

Map 5

Poatina

Tasmania's first underground power station



A short drive from Poatina allows you to appreciate the view from the lookout, visit the Great Lake, and enjoy the local scenery.

Accommodation, meals & drinks available

Contact Poatina Chalet
View Café & Restaurant
Motel & Hostel
Phone 6397 8290
Gordon St, Poatina 7302
www.poatina.net.au

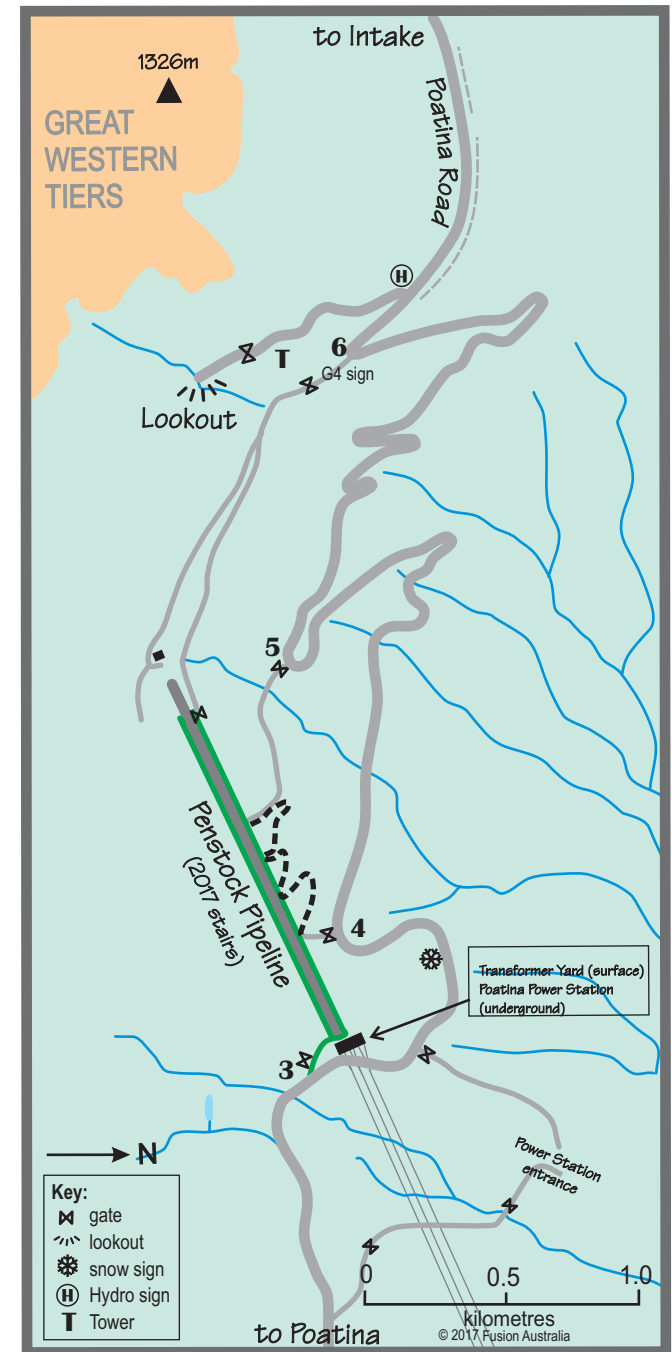
The Poatina hydroelectric power scheme takes advantage of the close proximity of the Great Lake to the steep slopes of the Great Western Tiers. The Great Lake has an area of 176 square kilometres, and a capacity of 3 million Olympic sized swimming pools (or 15 times Sydney Harbour)! Water from the lake is piped through the top of the mountain and down the scarp to the power station at the base of the Tiers. The water drops 835 metres into the power station, the longest drop in Australia. The scheme, which was opened in 1965, has a generating capacity of 300MW.

You can visit the lookout above Poatina and return within 60 minutes. Stay longer for a picnic, or visit the Intake on the Great Lake as well. To reach the Intake, continue along the Poatina Road 5km from the lookout turnoff. There is a Hydro schematic diagram at the right-hand turn intersection. The road is unsealed.

Are you fit enough to climb the stairway alongside the Poatina pipeline? There are stairs on both sides of the pipeline. Cross beneath the pipeline to bypass the locked gate at the top of the right side stairs. The latest count has been 2017 stairs between the Transformer Yard and the top of the pipeline!

Allow 1.5-2 hours for a one way climb from the Transformer Yard (3) to Poatina Road (6). Allow 2-2.5 hours if you would like to complete the return trip. The other access points (4 & 5) allow for a shorter climb.

Please note: The pipeline stairs are on Hydro Tasmania land. You climb at your own risk.



Don't forget: the weather can change rapidly, so be prepared. Carry any food and drink you would need, and take warm clothes and rain gear.

Poatina Village

poatina.net.au



Poatina is an aboriginal word meaning “cavern” or “shelter”. It is now the name of a township nestled at the foot of the Great Western Tiers.

Poatina Village was built to provide housing for workers constructing the nearby water pipeline and underground Poatina Hydroelectric Power Station and their families. The first family moved there in December 1958 and the store and community hall were completed in 1960. In those days the Village also had hundreds of relocatable houses in the region which is now the golf course.



When Hydro Tasmania sold the entire Village in 1995 to Fusion Australia only five families were living there. Today the population is over 100.



Fusion uses some of the Poatina facilities in their Youth and Community programs. The village now has the Golden Chain Motel and Hostel (The Chalet, with View Cafe) plus 12 self-contained, double-storey, mountain cottages, a 9 hole Golf Course, Post Office, General Store, Gift Shop, Op Shop, The Tiers Tea Lounge, Poatina Tree Art Gallery and a Garage.

It is also the home of the Alethea Mountain Retreat Arts Centre and Hot Glass Studio. Artists from all over Australia come to participate in workshops, summer schools, artistic retreats and residencies in an inspiring natural setting. (poatinaarts.org.au)



Capstone College is a Special Assistance School for students who have disengaged from education and are wanting a fresh opportunity to complete secondary studies (capstone.tas.edu.au).

