

From John Ulrichsen - For info - Guthega-based cross country skiing day trips

Guthega is an excellent base for intermediate and better cross-country skiers, but the possibilities are limited for beginners unless they are of an energetic disposition (i.e. can put up with the chopped up snow/ice across Farm Creek and up to Illawong!). The opportunities for day trips out of Guthega include:

- Close to the Lodge, there are also some very pleasant and quite easy short trips among the un-burnt snow gums on the western side of the Perisher Range. This is a very good place to visit if the weather is bad on the Main Range.
- One of the best short tours, especially on bad-weather days or when there are short daylight hours early in the season is up Farm Creek which was mostly missed by the 2003 bushfires and is very attractive. Towards the top of Farm Creek (just before it forks) you can climb up and over to the small valley immediately to the west, then climb further to The Paralyser. The Paralyser has great views over the Snowy Valley and the Main Range.
- South-east and south of The Paralyser there are some small gullies with snow which may be protected from sun and wind, leading down to the Betts Ck catchment. This is an excellent place to play if there has been fresh snow. If a direct return via Farm Creek is not to your taste, you can make this a round trip by going down Spencer's Creek (where the snow cover can be poor) until you reach the Snowy River Valley (where the snow is good) and Illawong.
- Heading up the Snowy valley is great once you get the initial slog through vegetation and (sometimes) poor snow to Illawong behind you.
- In a longish day you can go to Mt Twynam, Watson's Crag and/or Blue Lake.
- Another very good trip is the Guthega Trig – Tate – Pounds Creek – Illawong loop.
- Tate West Ridge looks like a place with great views on a clear day.
- Dicky Cooper Bogong and back is a very satisfying long tour. It's 26km return but quite fast travel once you're up on the Rolling Ground, and there are superb views nearly all the way. Navigation can be very challenging in poor conditions. You can return via Guthega Trig, or down the Guthega Creek valley which would be more protected in bad weather.
- For a really long hard day (contingent on having the right snow conditions - not too icy), Guthega Trig – Consett Stephen Pass – Kosciuszko – back via the Snowy valley.