

Trail Description Stirling Huts Loop



Trail Name:	Stirling Huts Loop
Primary trail used:	Hut, Stirling, Bluff Spur
Distance:	13.5km
Trail type:	Loop
Ascent/Descent:	597m (+) / 597m (-)
Grading:	BLUE
Start + Finish points:	Telephone Box Junction Car Park (Mt Stirling Resort)
Via trails:	Razorback Hut, King Saddle Shelter, Cricket Pitch Shelter, King Spur Hut, GGS Hut, Mt Stirling, Bluff Spur Hut <i>NB: As a XC ski area, and utilising mostly XC ski trails, the signposted, 'You Are Here' trail makers with maps dotted throughout the network at most junctions are extremely accurate and helpful. Orange triangles on trail are directional, giving you explicit advice as to which way to go.</i>
Highlight features:	A line-up of alpine huts; magnificent northerly views; Mt Stirling Peak with 360-degree views, including back to Mt Buller; good mix of denser big tree forest down low to the sparse high alpine plains of Stirling.
Descriptor:	<p><i>Here's a hearty trail run exploring the Mt Stirling Resort, where the underfoot terrain is not too technical utilising the wider XC ski trails and a first half gradient that makes you work hard enough. There's plenty of reason to stop for a breather however, with six mountain huts linking up your journey like a dot-to-dot through pristine alpine country. Signage is excellent as are the views: a good middle distance run for those not as comfortable about being out amidst the single track wilds but still seeking the best of backcountry terrain.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You'll need to drive around (or arrange a lift) to Telephone Box Junction Car Park, approx. 30 minute drive (25km, two-wheel drive accessible) from Mt Buller Resort. 2. Standing outside Telephone Box Junction Visitor Centre facing the forest, turn right, taking the dirt road veering left. Approx. 200m along, look for a (gated) bridge to your left with a sign denoting Hut Trail. A wide, grassy trail it begins a slight ascent, weaving its way up the hillside towards Razorback Hut. 3. At approx. 1km, there is a singletrail veering off the main track to the right high side. You can take this for a 300m singletrack fix, or stay on the double track which doublebacks a little further on to meet up again with the singletrack exit. 4. Continue on until you spot through the trees to your lower right, a clearing with Razorback Hut – a collection of alpine style wooden buildings straight out of the <i>Man From Snowy River</i> (of course, the famous Craig's Hut in that movie is away further to the west and not visited on this run, check the 'Craig's Hut Return' run if you want to run to this iconic film set location). 5. Run through the hut settlement to pick up one of two trails directly across to the west: the lower is part of Hut Loop, the higher, running up alongside the fence, is Hut Trail. You can take either, Hut Loop sticking to the contour for flatter, easier running, Hut Trail giving a little more ascent before dropping back down to meet up at King Saddle Shelter (3.4km). 6. Crossing the road and passing the King Saddle Shelter on your right, there are a few trails forking out – take the central one rising up sharply, with a sign that says 'Walking Track to Stirling Trail. You will come to a T-intersection still climbing – turn left onto Stirling Trail. There are excellent signposts with maps and numbers denoting exactly where you are all along these trails – if unsure, consult one. 7. At 4.8km you will come into Cricket Pitch Hut (with obvious reasoning for its name). Leaving the Pitch, you can choose to stay on Stirling Trail or veer slightly left to pick up Race Loop. Both pop out at your next hut: King Spur.

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	<p>8. From King Spur Hut, it's a final uphill push on the northern flank of Mt Stirling, turning left onto West Summit Trail just before reaching Geelong Grammar School Hut. Hook around to your right, joining a rough 4WD track, which will lead you a few hundred metres later to the Stirling Saddle (8km). To your left will be the famous 500 year-old solitary snowgum, and on your right a singletrack taking you to the highlight of the run: Mt Stirling Summit. Enjoy the 360-degree views across to Mt Buller Resort, and back east to the Alps.</p> <p>9. From the summit, return to the 4WD trail, turn right. 300 metres further on pick up Bluff Spur Hut Trail, which drops you shortly to the hut set at the far end of a clearing.</p> <p>10. Running past the hut (keeping it on your right) pick up Bluff Spur Trail, a double track that begins your ongoing 400 vertical-metre descent over 4.5km distance, all the way back to Telephone Box Junction.</p>
<p>Rating /45 (technical)</p>	<p>23 / 45</p>
<p>Rating /10 (indicative)</p>	<p>5 / 10</p>