

Melbourne is so much more... Melbourne may be stylish, cosmopolitan and contemporary... but it's so much more than that. There's plenty of substance beneath the style. Those who delve a little deeper will find a whole other world of hidden gems and secret places, of people and venues that reveal Melbourne's passions and creative edge and make it truly memorable. It's easy to lose yourself, but it's also the perfect place to linger – once you find the heart of the city, you'll never want to leave.

### Wominjeka - Welcome


For Aboriginal people, the place now known as Melbourne has been home since the beginning of time. The sprawling metropolis of this urban city rests upon the ancestral lands of the clans of the Boonerwung and Wurundjeri people.

IT'S EASY TO

*Lose Yourself*

IN MELBOURNE





## Contents

- 2 Events:** It's all happening.
- 6 Arts/Culture:** What to do next?
- 10 Shopping:** Style starts here.
- 14 Parks and Gardens:** Take a leaf from our book
- 18 Food and Wine:** What's on the menu?
- 22 Villages:** Melbourne's Eclectic Edge
- 26 Beyond Melbourne:** Come away with us
  - 28 Ballarat**
  - 32 Phillip Island**
  - 36 Geelong and The Bellarine**
  - 40 Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges**
  - 44 Daylesford and the Macedon Ranges**
  - 48 Mornington Peninsula**
  - 52 Nagambie and Strathbogie Ranges**
  - 56 Bendigo**
- 60 Maps**













Melbourne's year-round calendar of events and festivals captures the city's passions – for sport on a grand scale, for brilliant food and wine, the flair of fine fashion, excellence in music, theatre and the arts and so much more. So come prepared to see, do, discover and enjoy. It's all happening here.

Melburnians love their sport. Some say it's a madness, but no one denies the international calibre of the events, or the seemingly endless stream of local and international sporting stars who provide fantastic entertainment across a huge range of sports.

Melbourne's balmy summer days and nights are given over to the *thwack* of tennis balls and the thrill of top-seeded champions and up-and-coming contenders battling it out in the superb surrounds of the Rod Laver Arena during the Australian Open Tennis Championships.

For those who enjoy their speed at ground level, in March the palm-lined surrounds and reflective waters of Albert Park Lake provide a stunning backdrop to

the ING Formula 1™ Australian Grand Prix. Formula One racing cars, flown in from around the world, are the ultimate speed machines – but it's not all pit stops, power and petrol fumes. There's plenty of on- and off-track glamour and some excellent celebrity spotting.

Still talking speed, in October motorbike fans can head to the gum-tree strewn landscape and sensational sea views of Phillip Island for one of the toughest, and most thrilling, two-wheel challenges in sport, the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix.

Deeply entrenched in the Melbourne psyche is Australian Rules Football, the quintessential Melbourne game, a daring few-holds-barred sport of immense skill,

played to huge crowds in spectacular venues at day and night matches. It's an absolute must-see. Come September, the game reaches its highpoint when up to 100,000 spectators fill the famed MCG for the Grand Final – memorable doesn't even begin to describe it.

Perhaps football is not your thing? Well, there's always racing – the 'sport of kings' – to entice you. Melbourne's Spring Racing Carnival is a unique blend of thoroughbreds and fashion trends, punters and parties, fine food and fabulous flowers, high heels and high times. And the culmination is the Emirates Melbourne Cup, the world-renowned race that stops a nation on the first Tuesday in November.





- 1 AFL at the MCG
- 2 The Australian Grand Prix
- 3 Melbourne International Comedy Festival
- 4 Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show
- 5 Melbourne – the gastronomic capital of Australia
- 6 Wangaratta Jazz Festival
- 7 The elegant Regent Theatre



But there's more to Melbourne than just sport. Laugh yourself silly at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival in March and April, when grand theatres and tiny *boîtes* feature more than a gaggle of comedians from here and abroad.

For culture buffs who prefer a little more *gravitas*, there's plenty of choice. From June to October, the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces series presents blockbuster exhibitions, curated in association with prestigious international galleries. In October artists from all fields – dance, music, theatre, visual arts and more – converge on the city for the innovative, inevitably brilliant Melbourne International Arts Festival. From Wagner to *Dancing in the Rain*, from percussion to street poets, it surprises, delights, sometimes shocks, but always entertains.

In a city of foodies, the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival has a decidedly high profile – and it's fun. In February 2008, MasterClasses, stellar chefs, the world's longest lunch, banquets, beer halls and more, celebrate all things culinary.

Come autumn, one of the loveliest of all seasons in Melbourne, the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show captures the city's great love of gardens.

In the heritage Carlton Gardens, a profusion of flowers and plants, designers and garden gurus showcase the city's horticultural interests and expertise. Blooming marvellous – and well worth seeing.

#### VICTORIA'S HALLMARK EVENTS

Australian Open Tennis Championships	14 – 27 January 2008
2008 FORMULA 1™ Australian Grand Prix	13 – 16 March 2008
Melbourne Food & Wine Festival	22 February – 5 March 2008
Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show	2 – 6 April 2008
Melbourne International Comedy Festival	19 March – 13 April 2008
Rip Curl Pro Surfing, Bells Beach	18 – 28 March 2008
Toyota AFL Grand Final Week	22 – 27 September 2008
2007 Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix	October 2008
Spring Racing Carnival	October – November 2008
Melbourne International Arts Festival	9 – 25 October 2008
Wangaratta Jazz Festival	31 October – 2 November 2008
Queenscliff Music Festival	28 – 30 November 2008
3 mobile Boxing Day Test Match	26 - 30 December 2008
Equitana Asia Pacific	20 – 23 November 2009
For more information go to <a href="http://visitvictoria.com">visitvictoria.com</a>	

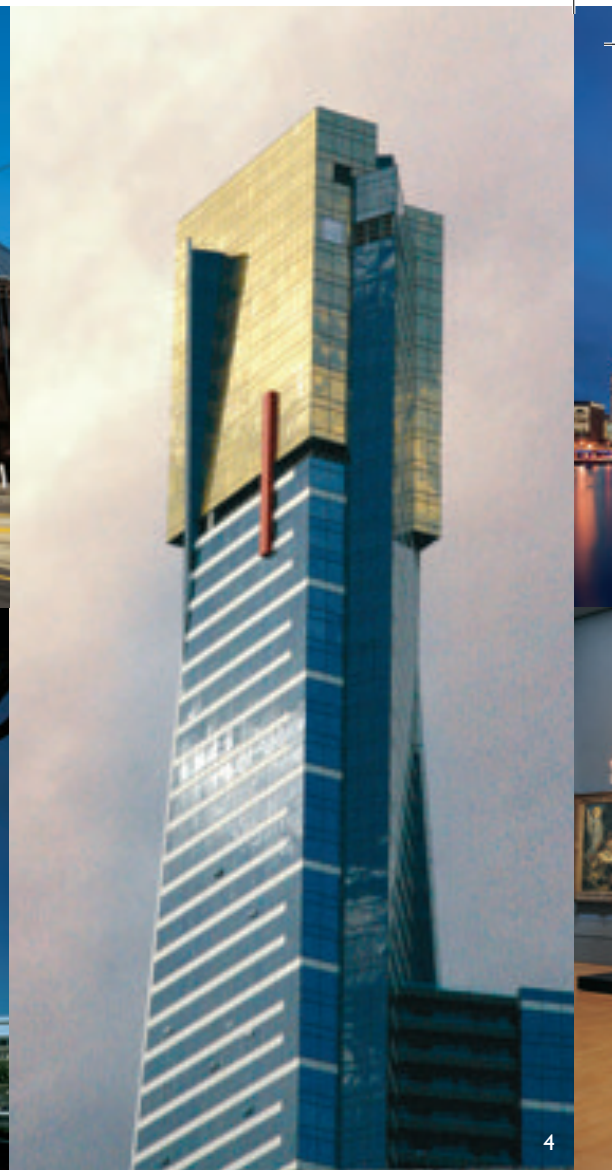












Melbourne's cultural credentials are impressive indeed. Visitors can immerse themselves in the full spectrum of activities from high-end art to street theatre, Broadway productions to backgammon tables, admiring the architecture, or just cruising down the river. The free City Circle Tram and the city's classic grid layout make getting around a cinch. The big question is – just what to do next?

Federation Square, the multi-faceted, architecturally dynamic new heartland of Melbourne, is the perfect place to start exploring. Visitors can get their bearings at the excellent Melbourne Visitor Centre then, while at 'Fed Square', check out the unique Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) and design wizardry at the inspirational National Design Centre.

If creativity appeals to you, so will Melbourne's art scene, which spans cutting edge and classic, fringe and fine art. The prestigious National Gallery of Victoria (The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia at Federation Square and NGV International on St Kilda Road) presents its own superlative collections, as well as blockbuster international shows. For innovative art, the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) focuses on experimental and emerging artists in the visually arresting, rust-red Ngargee building; spend an afternoon perusing the galleries along Flinders Lane, or inspecting the city's street art.





- 1 Federation Square
- 2 The Malthouse Theatre
- 3 Outside the Melbourne Museum
- 4 Eureka Tower
- 5 Colourful Southbank by night
- 6 Australian art at the National Gallery of Victoria
- 7 Melbourne Museum - Children's Museum
- 8 Australian Centre for Contemporary Art



While you're in the mood for browsing, Melbourne's museums are typical of the city's diversity. Experience natural and social history and gain an insight into Aboriginal culture at the outstanding Melbourne Museum, and get hands-on at the Children's Museum. Discover the fascinating tale of Melbourne's migration at the Immigration Museum or experiment at the highly interactive Scienceworks Museum (and don't miss the Planetarium). Feel a spine-tingling shiver in the forbidding bluestone Old Melbourne Gaol where notorious bushranger Ned Kelly was hanged. Or make your way to the hallowed turf and impressive sport museum at the MCG.

Performing arts are an intrinsic part of Melbourne's cultural fabric. At the Arts Centre, beneath the soaring spire on St Kilda Road, theatre and ballet, jazz, cabaret and chamber music are typically showcased. Musical theatre and comedy play to packed houses at the city's grand theatres: the splendid Princess Theatre, the much loved Her Majesty's Theatre and the lavishly ornate Regent Theatre in Collins Street.

For an introduction to contemporary Australian theatre, the Malthouse presents some visionary productions.

One of the most impressive venues in town is the Crown Entertainment Complex with an outstanding selection of restaurants, cool bars, live entertainment and a sophisticated range of gaming options. After dinner or a show, saunter along the boardwalk and soak up the ambience.

Melbourne's architectural brilliance shines at every turn – there is the colonnaded Parliament House, the magnificently domed State Library (browse their brilliant collection); the World Heritage Listed Exhibition Building and the solemnly beautiful Shrine of Remembrance, not to mention the sweeping curves of the new award-winning Southern Cross Station.

For a different perspective, take to the skies. Ballooning over Melbourne is a serene experience: float over the patchwork of parks, gardens and historic inner suburbs, past skyscrapers and sparkling bay views.

Another breathtaking view is from the Melbourne Observation Deck, a 360-degree panorama from the 55-level Rialto Building (at dusk see the skyline come to glittering life). If you really want to reach for the stars, go to the Skydeck at the landmark new Eureka88 tower; for an awesome view from one of the highest public vantage points in the Southern Hemisphere.

For yet another angle on the city, board a river cruise. Wind along the Yarra River near the Southgate arts precinct and leafy suburbs, or head past the docks en route to historic Williamstown.

For a little of Melbourne's wild side, visit the Melbourne Zoo, home to more than 350 species, including our own extraordinary Australian wildlife; or encounter underwater creatures at the Melbourne Aquarium, from sharks (the fearless can even dive with them!) to tiny sea dragons.

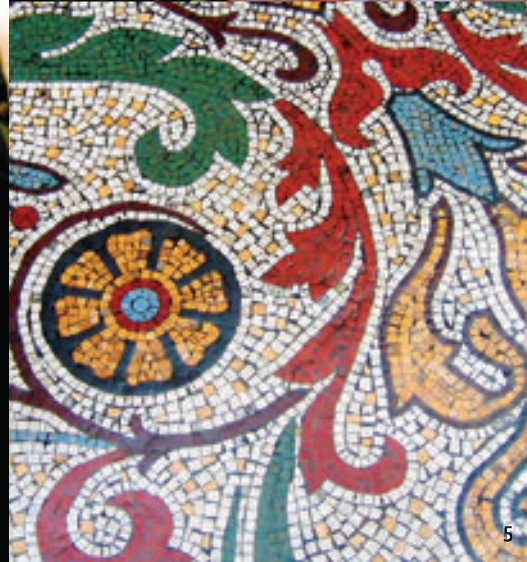












Hidden down Melbourne's narrow lanes, arcades and byways, and scattered across town in distinctive shopping precincts, are boutiques to cater for your every need and every whim. Where to go? Why not go on a shopping safari – follow your instincts, turn left at the next arcade, and hunt down some treasures.

Melbourne is undoubtedly Australia's style capital for architecture, design, high fashion and street wear. There's a pacesetter, trendsetting beat to the city's heart, and Melburnians pride themselves on their savvy eye for the creative and the edgy, the deluxe and the eminently affordable. Discerning shoppers who take the time to explore can share the diversity and myriad delights of the city's shopping.

For up-market cachet, you simply can't beat leafy, tree-lined Collins Street. International logos – Chanel, Tiffany, Louis Vuitton and more – gleam in their refined gallery-like boutiques. From haute to seriously hip – Little Collins Street has a sharper fashion sensibility (look for Versace, Calibre and Roy). Those in the know seek out Lucy Pinto's ever-so-discreet, avant-garde boutique, Eastern

Market, or peruse Flinders Lane in search of the latest designer labels (such as alpha60 at Alphaville). Accessory addicts make a beeline for the glossy red, Parisian panache of Christine.

Art Deco Howey Place is home to Alannah Hill's flirty fashion and Bettina Liano's sleek styles. Nearby, the sumptuous 19th-century Block Arcade sparkles like a jewel with its mosaic floors, fashion, accessories, shoes and the best tearoom in town (the historic Hopetoun). Just around the corner the ornate Royal Arcade beckons, and leads to other laneways. Another creative hub is the architecturally significant Nicholas Building, with boutiques at ground level, and jewellers, designers, milliners and other studios upstairs.

In the heart of Bourke Street are Melbourne's department stores, the stylish David Jones (DJs to the locals) and the iconic Myer. Right next door stands the fabulously restored GPO, now the site for high-end fashion (for example, Akira Isogawa's dreamy creations) and smart





- 1 Lisa Ho at the GPO
- 2 Boutique shopping along Gertrude St, Fitzroy
- 3 Eclectic Smith Street - Fitzroy
- 4 Nicholas Building, Swanston Street Melbourne
- 5 Beautiful mosaics at Royal Arcade
- 6 Shopping at Alannah Hill
- 7 Betty & Ford, Equitable Place



food venues. Melbourne Central, with its 300-plus stores, is a shopping destination in its own right, with plenty of places to stop and refuel with a coffee and a snack. And if you still have energy to burn, QV presents a maze of smart, shop-lined laneways.

Typical of Melbourne's ongoing dedication to fashion, is the Fashion Incubator. A not-for-profit design and fashion association, the Incubator provides emerging designers the chance to develop and flourish, to participate in parades, work with mentors and make industry contacts. It acknowledges innovation, imagination and passion and helps fuel the city's vibrant fashion sense.

Browsing for gifts? Southgate is the perfect place for goods with an Australian orientation – exceptional craft, artisan jewellery and fine glassware. Then reward yourself with a boutique wine, perhaps at the urbane Walter's Wine Bar with its city river views.

Melbourne's shopping treasures spread well beyond the CBD though. Toorak Road, South Yarra is a modern classic (a cashmere sweater; Armani jeans anyone?) while Toorak Village is old-school luxury – a smattering of European fashion boutiques (Max Mara exudes finesse), divine shoe stores and heirloom jewellery. The Chapel Street precinct is the city's fashion mecca, renowned for its relentlessly cool vibe, and its who's who of Australian fashion labels.

The Windsor end is considerably more funky – pre-loved fashion, recycled statement dressing at Euro-Trash, and a jumble of everything else besides – fossick and ye shall find!

Retro, recycled, cutting-edge and sometimes just crazy – Brunswick Street caters to shoppers of all persuasions. Look here for fun fashion (often one-off or retro), organic food, great cafes (naturally!), terrific bookshops (the bizarre Polyester Books), music stores, clever little gift shops, furniture, and more. Gertrude Street is smaller, more

restrained – a cool wine bar; up-and-coming designers, vintage fashion with class, the idiosyncratic Rose Chong Costumes.

Serious shoppers with an eye for a bargain trawl Bridge Road, Richmond for women's and men's fashion and shoes, both designer and discount. Richmond Hill Larder and Cafe is a favourite for a coffee or wine and a pastry before re-entering the fray. Design addicts should note Church Street, Richmond in their little black books for its sleek interior design stores.

So many boutiques, so many options, so easy to get lost, so easy to find something truly special – that's shopping Melbourne style.













Take a leaf from our book and enjoy Melbourne's green heart. A dense canopy throwing cool shadows on a balmy summer day, golden leaves rustling on an autumn afternoon, shafts of light through wintry branches – our parks and gardens are wonderful in any season. They're meeting places and tranquil retreats, spaces for fun or just a little quiet leisure.

The newest park in town is Birrarung Marr – an intriguing and inventive park fringing the CBD and Yarra River. Stroll past the fine-fringed native cycads, marvel at sculptor Deborah Halpern's huge, whimsical mosaic *Angel* sculpture, and listen for the 39 Federation bells that chime three times a day.

The city-edge Treasury Gardens provides a cool retreat – the perfect place to take a break from touring, read a book, or just daydream beneath the majestic trees. Nearby, the expansive Fitzroy Gardens is home to the ivy-clad, picture-postcard Cooks' Cottage (a must-see), the romantic Temple of the Winds rotunda, and to some very cheeky possums (you may well spot them in the evening darting from tree to tree in search of a dainty morsel).

Just a little further north of town, the tree-lined walks of the World Heritage-listed Carlton Gardens – surrounding the splendid Royal Exhibition Building, the Melbourne Museum, and the Imax





3



4



5

1 The Angel at Birrarung Marr; on the edge of the Yarra River 2 Time out in Melbourne's beautiful gardens 3 An aerial view of Melbourne's art precinct bordering the Yarra River 4 Botanical Gardens 5 Melbourne's much loved Yarra River

Theatre – are a delight in any season (though the gold and russet tones of autumn are especially beautiful).

On the south side of the river lies the serenely beautiful Kings Domain, a wonderful foil to the Shrine of Remembrance. Rising above the sea of leafy green is the elegant white tower of Government House, which is itself surrounded by a fine garden.

The Royal Botanic Gardens is perhaps the city's most special and most loved park. The sprawling grounds are a lush wonderland of garden styles and rare species, of heritage trees and cool pockets of rainforest, of pavilions and pergolas, otherworldly cactus forms, and lawns sloping down to still waters. The Gardens are perfect for promenading, for picnicking, for watching the elegant black swans or the gawky waterfowl. In the steamy surrounds of the Tropical Hothouse visitors can inspect spectacular

rainforest species. The Children's Garden is another special delight. This is Melbourne, so the Observatory Café serves a top-notch café latte. While there, don't miss The Gardens Shop, a surprising treasure trove of garden-minded gifts. In summer you can see Shakespeare performed in the open, or spend a balmy evening at the hip Moonlight Cinema.

If you'd really like to live like a local, join Melburnians as they jog around the Tan, a sun-dappled 4km-track that circles the Gardens. Perhaps while away some time with a picnic on the banks of the Yarra, or make your way to Albert Park Lake, an ideal spot to jog, walk or cycle, enjoy a little birdwatching, share a picnic, or indulge in an ice cream. Better still, hire a boat, hit the water and have some fun.

Serious rowers scull down the Yarra, but a more leisurely option is hiring a boat and rowing along the native bush-lined river near the picturesque Fairfield

Boathouse and Studley Park Boathouse (both highly recommended for a well-deserved Devonshire tea). Cycle paths also wind their way along the edge of the Yarra, looping past the city and verdant stretches of parkland, a refreshing way to see more of Melbourne.

If you have time to travel a little beyond the city – to explore one of Victoria's most precious areas of native bush land – visit the untouched heathlands, wetlands and woodlands of the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, 49 km east of Melbourne.













Great food, fine wine and excellent coffee are pivotal to the entire Melbourne experience. Restaurants, cafes, bistros and bars cater for all moods, all moments. They are the background to the city's vibrant social life, the embodiment of its rich multicultural heritage. There's always something new on the Melbourne food scene, so when you arrive, be sure to ask what's cooking.



The aroma of good coffee permeates Melbourne's social life. Join the locals and order a latte at one of the city's signature Italian cafes – Carlton's inimitable Brunetti, Bourke Street's iconic Pellegrini's, the Euro-chic of Florentino or Spring Street's European. For something a little less mainstream – a little edgier – duck down almost any city laneway or arcade, seek out the slightly raffish cafes of St Kilda's

Fitzroy Street or the decidedly bohemian bent of Brunswick Street. Fashionistas tend to frequent cafes in the stylish environs of Toorak Road and Chapel Street.

When it comes to food, Melbourne is a city where chefs (and even baristas, waiters and sommeliers) are stellar attractions. Chef and owner Shannon Bennett presides over the ultra-luxe fare of Vue de Monde, Andrew

McConnell presides over an exemplary menu at St Kilda hotspot Circa, the Prince, and George Calombaris is the culinary man-of-the-moment with his clubby, mod-Greek Press Club. But it's not all fine dining – you will discover food for every occasion.





3



4

- 1 Elegant dining at Comme
- 2 Japanese cuisine at Federation Square
- 3 A cleansing ale at The Lexington in Bourke Street
- 4 Modern cuisine at The Beach Club, Docklands
- 5 Outdoor city terrace at Madame Brussels
- 6 Drinks with a view, Docklands
- 7 Evening walks in the Melbourne CBD
- 8 The Melbourne Supper Club Bar, Spring Street



2

5



6

Melbourne's rich multicultural heritage is more than reflected in its kitchens and cooking expertise. The city's 3000-plus restaurants span an astonishing 75 world cuisines and they are often clustered in specific precincts. Savour classic Italian in the city or Lygon Street, Carlton, Vietnamese in Victoria Street, wonderful regional Chinese in Little Bourke Street's Chinatown, and a sizzling array of ethnic eateries in Sydney Road, Brunswick. African, Indonesian, Japanese, Moroccan, Thai and more – Melbourne is a melting pot with a multitude of options.

As the sun sets, there's a change of pace. You might want to slow down and chill out with a cocktail, enjoy the dim glow of a seductive bar, or join the crowd at a lively pub. Whichever you decide, a surprising array of choices await.

In unassuming laneways, down in basements and perched high in heritage buildings, are bars, pubs, clubs and music venues to suit any occasion, pre-dinner to a late-late-night cap. Whether your preference is unashamedly retro (Bourke Street's quirky Madame Brussels), you're thinking soaring ceilings and crystal chandeliers (GPO's The Lexington) or you're in a casual, tapas kind of mood (the wonderfully Spanish MoVida) Melbourne has it covered.



8

In a city noted for its culinary clout, the annual Melbourne Food & Wine Festival celebrates the city's gastronomic pleasures, its restaurants and cafes, chefs and cooks, fresh produce and winemakers. Speaking of fresh, to experience some of Melbourne's abundance of fresh local produce, allow enough time to tour the Queen Victoria Market – one of the world's great fresh food markets – it's a feast for all senses.

And what is all that good food without good wine? Melburnians are just as passionate about their wine and happy to share their knowledge. Wine bars and cellars around town provide a terrific introduction – the Prince Wine Store in South Melbourne and the City Wine Shop in Spring Street are two excellent starting points. With some of the country's best wine produced in Melbourne's surrounds, head for the hills, or the coast, to meet the makers, to discover – and sample – some of the region's network of wineries.













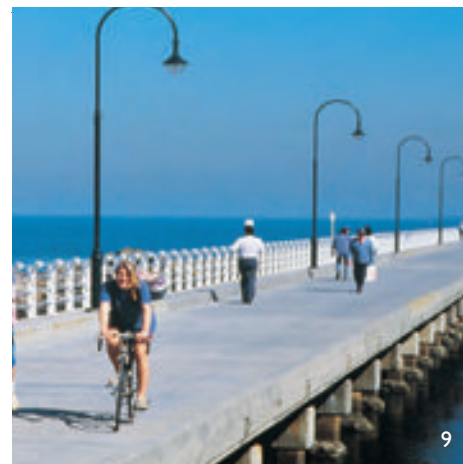
The city's many and varied precincts add an extra dimension – each small precinct is part of the indefinable culture that says Melbourne, yet each has its own specific character, its own distinct charm. It all adds up to a city of depth and diversity – and one that's immense fun to explore.

For a glimpse of Melbourne's future, NewQuay at Docklands – right on the edge of the CBD – is one of the city's sharpest new destinations. This waterfront precinct is sleekly modern, a swish blend of cafes and bars, original street sculpture, sensational city views and a world-class marina – just the venue to sit back, sip a cocktail and watch the sun slowly sink into the horizon.

Melbourne's fashion-savvy, see-and-be-seen crowd gravitates south of the Yarra. Toorak Road, South Yarra is all smart boutiques, day spas and elegantly minimalist hair salons, while Toorak Village exemplifies refined chic with an air of old money. Nearby, Malvern Road, Hawksburn and

High Street, Armadale tend to be for the younger elite. Their beautiful homewares, small boutiques, exquisite children's wear, fine gourmet food-to-go and, of course, cafés make them wonderful places for a little leisurely shopping and looking.

Über-cool Chapel Street, Prahran is a beacon for lovers of Australian fashion (from the *bijou* salon of Collete Dinnigan to the urban savoir-faire of Country Road), with outdoor cafes spilling on to the street. The Windsor end is decidedly retro: pre-loved designer labels, funky little stores and a raft of groovy cafes, bars and clubs that swing long into the night. Treat yourself to a vodka in the cosy European glow of Borsch, Vodka and







1 Bohemian dining at Borsch, Vodka and Tears 2 Colourful Brunswick Street, Fitzroy 3 Brighton's much loved bathing boxes 4 Drinks along Victoria Harbour 5 Art watching at one of Melbourne's many galleries 6 Shopping along Toorak Road 7 City views from Williamstown 8 Strolling along Fitzroy Street, St Kilda 9 Cycling along St Kilda Pier



Brunswick Street's laidback vibe is the background to its edgy fashion and breakfast-all-day style. From the brilliant, colour-drenched florist Flowers Vasette to bohemian cafes, happening pubs, and a lengthy string of funky boutiques and browsable bookstores, there's always something to see. Gertrude Street's flavour is more boho chic, attracting an arty crowd with its handful of effortlessly stylish shops, galleries and art suppliers.

Richmond is the perfect destination for those wanting to give their credit card a little airing. Head to Bridge Road for women's and men's fashion, Church Street for interior design stores, including the iconic Space. Art buffs will discover a swag of galleries. In Victoria Street, a jumble of authentic Vietnamese cafes, shops and grocery stores create the hustle and bustle of a mini Saigon.

St Kilda has a free-spirited charm all of its own, a seaside suburb boasting a colourful history, brimming with restaurants and cafes, and an endless promenade of locals and onlookers in Fitzroy Street. Stroll out on the pier, skate along the boardwalk, fossick at the Sunday morning Esplanade Craft Market, then head past the laughing façade of Luna Park to Acland Street for its lavish European cakes, mosaics, sculpture and wine bars.

Further east around the bay, Brighton boasts its own rich heritage, and combines its chic, contemporary style and upmarket shopping with a lively food scene, and a ribbon of delightful, multi-hued bathing boxes fringing the coastline.

On the other side of the bay, the historic port of Williamstown has a peaceful air, with its village ambience, classic architecture, inviting cafes, lovely water views and old-world seaside charm.

Thirty minutes' drive from the city, the sumptuous 1870s Werribee Mansion stands in beautiful grounds. If you are seeking peace and quiet there is the elegantly minimal but indulgently luxurious Sofitel Mansion and Spa. For those after some action, Werribee's Open Range Zoo has regular safaris (take your camera – the meerkats are adorable!)

And that's really just the beginning. There are special spots and hidden pockets all over town, just waiting to be discovered.







Come away with us and explore all that lies beyond Melbourne. Sun-washed coastlines, vineyards unfurling across rolling hills, pristine forests of ferns and mountain ash, country towns richly imbued with history, the freshest of regional food and luxurious spa retreats. It's so much more than you could imagine.

Beyond the big-city style of Melbourne lies another world. Within 90 minutes drive of the city you'll encounter a more laidback lifestyle, country and coastal regions that add an extra dimension to any Melbourne experience. Here, you can kick back and relax, indulge in fine food and wine, or embark on surprising adventures, from swimming with dolphins to soaring across the sky in a hot air balloon. And all within easy driving distance.

#### CRUISING THE COAST

Mornington Peninsula evokes memories of the Mediterranean, with its vineyards and wineries, silvery olive groves, soft-sand beaches and breathtaking views. Further east, Phillip Island beckons, its little penguins luring wildlife-watchers from around the world, but it's the spectacular surf beaches and casual lifestyle that keep people coming back. At Geelong's sleek new Waterfront precinct you can stroll the boardwalk or sip a latte as you overlook the ultra-blue waters of Corio Bay, and contemplate the city's enviable lifestyle. A short drive leads to the Bellarine Peninsula where peaceful beaches, seaside villages, classic lighthouses, boutique vineyards and grand hotels are all waiting to be explored.

#### GOLDEN BEGINNINGS

Ballarat and Bendigo are goldrush towns and their formidable history shines through. Their heritage streetscapes and grand architecture are a fascinating backdrop to today's vibrant contemporary culture, first-rate museums, buzzy cafés and restaurants, marvellous regional food and medal-winning wines. There are plenty of gems still waiting to be discovered.

#### COUNTRY PLEASURES, SPA RETREATS

Grand and gracious gardens and, more recently, crisp cool-climate wines define the magnificent Macedon Ranges. Daylesford – Hepburn Springs is a heavenly pocket of the world where the air is clear, where mineral springs bubble from beneath the ground and pampering at spas is the order of the day (every day!). And did we mention the swag of first-rate restaurants, groovy cafes, the lakeside views, the browsable bookshops and art galleries, the abundance of regional and artisan foods?

#### HILLS AND VALLEYS, VINES AND ROMANCE

Head for the hills and valleys north of Melbourne and you will find the Yarra Valley, picture-postcard perfect. It's an alluring landscape of vineyards and Euro-chic wineries, with designer restaurants, wonderful food, gardens and galleries. For romance the Dandenongs are unsurpassed. In a lush world of magical gardens and feathery ferns, there's the tinkle of bellbirds, the inviting warmth of tearooms, and a long tradition of welcoming B&Bs. Further north still, Nagambie's majestic waterways ease through the countryside, past horse studs and iconic vineyards. Stop at the local wineries and country restaurants for fine regional fare. Dramatic Strathbogie Ranges offer peace and tranquillity and tiny vineyards producing true cool-climate wines.



#### BEYOND MELBOURNE

##### Ballarat

*A perfect blend of past and present*

##### Phillip Island

*A small island treasure*

##### Geelong and The Bellarine

*City style, wonderful wines, beach retreats*

##### Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges

*Wines, vines and romantic pleasures*

##### Daylesford and The Macedon Ranges

*The heart of Australia's spa country*

##### Mornington Peninsula

*A touch of the Mediterranean*

##### Nagambie and Strathbogie Ranges

*Great escape – lakes and rivers to ranges*

##### Bendigo

*History and heritage, fine food and wine*













## Ballarat

Broad, tree-lined boulevards, stately buildings and wonderful statuary reflect Ballarat's gold-rich heritage, but there's also a contemporary buzz to the city. The push and pull of the old and the new have created a lively culture – cafes and restaurants flourish, often in handsome historic buildings, there are state-of-the-art museums, theatres and galleries.



In this city renowned for its gold history, the award-winning Sovereign Hill, a sprawling open-air museum, brilliantly brings to life the heady days of the 1850s goldmining era. At night the sound-and-light show 'Blood on the Southern Cross' dramatically recreates the sights and sounds of Australia's only armed civil rebellion, the 1854 Eureka Rebellion.

Crowned by the enormous sail-like Eureka Flag, this striking architectural showpiece is located in parkland on one of Australia's most historic streets.

The impressive centre (also home to the Ballarat Visitor Information Centre) pays tribute to the sacrifices of those who lived and worked on the goldfields. Another tangible link with the past is the original, and tattered, Eureka Flag, which hangs proudly in Australia's oldest and largest regional gallery, the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery. The Gallery blends classic and contemporary, both in its collection (colonial to cutting-edge), and its venue (traditional, with a bold new architectural extension).





1 Lake Wendouree 2 Prime Minister's Walk, Ballarat Botanical Gardens  
3 Café life in Ballarat 4 Her Majesty's Theatre 5 The Avenue of Honour  
6 Ballarat Fine Art Gallery  
7 Fine dining at Phoenix 8 Craig's Royal Hotel 9 Robert Burns Statue, Sturt Street



Ballarat's goldrush brought wealth, optimism and a certain architectural extravagance. The richly ornate and handsomely restored Craig's Royal Hotel, begun in 1859, has lodged writers (American author Mark Twain), royalty (the future King George V) and, no doubt, rogues. Share a cold ale, a refined high tea, or a sumptuous banquet in this truly historic pub. Also imposing is Her Majesty's Theatre, which has been entertaining locals since 1875 and is still a busy arts venue.

To learn more about what makes Ballarat tick, follow one of the well-planned walking trails – a heritage walking tour, a gold trail (naturally!), book trail, and a street sculpture walk. Sidewalk cafes, friendly pubs and fine dining restaurants and the region's critically lauded, cool-climate wines are part of the local lifestyle. For those in need of a dose of retail therapy, or just love to browse, there are boutiques, small gifts shops and some wonderful antique stores.

A stroll around the magnificent Ballarat Botanical Gardens reveals its formidable heritage, with its statuary pavilion and Lake Wendouree (a favourite circuit for locals jogging, walking and cycling). A little further afield, the Great Dividing Trail, billed as 'a pathway to the hidden treasures of central Victoria', let's you explore the region's mining relics and superb natural landscape. Cycling and driving trails are other options – the Koori Heritage Trail, for example, offers a fascinating insight into local indigenous culture.

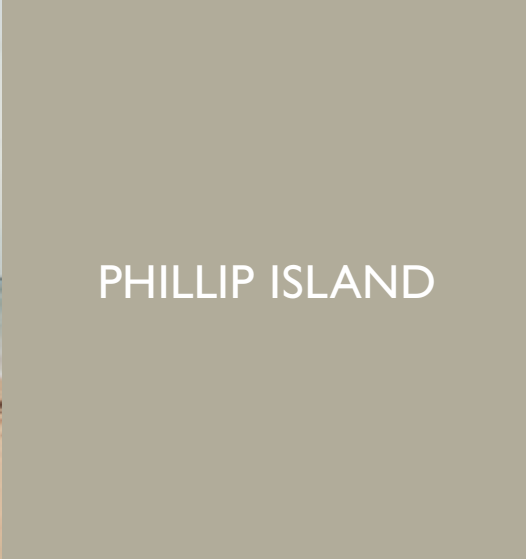
For those who love the great outdoors – as well as a little luxury – Novotel Forest Resort at Creswick (opening March, 2008), just ten minutes from Ballarat, is a blissfully peaceful retreat. There are superb apartments, sweeping grounds that embrace natural bushland, walking tracks and a magnificent golf course – there's even a day spa.

Also outdoors, is the Ballarat Wildlife Park for an up-close encounter with native wildlife, from kangaroos to crocodiles. For wildlife on the wing, visit Ballarat Bird World, home to more than two hundred native and exotic bird species.

Ballarat is within easy reach of Melbourne, just an hour and a half's drive – but for those who'd like to stay a little longer, there's a warm welcome waiting at the region's luxury B&Bs, cosy cottages and excellent country hotels.

For more information or a copy of Ballarat's Official Visitor Guide, phone **1800 44 66 33** or visit **[www.visitballarat.com.au](http://www.visitballarat.com.au)**













## Phillip Island

With its sandy beaches, rocky coves, fresh country air and laidback lifestyle, Phillip Island provides the quintessential Australian beach holiday. Its star attraction is the parade of little penguins that waddle ashore each evening, an unforgettable wildlife-watching experience, but still just one of the island's many attractions.

It's only minutes from the mainland, but Phillip Island is truly a world away. Its gently undulating landscape of golden grass is criss-crossed by country roads, with gumtrees throwing dappled light. On the northern side of the island, the small township of Cowes – with its beachy shops, cafes and restaurants – overlooks the blue waters of Western Port.

Phillip Island boasts long stretches of powdery sand, great surf, natural bushland and magical sunsets, but the star attraction is the famous Penguin Parade, when the world's smallest penguins waddle up Summerland Beach each evening in search of their burrows. Grandstand viewing is one option but alternatives include an exclusive boardwalk at 'Penguins Plus', or an elevated viewing tower at 'Penguin Skybox'.

The ultimate is the 'Private Penguin Parade Experience', where an exclusive front-row position on the beach ensures premium viewing, with a ranger providing commentary on personalised headsets.

While the penguins are fantastic they're certainly not the island's only wildlife. Along the rugged southwest coast up to 20,000 Australian fur seals frolic in a huge colony on Seal Rocks. At the new Nobbies Centre, perched on the cliffs overlooking the wild waters of Bass Strait, a state-of-the-art facility lets you watch





2



6

- 1 The Nobbies
- 2 International Motor Sport at the Grand Prix Circuit
- 3 The fur seals at Seal Rocks
- 4 Fantastic surf on the Island's south coast
- 5 Sunset at Churchill Island
- 6 Boats at San Remo Pier
- 7 Fantastic family escapes



5



7

seals cavort above and below water level. Sophisticated cameras allow visitors to zoom in on the seals and on birds nesting in the cliffs and live footage is regularly beamed back to giant screens at the centre. Follow the boardwalks for more breathtaking views. If you really want to get up close, join one of the terrific Wildlife Coast Cruises from Cowes.

Still intrigued by the island's wealth of wildlife? Head for the Koala Conservation Centre – if you keep a razor-sharp lookout along the treetop boardwalks you will spy koalas dozing in the trees, or delicately nibbling on leaves. Less delicate but more amusing are the pelicans that skid into the water or lumber ashore at San Remo for their daily feeding of fish.

Pelicans aren't the only ones after seafood though – the island is a favourite with anglers for its top-class fishing, and charter boats head out to deeper waters.

If you've had enough of sun, surf and beautiful beaches, but you're still after fun, Phillip Island has it in spades. Classic beach attractions include mini golf, ten-pin bowling, waterslides and an array of fun activities at A Maze'N Things. Bike through the woodlands, or follow one of the many walking trails. For an aerial view of the island, take a helicopter ride. At Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit get your heart pumping with some V8 'hot laps', then catch up on the island's fascinating history of motorsport. Also well worth visiting is the recently opened National Vietnam Veterans Museum.

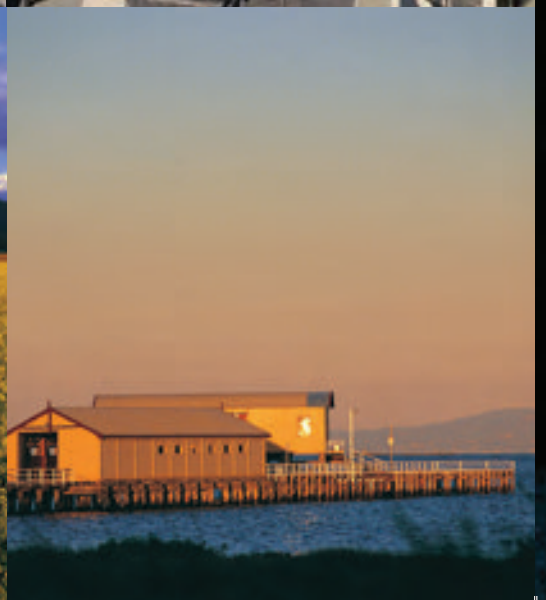
Churchill Island Heritage Farm welcomes visitors with its restored homestead, lovely gardens and café with sweeping views (catch the excellent monthly farmers' market for farm-fresh regional foods).

At the end of a busy day, chill out, admire the spectacle of a beach sunset, join the buzzy crowd at a casual bistro, or indulge in a romantic dinner with ocean-fresh seafood. If you plan to stay you are spoilt for choice – there are cosy B&Bs, luxury retreats, sleek apartments, holiday cottages and more.

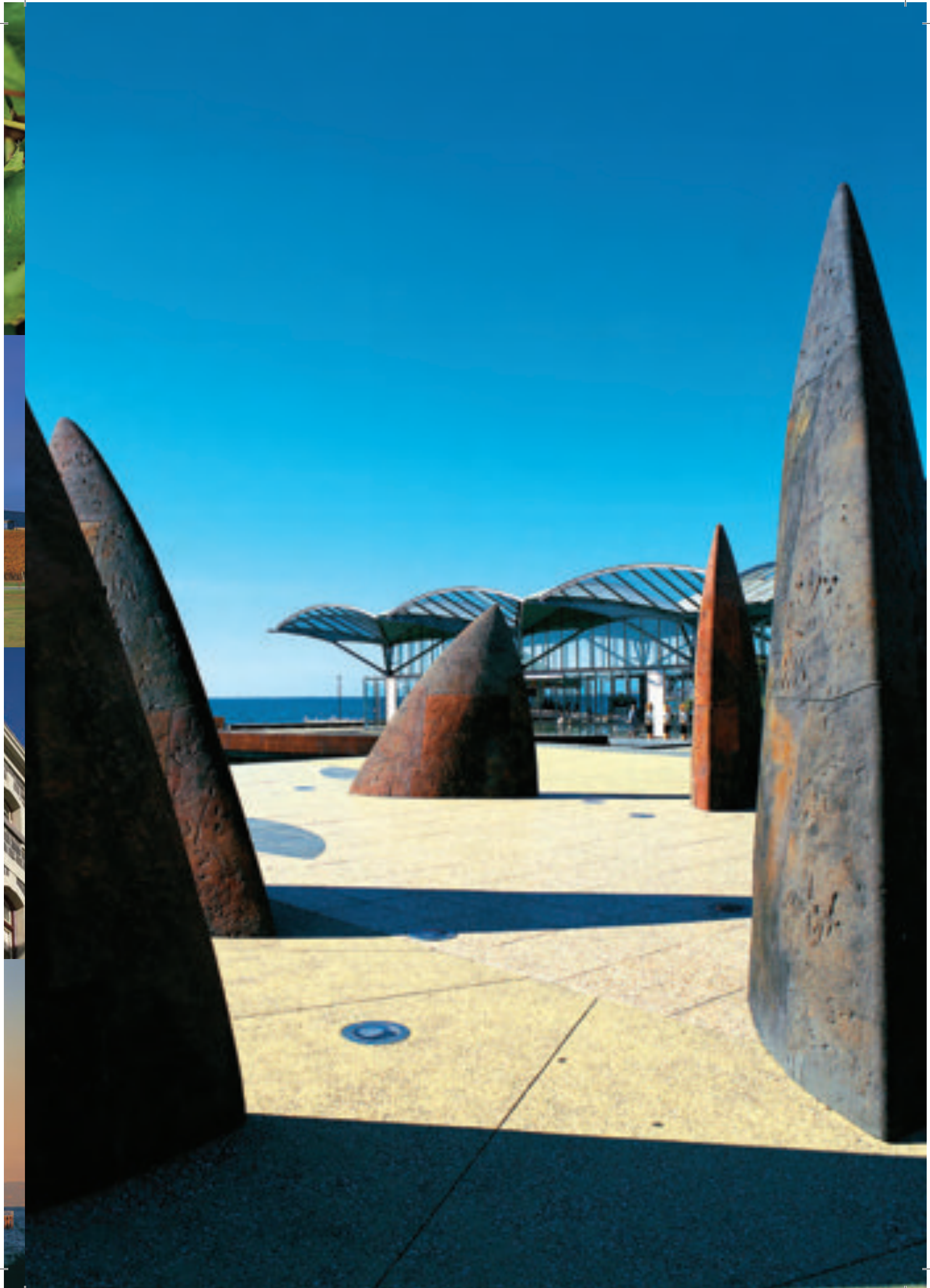
For accommodation and visitor information phone **1300 366 422** or visit **[www.visitphillipisland.com](http://www.visitphillipisland.com)**

For information and bookings for the Penguin Parade or 3 Parks Pass phone **(03) 5951 2800** or visit **[www.penguins.org.au](http://www.penguins.org.au)**













## Geelong and The Bellarine

Come back down to earth to the blue waters of Geelong's Corio Bay. The state's second-largest city is a winning blend of easygoing regional character and innovative city style. Promenades, palms and witty sculptures define the waterfront precinct. And right on Geelong's doorstep lies The Bellarine, a byword for fine food and wine, lovely beaches and luxurious weekends away.

Geelong's Waterfront precinct sweeps around the bay, a beachy landscape of gardens and palm-lined pathways, broad boardwalks, cafes and smart restaurants. Witty sculpture (we love the rusty shark-fin shapes emerging from the sidewalk) and cleverly painted bollards that chronicle the city's history and its colourful historical characters, add to its charm. The hand-carved wooden Carousel is a note of nostalgia, but its creative contemporary home is a sleek glass and steel pavilion.

Another gem is the original, lovingly restored 1930s Art Deco pool. It's not hard to relax, settle down under a shady tree, grab a coffee, feed the seagulls or just watch the sun glinting off the water.

Yet for all this easygoing ambience, there's a palpable sense that things are happening in Geelong. The city heart is taking on a whole new look, there's a lively arts scene, smart cafes and restaurants with flair, upper-crust bakeries and gourmet food providores. In summer, a flotilla of

sleek sailing vessels skim across the bay during the lively four-day Skandia Geelong Week Sailing Regatta, just one of the city's numerous sporting and cultural attractions.

Geelong's eye for innovation is evident at the historic Botanic Gardens where a sweeping 21st-century garden of water-wise native plantings is an environmentally aware new addition to the park's many magnificent National Trust registered trees.





4



5



6

- 1 Geelong from above
- 2 World famous wineries
- 3 Historic Queenscliff
- 4 Golf at 13th Beach
- 5 A Baywalk Bollard located on the Geelong Waterfront
- 6 Point Lonsdale Lighthouse
- 7 Carousel at the Geelong Waterfront

While innovation is evident, Geelong's history is also tangible – the award-winning National Wool Museum in a handsome 1870s bluestone woolstore, the fascinating Maritime Museum, and the refurbished Geelong Art Gallery are three must-sees.

One of the state's premier food and wine destinations – The Bellarine – is on Geelong's very doorstep. A tapestry of rolling hills and vineyards, small seaside villages and sandy beaches make The Bellarine a favourite escape. It's a very laidback pocket of the world with plenty of relaxing options – swimming, snorkelling, boating, fishing or just beachcombing.

There's plenty of fresh produce too. Luscious, just-caught organic mussels are on sale from the Portarlington Pier and there's wood-fired bread from the local bakeries. In summer you can pick your own berries, in autumn bite into orchard-fresh apples.

Silvery groves of olive trees are the source of the rich, locally pressed olive oil. Wine connoisseurs – and those who just fancy a good red or a crisp white – will find ample distraction in the many wineries and cellar doors (Scotchmans Hill and Bellarine Estate to name just two). And this fresh food and regional wine finds its way to the plethora of seaside cafes, restaurants and pubs dotted around The Bellarine (eating out is not just a pastime here – it's a passion!).

The old steam train that runs from Drysdale provides a link with the past, though some visitors will be considering other links – The Bellarine has some excellent golf courses. Ocean Grove has some great surf and is spectacular in winter when wild waves crash in on the shore. Picnic beneath the pine trees, wander out on a pier to see what the fishermen are hauling in, browse in the shops, indulge in a spa, or catch the car ferry to Sorrento and watch dolphins hitch-hiking in the bow wave – the options are endless.

And if you feel like bedding down for the night, there are options there too. Queenscliff is renowned for its grand Victorian-era hotels, but there are superb guesthouses, charming B&Bs and apartments around The Bellarine.

For more information phone **1800 620 888** or visit **[www.visitgeelongbellarine.com](http://www.visitgeelongbellarine.com)**



7





YARRA VALLEY  
AND DANDENONG  
RANGES











## Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges

So close and yet so far. Within an hour's drive of the city, the vine-studded landscape and sweeping skies of the Yarra Valley are synonymous with boutique wines and gourmet fare. Nearby, winding country roads rimmed by towering mountain ash and fern-filled gullies are at the heart of The Dandenongs, famed for its magnificent gardens and romantic, picture-book B&Bs.

The abundantly fertile plains of the Yarra Valley produce rich pickings indeed, though it's the exemplary cool-climate wines that have really put the region on the map. More than 70 wineries as well as restaurants are an abundance of riches. Where to start? Those who crave luxury favour the sumptuous Chateau Yering, for its exquisite rooms, impeccable service and indulgent dining. For a more modern spin, Balgownie Estate Resort and Spa offers a stylish

cellar door, wonderful views and state-of-the-art day spa. De Bortoli Winery carries on a family tradition with generous hospitality, refined wines, and the northern Italian style of its restaurant. The best bet? Take a wine tour for some serious grape-grazing at your leisure.

It's not all wine though – there's an amazing diversity of produce, from pears and apples to cheese and chocolate. Wind your way through the valley, stopping at

cellar doors, produce stores and farm gates. Don't miss Yarra Valley Dairy, which produces sublime handmade farmhouse cheeses (their newest, Yering, is superb).

If you prefer teeing-off to tasting cheese, check in to The Sebel Heritage Yarra Valley for its surrounding championship golf courses (not to mention its excellent restaurants and bars, smart rooms and soul-restoring spa).





1 Mountain Ash of the Mt Dandenongs  
2 Autumn vines in the Yarra Valley  
3 Puffing Billy Steam Railway 4 Chateau Yering Historical House 5 Hot air ballooning over the Valley 6 Eating out at Village Cafés 7 Wine tasting at the Grape Grazing Festival



For a tiny piece of Provence, visit Montsalvat, an artists' enclave of medieval French-style buildings of local stone, handmade brick and recycled timbers, set in a lyrical landscape. Exhibitions and artisans at work bring this fascinating venue to life. And while in the country, make sure to stop at Healesville Sanctuary, where more than 200 species of Australian wildlife live in their natural habitat.

Beyond the Yarra Valley lies the more secluded world of The Dandenongs. Day-trippers and romantics have been making their way to this blissful retreat for more than a century. The clear crisp air – fragrant with eucalyptus – towering mountain ash, feathery tree ferns, and superb gardens with their flashes of exotic colour, create a magical world.

Like the Yarra Valley, The Dandenongs offer diverse pleasures. Indulge in a little 'me' time at the 5-star Mandalay Mountain Spa Retreat, browse in the nurseries and small shops in the villages-like Olinda, Sassafrass and Kallista, or take a trip back in time on the narrow-gauge Puffing Billy steam train.

Walkers will enjoy a ramble along the sun-dappled Warburton Trail, or through the flourishing gardens. Cloudehill, with its maze of stone walls, distinctive garden 'rooms' and jewel-like exotic plants is spectacular, but so too is Katandra Gardens, with its mass of native plants, meandering paths and prolific birdlife.

Old-fashioned Devonshire teas are usually the order of the day here (the wonderfully quaint Miss Marples is a favourite) but if that's not your cup of chai, there are small cafes and restaurants with top-notch coffee and inner-city flair. For food with a panoramic view (especially at night when the city lights sparkle) SkyHigh Mt Dandenong undoubtedly tops the list.

Gentle summers and cool misty winters invite leisurely pleasures, so book into a romantic B&B, a 5-star hotel or relaxing guesthouse and take the time to explore the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges.

For more information, phone a local tourism association.

**Yarra Valley Visitor Information Centre**  
T: 03 5962 2600

[www.visitarravalley.com.au](http://www.visitarravalley.com.au)

**Nillumbik Tourism Association**  
T: 1300 66 00 72

[www.nillumbiktourism.com.au](http://www.nillumbiktourism.com.au)

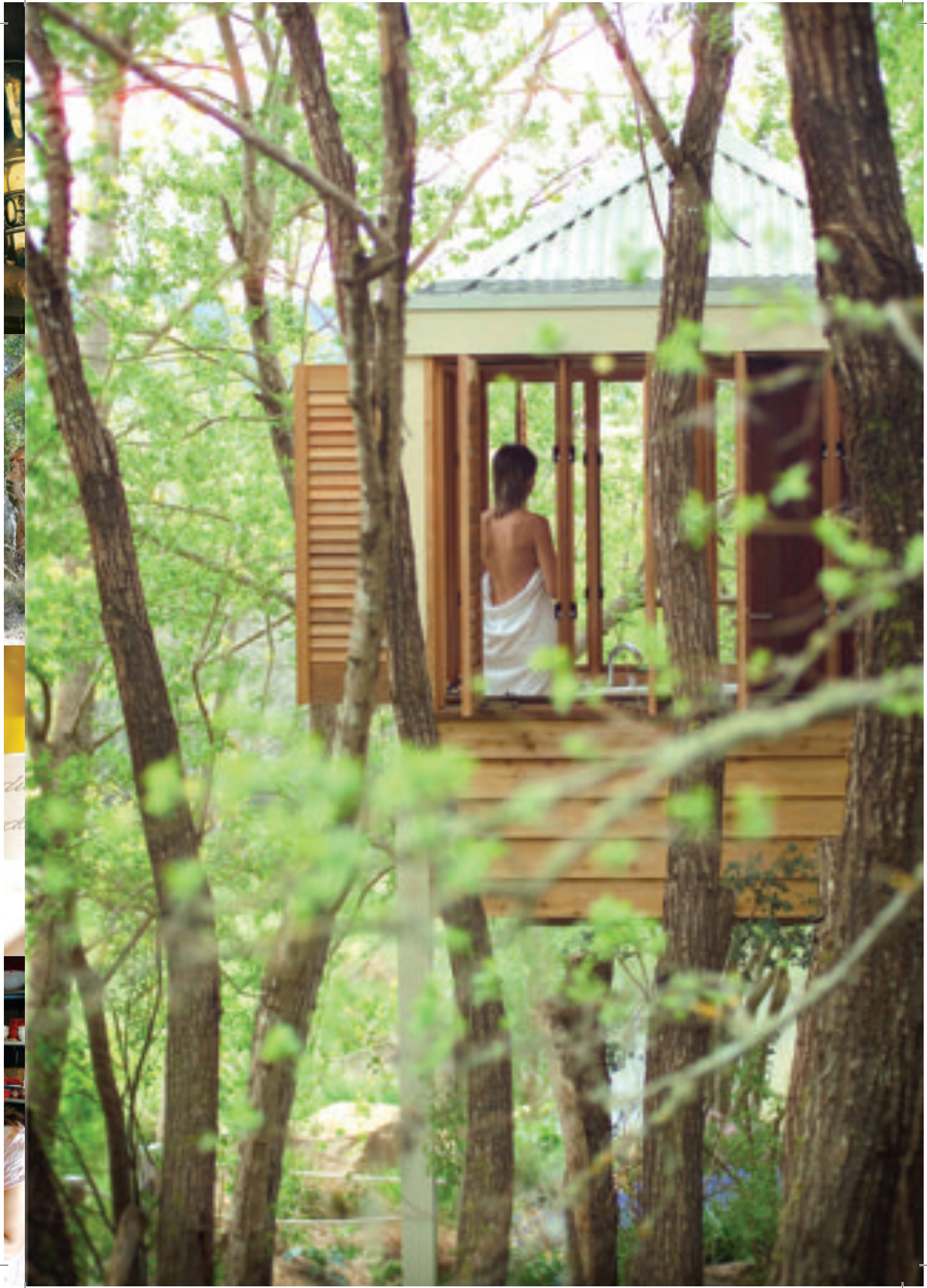
**Dandenong Ranges Visitor Information Centre**  
T: 03 9758 7522

[www.dandenongrangestourism.com.au](http://www.dandenongrangestourism.com.au)  
or visit [www.visitvictoria.com.au](http://www.visitvictoria.com.au)













4

## Daylesford and the Macedon Ranges

A leisurely hour and a half drive from Melbourne leads to the heart of Australia's Spa Country. The region is renowned for indulgence, pampering and relaxation – the place to soothe mind, body and soul. Savour cool-climate wines and farm-fresh regional food, breathe the crisp country air and take in the easygoing ambience. Blissful.

Cool natural mineral springs bubble beneath the twin towns of Daylesford and Hepburn Springs, where the concepts of health and wellness are an intrinsic part of the local culture. 'Taking the waters' has been a long tradition here and pampering is a priority. Fortunately, so too is enjoying great food and wine and generous hospitality.

At Hepburn Springs, Peppers Springs Retreat is all Art Deco style and understated chic, while its Mineral Spa is a sanctuary of calm and irresistibly indulgent treatments. Consummate attention to detail defines the stellar Lake House Small Luxury Hotel, perched on the shores of the mirror-like Lake Daylesford. Its rooms are divine, its restaurant is exceptional and its Salus Spa – surrounded by waterfall-fed streams – offers heavenly pampering. Not the only pampering, however – spas in the region offer everything from cocooning mudbaths and clay wraps to shiatsu.





1 Boating on picturesque Lake Daylesford 2 Discover a superb range of artworks 3 The beauty of autumn in the Macedon Ranges 4 Enjoy boutique cool climate wines 5 State of the art spa treatments in blissful surrounds, Mineral Spa – Peppers Springs Retreat 6 Magnificently restored buildings, The Convent Gallery 7 Enjoy the tranquility of cool streams and lakes



Once you have chilled out, do as the locals do, and check out the country pubs. Front up to the bar at Woodend's Holgate Brewery for its brewed-on-site beers (the Mahogany & Malt Dark Ale is a ripper). As well as beer, Daylesford's Farmers Arms and the Royal George in Kyneton serve modern Mediterranean-inspired food. If pubs aren't quite your thing, you may prefer the old-world luxury of Campaspe Country House, the stylish cuisine of Sequoia or Mercato @ daylesford, all focusing on the best of local produce.

In fact, the district is increasingly known for its bounty of regional produce and artisan food from small specialists – fresh cheeses (such as Holy Goat Organic Cheeses), European-style smallgoods, fresh trout, olives, seasonal berries, organic potatoes, luscious chocolates and more. Watch for roadside stalls selling the seasonal overflow, follow farm-gate signs or visit the monthly Lancefield Farmers' Market.

Daylesford's Vincent Street mixes galleries, boutiques, antique shops, bookstores (the Avant Garden is a must for bibliophiles), and cafes. High on Wombat Hill stands the Convent Gallery, a heritage landmark noted for its exhibitions, fine art, antique jewellery and the wryly named Bad Habits Café.

If you feel like eating al fresco, the Tuscan charms of Lavandula Swiss Italian Farm are enticing, with the heady fragrance of lavender and its rustic restaurant, La Trattoria. At the other extreme, nothing could be less rustic than Rupertswood Mansion at Sunbury, an extravagant 19th-century mansion – home to cricket's famous Ashes – where you can tour the grounds, or dine in memorable style.

Mount Macedon began its days as a 'hill station', a cool retreat from the summer heat for the wealthy. Gracious estates with rambling gardens recall that era (some gardens open on special occasions). But Macedon's misty climate is now put to other use, with vignerons winning accolades for the refinement of their

cool-climate wines. Wineries and cellar doors are dotted around the region, at Newham – where Hanging Rock Winery is especially noted for its superb Macedon sparkling – and around Gisborne, Kyneton, Lancefield and the Sunbury wine region.

For a picnic, Hanging Rock, site of the legendary *Picnic at Hanging Rock* book and movie, is the perfect backdrop, with its natural bush, lovely walks, and lingering air of mystery.

If you fancy staying a little longer, you're sure to find the perfect boutique accommodation, from a luxury waterfront apartment to a cosy cottage, a welcoming guesthouse to an adorable B&B, all imbued with the region's inimitable sense of style.

For more information phone **1800 244 711** or **(03) 5321 6123** or visit [www.visitvictoria.com/dmr](http://www.visitvictoria.com/dmr)













## Mornington Peninsula

Like a small slice of the Mediterranean the Mornington Peninsula curves around Port Phillip Bay, a seductive landscape of sweeping vineyards, winding country roads and magnificent coastline. It's easy to slip into the rhythm of life here – stroll along an ocean beach, share lunch with friends at a winery, watch dolphins frolic off the coast, feel the salt lick of the fresh air, visit a heritage garden or a fine art gallery.

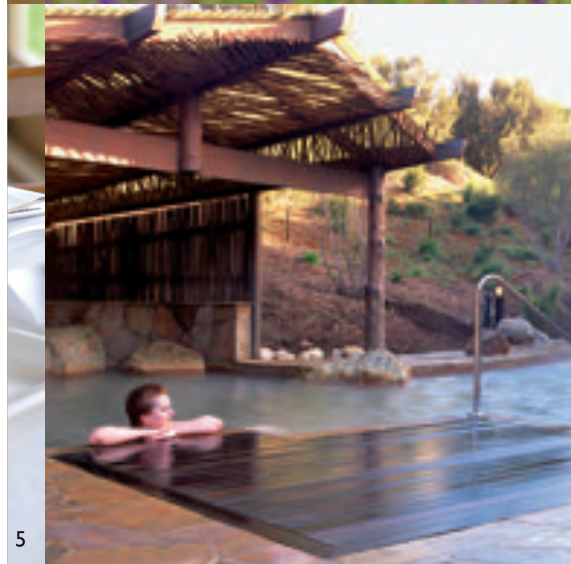
The Peninsula's rolling terrain and vineyards are breathtaking, but there's more to drink in than just the views. The region's gentle maritime climate and passionate vigneronns have created many fine wines, showcased at cellar doors, winery restaurants and casually chic cafes along the coast and dotted around the hills and dales of the hinterland. Sample a peppery shiraz at T'Gallant's rustic cellar door or the quirky Ten Minutes by Tractor; or match inspirational cuisine with a perfect pinot gris at the stylish Tuck's Ridge. With more than 50 cellar doors, pleasing your palate is not hard to do.

Fine food and wine go hand in hand, amply demonstrated by the Peninsula's abundance of fresh and seasonal produce – from blueberries and quinces to artisan cheeses, wood-fired breads and ocean-fresh seafood. Follow the farm-gate signs, pick your own luscious berries in summer; buy mouth-wateringly crisp apples in autumn and be sure to stock up on the superb olive oil. Using regional produce in inventive and stylish ways is





1 Spectacular coastline at the Cape Schanck Light House 2 Gordon Studio Glassblowers of Red Hill 3 Ashcombe Maze and Lavender Gardens 4 Glorious bay beaches 5 Gourmet regional cuisine 6 Indulgent Peninsula Hot Springs thermal pools 7 World Class golf courses



typical of the gourmet approach at the Peninsula's many restaurants and cafes.

Sandy beaches, secluded coves and surf-lashed coast are the backdrop to almost endless seaside activity. Feel free to soak up the sun, swim with seals and dolphins, or sea-kayak near the shoreline. Snorkelling and scuba-diving enthusiasts will find underwater treasures, while golf fanatics can tee off from one of the superb courses (golf legend Greg Norman has declared the region 'one of the world's greatest golfing destinations').

If you'd like to cover a little more territory, get on your bike (or hire one) and peddle off along winding country roads, where gum trees and stands of pine scent the air, or cycle almost to the tip of Point Nepean. If you're happiest on foot, there are peaceful bush tracks, boardwalks past bird-filled wetlands and coastal trails that reveal the Peninsula's natural attractions.

If you prefer an easy pace, lose yourself in one of the Peninsula's three magical maze gardens or visit historic Heronswood,

where greenery and swaths of flowers surround a romantic Gothic Revival manse. Take time to discover the region's fascinating history, including the 1880s military fortifications in the spectacular Point Nepean National Park, the imposing Cape Schanck Lightstation, and how one of the world's great Napoleonic collections came to be on one of the region's estates.

While you are cruising and viewing, you will definitely want to find time for a little gallery going. McClelland Gallery & Sculpture Park and Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery are exceptional, but leave time to visit some of the many other galleries and craft shops.

If relaxation is more your style, perhaps a leisurely sunset cruise past the region's multi-million dollar cliff-top mansions is in order? And if utter relaxation and pampering is the way to your heart, then book into one of the region's day spas to indulge in anything from soaking in a hot mineral springs to a Reiki massage or a complete body wrap. Sensational.

You really won't want to go home. And with everything from snug B&Bs and romantic cottages to sublimely stylish apartments and unashamedly luxurious 5-star hotels, Mornington Peninsula offers even more enticing reasons to stay a little longer; to see, sample and savour its many pleasures.

For more information phone **1800 804 009** or visit **[www.visitmorningtonpeninsula.org](http://www.visitmorningtonpeninsula.org)**













## Nagambie and Strathbogie Ranges

Red gums line the banks of the Goulburn River as it winds its way through the idyllic countryside. To the east looms the craggy outline of the Strathbogie Ranges, with its hazy blue-green bush and granite outcrops. This region offers life in the slow lane – lazing by river or lakes, touring wineries, sampling local food, fishing, boating, wildlife-watching and just enjoying country hospitality. Just perfect.

The Nagambie Lakes Region is at the heart of Victoria's largest river waterway, the Goulburn River system. The climate is mild, the river flats fertile, the landscape distinctly Australian and the heady scent of eucalypt tinges the crisp country air. Koalas, kangaroos, wombats and echidnas can still be sighted in their natural habitat. The region is known for its thoroughbred horse-stud farms, water-centred sports and increasingly for its world-class wines and focus on regional foods.

Vines have been grown here since the 1850s but it is only in recent times that the burgeoning number of wineries has gained attention. There are exceptions, however: Iconic Tahbilk Estate, established in the 1860s and one of Australia's oldest wineries, is remarkable for its serene river frontage, original stone and timber buildings, romantic old cellars and, of course, fine wines. Gaze across the pristine wetlands from the stylish new café, or cruise the river to experience the prolific birdlife at closer hand. Another landmark is Mitchelton Estate, where the





1 Mitchelton Estate in Autumn  
2 Exploring the Tahbilk Wetlands  
3 Picnic on Lake Nagambie 4 Fresh regional produce 5 Harvest Home, Avenel 6 The APS Regatta (Heads of the River) 7 The magnificent Goulburn River



distinctive tower provides a breathtaking panorama, and the restaurant serves up delicious food and peaceful rural views.

More easily accessible is David Traeger Wines, which has its cellar door right in Nagambie's main street (try their Verdelho – it's superb), as does the boutique Goulburn Terrace winery (on weekends, good coffee and simple rustic food are also on the menu here).

Wineries aren't the only place to sample excellent local produce. At the delightful country house hotel, Harvest Home, you can order terrific regional fare and enjoy the eclectic furnishings and a warm country welcome. Alternatively, pop into the Ruffy Produce Store to re-stock your pantry with gourmet goods, share a platter of fresh regional food and a flinty white wine.

The system of rivers, lakes, lagoons and billabongs ensure plenty of water-based activities. Fishing, water-skiing, sailing, rowing and canoeing are all possibilities and the Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre hosts premier rowing and canoeing events.

If water sports don't appeal, perhaps you would prefer to hit off on one of the golf courses or – for the brave – consider skydiving or taking off in a glider?

In the small towns and scattered through the region there are shops for browsing, art galleries and gardens. Discover the childhood pleasures of a garden maze at Avenel, or the more sophisticated pleasures of indulgence at the luxury spa The Jetty on the shores of Lake Nagambie.

The more rugged area of the Strathbogie Ranges provides a tranquil retreat, though it wasn't always quite so peaceful. There are strong connections with infamous bushranger Ned Kelly, and goldmining once flourished in the region. Today, however, it's the ideal spot to toss your fishing line into a cool mountain stream and just chill out until the fish start biting. (Stay very still and you may even glimpse a platypus.) At the end of the day, savour one of the elegant wines from the Strathbogie's cooler-climate boutique wineries.

Just 90 minutes drive from Melbourne, Nagambie and Strathbogie Ranges provide plenty to experience, but all in your own good time. Stay overnight or a little longer at one of the welcoming B&Bs, snug cottages or delightful hotels and discover the region's true character for yourself.

For more information call the Nagambie Lakes Visitor Information Centre on **1800 444 647** or visit [www.nagambielakestourism.com.au](http://www.nagambielakestourism.com.au) [www.strathbogieregion.com.au](http://www.strathbogieregion.com.au) [www.goulburnandr.com.au](http://www.goulburnandr.com.au)













## Bendigo

Like many of the world's most beautiful cities, Bendigo was built on dreams, making it truly captivating and so easy to love. Grand, often extravagant buildings, formal parks and leafy tree-lined streets are the rich legacy of Bendigo's gold rush past. Today there is a vibrancy to this busy regional centre – a lively arts and culture scene, galleries, boutiques and antique shops, cafes with flair, smart restaurants and wine bars. Here, history overlooks but never overshadows the present.

In the 1800s, in the greatest gold rush the world had ever seen, a staggering nine billion dollars worth of gold was mined from the Bendigo goldfields. Such rich treasure shaped the city. The lavish scale of Bendigo's magnificent architecture – the extravagant 1896 French-style law courts, the 1890s Shamrock Hotel, five flamboyant stories high, and the magnificent town hall (recently meticulously refurbished) – recall that golden prosperity.

For another glimpse of the past, catch the Vintage Talking Tram and hear the city's history as you weave through historic streets. Better still, don a miner's hat at the Central Deborah Gold Mine, travel 20 storeys below the surface and walk in the footsteps of the miners; you can even try your own luck and pan for gold.

An intriguing relic of that era is the Chinese Joss House, the oldest in Australia, a tiny structure of hand-rendered brick

and timber; its interior glowing richly red, permeated by fragrant incense. Chinese workers came in their thousands to work the goldfields and their story is told at the Golden Dragon Museum, but it also comes to life each year when the world's longest Imperial Dragon leads the parade in the exuberant Easter festival.

The old and the new meld in Bendigo, creating a genuine depth to the culture. Bendigo Art Gallery, one of Australia's





- 1 Al fresco dining on View Street
- 2 Admiring Bendigo Art Gallery's Collection
- 3 Rich red wines
- 4 Hotel Shamrock at night
- 5 Alexandra Fountain
- 6 Experience Bendigo's Chinese Culture
- 7 Conservatory Gardens



oldest regional galleries, features a sleek new wing and a stunning collection. Art buffs will find other galleries and studios to view contemporary art, both in Bendigo and surrounding villages and towns.

For classic craft, visit Bendigo Pottery – Australia's oldest working pottery – with its huge old beehive kilns, interpretive museum, and a gallery where you can purchase a small piece of history.

As a visitor it's easy to share Bendigo's unique heritage because history is seamlessly woven into everyday life. Historic buildings have been cleverly converted into boutique hotels and luxury B&Bs and transformed into funky cafes and upmarket restaurants.

Speaking of restaurants, gastronomic pleasures are one of the region's delights with an emphasis on fresh local produce (the Bendigo Gourmet Guide will help you locate some of the best eateries). So you can taste tapas at Wine Bank on View, or celebrate with a spectacular

meal in the magnificent dining room at Whirrakee Restaurant. And with more than thirty vineyards in the region you should have no trouble finding a fine local wine to match your meal (the terroir is known to produce outstanding 'big reds' – award-winning shiraz and cabernet sauvignon). For those keen to visit cellar doors and meet the makers, the Vine to Vintage Wine Trail links wineries in the hills and valleys around Bendigo, Heathcote and Macedon.

If getting out in the fresh country air is your passion, Bendigo is blessed by wonderful parks and rimmed by native bush. Interweaving walking and cycling trails wind through gum forests, past native wildflowers and animals, leading to lookouts and wonderful views. Keen cyclists can even follow one of the four Winery Cycling Trails in pursuit of cellar doors.

There's still treasure to be found in Bendigo, so choose from the array of boutique accommodation, from an intimate B&B or elegant old-world hotel to a cute cottage, and take some time to explore its many options.

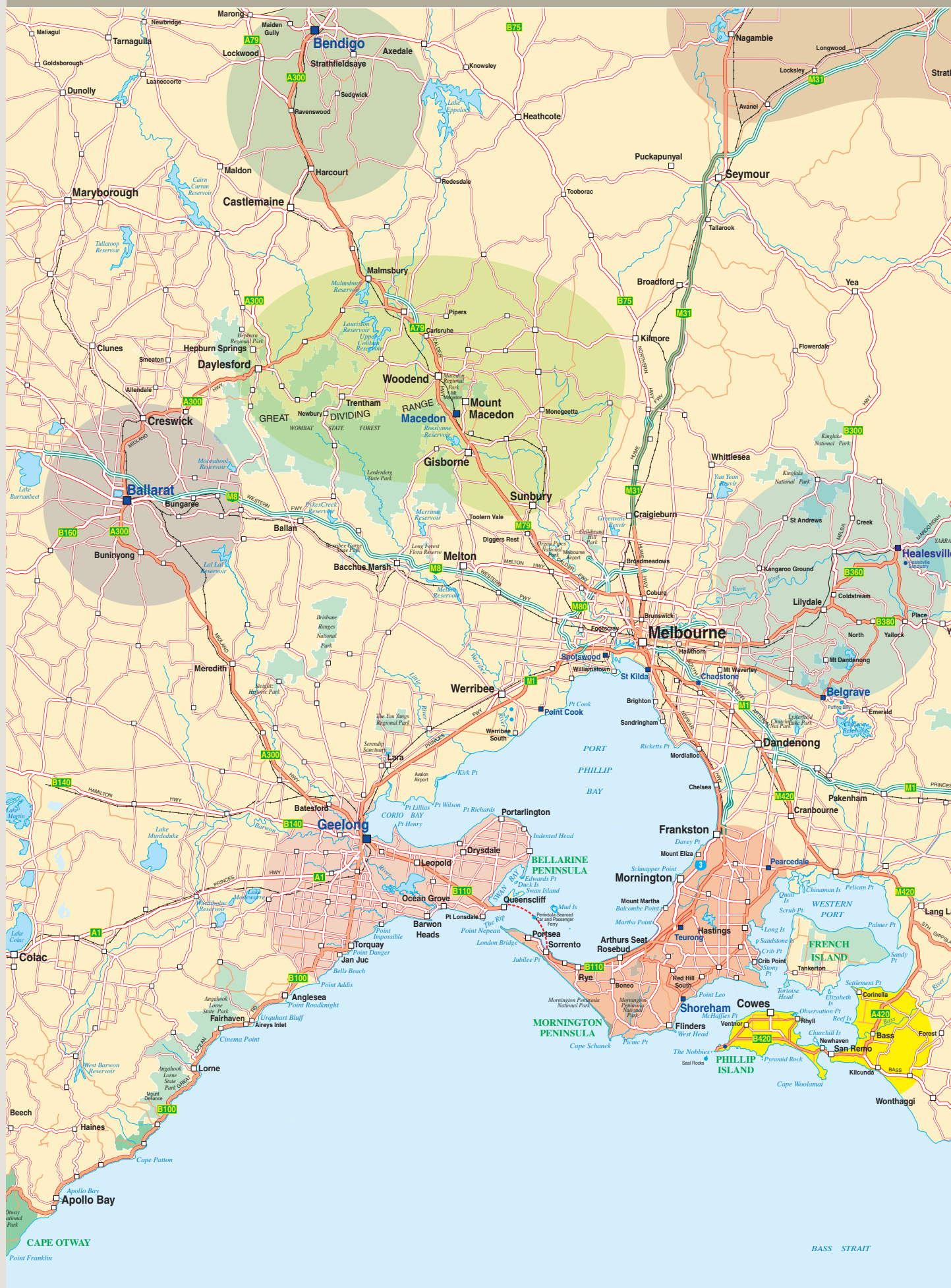
A visit to Bendigo will capture your dreams and begin your loving connection to this truly impressive, world-class heritage city.

For more information phone **1800 813 153** or visit **[www.bendigotourism.com](http://www.bendigotourism.com)**





## BEYOND MELBOURNE MAP







### BALLARAT

**Distance from the GPO** 110 km.

**Transport** V/Line service 7 days a week.

**Retail trading hours** Mon - Thurs 9am - 5.30pm, Friday 9am - 9pm  
Sat 9am - 4pm, Sun 10am - 4pm.

**Phone** 1800 44 66 33

**Web** [www.visitballarat.com.au](http://www.visitballarat.com.au)



### BENDIGO

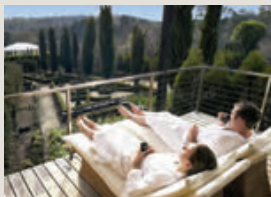
**Distance from the GPO** 150 km.

**Transport** By car or train.

**Retail trading hours** Various according to time of year and store,  
restaurants call for hours.

**Phone** 1800 813 153

**Web** [www.bendigotourism.com](http://www.bendigotourism.com)



### DAYLESFORD AND THE MACEDON RANGES

**Distance from the GPO** Between 37 km and 111 km.

**Transport** Train, V/Line scheduled coach services, self drive,  
specialist tour operators.

**Retail trading hours** Generally open 7 days a week.

**Phone** 5321 6123 or 1800 244 711

**Web** [www.visitvictoria.com/dmr](http://www.visitvictoria.com/dmr)



### GEELONG AND THE BELLARINE

**Distance from the GPO** 75 km.

**Transport** V/Line trains from Spencer Street Station.

Queenscliff - Sorrento Ferry.

**Retail trading hours** Varied.

**Phone** Geelong 1800 620 888 or Bellarine 1800 755 611

**Web** [www.visitgeelongbellarine.com](http://www.visitgeelongbellarine.com)



### MORNINGTON PENINSULA

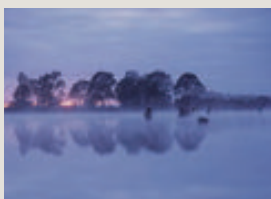
**Distance from the GPO** Mornington 57 km, Sorrento 87 km.

**Transport** Train, Bus, Sorrento-Queenscliff Ferry.

**Retail trading hours** Mon - Sat 9am - 5pm, Sun 10am - 5pm.

**Phone** 1800 804 009

**Web** [www.visitmorningtonpeninsula.org](http://www.visitmorningtonpeninsula.org)



### NAGAMBIE AND STRATHBOGIE RANGES

**Distance from the GPO** 111 km.

**Transport** V/Line services to region. Hume and Goulburn Valley Freeways.

**Retail trading hours** Varied.

**Phone** 1800 444 647

**Web** [www.goulburnrandr.com.au](http://www.goulburnrandr.com.au)



### PHILLIP ISLAND

**Distance from the GPO** 135 km.

**Transport** V/Line service to Cowes Daily and Day Coaches from Melbourne.

**Retail trading hours** 10am daily.

**Phone** 1300 366 422

**Web** [www.penguins.org.au](http://www.penguins.org.au)



### YARRA VALLEY AND DANDENONG RANGES

**Distance from the GPO** 30 km.

**Transport** Train: Lilydale line, Belgrave line and Hurstbridge line.

**Retail trading hours** Various, according to individual store,  
winery or restaurant. Call for hours.

**Phone** 5962 2600

**Web** [www.visitvictoria.com.au](http://www.visitvictoria.com.au)



## MELBOURNE CITY MAP



### Melbourne Visitor Centre

Federation Square,  
Corner Swanston & Flinders Street  
Telephone: (03) 9658 9658  
Facsimile: (03) 9650 6168  
[www.thatsmelbourne.com.au](http://www.thatsmelbourne.com.au)

- ● Train Station & Line
- Free City Circle Tram Route
- Pedestrian Route
- Place of Interest
- Visitor Information Centres

### Melbourne Greeter Service

Free personal orientations of the city with a local volunteer who shares your interest and speaks your language. Available 7 days. Bookings must be made 3 days in advance.  
Telephone: (03) 9658 9658

### City Ambassadors & Melbourne Visitor Booth

Melbourne's Ambassadors wear distinctive red uniforms and roam the streets providing information for visitors. Ask them for directions or ideas for things to do or see. City of Melbourne Information Booth is located in Bourke Street Mall.

## VISITOR INFORMATION

When planning your trip to Melbourne be sure to get your free copy of The Official Visitors' Guide, the 'Melbourne Visitors' Map and Melbourne Accommodation Guide.  
For interstate enquiries see: [www.visitvictoria.com](http://www.visitvictoria.com) or phone 132 842 (cost of a local call from anywhere in Australia)  
For international enquiries see: [www.visitmelbourne.com](http://www.visitmelbourne.com)

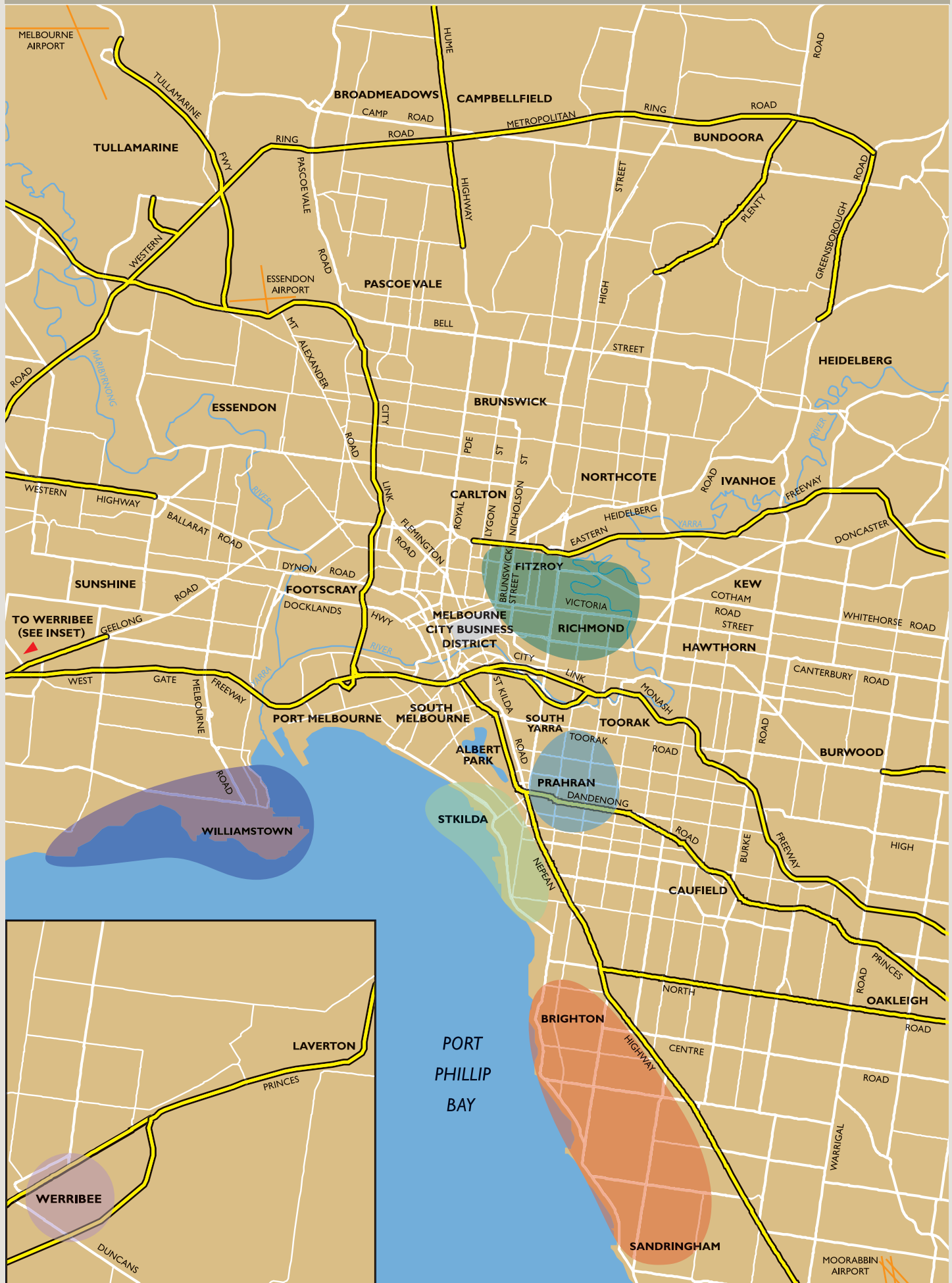




Produced by Destination Melbourne™ PO Box 7230 Melbourne 8004. Design and layout: Paoli Smith. Copywriter: Margaret Barca. Printing: Southern Colour. Photography: David Mitchener, Rob Blackburn, John Gollings, Pete Walsh, Lecky, Destination Melbourne Library, Tourism Victoria Library. While every attempt has been made to ensure accurate information at the time of going to press, the publisher accepts no responsibility for supplied information or omissions.



# GREATER MELBOURNE MAP







## BAYSIDE

Bayside is characterised by the picturesque coastline from Brighton to Beaumaris, water-based activities, stylish homes and traditional shopping villages. Bayside's coastal environment is always changing. With its romantic history, relaxing parks, sublime beaches and contemporary dining culture.

### HOW TO GET THERE

**Train** Sandringham or Frankston lines.

**Distance from the GPO** 10 km.



## CHAPEL STREET PRECINCT

Whether it's shopping for unique fashion, wine and dining, enjoying a coffee or finding that special gift – Chapel Street is the place to be for style, personality and diversity.

### HOW TO GET THERE

**Train** Sandringham line **Trams** No 8, 72, 6.

**Distance from the GPO** 5 km.



## CITY OF YARRA

Covering some of Melbourne's most colourful and vibrant strips such as Bridge Road, Brunswick Street, Smith Street, Swan Street, Church Street and Victoria Street. You'll find the shops, cafés, restaurants, clubs and galleries of Richmond, Collingwood and Fitzroy are what visiting Melbourne is all about.

### HOW TO GET THERE

**Trams** 70, 86, 96, 109, 112, 48, 75 plus Bus & Train.

**Distance from the GPO** 2 km.



## ST KILDA

Situated on one of the most picturesque points of the Bay, St Kilda has safe sandy beaches, music venues, restaurants and a strong café culture. Do not go past the amazing cake shops on Acland Street.

### HOW TO GET THERE

**Trams** 16, 96 and 112

**Distance from the GPO:** 6km



## WERRIBEE

Home to the Werribee Open Range Zoo, the Mansion at Werribee Park and the award winning Victoria State Rose Garden.

### HOW TO GET THERE

**Train** Werribee line **Bus** Werribee Park Shuttle available 7 days a week

Phone (03) 9748 5094 (bookings required).

**Distance from the GPO** 30 km.



## WILLIAMSTOWN

Situated between the Princes Freeway and the western curve of Port Phillip Bay, Williamstown and Hobsons Bay is a picturesque, seaside location with an eclectic array of shops and cafés.

### HOW TO GET THERE

**Ferries** Operate daily from Southbank **Train** Williamstown & Werribee line.

**Distance from the GPO** 14 km.



Love  
Melbourne?  
Why not  
live here?



The Victorian Government sponsors visas for professionals, tradespeople, business owners and investors. Apply online for free visa sponsorship.

**[LiveInVictoria.vic.gov.au](http://LiveInVictoria.vic.gov.au) or telephone +61 3 9208 3334**

Live in  
**MELBOURNE**  
VICTORIA AUSTRALIA