

The greatest outdoors

# WILDLIFE & ADVENTURE

## 5 Day Itinerary

Victoria has some of the world's most intriguing animals...bounding kangaroos and wallabies, koalas perched in trees, spiky echidnas, curious platypus in rivers and little penguins popping out of the sea at dusk every day. So come and have fantastic adventures on land, sea and in the air, discovering wildlife and dramatic natural wilderness areas.



### AS WILD AS YOU WANT

Wildlife and adventure in Victoria can be as wild as you want – or a relaxed, laidback experience. The climate is kind, the scenery spectacular, the oceans are clean and the air so fresh. And there are so many options for getting close up to wildlife and choosing adventures.

You can visit wildlife in famous sanctuaries, take a small-group wilderness tour or explore on your own. Maritime experts welcome you on a cruise to one of Australia's largest fur seal colonies, or you can slip off a specially equipped boat to swim with wild dolphins and seals.

Wind through forests and fern gullies on a 100-year-old steam train, or go surfing over the tree tops. Take a fun hot air ballooning ride over vines and farmlands.

And you're never far from a winery, café or restaurant in the countryside or along the coast. Accommodation is just as varied, from glamping to luxury cottages with resident kangaroos and farmstays.

It's all so easy when you Go Beyond Melbourne. Just choose your route – from Melbourne to Geelong, the Mornington Peninsula, Phillip Island, then the Yarra Valley. Or head for the Yarra Valley, and do the circuit in reverse.

## A REALLY WILD WELCOME

If you're a wildlife lover, you simply won't believe your luck. You're absolutely guaranteed of meeting wildlife – and feeding, patting, swimming, diving and walking with it.

There are wildlife sanctuaries, reserves and tours in every region. Top experiences include the platypus discovery experience, diving with dolphins, seals and weedy sea dragons. You can walk along treetop boardwalks in a koala sanctuary, watch the little penguins at dusk on Phillip Island, take a lantern-lit night-time tour where little gliders will take nectar from your hand.

Bird lovers flock to a sanctuary that's home to 150 species of birds, a spirits of the sky bird presentation, and the chance to get right up close to rare and endangered species.

## HELLO ADRENALIN!

Soar through the treetops on flying foxes, take a high ropes climbing challenge, ride the zipline high above magnificent gardens. Go even higher on a dawn balloon flight, floating over vineyards before a champagne breakfast.

French Island is a little treasure trove of natural wilderness, just a ferry ride from the Mornington Peninsula or Phillip Island. Hop into an off-road vehicle and go discovering.

Jet boats and racing boats give you a thrill a minute as you explore Phillip Island's dramatic coastlines, or cruise out to one of Australia's largest wild fur seal colonies at Seal Rocks.

In the You Yangs, north of Geelong, eco tours show you Australian wildlife in its natural habitat, or you can strike out on your own and hike to the top of Flinders Peak.

There's accommodation with an adventurous tweak too... luxury cottages surrounded by a nature reserve, glamping and hosted lakeside accommodation.



1. Healesville Sanctuary, Yarra Valley & Dandenong Ranges  
 2. The Nobbies, Phillip Island  
 3. The You Yangs, Geelong & The Bellarine  
 4. Moonlit Sanctuary Wildlife Conservation Park

## DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY WITH TRIP PLANNER

It is so easy to design your own journey linking the four extraordinary regions Beyond Melbourne.

- 1 Decide the order in which you wish to link each region.
- 2 Select EACH attraction and accommodation you wish to experience in your first regional destination, adding them to Trip Planner as you go. Then move on to add options from your second regional destination and so on.
- 3 Note you can add up to 23 options (MAX) in total.
- 4 Once you have selected all the places you want to visit Beyond Melbourne, click on the TRIP PLANNER button at the top of your screen.
- 5 Once you are happy with the order of your choices, click on DOWNLOAD TRIP PLAN to see your entire journey both pictorially and mapped out with times and distances between attractions.





# YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES

## MORNING ACTIVITIES



**Global Ballooning**  
Turns hot air into incredible experiences. Take an exhilarating sunrise balloon flight and float high over Yarra Valley's patchwork landscape of vineyards and mountains. Come back to earth for a champagne breakfast.  
[globalballooning.com.au](http://globalballooning.com.au)



**Cloudehill Gardens & Diggers Nursery**  
One of Australia's finest, perched high in the lush Dandenongs. Discover 5 acres featuring 25 stunning garden rooms with flowering borders, magnificent mature trees, unexpected sculpture and garden topiary. Heirloom plants at Diggers Garden Shop, dining in Seasons Restaurant.  
[cloudehill.com.au](http://cloudehill.com.au)



**Healesville Sanctuary** - Explore a bushland haven for Australian wildlife. Wander through tranquil tracks to meet iconic Australian animals including koalas, kangaroos, platypus, dingoes, wombats and emus. Visit the Wildlife Health centre. Enjoy unique experiences: platypus discovery experience, spirits of the sky bird presentation and more!  
[zoo.org.au/healesville](http://zoo.org.au/healesville)

## AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES



**Puffing Billy Steam Railway**  
Share an authentic journey on board Australia's premier preserved steam railway - loved by generations for over 100 years! Share the sense of wonder of steam train travel with the whole family aboard! Take in the amazing scenery of the Dandenong Ranges' winding forests and fern gullies.  
[puffingbilly.com.au](http://puffingbilly.com.au)



**Warratina Lavender Farm**  
Enjoy the gloriously fragrant great outdoors amid 10,000 lavender plants. Harvest is November to January, but lavender flowers all year. Learn about varieties and uses of lavender, the plants' life cycle, and how Warratina harvests and dries the flowers. Guided tours, homestead gardens, tea rooms, lavender gift shop.  
[warratinalavender.com.au](http://warratinalavender.com.au)



**Four Pillars Distillery** - is ripe for a gin adventure. Meet Wilmer, Jude and Eileen (the shiny copper stills). Discover how to taste gin like a pro with a craft gin and tonic flight. Gin tastings and a huge range of gin cocktails are served in the bar. Their gins have won gold medals at the most prestigious spirits competitions in the world.  
[fourpillarsgin.com.au](http://fourpillarsgin.com.au)

## LUNCH ACTIVITIES



**De Bortoli Yarra Valley Estate**  
The restaurant, 'Locale' is a popular choice for dining because of its picturesque surroundings and Italian inspired menu.  
[debortoli.com.au](http://debortoli.com.au)



**Olinda Tea House** - A gorgeous spot for lunch, high tea, or dinner in the heart of the lush Dandenong Ranges. Friendly alpacas, wildlife and peaceful gardens are an absolute delight.  
[olindateahouse.com.au](http://olindateahouse.com.au)



**Paradise Valley Hotel**- Dine in the cosy bistro, on the bistro deck or in the leafy beer garden with occasional glimpses of Puffing Billy chugging past. Enjoy traditional pub food with a modern twist.  
[paradisevalleyhotel.com](http://paradisevalleyhotel.com)



## WHERE TO STAY



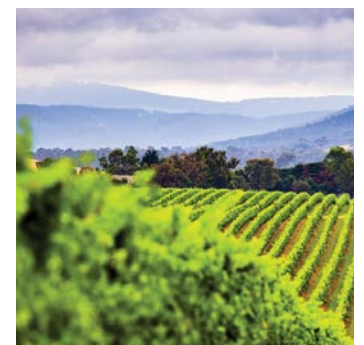
**Araluen Boutique Accommodation** - A 4.5-star boutique luxury B&B set on four acres with stunning views. Relax on the balcony or take a sunset walk to spy some of Australia's most iconic native wildlife.  
[araluenlodge.com.au](http://araluenlodge.com.au)



**Yering Gorge Cottages** - Luxuriously appointed self-contained cottages overlooking champion golf course. 120-acre nature reserve with resident kangaroos and array of native animals and birds.  
[yeringcottages.com.au](http://yeringcottages.com.au)



**Big4 Yarra Valley Park Lane Holiday Park** - Set amongst the native Australian bush offering villas, deluxe cabins (3-BR and new studio cabins), glamping bell tents and pods.  
[parklaneholidayparks.com.au/yarravalley](http://parklaneholidayparks.com.au/yarravalley)





# PHILLIP ISLAND

## MORNING ACTIVITIES



**Naturaliste Tours**  
Offers rare insights into French Island. Take a 15-minute ferry ride from Phillip Island (or Mornington Peninsula) and join a small guided tour of this hidden treasure of natural wilderness and wildlife. Tour the island in an 11-seater, off-road tour vehicle, perfect for accessing hidden spots. [naturalistetours.com.au](http://naturalistetours.com.au)



**Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit**  
Home to the world's leading motorsport series including the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix and the Superbike World Championship, as well as various Australian series. Get the adrenalin pumping with a Go Karting experience on the 750m replica Grand Prix Circuit. [phillipislandgokarts.com.au](http://phillipislandgokarts.com.au)



**Ocean Adventures** – Aquatic adventures any way you like them! Explore the coastline on a jetboat or racing boat. Snorkel or scuba dive around dramatic sites teeming with sealife. See fur seals, rays, dolphins and maybe whales. Tours take in pristine Bergens beach and Cape Woolamai's iconic granite sea caves and cliffs – only accessible by boat! [oceanadventures.co](http://oceanadventures.co)

## AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES



**Wildlife Coast Cruises**  
The waters surrounding Phillip Island teem with wildlife. Take an unforgettable cruise to one of Australia's largest wild fur seal colonies at Seal Rocks, 2km from Phillip Island. See their natural environment and watch thousands of playful and inquisitive animals as the boat drifts within metres of them. [wildlifecoastcruises.com.au](http://wildlifecoastcruises.com.au)



**Phillip Island Nature Parks Koala Reserve** – Spot koalas from treetop boardwalks in a remnant woodlands, watch for wallabies, echidnas and rainbow-coloured birds. Walk along the treetop boardwalks and look out for the youngest resident koala born at the Koala Reserve. [penguins.org.au](http://penguins.org.au)



**Phillip Island Nature Parks Penguin Parade** – As dusk falls, witness these endearing little creatures emerge from the sea and scurry to their burrows. The Penguins Plus experience offers up-close viewing and a private boardwalk, while the Underground viewing area offers world-first eye level viewing. Ranger Guided tours offer an exclusive, experience. [penguins.org.au](http://penguins.org.au)

## LUNCH ACTIVITIES



**Beach HQ Restaurant & Bar** – Features the region's best: local beef, wines, beers and top local produce. And the best views of Cowes' foreshore, Westernport Bay, French Island and Mornington Peninsula. [beachhq.com.au](http://beachhq.com.au)



**Churchill Island** – Everything you want to know about native herbs, spices, fruits, berries. Fascinating native food trail links beautiful parklands, ponds and plantation. Café features farm produce; gorgeous gift store. [penguins.org.au](http://penguins.org.au)



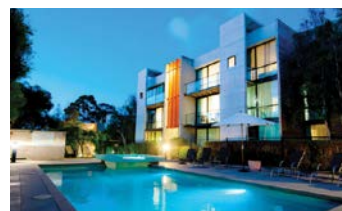
**The Westernport Hotel** – offers an authentic Australian bistro experience. Stunning outlook over San Remo bridge and jetty. Head down to the daily pelican feeding at noon – an easy stroll from the Hotel. [thewesternport.com.au](http://thewesternport.com.au)



## WHERE TO STAY



**Kaloha Holiday Resort** – With absolute beach frontage and less than a five minute walk to shops, cafés and restaurants, is centrally nestled in one of the best seaside positions on Phillip Island. [kaloha.com.au](http://kaloha.com.au)



**Phillip Island Apartments** – Vibrant Cowes township location. Spacious 1, 2, 3 bedroom apartments – fully equipped kitchen, open lounge and dining area, private balcony or patio. Swimming pool, BBQ. [stayonphillipisland.com.au](http://stayonphillipisland.com.au)



**Ramada Resort** – Relax and recharge in stunning 65 acres of natural surroundings with superb resort facilities – pools, tennis courts, health centre and walking tracks aplenty. [ramadaphillipisland.com.au](http://ramadaphillipisland.com.au)





# MORNINGTON PENINSULA

## MORNING ACTIVITIES



**Wild Adventures Melbourne (WAM)**  
Go exploring with Wild Adventures Melbourne. WAM offers spectacular eco adventures on the Mornington Peninsula. Mountain biking, stand up paddleboarding, go bushwalking, take an adventure picnic, visit wineries, cafés, breweries, distilleries, hot springs. So many hidden gems! [wildadventuresmelbourne.com](http://wildadventuresmelbourne.com)



**Peninsula Hot Springs**  
Natural hot mineral water flows from deep underground into the many pools and private baths at this coastal oasis of relaxation. More than 50 varied bathing experiences feature in the social Bath House, while there are luxurious treatments and perfect pampering in the private Spa Dreaming Centre. [peninsulahotsprings.com](http://peninsulahotsprings.com)



**Moonraker Dolphin Swims** – is the ultimate aquatic wildlife experience. Snorkel with dolphins, swim alongside fur seals, explore underwater marine parks filled with colourful fish and join the search for weedy seadragons. Moonraker offers a range of swimming and sightseeing options as well as luxury private tours. [moonrakercharters.com.au](http://moonrakercharters.com.au)

## AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES



**Tree Surfing @ The Enchanted Adventure Garden** – Try a radical high ropes adventure that combines both a tree top canopy experience with the thrill of high ropes climbing challenge. Climb and surf through 100-year old eucalypt trees over aerial obstacles, bridges and zip-lines. Follow up with a Big Zip line ride high above the stunning gardens. [enchantedadventure.com.au](http://enchantedadventure.com.au)



**WaterMaarq Boat Tours**  
Delight in gorgeous coastline and Great Southern Reef wildlife. This adventure tourism award-winner's tours reveal playful fur seals and in winter-migrating whales. Interact with professional marine science and adventure guides. Snorkel amongst seals and exotic weedy seadragons. [watermaarq.com.au](http://watermaarq.com.au)



**Moonlit Sanctuary Night Tours**  
At night, Moonlit Sanctuary comes alive! Meet amazing animals in an intimate tour led by a passionate and knowledgeable guide. Hand-held lanterns guide the way through the bush as friendly free-roaming kangaroos hop over to be hand-fed and super-cute gliders take nectar from visitors' hands. [moonlitsanctuary.com.au](http://moonlitsanctuary.com.au)

## LUNCH ACTIVITIES



**Green Olive at Red Hill** – Book a sustainable farm tour to explore paddock to plate food. Then enjoy a food and wine package or opt for a picnic lunch in the olive grove or beside the lake. [greenolive.com.au](http://greenolive.com.au)



**JimmyRum Distillery** – A tot of rum is a traditional warming drink, so drop into Victoria's first craft rum distillery after your aquatic adventures. Handcrafted rum tastings, master classes and tours. [jimmyrum.com.au](http://jimmyrum.com.au)



**St Andrews Beach Brewery** – Brews onsite using the finest aroma hops and heirloom variety malt to ensure each beer is full of flavour and character. Fresh made pizza, burgers, share plates. [standrewsbeachbrewery.com.au](http://standrewsbeachbrewery.com.au)



## WHERE TO STAY



**Iluka Group Retreat & Glamping Village**  
Offers glamping experiences on a stunning 36 acre private property. Settle into a styled-to-perfection bell tent with everything you need... plus loads of extras. [ilukaretreat.com.au](http://ilukaretreat.com.au)



**Flinders Hotel** – This award winning, architecturally designed 4.5 star hotel is located in the charming historic village of Flinders, close to national parks, Victoria's oldest golf course and wineries. [flindershotel.com.au](http://flindershotel.com.au)



**InterContinental Sorrento** – Elegant accommodation, superb dining; wildlife and adventure just down the road. Dolphin and seal swims, sea kayaking, stand up paddleboarding, coastal walks. [sorrento.intercontinental.com](http://sorrento.intercontinental.com)





# GEELONG & THE BELLARINE

## MORNING ACTIVITIES



**Sea All Dolphin Swims**  
Offer adventure tours and sightseeing experiences on Port Phillip Bay. Snorkel with wild dolphins and seals – or spot them from the comfort of the boat. Ride the boom-net hammock, jump from the boat's roof, enjoy a duck spa! All equipment provided. Tours depart from Queenscliff. [dolphinswims.com.au](http://dolphinswims.com.au)



**Curlewis Golf Club**  
One of the most progressive and exciting public access golf courses in Australia offering stunning views across the bay. This much loved course is seductive yet deceptively challenging. Cruise the fairways in style and comfort, in an elite fleet of Club Cart luxury carts then enjoy a meal in the signature restaurant 'Claribeaux'. [curlewisgolf.com.au](http://curlewisgolf.com.au)



**Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre**  
Learn about Australia's indigenous culture, connection to the land, spirituality, dreaming stories and more. Resident emus and wallabies nestle amongst native gardens. The art gallery exhibits and sells artworks from internationally acclaimed and emerging aboriginal and Torres Strait artists. [narana.com.au](http://narana.com.au)

## LUNCH ACTIVITIES



**Tarra Queenscliff** - Queenscliff's newest restaurant in a spectacular building on the harbour. Offers fresh, delicious food and hand-selected wines. A cuisine that is a reflection of the ocean, the land and the change of seasons. [tarra.com.au](http://tarra.com.au)



**Jack Rabbit Vineyard** - is renowned for unrivalled panoramic views across the bay to Melbourne. It's a showpiece for the gastronomic gems of the Bellarine, flaunted in the restaurant, vineyard and cellar door. [jackrabbitvineyard.com.au](http://jackrabbitvineyard.com.au)

## AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES



**You Yangs Precinct**  
Dominated by granite peaks that make up the You Yangs Regional Park and only 22 km from Geelong. Perfect for hikes and bushwalking, the views from the top of Flinders Peak extend in every direction! Nearby Serendip Sanctuary is the ideal habitat for 150 species of birds who live, breed and visit the sanctuary. [parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks](http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks)



**Revitalise Escapes**  
Where wellness and wildlife experiences come together. Expert guides take you to glorious scenery, show you local wildlife and introduce Indigenous culture. Mind, body and soul will love it. Adventure activities can be added including helicopter rides, golf or swimming with dolphins. [revitalises escapes.com.au](http://revitalises escapes.com.au)

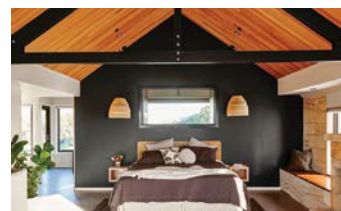


**Werribee Open Range Zoo**  
Offers a taste of African adventure just outside of Melbourne! Jump on board a guided safari tour across the unique open range savannah. Keep an eye out for lions, gorillas, hippos, bison, giraffe, meerkats, rhinos, zebra and heaps more. Daily keeper talks and Slumber Safari glamping experiences. [zoo.org.au/werribee](http://zoo.org.au/werribee)

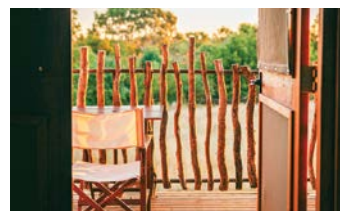
## WHERE TO STAY



**BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Queenscliff** - is set amongst native gardens just 500 metres from the beach. Kick back in a luxury villa, dip in the indoor heated pool or take the beach track for a sea swim. [ingeniaholidays.com.au](http://ingeniaholidays.com.au)



**Lon Retreat & Spa** - Seven luxury suites are spread throughout the sandstone retreat, each individually designed with its own unique character and connection to the ocean, lakes and surrounding farmland. [lonretreat.com.au](http://lonretreat.com.au)



**Werribee Open Range Zoo Slumber Safari**  
Unique overnight experience with fully hosted safari tour, exclusive animal encounter, African inspired dinner and luxury lodge accommodation. [zoo.org.au/werribee](http://zoo.org.au/werribee)

