

Points of Interest

continued



Sheep farming in the region dates back to the earliest pastoralists who flooded into the area. Large sheep stations ensured a steady supply of wool, meat and prosperity for the Avoca region. Avoca's wide street was in fact planned to accommodate the turning of large bullock teams hauling massive loads of wool bales and timber.

In 1868 A human skeleton was found in a tree at Elmhurst. Sheep rustlers were suspected.



Extend your trip. On your return you may consider visiting:

- Wimmera Hills Gin and Wines
- Garvanie capers and olives
- The Wool Cottage

We hope you have enjoyed the Golden Valley Trail.

Glenpatrick creek valley



So many stories
AVOCA



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How?



1. Using your mobile phone or tablet go to avoca.vic.au/all-trails
2. Select a story trail.
3. Download to your mobile device for FREE.
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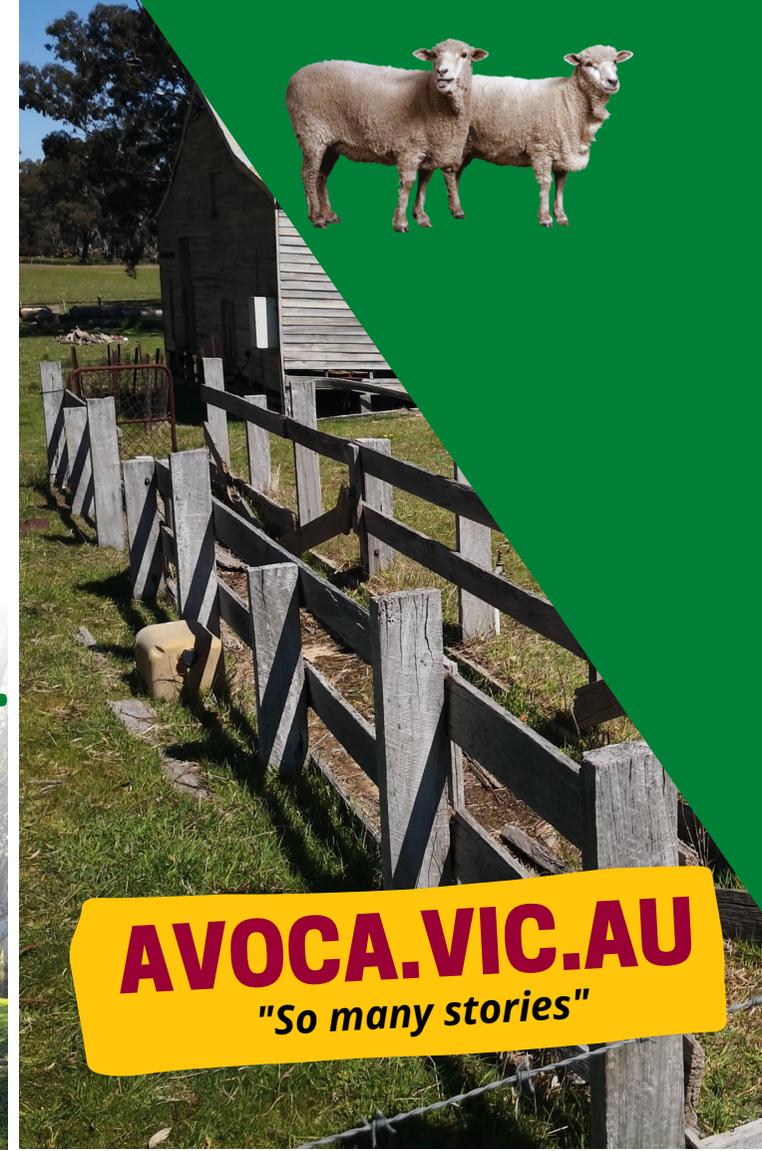
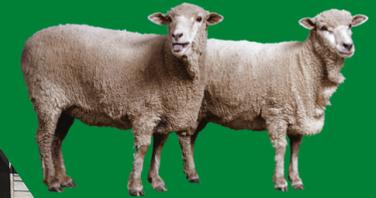
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GOLDEN VALLEY TRAIL

TRAIL



AVOCA.VIC.AU
"So many stories"

Golden Valley Trail

Amphitheatre - Elmhurst

We will drive into a picturesque valley on the southern side of the Pyrenees State Forest to a "golden valley".



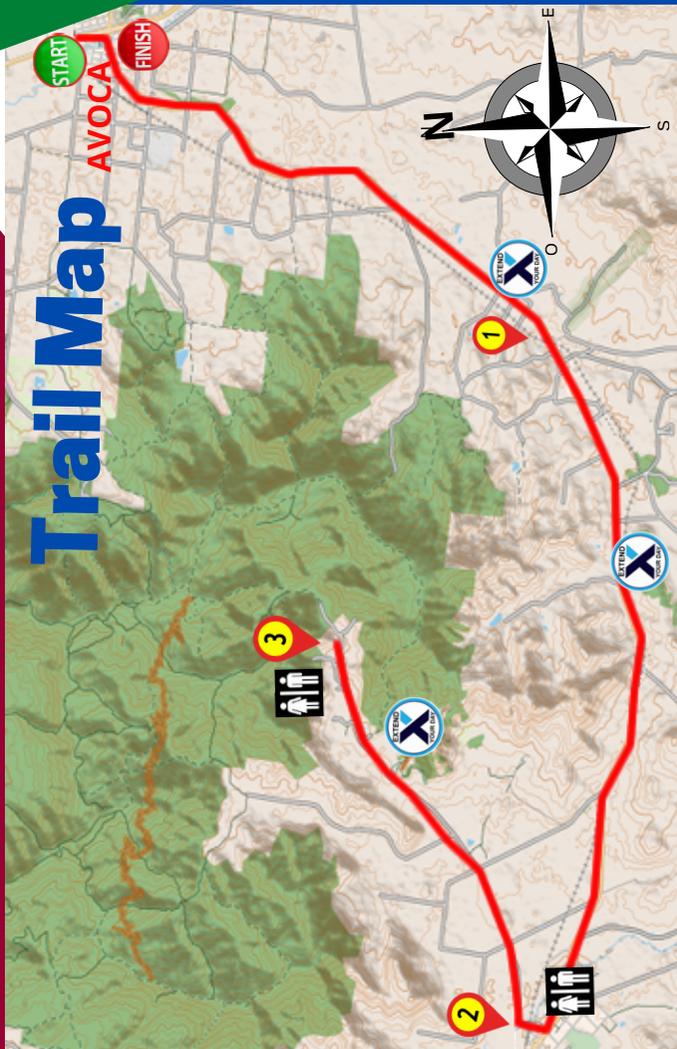
Easy



Half Day



Relaxed



Points of Interest



From Avoca travel south >> right at Shell service station >> Pyrenees Highway.



1 Amphitheatre. Gold was discovered in 1853, and a substantial rush of miners led to the establishment of a permanent village. Cocooned by the southern Pyrenees (in a semi circle effect or amphitheatre), the fertile valley was farmed as market gardens mainly by former Chinese miners. Orchards were planted, apples, pears, cherries, grapes and potatoes were renowned and exported.



2 Elmhurst. Farm selections began in the 1860s, along with timber harvesting. Sawmills proliferated to eight by the late 1880s, supplying timbers for gold mines and railway sleepers. The village of Elmhurst, Staffordshire, England, probably inspired the name, as lands fronting the Glenpatrick Creek and Wimmera River were attractive and meadow-like. Elmhurst once boasted a hotel, a post office and two sawmills.



3 Glenpatrick Recreation/Picnic ground. Take a wander along the fence line of the Recreation Reserve near the toilet block. You will see large mounds that are mullock heaps (loose stones left over from gold mining operations). Beside the mullock heaps is a wide creek (usually) called "a wash."

We can easily imagine gold miners using pans and cradles to sift the creek bed in search of gold.

In the 1800s the climate was much wetter and the rivers ran for longer. Large alluvial washes often exposed gold.

The Glenpatrick Co-operative Company also sunk a shaft looking for a deep lead. Being higher up the gully, they soon hit water and were forced to construct a tailrace approximately 2,100 feet long, but no gold lead was found.



Return to Avoca via Pyrenees Hwy You could extend your trip. See next panel.

