

EXPLORING VICTORIA'S REGIONS



Melbourne – Ballarat – Daylesford – King Valley – Yarra Valley

Spend 2 days in Melbourne exploring its quirky laneways and buzzing neighbourhood hubs before travelling to the heart of Victoria's gold rush region, Ballarat.

Continue on to Daylesford, a regional food mecca, before experiencing the stunning King Valley, located at the foothills of the Alpine National Park, approximately 3 hours north east of Melbourne.

Soak up generous hospitality, warming food and new release innovative wine styles at the wineries of the King Valley. Return to Melbourne via the Yarra Valley, which is renowned for its premium wines and quaint cafes, local produce stores, and wildlife sanctuary.



AT A GLANCE

- » 2 nights Melbourne
- » 1 night Ballarat
- » 2 nights Daylesford
- » 1 night Milawa
- » 1 night King Valley
- » 2 nights Yarra Valley

THE JOURNEY

- » Nearest major city: Melbourne
- » Duration: 9 days
- » Mode of transport: On Foot, Taxi, Car, Touring Vehicle



Aboriginal Heritage Walk, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne



MCG Premium Access Tour



The Banquet of Cleopatra, National Gallery of Victoria

DAY 1

Learning about Melbourne/Naarm's Traditional Owners is a perfect way to begin your Victorian adventure. Head to stunning surrounds of the Royal Botanic Gardens to take part in the **Aboriginal Heritage Walk Melbourne** where your Indigenous guide will give you an insight into area's rich Indigenous legacy and thriving cultures. After lunch you can learn about the contemporary cultural icon, the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). The **MCG Premium Access Tour** provides behind-the-scenes access to "the 'G'" and entry to the **Australian Sports Museum**.

Following your tour, you can wander along the banks of the Yarra River/Birrarung to make your way to the vibrant Southbank precinct to indulge in a delicious dinner with a water view.

Highlights:

- » Learn about Melbourne's Aboriginal heritage.
- » Go behind the scenes on a personalised tour of the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

DAY 2

If you're a member of an affiliated golf club, you can explore the possibility of playing a round or two at the prestigious **Royal Melbourne Golf Club**. Known for its highly-acclaimed West Course, it is hailed as Australia's finest and holds a place among the top 10 golf clubs worldwide.

After a relaxing afternoon, make your way to the National Gallery of Victoria for your **Private Gallery Dinner: The Banquet of Cleopatra**. This exclusive experience includes a tour of the gallery's international collection before an evening of fine dining, wine and live music, held in the gallery space in front of Giambattista Tiepolo's masterpiece, *The Banquet of Cleopatra*.

Highlights:

- » Follow in the footsteps of some of golf's greatest players at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club.
- » Experience a decadent private dining experience at the National Gallery of Victoria.

DAY 3

Enjoy a scenic 1.5 hour drive north of Melbourne to **Sovereign Hill**, Australia's premier outdoor museum, which recreates the original gold rush era township. You'll step back in time during the **24 hours at Sovereign Hill** experience, which will have you living life as it was on the 1850's goldfields, complete with an overnight stay onsite in the Governor's Room. Spend the day exploring underground mines, take a horse-drawn coach and learn skills from yesteryear with an exclusive hands-on sweet-making experience. Don't miss out on the delicious Devonshire Tea served at the famous New York Bakery.

Highlights:

- » Experience the buzz of life as it was during the gold rush.
- » For an immerse experience, stay overnight onsite in the Governor's Room.



Wine blending experience, Brown Brothers Estate



The Spa at Lake House, Daylesford



Lake House, Daylesford

DAY 4

Spend the morning sightseeing in Ballarat, taking in the grandeur of its Victorian-era buildings and exploring Australia's largest regional art gallery. Continue your journey with a stroll around Lake Wendouree where you can admire the statues at the Ballarat Botanical Gardens before travelling to Daylesford in the heart of spa country, only 40 minutes away.

Check-in to the iconic hotel, **Lake House**, on the shores of idyllic Lake Daylesford and take the opportunity to walk tracks around the water and into the Wombat State Forest. Book your evening meal at the Lake House's multi-award-winning **restaurant**, which champions local seasonal cuisine and is considered one of Australia's best.

Highlights:

- » Discover the regional food mecca, Daylesford.
- » Dine at the multi-award winning regional icon, Lake House.

DAY 5

Relax at **The Spa at Lake House**, an oasis of tranquillity offering decadent treatments, mineral soaks and massages. Or you can book a private **Tai Chi, Qigong & Meditation** session to learn fundamental martial art principles that will improve your wellbeing, including breathing exercises and still and moving meditation.

Spend the afternoon sampling the regional cuisine that has made Daylesford famous and head up to Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens to enjoy the spectacular views over the region. The 19th century Convent building is worth a visit. Now an art gallery and café, it includes historical displays detailing its fascinating past as both a convent and boarding school.

Highlights:

- » Indulge in the Signature Spa Experience at Lake House.
- » Take time out for a picnic at Wombat Hill.
- » Explore the local eateries showcasing local produce.

DAY 6

It's a 3 hour drive from Daylesford to Milawa but it's worth stopping at Glenrowan, in the heart of Ned Kelly country, to delve into the area's rich bushranger history. Then continue on to **Brown Brothers Milawa**, which is one of Australia's oldest and most loved wineries. Discover the art of winemaking during the **Wine Blending at Brown Brothers** experience. You'll learn about specific wine characteristics and sustainable vineyard practices as you blend, bottle, and label your own beverage to create a unique souvenir.

For your overnight stay, book into the boutique hotel, **Lancemore Milawa**.

Highlights:

- » Brush up on your bushranger history as you walk in the footsteps of Ned Kelly.
- » Experience one of Australia's oldest wineries, Brown Brothers.



Grazing platter, Pizzini Wines



Wine tasting, Dominique Portet



King Valley, Victoria

DAY 7

It's a 35-minute drive to the King Valley to experience the **Pizzini Overnight Wine and Food Escape**. Start with a tutored tasting at the cellar door where you can sample a selection of current and back vintage wines, gaining insights into how the distinct characteristics of the land and makers' techniques have shaped their wine styles over the years. Then discover the magic that happens when these wines are thoughtfully paired with food.

After your tasting, take a seat at the Cellar Door with a glass of red or white in hand to enjoy an Italian-style grazing platter. Then make your way to your well-appointed accommodation at **Mountain View Hotel** for check in. You'll return at 6:30pm to The Mountain View Hotel for a 4 course dinner complemented by matched wines crafted by Joel Pizzini himself.

Highlights:

- » Immerse yourself in the fabulous food and wine of the King Valley.

DAY 8

Enjoy a sleep in and the comforts of your accommodation before the 2.5 hour drive to the Yarra Valley, stopping at **De Bortoli** wines to enjoy the **Ultimate Wine Lover's Experience with Lunch**. You'll be captivated by the incredible story of the De Bortoli family's almost 90 years of determination and triumph at their Yarra Valley Estate. Enjoy spectacular views of the vineyard while learning about their viticultural practices, and don't miss the opportunity to taste wines from barrels and tanks. After a decadent private gourmet cheese and wine tasting, you'll be served an Italian-inspired three-course lunch with matched wines.

Overnight at **Yering Gorge Cottages**.

Highlights:

- » Take an Italian-inspired hands-on cooking class.
- » Enjoy a cellar door tasting and premium lunch at De Bortoli.

DAY 9

Stock up on delicious treats for your final road trip at the **Yarra Valley Chocolaterie and Ice Creamery** before you begin making your way back to Melbourne via **Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary**. This bushland setting is home to iconic Australian wildlife including koalas, kangaroos, platypus, dingoes, wombats and Tasmanian Devils. Delay your return a little longer with a visit to **Dominique Portet** for its **Andre Experience**. You'll have an enlightening behind-the-scenes estate tour with one of Dominique Portet's knowledgeable wine educators. Your tutored wine tasting will take place in the André room – above the working winery – and a delicious lunch will be complemented with matching wines. It will be a memorable way to end your Victorian adventure.

Highlights:

- » See your favourite native animals up close.
- » Indulge in sweet treats at the Yarra Valley Chocolaterie and Ice Creamery.
- » Take a behind-the-scenes tour at Dominique Portet, followed by lunch.