

NED KELLY TOURING ROUTE

Explore the Ned Kelly Touring Route

Now you can explore for yourself the many pieces of the Kelly puzzle by visiting the various Kelly sites in Melbourne, North East Victoria and Southern New South Wales on the Ned Kelly Touring Route.



All the major Kelly sites are marked with informative signs such as the one shown here, recognisable by the distinctive helmet symbol.

The signs provide commentary on the events that occurred at the site and expand on the information contained in this brochure. Some sites and townships also have a centrally located larger sign providing an overview to help you get the most from your visit.

Explore the Kelly sites of MELBOURNE, NORTH EAST VICTORIA & SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES





OLD MELBOURNE GAOL

Ned Kelly was executed on November 11, 1880. It is the most recalled of more than 130 hangings in this gaol, that operated from 1842 to 1924. Those very gallows remain where Ned's famous last words were spoken. Features of this award winning site include Ned's death mask, the last revolver he used complete with the bullet mark that smashed his hand and a cell and spaces dedicated to telling his story.

VICTORIA POLICE MUSEUM

Every story has two sides. Examine the history of the Kelly Outbreak through the experiences of the police involved. See original forensic exhibits, and learn what life would have been like for an officer in the 1880s. From Ned Kelly's blood stained cartridge bag, to the infamous armour worn by Dan Kelly and Steve Hart the Victoria Police Museum will challenge and surprise you. At 313 Spencer Street. Opening hours can be found at www.policemuseum.vic.gov.au

BEVERIDGE

Beveridge, was Ned's first home. The house built by Ned's father, Red is now known as The Kelly House and is located on the corner of Kelly Street and Stewart Street. Ned and his siblings attended school in Beveridge in the bluestone church on the hill. You can still enjoy a drink at historic bluestone pub The Hunter's Tryst; built in 1845 and where Ned's dad Red used to drink.

KILMORE

In 1865, Red was sentenced to six months with hard labour, that was served at the Kilmore Gaol. Red was imprisoned after he was found to be in possession of meat for which he could not account.

AVENEL

In 1865, the township of Avenel hailed 10 year old Ned Kelly as a "hero" for his act of bravery in rescuing a young boy from drowning in the swollen waters of Hughes Creek. As a gesture of appreciation, the family awarded Ned with a 7 foot long, green silk sash. The sash, which Ned later wore during the Glenrowan

Siege, is on display at Benalla's Costume and Kelly Museum. Ned Kelly's father died in Avenel in 1866 and is buried in the local cemetery. The grave site, along with a number of other significant sites, form part of a local trail.

EUROA

The infamous robbery of the Euroa National Bank by the Kelly Gang in December 1878 was the result of a carefully staged plan designed to draw the attention of both politicians and the public alike to the perceived injustices surrounding the Stringybark Creek incident. The robbery succeeded in its goals, netting the Kelly Gang 2,260 pounds and raising awareness of their cause. However, it also cemented their reputation as outlaws, and the resolve of the police to apprehend the Gang. The full story of the bank robbery, together with an extensive collection of memorabilia from the period, are on display at the Farmers Arms Hotel Museum in Euroa. Maps of the Euroa Heritage Walking Trail are also available.

BENALLA

As the major town closest to Ned's home, Benalla was the epicentre of Kelly's bushranging days and was police headquarters for the Kelly Gang manhunt. At the Costume and Kelly Museum you can step inside the portable cell once used to hold Ned Kelly, this is an opportunity to live history. The museum also holds the green silk sash presented to Ned in gratitude for saving the young boy in Avenel. Other Kelly sites include the cemetery, where gang member Joe Byrne is buried, the courthouse where the Kelly family appeared on various charges, and the bootmaker's shop where Kelly was once involved in a fight with several police. A comprehensive Benalla trail brochure with maps showing all the Ned Kelly sites is available from the Visitor Information Centre.

STRINGYBARK CREEK

The infamous shoot out between police and the Kelly Gang took place at Stringybark Creek Historical Reserve on 26 October 1878. The Gang surprised the police at their camp and, in the ensuing gun battle, three policemen were killed. A police memorial has been erected here and also a 1.4 km historical walk at Mansfield where the police are buried. The natural bush setting at Stringybark Creek is largely undisturbed and can be reached by a well-graded dirt road from either Benalla or Mansfield. CAUTION: Logging trucks frequently use this road.

EL DORADO AND THE WOOLSHED VALLEY

The Woolshed Valley had spawned a chain of gold rush towns during the 1850s and 60s. It sprang to new life with the Kelly Outbreak in 1878. Joe Byrne, lieutenant of the Kelly Gang, lived in Sebastopol and had attended the Woolshed School with his lifelong mate, Aaron Sherrett. Key sites are the murder scene, The Kelly Cave (briefly used by the Gang after the police killings) and the 'police caves' where 'watch parties' camped. Kelly items are on view at the Eldorado Museum. For further information visit www.eldoradomuseum.com.

GRETA

Ned Kelly lived in Greta on Fifteen Mile Creek from the age of 12, when the family moved here after his father died. The Kellys continued to live here after Ned was captured and hanged. Today the house site is privately owned by Kelly descendants and not open to the public. It was from Greta station that Constable Fitzpatrick, newly arrived, rode out to the Kelly house with a belly full of booze and glory on his mind - either from making a conquest with Kate or bringing in Dan, wanted on charges of horse stealing - the incident which kicked off the events that culminated in the standoff at Glenrowan. Greta cemetery is the final resting place for Ned Kelly.

He was buried here on January 20, 2013 in an unmarked grave alongside his mother Ellen Kelly (nee Quinn) and his younger brother Jim. Fellow Kelly Gang members Dan Kelly and Steve Hart are also buried here. Visitors from all around the world have signed the visitor's book located at the cemetery rotunda.

GLENROWAN

On 28 June 1880 the Kelly Gang bailed up the townfolk of Glenrowan in the Ann Jones Inn as part of their grand plan to create a Republic of North East Victoria. Ned's brother Dan and two other gang members, Steve Hart and Joe Byrne, died during their epic shoot out with the police. Although wearing his unique hand-made armour, Ned was finally brought down and captured after sustaining 28 gunshot wounds in his final dramatic battle with the police.

BEECHWORTH

Beechworth is Australia's best-preserved gold town. All four members of the Kelly Gang spent time in Beechworth Gaol, Ned for a total of two years. Ned appeared in the Beechworth Courthouse on 6 August 1880 on a charge of murder. He was committed to stand trial here before returning to Melbourne for his Supreme

Court trial and subsequent hanging. Ned's mother, Ellen, also appeared in the Beechworth Court in 1878, and was held in Beechworth Gaol before being taken to Melbourne to complete her sentence. The Courthouse is just one of a number of remarkable 19th century buildings making up the Beechworth Historic and Cultural Precinct, which provides a fascinating insight into life during the gold rush and Ned Kelly era. Guided Ned Kelly walking tours depart daily from the Visitor Information Centre. Beechworth Gaol is open to the public for self guided tours, which includes a visit to Ned Kelly's cell. Brochures and more information on Ned are available from the Beechworth Visitor Information Centre.

JERILDERIE

Thumbing his nose at the NSW constabulary, the Kelly Gang crossed the Murray River, arriving at the town of Jerilderie on 8 February 1879, to deliver a letter for publication that outlined Ned's defence of the Kelly Gang's actions at Stringybark Creek. In the process he relieved the town's bank of £2000. Unfortunately, the Jerilderie Letter, providing both insight and motive for Kelly's actions, wasn't published until long after his death. Walk in the footsteps of the Kelly Gang, exploring the six buildings visited by Ned or his Gang that are still in existence, including the Post and Telegraph Office which was disabled by the Gang to prevent news of their robbery spreading. If you are feeling generous, you can 'shout the bar' at the Royal Mail Hotel, as Ned did all those years ago.

POWERS LOOKOUT

Harry Power, a fellow bushranger to whom a teenaged Ned was 'apprenticed' for a time, hid himself in the ranges at the head of the King Valley. His camp was located near a hollow tree, through which holes were bored to give him a complete view of the valley. The highest spot above the campsite is now a popular viewing point known as Powers Lookout, and has magnificent views of the valley and surrounding vineyards. An entertaining history of Harry Power and the region is located in the car park.

MANSFIELD

The three policemen killed at Stringybark Creek are buried in Mansfield Cemetery. There is also an impressive marble monument to them in the main street which was funded by public donation. The proclamation resulting in the Gang members being declared outlaws was made from the steps of the Mansfield Courthouse on 15 November 1878. The Courthouse is still in use today.



The Avenel bush lock-up where Red Kelly was incarcerated, serving 4 months of a 6 month sentence. La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria

The Ned Kelly Story



For more information and to help plan your trip, we have put together a very informative video. Available on our web site and YouTube.

www.nedkellytouringroute.com.au/the-kelly-story/



The Kelly Story

“I am a widow’s son outlawed
 and my orders must be
 obeyed.”
 Ned Kelly, February 1879

The era of Ned Kelly and his gang is one of the most remarkable episodes in Australia’s history. Spanning just two short years between 1878 and 1880 the ‘Kelly outbreak’ has assumed epic proportions in the Australian psyche, and Ned Kelly is arguably Australia’s best known historical character. His short and violent life has been a continuing inspiration for poets, writers, artists and filmmakers. Being

“as game as Ned Kelly” is regarded as an admirable trait – courageous, resolute and independent.

Just who was Ned Kelly? Behind the head piece of his famous, crude suit of armour was a man of many faces. He was a common criminal. He was a hero to Irish immigrants, who were persecuted by the establishment. He was a bushranger who held up a whole town, not just banks. He was intensely protective of his family, and avenged a police officer’s assault on his sister.

Ned was barely educated, yet his famous letters were poetic and passionate. He murdered police officers, was outlawed and could be shot on sight by anyone. Yet when he was sentenced to hang, more than 30,000 people signed a petition asking for a reprieve.

“The day will come when we will all have to go to a bigger court than this.”

Ned Kelly to Justice Sir Redmond Barry on being sentenced to death in October 1880.

Ned Kelly has never faded from our national consciousness. Indeed the passing years have served to build Kelly’s legendary stature. Why? Perhaps because he had so many qualities to admire. He was a larrikin, loyal to the family and ready to sacrifice himself for his mates. Ned represented the struggling classes, thumbed his nose at the establishment and he was fearless.

Whatever the truth, Ned Kelly is a central figure in the Australian national identity, characterised by his ambivalent status as both a hero and a villain. He is part of our folklore, our popular culture and our art.



Visitor Information Centres

Allow time to discover north east Victoria and Jerilderie – there’s plenty to explore.

Visitor Information Centres that are accredited can make your travel planning easier. Look for the  sign – it’s your guarantee of up-to-date information and expert advice.

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www.nedkellytouringroute.com.au

- MELBOURNE**
Melbourne Visitor Hub
Melbourne Town Hall
03 9658 9658
- AVENEL**
Fowles Café & Winery
Corner Hume Fwy & Lambing Gully Rd
03 5796 2150
- BEECHWORTH**
Beechworth Visitor Information Centre
Town Hall, Ford Street
1300 366 321
- BENALLA**
Benalla Visitor Information Centre
14 Mair Street
03 5762 1749
- SEYMOUR**
Seymour Visitor Information Centre
47 Emily Street, Seymour
5799 0233
- EUROA**
Euroa Visitor Hub
Binney Street
1800 444 647
- JERILDERIE (NSW)**
Murrumbidgee Council
35 Jerilderie Street, Jerilderie
1300 676 243
- MANSFIELD**
Mansfield Visitor Information Centre
175 High Street
(03) 5775 7000
- NAGAMBIE**
Nagambie Visitor Information Centre
293 High Street, Nagambie
1800 444 647
- WANGARATTA**
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