








HIGGS TRACK TO LADY LAKE HUT

Following in the footsteps of the early pioneers, the track from Dale Brook (600m) to Lady Lake Hut (1130m) is as steep as it is rewarding. Crossing creeks, weaving through rainforest and up onto the alpine plateau, Higgs Track is wonderful in every season; from vibrant shows of colourful fungi in autumn to knee deep snow in winter.

	Time: 4 hour return Distance: 7.6 km return
	From Deloraine, head towards Mole Creek on the B12 for approx. 8kms then turn left onto Dairy Plains Rd (C168). After 12km turn right onto Western Creek Rd, left onto Westrope Rd (gravel) and then right at Higgs Track sign. Though rough in places, the road is suitable for 2wd and the parking area at the trailhead will fit around 8 cars. Ref: -41.667500, 146.470000 (type this grid reference or "Higgs Track" into Google Maps) Retail Map: TL06 Jerusalem
	No facilities at the car park. There is a bush toilet across from the hut on the plateau.
	Grade 3: Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface, and many steps.
	Weather may change suddenly with exposed alpine conditions. Fog may impede navigation. Beware of snakes during summer.

Higgs Track was originally cut by Syd Higgs in 1879 as an access route to graze cattle on the central plateau; an area that now forms part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The trail begins with a relatively flat walk to Dale Brook, which would make for a good 20-30 minute return walk if short on time.

From here, the trail crosses the creek via a timber bridge and begins to steeply climb up the lower ridges of the mountain, the surroundings quickly changing from dogwood regrowth to temperate rainforest. Myrtle, Waratah and Sassafras line the stone path as you continue to climb.

Ancient Scottish stone-pitching techniques were used by skilled workers who restored the track back in 2014. This time-intensive technique was developed in the Scottish highlands centuries ago and involves hammering wedge-shaped rocks into the soil; the result resembling a handmade stone tapestry, interspersed with moss and lichen.

Nearing the top of the track, there is an intersection marked by a metal pole. The left fork is a disused remnant of the old track to the plateau. Bear right and follow the newer track up. The occasional metal markers aid walkers in the snow.

From the escarpment, on a clear day, you should be able to easily see Lady Lake Hut on the left-hand side of a plain dotted with alpine tarns (pools). Once on the plateau follow the duckboard and veer right to Lady Lake and left to the hut. Sit a while and gaze out at the windswept alpine environment from the deck of the hut. You may be lucky enough to see a wedge-tailed eagle flying overhead.

*NOTE: Be mindful to **stay off** the sensitive alpine flora and bright green cushion plants when on the plateau.*

SAFE WALKING: Plan, be prepared, walk with friends, tell someone where you are going. Consider hiring an EPIRB from Service Tasmania (Launceston & Devonport) to prepare for emergency events. Make a personal determination as to your fitness and ability to undertake specific walks.

LEAVE NO TRACE: walk on formed tracks, observe all restrictions, dispose of waste properly and leave what you find.

FURTHER INFO: National Parks: www.parks.tas.gov.au Restrictions & Alerts: www.fire.tas.gov.au & www.police.tas.gov.au/community-alerts Weather: www.bom.gov.au/tas

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