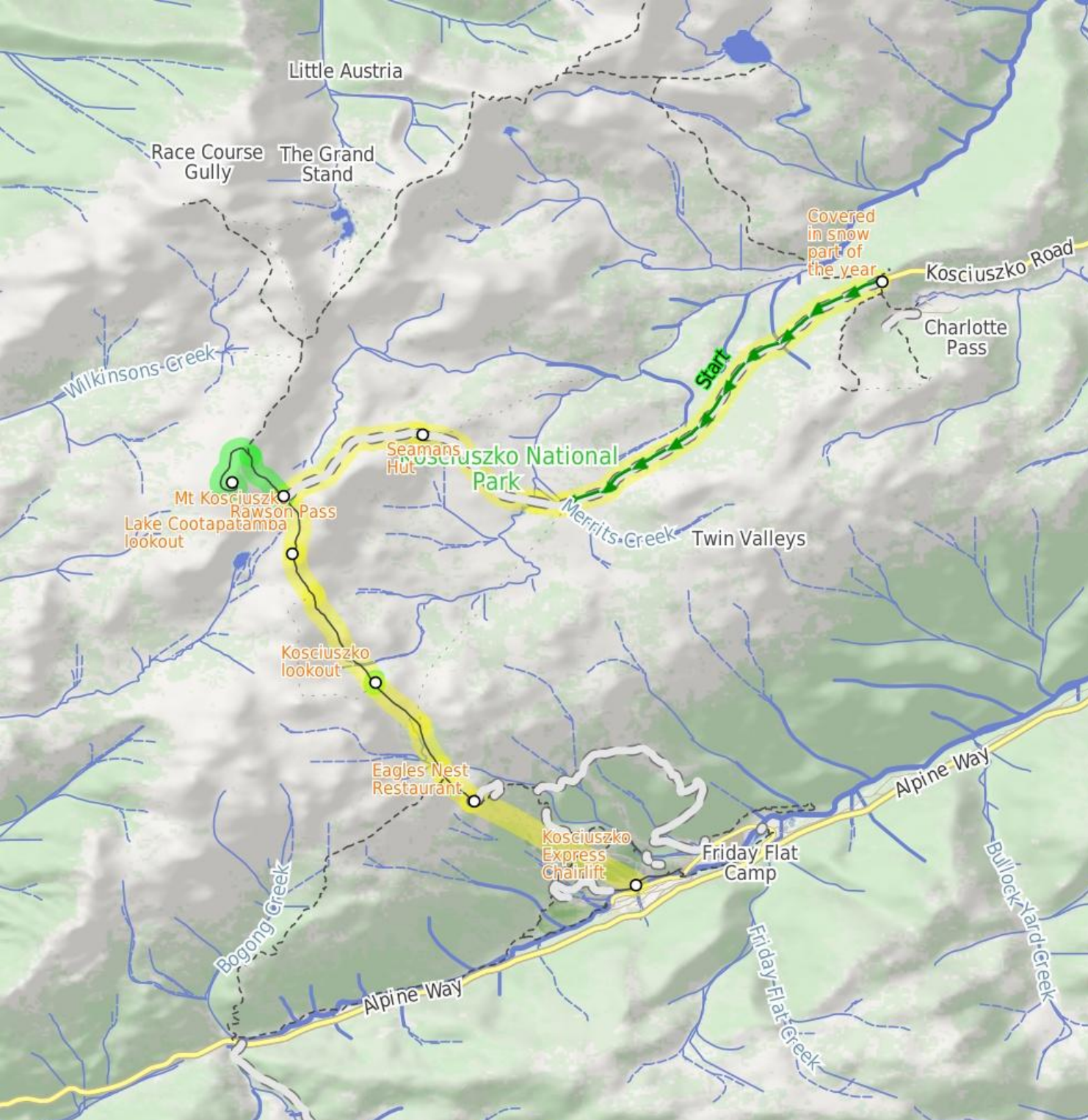
12.2 km One way  431m

Starting at Charlotte Pass, this walk follows the Summit Walk, along the old Kosciuszko Road, as it crosses the Snowy River and passes Seamans Hut. The walk then makes its way to Rawsons Pass, where there is the optional side trip to the top of Mt Kosciuszko. From here, the walk follows the metal walkway down past the Rams Head Range to the Chairlift, and down to Thredbo.

2120m

1371m

Kosciuszko National Park



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 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](#).

Seamans Hut

This hut was erected in 1929, after a young skier named Laurie Seaman perished in a blizzard when he was separated from his group. The hut was built using money donated by Seaman's parents, for the use of those who might need emergency shelter in the mountains. It was renovated in 1938 due to fire. Seamans Hut is a 7m x3m granite stone building with a wood stove, although there is little wood in the area. [More info](#).

Rawson Pass

Rawson Pass is where the old Kosciuszko Road, from Charlotte Pass, meets the metal walkway from Thredbo. It is home to highest public toilet in Australia, this recently-added facility is perfectly positioned for those taking the walk up to the top of Kosciuszko. Rawson Pass is well signposted and 500m south east of Mt Kosciuszko (by straight line). There is also a place for to park mountain bikes for those cycling along the old road from Charlotte Pass.

Before You walk

Bushwalking is fun and a wonderful way to enjoy our natural places. Sometimes things go bad, with a bit of planning you can increase your chance of having an enjoyable and safer walk. Before setting off on your walk check

- 1) Weather Forecast ([BOM Snowy Mountains District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Monaro Alpine, Southern Slopes](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ([Kosciuszko National Park](#))
- 4) Research the walk to check your party has the skills, fitness and equipment required
- 5) Agree to stay as a group and not leave anyone to walk solo

Think before you TREK

The 'Think before you TREK' program developed by NSW Police & NPWS promotes the benefits of planning ahead for your bushwalking trip by using an easy to remember acronym:

- T** Take adequate supplies of food, water, navigation and first aid equipment.
- R** Register your planned route and tell friends and family when you expect to return.
- E** Emergency beacon (PLB's) should be carried on walks with significant gaps in mobile coverage (check terrain profile).
- K** Keep to your planned route and follow the map and walking trails.

Topo Maps

The maps provided on wildwalks are helpful, but there are times where you may need maps covering a broader area. Maps that cover this walk include;

1:25 000 Map Series:85252S PERISHER VALLEY, 85241N CHIMNEYS RIDGE

1:100 000 Map Series:8525 KOSCIUSZKO, 8524 JACOBS RIVER

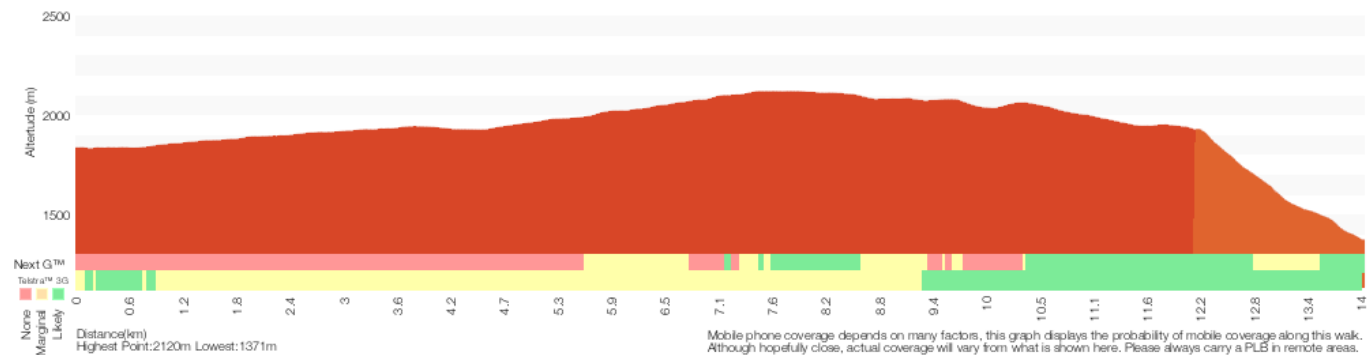
Grade

This walk has been graded using the AS 2156.1-2001. The overall grade of the walk is determined by the highest classification along the whole track.



Grade 4/6
Hard track

Length	12.2 km One way
Time	5 hrs
Quality of track	Clear and well formed track or trail (2/6)
Signs	Clearly signposted (1/6)
Experience Required	No experience required (1/6)
Weather	Forecast, unforecast storms and severe weather may impact on navigation and safety (4/6)
Infrastructure	Generally useful facilities (such as fenced cliffs and seats) (1/6)



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 walk's 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 End of Kosciuszko Road (gps: -36.4319, 148.3283). Car: A park entry fee is required for driving into the park.

Traveling by car is the only practical way to get back from Bottom of Kosciuszko Express chairlift (gps: -36.504, 148.304). Car: A park entry fee is required for driving into the park.

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

0 | Covered in snow part of the year

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0 | End of Kosciuszko Road

(4.5 km 1 hr 27 mins) From the end of Kosciuszko Rd at Charlotte Pass (just near the toilet block), this walk heads along a wide management trail, following the large 'Summit walk' sign. The walk initially dips down a bit and heads through a grove of snow gums. This walk soon leaves the snow gums and the landscape opens to a fantastic view of the Snowy River and the valley (on your right). After about 1km, the walk passes a yellow 'MT K 8' sign on a snow pole. This walk continues along the management trail and gently undulates up along the side of the long ridge, passing several more 'Mt K' milestone signs counting down. After a while, the old road heads up and over a ridge, passing the 'MT K 5' and the original 'K 3' milestone (on your left) to find the un-signposted concrete bridge over Merritts Creek.

Continue straight: From the bridge, this walk follows the management trail west through the valley, where the trail soon bends right and passes a 'Snowy River' sign, coming to the bridge crossing the river.

4.48 | Snowy River bridge

(1.5 km 27 mins) Continue straight: From the 'Snowy River' sign, this walk crosses the bridge and heads north-west up along the management trail. The trail bends right and heads up towards Seamans Hut (visible in clear weather). The walk winds up the long hill and bends left, near a flat clearing with some valley views (to your right). Here, the old road bends left and heads up the hill, coming to the signposted 'Seamans Hut'.

5.99 | Seamans Hut

This hut was erected in 1929, after a young skier named Laurie Seaman perished in a blizzard when he was separated from his group. The hut was built using money donated by Seaman's parents, for the use of those who might need emergency shelter in the mountains. It was renovated in 1938 due to fire. Seamans Hut is a 7m x3m granite stone building with a wood stove, although there is little wood in the area. [More info](#).

5.99 | Seamans Hut

(1.6 km 31 mins) Continue straight: From 'Seamans Hut', this walk follows the management trail, heading west up the gentle hill, keeping the large valley to your right. The trail winds steadily up along the side of the long hill and, about 150m past the road cutting, this trail leads to a stone path and Australia's highest toilet block. The walk then follows the stone path past the toilet and bike parking area to come to a clearly signposted three-way intersection at 'Rawson Pass'.

7.6 | Rawson Pass

Rawson Pass is where the old Kosciuszko Road, from Charlotte Pass, meets the metal walkway from Thredbo. It is home to highest public toilet in Australia, this recently-added facility is perfectly positioned for those taking the walk up to the top of Kosciuszko. Rawson Pass is well signposted and 500m south east of Mt Kosciuszko (by straight line). There is also a place for to park mountain bikes for those cycling along the old road from Charlotte Pass.

7.6 | Optional sidetrip to Mt Kosciuszko

(1.6 km 39 mins) Veer right: From the intersection at Rawson Pass, this walk follows the 'Mt Kosciuszko' sign uphill along the stone pathway. The stone pathway soon becomes a gravel track and winds up and around the hill, keeping the peak of Mt Kosciuszko to your left. About 500m along the gravel track, this walk comes to a 'Y' intersection (with the Kosciuszko summit track on your left), just past the 'Alpine Walks' sign and map.

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Mt Kosciuszko' sign uphill along the upper track. This track winds steadily up and around the peak of the mountain, passing a stone-paved section of track, and also a metal grate before climbing a few steps to the cairn at the peak of Mt Kosciuszko. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Veer right.

7.6 | Mt Kosciuszko

Mt Kosciuszko is the highest peak on the Australian continent, at 2228m above sea level. It was named by the Polish explorer Count Paul Edmund Strzelecki and named in honour of the Polish national hero General Tadeusz Kościuszko. Now a popular tourist attraction, thousands of people walk up to the summit each year. On a clear day, the 360-degree views from the summit across the roof of Australia are fantastic. There are higher mountains elsewhere on Australian territory. 'The highest mountains in Australian Antarctic Territory are Mt McClintock (3490 meters) and Mt Menzies (3355 meters).'

7.6 | Rawson Pass

(790 m 14 mins) Turn left : From 'Rawson Pass', this walk follows the 'Kosciuszko Walk - Lake Cootapatamba Lookout' sign south along the metal walkway as it gently winds down along the side of the hill. Keeping Lake Cootapatamba on your right, the path soon leads up a short hill to find the signposted 'Lake Cootapatamba Lookout'.

8.39 | Lake Cootapatamba lookout

Situated on the Kosciuszko walk, this platform looks down over Lake Cootapatamba, in the valley on the western side of the path. This is a pleasant place to stop and enjoy the mountains and views.

8.39 | Lake Cootapatamba lookout

(1.9 km 40 mins) Continue straight: From the lookout, this walk follows the metal walkway heading south down the gentle hill, initially keeping the view to Lake Cootapatamba to your right. The path leads down the ridge across the saddle to find a faint intersection with a foot pad, where the spur from the rocky North Rams Head (on your right) meets the track.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads south along the metal walkway, keeping Rams Head ridge line to your right. The walk follows the metal walkway past the 'Endangered Mammals live between boulders' sign then across the upper reaches of the Snowy River. Here the walk heads up this hill to find a three-way intersection of metal paths, with the Kosciuszko lookout track (on your left).

10.33 | Optional sidetrip to Kosciuszko lookout

(50 m 1 mins) Turn sharp left: From the intersection, this walk heads north-east along the metal path that branches off the main path. The path leads a short distance up some steps to soon come to the metal platform at the Kosciuszko lookout. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Veer left.

10.33 | Kosciuszko lookout

Kosciuszko lookout is about 30m off the main Kosciuszko walk, along a metal walkway. At the lookout, there is a larger platform with an information sign about how the landscape was formed over the years. Granting a great view of the Snowy Mountains to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko.

10.33 | Int of Kosciuszko path and lookout walkway

(1.8 km 40 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the metal walkway south, up the hill (away from the lookout). The track leads over the gentle rise and soon comes to 'A rocky mountain home' information sign and a 'Thredbo 1.5km' tag pointing down the hill. Here the walk heads down a series of steps to mostly flatten out at the 'Flowers emerge with warmer weather' information sign. Soon after this, the walk comes to a 'Plant communities - keeping a low profile' information sign, marking an intersection (where the snow-pole line on your left joins the main track).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the metal walkway south, downhill, soon passing a 'Plant communities - keeping a low profile' information sign and a 'Thredbo 1.0km' badge welded to the track. The walk continues to follow this track down the hill, then past the 'Everything is connected' information sign and the large 'Kosciuszko Walk' sign. At the bottom of the steps, this walk comes to an intersection (with a minor track on your left) just before a bridge at a lovely spot beside the creek. Continue straight: From the end of the metal walkway, this walk crosses the creek using the metal bridge and follows the paved path up and over the gentle rise, heading towards the ski lifts. Soon the path leads past a small alcove with two information signs. Here the walk continues along the path a short distance to find a signposted intersection with the 'Dead Horse Gap' track (on your right), where there is also an arrow pointing back to 'Mt Kosciuszko Lookout'.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows 'Eagles Nest Restaurant' sign down along the paved path towards the chairlift building. The path gently winds down the hill to find the top of the 'Kosciuszko Express' chairlift and the Eagles Nest Restaurant.

12.15 | Eagles Nest Restaurant

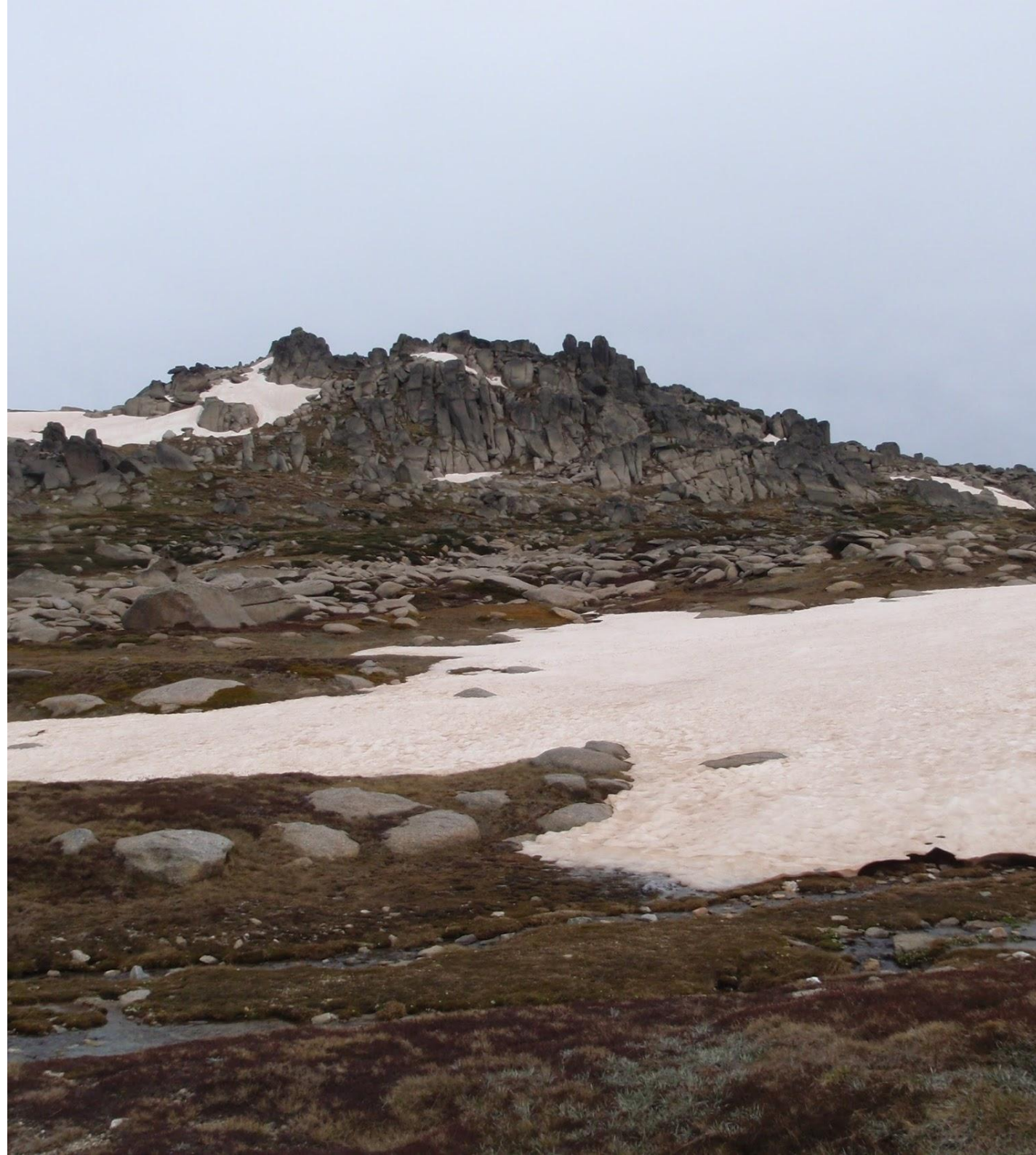
This is Australia's highest restaurant, providing great food and outstanding views. It is easily accessible, nestled on the mountain directly opposite the top of the Kosciuszko Express chairlift, and is open year-round. For more information, call (02) 64576019.

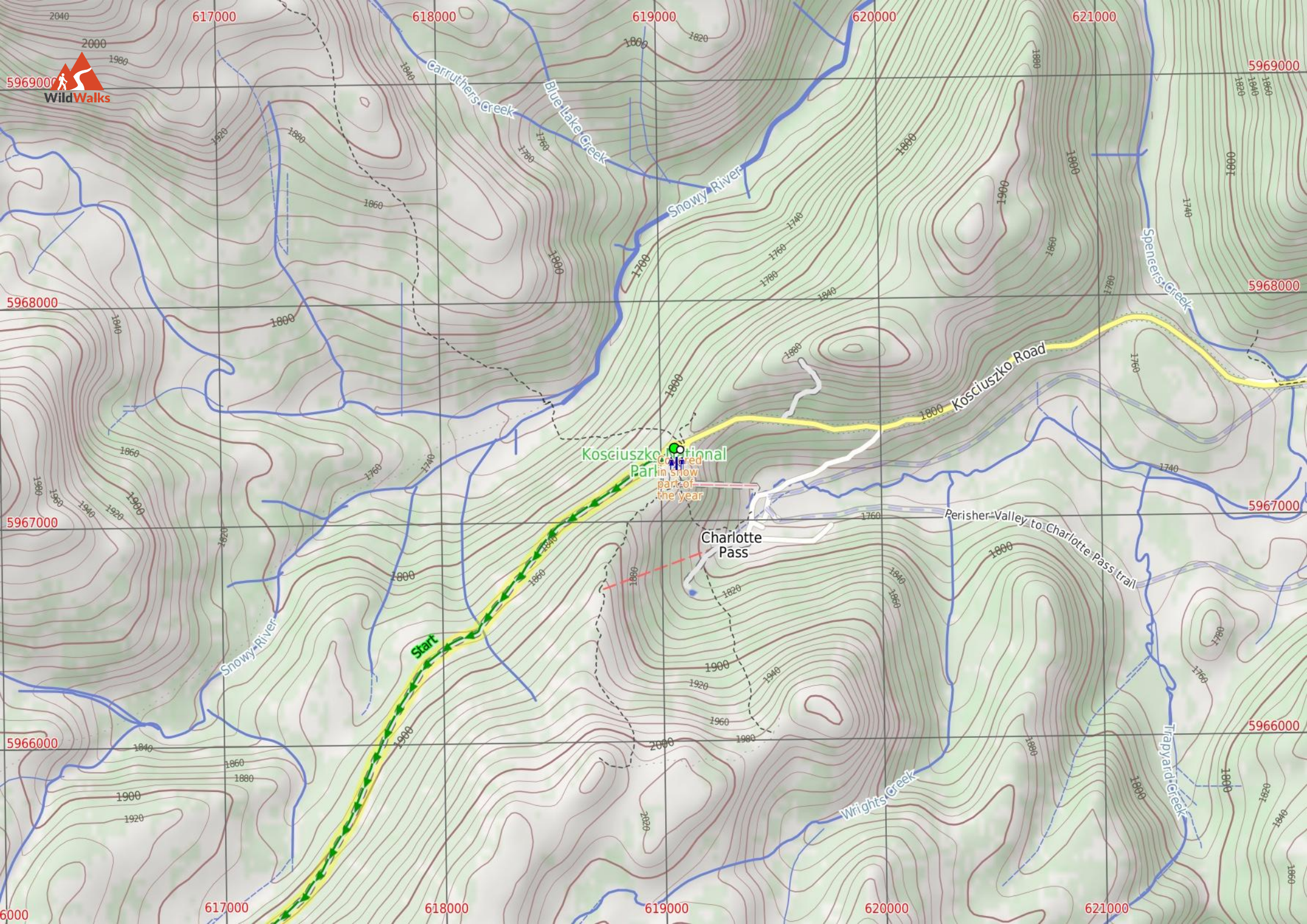
12.15 | Kosciuszko Express Chairlift

This is one of the few lifts operating in the summer months at Thredbo, and is made quite popular by thousands of people walking to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko each year. Lift tickets can be purchased from the store at the bottom of the chairlift. Lift tickets are \$31 return (\$25 one way) per person. This lift is generally closed during November and May for maintenance each year, but the the Snowgum chair can be used at this time instead, this will add extra walking time to you walk. [More info.](#)

12.15 | Top of Kosciuszko Express chairlift

(1.9 km 20 mins) Turn left: From the top terminal, walk up to the platform as directed by the chairlift operator and sit down in the seat, letting it scoop you up. Once seated, pull down the safety bar and enjoy the ride down to Thredbo village. :) After alighting at the bottom, this walk turns right to almost immediately turn left down a set of steps and heads through the building to find an open area at the front of the 'Valley Terminal' building where there are some large maps.





Kosciuszko National Park
Shared in show part of the year

Charlotte Pass

Start

Perisher Valley to Charlotte Pass trail

Snowy River

Carruthers Creek

Blue Lake Creek

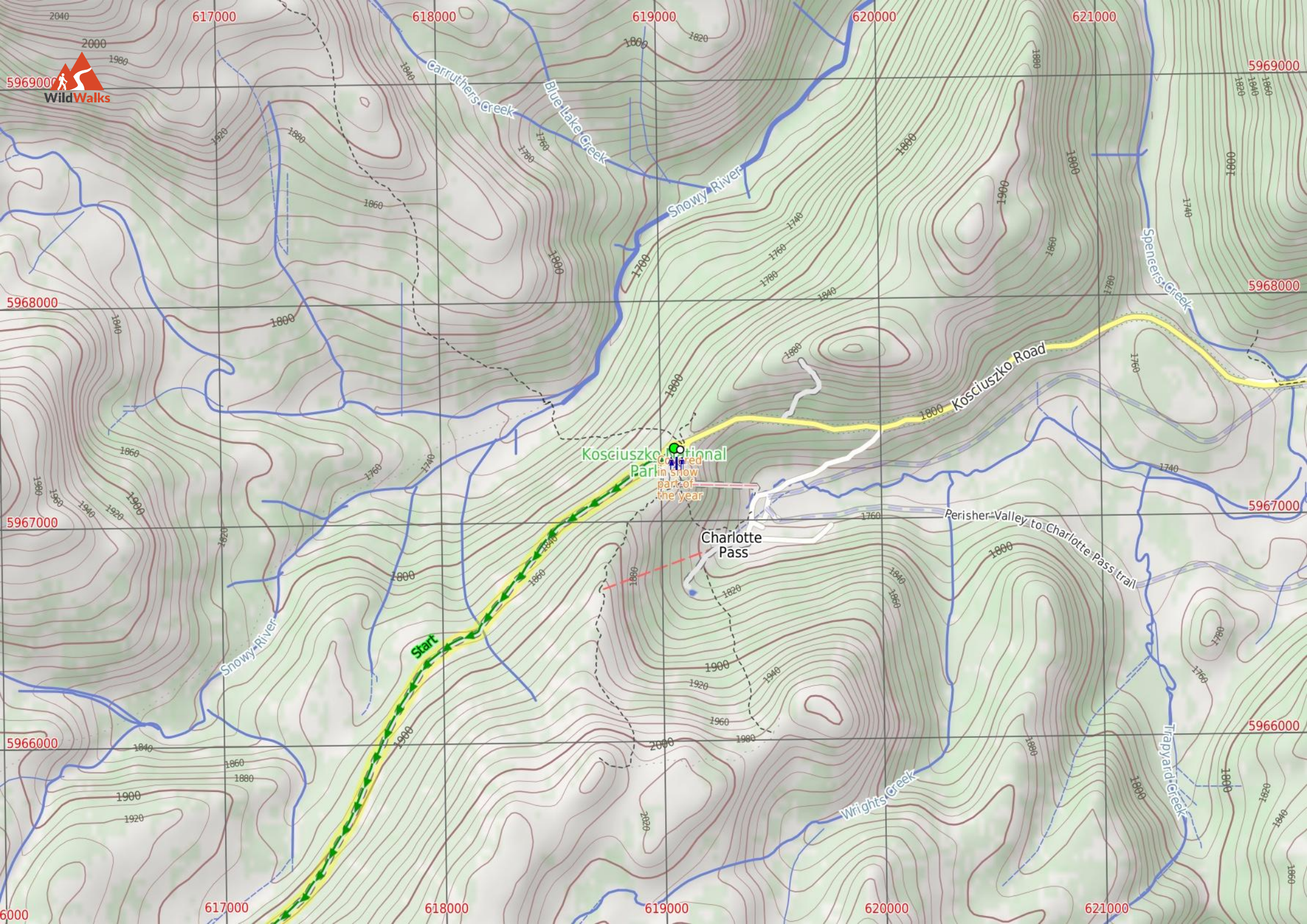
Snowy River

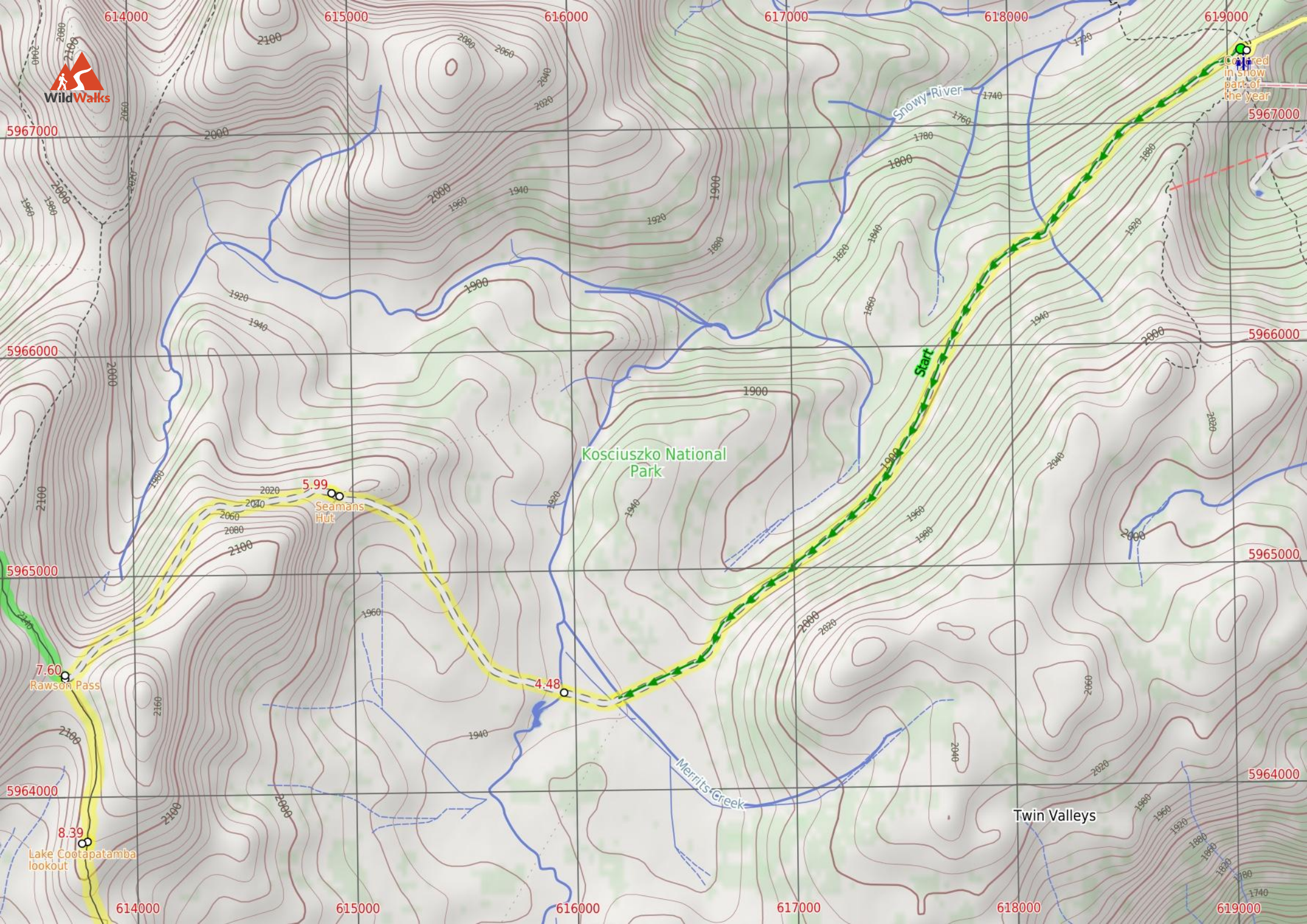
Spencers Creek

Kosciuszko Road

Wrights Creek

Trapyard Creek





Coloured in snow part of the year

Kosciuszko National Park

Twin Valleys

5.99
Seamans Hut

7.60
Rawson Pass

8.39
Lake Cootapatamba
lookout

4.48

Start

619000
5967000

5966000

5965000

5964000

619000

618000

617000

616000

615000

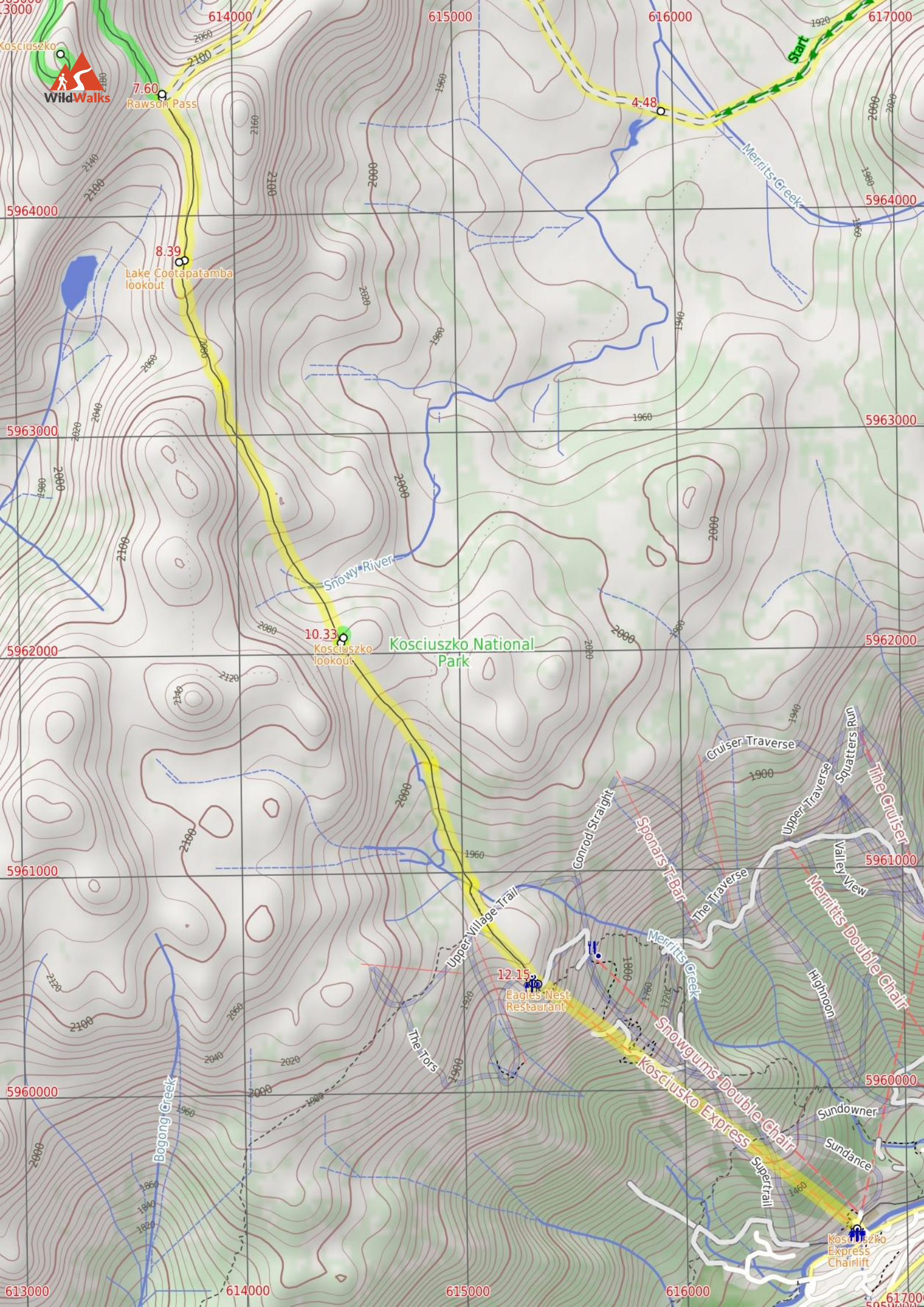
614000

5967000

5966000

5965000

5964000



Summary navigation sheet for the Charlotte Pass to Thredbo via Rawson Pass



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
0.00	End of Kosciuszko Road -36.4319,148.3283 (GR Perisher Valley, 191673)	164 -73	4.5 km 1 hr 27 mins	From the end of Kosciuszko Rd at Charlotte Pass (just near the toilet block), this walk heads along a wide management trail, following the large 'Summit walk' sign.
4.48	Snowy River bridge -36.4582,148.294 (GR Perisher Valley, 159644)	95 0	1.5 km 27 mins	Continue straight: From the 'Snowy River' sign, this walk crosses the bridge and heads north-west up along the management trail.
5.99	Seamans Hut -36.4501,148.2822 (GR Perisher Valley, 149654)	114 -15	1.6 km 31 mins	Continue straight: From 'Seamans Hut', this walk follows the management trail, heading west up the gentle hill, keeping the large valley to your right.
7.60	Rawson Pass -36.4577,148.2687 (GR Perisher Valley, 137645)	127 -23	1.6 km 39 mins	Optional sidetrip to Mt Kosciuszko. Veer right: From the intersection at Rawson Pass, this walk follows the 'Mt Kosciuszko' sign uphill along the stone pathway.
7.60	Rawson Pass -36.4577,148.2687 (GR Perisher Valley, 137645)	6 -16	790 m 14 mins	Turn left : From 'Rawson Pass', this walk follows the 'Kosciuszko Walk - Lake Cootapatamba Lookout' sign south along the metal walkway as it gently winds down along the side of the hill.
8.39	Lake Cootapatamba lookout -36.4643,148.2698 (GR Perisher Valley, 138638)	45 -94	1.9 km 40 mins	Continue straight: From the lookout, this walk follows the metal walkway heading south down the gentle hill, initially keeping the view to Lake Cootapatamba to your right.
10.33	Int of Kosciuszko path and lookout walkway -36.48,148.2778 (GR Perisher Valley, 145620)	0 -1	50 m 1 mins	Optional sidetrip to Kosciuszko lookout. Turn sharp left: From the intersection, this walk heads north-east along the metal path that branches off the main path.
10.33	Int of Kosciuszko path and lookout walkway -36.48,148.2778 (GR Perisher Valley, 145620)	7 -141	1.8 km 40 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the metal walkway south, up the hill (away from the lookout).
12.15	Top of Kosciuszko Express chairlift -36.494,148.2875 (GR Perisher Valley, 153605)	1 -558	1.9 km 20 mins	Turn left: From the top terminal, walk up to the platform as directed by the chairlift operator and sit down in the seat, letting it scoop you up.