

The Great Victoria Explorer Coast - Lakes - Alpine - Goldmines

With Trade Travel

9 Days / 8 Nights - Fully Escorted

Tour Departs: Sunday 15 November - Monday 23 November, 2026.



TRADE TRAVEL
Effortless Journeys, Endless Memories



Day 1. Sun 15 Nov: Homeport - Melbourne - Mornington Peninsula

Dinner

Flight Details: VA0000 Homeport - Melbourne 0000/0000 (flight details TBA)

After our morning flight to Melbourne, we have time to purchase a bite to eat before boarding our coach and making our way down to the beautiful **Mornington Peninsula**. Situated in this beautiful part of Victoria is the **Royal Botanical Gardens Cranbourne**. On entry we discover the iconic Australian landscape and enjoy **live commentary in the comfort of an open-air electric bus**. From the Red Sand Garden, journey through the themed display gardens ending with the Eucalypt Walk, featuring only Australian plants. We then have time to stroll at leisure, enjoy a cuppa from the **Boon Wurrung Cafe** or visit the **Garden Shop** for that special botanical gift. Later this afternoon we check into our accommodation where we have time to freshen up before enjoying **dinner in Toscano Italian Kitchen & Wine Bar**.

Overnight Hastings: Sanctuary Inn On Western

Day 2. Mon 16 Nov: Mornington - Lakes Entrance

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

This morning after breakfast and checkout, we begin our drive across to the Gippsland Lakes Region. In **Yallourn**, we enjoy a cuppa before a tour of the **Old Brown Coal Mine Museum** which holds an extensive display of memorabilia depicting the early days of the old town and open cut, both known as Brown Coal Mine prior to 1947. Our next stop is across in Rosedale for our **lunch stop** at the **delightful Victoria Rose Tea Rooms and Gardens**. Our last stop for the day prior to arriving in Lakes Entrance is in Bairnsdale to view the **stunning St Mary's Church murals** painted by Italian artist Francesco Floreani during the Great Depression. From Bairnsdale, it's a leisurely 30 minute drive down into Lakes Entrance to check into our centrally located motel. After settling into our rooms, we gather for dinner in the on-site Albert and Co Restaurant.

Overnight Lakes Entrance: Bellevue on the Lakes

Day 3. Tues 17 Nov: Lakes Entrance - Metung

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

After a leisurely breakfast, there will be time to take a stroll along the **WW1 Avenue of Honour Memorial Tree Statues** before boarding our **Gippsland Lakes Cruise**. Our morning cruise takes us through the Reeves Channel, Bancroft Bay and into Lake King then along the shores of Metung before arriving at the **Metung Hotel for lunch**. Following lunch, we return by coach to Lakes Entrance via the **historic Nyerimilang Park Homestead** which overlooks the Gippsland Lakes and is surrounded by semi-formal gardens and lawns. A display featuring the history of Nyerimilang and the natural resources and history of the Gippsland Lakes can be viewed in the homestead. Back in Lakes Entrance there will be time to take a stroll along the main street and maybe drop into the **Griffiths Sea Shell Museum** for a look. After a relaxing day and freshen up back at the motel we meet for dinner.

Overnight Lakes Entrance: Bellevue on the Lakes

Day 4. Wed 18 Nov: Lakes Entrance - Bright

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today we head off early on our way to the Victoria High Country and the picturesque village of Bright. Along the way we stop by the **pioneering township of Omeo**, renowned for its gold mining history, high country cattle grazing and historic buildings. From Omeo, we travel along Australia's highest year-round accessible sealed road, the **Great Alpine Way** to the **Alpine Village of Dinner Plain** for our lunch break. This afternoon we pass by the Mount Hotham Ski Resort and take in some amazing views while travelling and also stop by a couple of major Lookouts. In Harrietville we stop by **Shady Brook Cottages and Garden**, a spectacular **14-acre garden** of which over 5 acres are landscaped, bounded by the Ovens River and a mountain backdrop of natural forest. Exotic trees, along with hundreds of Camellias, Viburnums, Rhododendrons, Azaleas and Australian native plants are there to admire as we amble along the tracks and enjoy the prolific bird life, plants, and water features. Then enjoy the scenic drive across to **Bright** for check in and dinner.

Overnight Bright: Bright Colonial Motel

Day 5. Thurs 19 Nov: Bright

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today in Bright we take a browse through the **Bright Alpine Visitors Centre** before we are joined by our local guide, who will take us for a **highlights tour of Bright and Porepunkah**. Our tour also includes a look through the **Bright and District Historical Society Museum** situated in the **heritage listed old Bright Railway Station**. Up at the majestic **Red Stag Deer and Emu Farm** we receive an **introduction talk on the 70-acre farm before lunch** while taking in the stunning alpine views including the beautiful Mount Buffalo National Park. After lunch, take a stroll and chance to feed, touch and learn about the red deer, emus, ostriches, and goats before browsing the shop. Back down in Bright we spend some leisure time to browse the shops, including **Making Spirits Bright**, a world of perpetual Christmas joy all year round. After a delightful day out, we return to our motel to rest up before **dinner at the Alpine Hotel**.

Overnight Bright: Bright Colonial Motel

Day 6. Fri 20 Nov. Beechworth - Mt Beauty

Breakfast & Dinner

This morning, we travel up to **Beechworth** visiting the historic **Beechworth Courthouse** for a Ned Kelly trial re-enactment based on actual court transcripts, as well as a guided tour and talk in the **Burke Museum**. After taking a coffee break, we tour the **Old Beechworth Gaol**, one of Australia's most significant post-European cultural sites. Its role in the chain of events that led to the execution of Ned Kelly is significant as it housed Ned's mother, Ellen Kelly, many of the Kelly sympathisers and Ned himself, alongside his brother Dan and the rest of the Kelly gang. After a break for lunch, we travel the Kiewa Valley Hwy to the **village of Mount Beauty**, along the way taking in the beautiful vistas of the valley and surrounding mountains. On arrival, we take in the **scenery from the shores of the Mount Beauty Pondage** before calling into the **Mount Beauty Information Centre and Museum** for a talk on the history of the **Kiewa Valley Hydro scheme**, then self-guided tour through the museum. We then make our way along the Tawonga Gap Road enjoying stops at **Sullivans Lookout** and **Tawonga Gap Lookout** to take in the **magical vistas**. Our day is complete as we arrive back at our motel to enjoy a rest before meeting up for dinner.

Overnight Bright: Bright Colonial Motel

Day 7. Sat 21 Nov. Myrtleford - Milawa - Bendigo

Breakfast & Dinner

After checkout and breakfast, we head across to Myrtleford to catch up with our **local historian for an overview of the tobacco growing industry**. Starting at the **Old School Museum** that provides an interesting insight into the township and tobacco industry which was driven mostly by the large number of Italian migrants who settled down in this region in the 1920's. Our next stop is up in the renowned **Milawa gourmet region**, home to the **Milawa Cheese Co** which specialises in soft and washed rind cheeses. Our visit includes a short presentation on the **history of Milawa Cheese**, and the cheese production followed by a **seated tasting** and talk in our own indoor seated section, where we get to **enjoy 8 Milawa sample cheeses, grapes, walnuts, and biscuits with detailed tasting notes**. We also enjoy time to browse through the **Cheese Shop, Wood Park Wines, and Wattle Tree Collection**. From Milawa, we travel across through Murchison to **Colbinabbin** to view arguably the most stunning set of **silos murals** in Australia. Later in the afternoon we arrive in Bendigo to check into the Quality Hotel Lakeside. Once settled into our rooms, we catch up in the Lakeside Restaurant for dinner.

Overnight Bendigo: Quality Hotel Lakeside

Day 8. Sun 22 Nov: Bendigo

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Our first stop this morning is at the **Central Deborah Gold Mine** for an opportunity to **explore the surface of the mine** which contains original buildings and equipment that were essential to the operation of Central Deborah in its mining days. Next, we cover 100 years in just one hour on the famous **Bendigo Historic Vintage Talking Tram**. Once aboard the meticulously restored tram the expert commentary explains the history and significance of the buildings and locations as they pass us by. We travel past and hear the story of the Majestic Sacred Heart Cathedral, The Alexandra Fountain, The Grand Beehive Store, and the world-famous Shamrock Hotel. After disembarking the tram, we visit the **Golden Dragon Museum** for **lunch and a guided tour** through the museum and beautiful gardens. The museum houses the world's best collection of Chinese processional regalia and features the world's longest and oldest dragons, which includes Sun Loong and Loong, who have been in the annual Easter Monday procession for over 100 years. The exhibition called **"The Bendigo Chinese Community - A Unique History"** depicts the history of the Chinese Community since the famous gold rush days. We take some time to wander through the displays of items that have been either donated or loaned by individuals and organisations. It's then onto **Bendigo Pottery** for a self-guided tour with an introduction by the staff. At Australia's oldest working pottery, we watch a demonstration of hand throwing and wander the interpretive museum and gallery of works by local potters. After our tour wraps up, we have time to browse the Pottery shop and taste some wines from the **Glenwillow Winery**. Our day complete we return to our motel with time to relax before enjoying dinner in the restaurant.

Overnight Bendigo: Quality Hotel Lakeside

Day 9. Mon 23 Nov: Bendigo - Melbourne

Breakfast & Lunch

After breakfast and check out this morning we enjoy some **leisure time along View Street** which has been the beating heart of Bendigo's arts and cultural offerings since 1890. Check out the exhibitions at **Dudley House, Valentine's Antique Gallery** and across the road at **La Trobe Arts Institute**, just to name a few plus the much loved cafés for a coffee. We then travel out to the **Great Stupa of Universal Compassion** where we will view an introductory film before exploring the interfaith **Peace Park** with our friendly and knowledgeable guide before stepping inside the Great Stupa to learn about Buddhist culture and future plans for the project, all while viewing beautiful statues and relics. It's now time to depart the Bendigo region and head back down to **Melbourne Airport** for check in and late afternoon flight back home after our wonderful journey through parts of Victoria with **Trade Travel**.

Flight Details: VA0000 Melbourne - Homeport 0000/0000 (flight details TBA)

Tour Highlights & Inclusions



Tour Highlights: Royal Botanical Gardens Cranbourne; Old Brown Coal Mine Museum; Victoria Rose Tea Rooms & Gardens; St Mary's Church Murals; WW1 Avenue of Honour Memorial Tree Statues; Gippsland Lakes Lunch Cruise; Nyerimilang Park Homestead & Gardens; Griffiths Shell Museum; Milawa Cheese Company Tasting; Pioneering Township of Omeo; Scenic Great Alpine Way Lookouts; Alpine Village of Dinner Plain; Shady Brook Cottages & Garden; Bright Alpine Visitors Centre; Bright Guided Highlights Tour; Bright & District Historical Society Museum; Red Stag Deer & Emu Farm; Making Spirits Bright; Gold Rush History & Beechworth Walking Tour; Old Beechworth Gaol; Mount Beauty Information Centre & Museum; Tawonga Gap Lookout & Sullivans Lookout; Myrtleford Old School Museum & Tobacco Industry History Tour; History of Milawa Cheese Talk & Tasting; Cheese Shop, Wood Park Wines & Wattle Tree Collection; Colbinabbin Silo Murals; Central Deborah Goldmine; Bendigo Historic Vintage Talking Tram; Golden Dragon Museum; Bendigo Pottery & Glenwillow Wine Tasting; Great Stupa of Universal Compassion & more.

Tour Price Includes:

- Trade Travel Tour Host
- Return flights from Homeport to Melbourne
- Luxury coach travel
- 8 Nights quality accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch & dinner as per itinerary (22 Meals)
- All entry fees & guides as per itinerary

Tour Cost Ex Bris/Syd/Can/Adel: \$4148.00 per person Twin Share
Ex Melb: \$3698.00 per person Twin Share

Tour Cost from alternate departure ports - POA

(Single Supplement \$875.00)

A minimum of 20 passengers is required for this tour to proceed.

The tour prices are valid for travel in 2026. Please note that the itinerary is subject to change without notice.

Deposit: A deposit of **\$200.00** per person is due on booking to secure your place on this tour, along with completed & signed booking form!

Final Payment: Due no later than **Friday 4 September, 2026.**

For information, bookings & travel insurance contact:

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