

The Fat
Canyoners'
Good
Grub
Guide

<http://fatcanyoners.org/>

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Introduction

There is nothing more deserved after a day stumbling through the bush, swimming through a canyon, clambering up some crags, or squeezing through a cave than an ice-cold beer and generous sized feed in comfortable surroundings. After more than a few dud experiences with bad food, poor service, and management who are less than welcoming of smelly bushwalkers, this guide was born.

The venues are loosely broken down into popular regions, with an overall star rating. Those that are particular favourites of the Fat Canyoners get a ✓, while those we have vowed never to return to get a ✗. This guide exists only thanks to the dutiful reconnaissance of dozens of outdoor enthusiasts. We welcome any and all suggestions, additions or corrections.

Lastly, if you want to see how much things have changed check out the SUBW food guide from February 1983: ‘101 places to chew and spew after you’ve had a few’ <http://www.subw.org.au/archives/vsm/vsm2/vsm2.6.html>.

Disclaimer

Life is dangerous. One day you will die. Based on some of the worst food we have endured, we can assure you that the danger doesn't end when you leave the bush.

The information in this guide is based on our own opinion, experiences and research. We have no formal qualifications in the field. The information is not formal instruction, nor is it any substitute for formal instruction. You certainly should not trust your life to anything that you read in these pages. You could die. People who rely on you could die.

At the very least you should do your own research and testing. Seek formal instruction and/or read appropriate literature. Make sure you know what you are doing, and what the risks are.

Upper Blue Mountains

The Imperial Mt Victoria ★★★ ☆ ✓

Great for the deep-fried foods and usually has a coal fire burning on a cold wet day. You may have to fight off the poseurs from Piddington. Only one choice for vegos.

(02) 4787 1878 - 1 Station Street

The Ivanhoe Blackheath ★★★

Reasonable food at reasonable prices. The best pub option in Blackheath. Allegedly home to best meat pies 'in the universe'.

(02) 4787 6156 - 231 Great Western Highway

Gardeners Inn Blackheath ★ ☆

Once good but has gone downhill. Food is vastly overpriced. Can be a bit trendy on weekends. Rude wait staff. Only salvation is the lounges in front of the fire on a cold wet day.

(02) 4787 6400 - 255 Great Western Highway

Wattle Cafe Blackheath ★★★

A popular meeting place for bushwalkers for eons, it had friendly staff and reasonable coffee.

(02) 4787 8153 - 240 Great Western Highway

Piedmont Inn Pizza Blackheath ★★★★★

Possibly the best pizza in the mountains, but the restaurant is small so ring and check there is room if you have a big group. May not like you at your dirtiest.

(02) 4787 7769 - 248 Great Western Highway

Blackheath Fish and Chips Blackheath ★★★

A popular meeting place for bushwalkers for eons, it had friendly staff and reasonable coffee. Eat across the road in the park. Food quality can vary, but no complaints about filthy canyoners.

222 Great Western Highway

Blackheath Patisserie Blackheath ★★ ☆

Good sourdough and some good pies. Has gone downhill in recent years due to change of ownership.

(02) 4787 8447 - 6 Govetts Leap Road

Rajarani Indian Restaurant Katoomba ★★★★★ ☆✓

Excellent traditional food, no charge BYO and very reasonable prices.

(02) 4787 6968 - 124 Wentworth Street

Gearin Hotel Katoomba ★★★★★ ✓

A little grungy and local-only, but that just adds to the vibe. Food is pretty good, prices are reasonable, and it is one of the few places in the mountains with decent live music. Buy a meal and two drinks and get a second meal free!

(02) 4782 4395 - 273 Great Western Highway

Blackburn's Family Hotel Katoomba ★★★★★ ☆

Another pub that focuses on the local crowd rather than tourists. Good food, big serves and interesting atmosphere.

(02) 4782 1106 - 15 Parke Street

Rene's Pizza Katoomba ★★★★★ ☆

Close to the station, great food and good service. It can be hard to get a table but well worth it if you crave a greasy treat.

(02) 4782 1859 - 4 Katoomba Street

Arjunas Indian Restaurant Katoomba ★★★★★

Possibly the best Indian food in the mountains. Positioned just off the highway near Shell Corner. Ring ahead to check they have room.

(02) 4782 4662 - 16 Valley Road

Chork Dee Katoomba ★★★

The best place for Thai. No MSG. Ring ahead on 4782 1913.

(02) 4782 1913 - 204 Katoomba Street

Sanwiye Korean Cafe Katoomba ★★★★★

Relatively new restaurant with fantastic, well priced food on the main drag. 0405 402 130 - 172 Katoomba St

Common Ground Cafe Katoomba ★★★ ☆

Run by an obscure religious sect, this place serves great food which is well priced. Their Amazon energy drink comes highly recommended to keep you awake for drive home. Closed Friday night and all day Saturday.

(02) 4782 9744 - 214 Katoomba Street

Swiss Cottage Katoomba ★★ ☆

Really good food including traditional Swiss fare. Have an open fire. Need a clean change of clothes and dry shoes. Need to book.

(02) 4782 2281 - 132 Lurline Street

Alexandra Hotel (The Alex) Leura ★★★★★ ☆

Cheep beer, reasonable food, nice sunny beer garden for the warmer days. Good Japanese place next door if you want to source your food and drink separately!

(02) 4782 4422 - 62 Great Western Highway

Hana Japanese Restaurant Leura ★★★★★ ☆

Good food, BYO alcohol or you can get sake there. Open late. Try the green tea ice-cream.

(02) 4784 1345 - 121 The Mall

Leura fish & chips ★★★

The most run down looking shop in the mall, but good prices and generous servings of grease. You can scandalise the visiting bourgeoisie by sitting on the grassy median strip to eat. Usually open after the other shops.

141 The Mall

Schwarzs Patisserie Wentworth Falls ★★★

A bit trendy and pricey, and can often have a big queue, but very good quiches, pretzels and rolls. Staff can be a bit rude, but usually only when it is busy.

(02) 4757 3300 - 30 Station Street

Post Office Cafe Wentworth Falls ★★★ ☆

Superb morning coffee, brilliant cakes and excellent breakfasts.

(02) 4757 1615 - 13 Station Street

Blue Mountain Hotel Lawson ★★★★★ ☆✓

Good food, reasonable prices, nicely restored historic building. In winter the fire is going and there is a good selection of beers on tap. Friendly service, comfy lounges and no issues with dress code.

(02) 4759 1023 - 286 Great Western Highway

Lower Blue Mountains

Springwood Pizza Springwood ★★★

Cheap, fast and tasty. Open fairly late on weekends.

(02) 4751 5187 - 240 Macquarie Road

The Lapstone Hotel (The Lapo) Blaxland ★★★ ☆✓

Recently renovated, can be pricey but good food. Never a comment about dress, except for when a 9-year-old in stinky thermals with crusty blood on his head from a leech attack turned up. And I've been told it has the cutest bar staff in the mountains.

(02) 4739 1266 - 15 Great Western Highway

Monte Pizzeria Blaxland ★★ ☆

Opposite the Lapo, and still serving after the bistro closes, reasonable food

at a reasonable price. Avoid the garlic bread.
(02) 4739 6969 - 15 Great Western Highway

Subway Blaxland ★★

Slightly better option than the McDonalds on the other side of the road, and next to an IGA if you need supplies.

Glenbrook Takeawa Glenbrook ★★★

Good fish and chips.

(02) 4739 1837 - 31 Ross Street

Blue Tongue Lizard Cafe Glenbrook ★★★★★

Relaxed chilled out atmosphere. Often has live music and poetry nights.

(02) 4739 1364 - 6 Ross Street

Bells Line / Hawkesbury / Putty

Apple Bar Bilpin ☆✘

Overpriced food aimed at the weekend trendies, they don't much like stinky canyoners. I've twice been ushered outside, including on a very cold night, so we wouldn't upset the more fancy clientele. Unsurprisingly we took our business elsewhere. I've had some feedback from a couple people who disagree with me.

(02) 4567 0335 - 2488 Bells Line Of Road

Cottage Orchard Caffè Bilpin ★★★ ☆

They don't serve meals, but if you're after a good espresso coffee on the way back from Mt Wilson and great home-made apple pies, baked daily, you can't go wrong. Often the last shop open on Bells.

(02) 4567 2193 - 3158 Bells Line of Road

Kurrajong Heights Hotel Kurrajong Heights ★★★★★ ✓

The City View Bistro serves generous sized reasonably priced meals. Service isn't always quick but gives you the chance to enjoy a beer and the sparkling lights of Sydney. Very canyoner friendly.

(02) 4567 7140 - 1349 Bells Line of Road

The Bakehouse North Richmond ★ ☆✕

Great meeting place, but after two bouts of food poisoning from their pies I prefer to buy from My Dad's Bakery 50m away in the shopping centre. Both have a good selection of pastries. Open early.

(02) 4571 1545 - 6/35 Bells Line Of Road

Redskins Burger Hut North Richmond ★★★ ☆

Fine purveyors of well priced grease. I once went here on the way to a long weekend of canyoning after being ill for a few days and their burger completely cured me.

Royal Family Hotel Richmond ★★★★★

Large wooden tables, perfect for a large group, and massive meals. The scotch fillet comes highly recommended and they're not precious about dress codes.

(02) 4578 1011 - 163 Windsor Street

Macquarie Pizza Place Richmond ★★★

Late night option on Windsor St. Open until 11pm Sunday to Thursday and midnight on Friday and Saturday.

(02) 4578 3686 - 144 Windsor Street

Tandoori Village Richmond ★★★★★

A nice alternative to a pub. Very acceptable Indian and not too fussed by attire. Air-conditioning can be a bit overpowering.

(02) 4578 7788 - 16 - 24 East Market Street

Aldo's Richmond ★★★ ☆

Fully licensed pizza and pasta place on Windsor St. Very big servings and not fazed by what you're wearing.

(02) 4578 1525 - 296 Windsor Street

McDonalds Richmond ★ ☆

No beer and bad food, but a good meeting place, open late, and you couldn't look / smell any worse than their usual clientele.

Cnr East Market St & March Streets

Macquarie Arms Hotel Windsor ★★★★★

Good grub, if a little pricey. Allegedly home to the world's best mushroom sauce with the Sunday roast. The outback bakery is meant to be pretty good.

(02) 4577 2206 - 99 George Street

Wombat Cafe Gunderman (near Wisemans Ferry) ★★★ ☆

Claims to sell Australia's biggest burger (size options go up to the 2.4kg 'Big Double Wombat') as well as an epic 1.1kg bacon and egg roll. Only open weekends and public holidays.

(02) 4566 3181 - 6135 Wisemans Ferry Road

Kanangra / Oberon

Halfway House Hampton ★★★★★ ✓

Good burgers, good price, good service and canyoner friendly. For the meat lovers you can't go past the Shearers Special.

(02) 6359 3302 - Jenolan Caves Road

Caves House Jenolan Caves ☆X

There's absolutely no justification to stop here. Just keep on driving to Hampton or Oberon.

(02) 6359 3311 - Jenolan Caves Road

The Royal Hotel Oberon ★★★★★ ✓

We turned up late with a large group right as the kitchen was closing once, and instead of sending us away they called in a cook. It's been my pub of choice ever since. Good food, big serves, affordable prices.

(02) 6336 1011 - 113 Oberon Street

Peters Cafe Oberon ★★★ ☆

Good quality takeaway, and will even take phone orders if you want to save time while passing through. Best of all, it has a wood fire to keep you cosy when it's cold outside.

(02) 6336 1154 - 107 Oberon Street

Wolgan / Lithgow

Grand Central Hotel Lithgow ★

You can judge a pub by its chicken parmi, and this place serves up a nugget with some tomato paste. Friendly locals-only pub with quick service, but the food is woeful. (A meal here was the inspiration for this guide).

(02) 6352 5954 - 69 Main Street

Workies Lithgow ★★★ ☆

Good food, including a 'cook your own steak' style bistro. Not too perturbed by smelly dirty canyoners and a little more relaxed on the whole dress code thing than most clubs.

(02) 6350 7777 - 3 Tank Street

McDonalds Lithgow ★ ☆

No beer and terrible food, but it is a good meeting place and is open 24 hours for when your trips run into the wee hours.

Cnr Great Western Highway & Main Street

Central West

Jack Duggans Irish Pub Bathurst ★★★★★

Excellent hearty meals according to the locals.

(02) 6331 2712 - 135 George Street

Gazza's Takeaway Bathurst ★★★ ☆

If hamburgers are your thing this is the place to head. Excellent hearty meals according to the locals.

(02) 6331 4667 - 110 Bentinck Street

Rocky's Woodfired Pizza Orange ★★★★★ ☆✓

By appointment only. It's worth being nice to Joshua 'Rocky' Hill if you meet him in a canyon as he cooks up a spectacular pizza in his home-made woodfired pizza oven!

Southern Highlands

Shiva Indian Restaurant Mittagong ★★★★★ ☆

The food is great quality and the chef is fully Sikh. Perfect for pre or post ski trip and if you call ahead they will cook so your food is ready when you arrive.

(02) 4872 3292 - 111 Old Hume Highway

Mittagong Hotel Mittagong ★★★ ☆

Friendly service, great variety menu (including Tapas during the week and multiple roasts options on sunday), cider on tap. Chef Euloge Rivera has built a reputation as one of the best Tapas chefs in the country. What more can you want from Mittagong (although the Chinese next door also smells damn good) (02) 4872 2228 - 89-91 Main Street

Lilac City Motel Steakhouse Goulburn ★★★

Extensive choice of steaks, including the 2kg Big D (\$69) which if you finish it along with the Salad, Chips or Vegetables will result in a Steakhouse Plaque being created in your honour. Sunday to Thursday there is a two-course menu for \$19.50. Opens 6pm.

(02) 4821 5000 - 126-128 Lagoon Street

Terminus Hotel Marulan ★★★

The closest pub to Bungonia and therefore a staple. Does Sunday roasts until 14:30 so have yet to be tasted. They do however keep the fire cranking thoroughout the night which is most welcome. If their kitchens closed the fish 'n' chip shop a few doors down the road's reasonably priced and can be consumed with a beer in hand (but only outside on the big ol wooden tables). They also do a great value for money cup of coffee/hot chocolate.

(02) 4841 1504 / 0407 293 265 - 54 George Street

Oaks Hotel Albion Park Rail ★★★★★ ☆

Open till 9 on a Sunday this is our pick of the pubs heading home from the Budawangs. Roasts will set you back \$10 or \$12 with desert. The seafood is of a very high quality and either \$14 for a medium or \$17 for a very generous serving, whilst the steak sandwiches had some damn juicy steak!

(02) 4257 1211 - 249 Princes Highway - exit the Highway at the McDonalds sign

Victoria

The Logan Pub Logan ★★★★★ ☆✓

An unforgettable experience! Voted Australias best bush pub, this pub is in the middle of the scrub, consists of a 3m squared bar area a dinning room large enough to seat a dozen, plus a pool table. Essentially your invited to have dinner with the owners. However they do get an astounding amount of business from the locals (there were 5 others there when we went which the owner did mutter to herself was a lot of dinners to cook).

(03) 5496 2220 - Corner Wimmera Highway and Logan Road