

Day One

MORNING ACTIVITIES (GEELONG & THE BELLARINE) - Select from:



Werribee Open Range Zoo - Experience an African adventure. Discover an amazing array of animals living on 225 hectares of wide, open savannah. Come face-to-face with gorillas, a pride of lions, monkeys and cheetahs on the Pula Reserve Walking Trail and head out on safari across grassy plains to see rhinoceros, giraffes, zebras and antelopes grazing together. www.zoo.org.au



Eastern Beach Geelong - Come face to face with the characters which shaped Geelong's history as you stroll along the colourful and intriguing Waterfront Bollard Trail comprising 48 sites and 103 intricately carved bollards extending along the shoreline. Discover other attractions along the foreshore trail including the beautifully restored Carousel circa 1892, Cunningham Pier, and the magnificent Art Deco Eastern Beach swimming enclosure - a favourite destination for families since the 1930s. www.geelongaustralia.com.au



Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre - Step into this award winning attraction and immediately you will feel part of a unique cultural experience. Cultural education programs teach the wonders of Australia's indigenous culture, connection to the land, spirituality, laws, cultural designs, dreaming stories and more. Resident emus and wallabies nestle amongst native trees, walkways and gardens. The art gallery exhibits and sells artworks from internationally acclaimed and emerging aboriginal and Torres Strait artists. www.narana.com.au



Go Ride A Wave - Experience the thrill of learning to surf on some of the best beaches! Go Ride a Wave uses a unique, staged, stand up procedure to ensure the greatest potential for success in standing up on the surfboard in the first lesson. All lessons are held in waist deep water, to ensure that even poor and non-swimmers can stay safe during surfing lessons. Full-length wetsuits, soft surfboards and instruction for two hours are all provided. www.gorideawave.com.au

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES



The Geelong Football Club - The Geelong Football Club was formed in 1859, making it the second oldest club in the AFL after Melbourne and one of the oldest football clubs in the world. The Gartland Heritage Centre is an exhibition space dedicated to celebrating this long and proud history. With rotating displays of objects from throughout the club's history, it is a must visit for every keen Geelong fan. Open every Monday afternoon except public holidays. Enter via the Doug Wade Gate (Gate 8). www.visitgeelongbellarine.com.au



The Villages of the Bellarine - Wander the streets of the gorgeous seaside towns of the Bellarine, including Point Lonsdale and Barwon Heads. At Barwon Heads, take a walk along the river before afternoon tea overlooking the ocean at At The Heads restaurant, iconically perched on the jetty with unparalleled views to the Head. Once in Pt Lonsdale, There's long arc of sand on the Front Beach running towards Queenscliff or, in the other direction, explore the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse precinct. www.attheheads.com.au



Wah Wah Gee - Funky, fun and fresh. Geelong's newest dining adventure starts here on the pier at Wah Wah Gee. This casual waterfront restaurant offers an Asian inspired menu designed entirely to share. Let the crew take you through a journey of sharing plates ranging from yummy dumplings in zesty broths, to spicy steamed buns and Asian curries cleverly crafted by some of the best chefs in town. www.wahwahgee.com.au

WHERE TO STAY



Big4 Beacon Resort

Set amongst native gardens just 500 metres from the beach. Luxury 1, 2 and 3 bedroom villas, contemporary self-contained cabins, apartments, hotel rooms plus caravan and camping sites provide the ideal base. Free daily activities and indoor playground for children, onsite spa, indoor heated pool, gymnasium. www.beaconresort.com.au



Seahaven Village

A range of accommodation styles with a park outlook. Studio apartments, 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom units offer excellent quality and flexibility for couples, families and groups. AAA rated 4-star with a 6-star energy rating. Short walk to unique shops, quirky cafes and a range of beaches. www.seahavenvillage.com.au



Vue Apartments & Day Spa

Geelong's newest boutique accommodation option, located in the waterfront precinct. 60 stunning apartments consisting of studio, 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. The 1 & 2 bedroom apartments contain a beautifully equipped kitchen and enclosed balcony or private terrace with views. www.vueapartments.com.au

Day Two

MORNING ACTIVITIES (MORNINGTON PENINSULA) - Select from:



Searoad Ferries - Cross Melbourne's beautiful Port Phillip Bay - spectacular coastal scenery, dolphins, and whales in winter. Ferries depart hourly from Queenscliff (and from Sorrento on the Mornington Peninsula). The ferry crosses by 3 marine national parks and travels in pristine waters. The view varies every day. Pass by Point Nepean National Park, clifftop mansions, Chinaman's Hut seal colony, historic Queenscliff village and lighthouse. www.searoad.com.au



Bayplay Adventures - Hire some bikes from Bayplay Adventures and explore Point Nepean National Park located at the tip of the Peninsula. 360 degree views take in the dangerous Rip, wild Bass Strait and Port Phillip Bay. Take a picnic, walk or cycle to old military forts and tunnels, visit the historic Quarantine Station. The Bayplay team are also experts with almost endless aquatic activities. Snorkelling with weedy seadragons, sea kayaking with dolphins, stand-up paddling. www.bayplay.com.au



Arthurs Seat Eagle - Board a state-of-the-art gondola at the Arthurs Seat Eagle and fly over the State forest to the highest point of the beautiful Mornington Peninsula where the views will take your breath away. You will be torn between looking at the amazing view across the bay to the city or over the Peninsula, and spotting the wildlife, as you soar high above the trees. Visit the Eagle Café, explore one of the many walking trails through the Arthurs Seat State Park. www.aseagle.com.au



The Enchanted Adventure Garden - A thrill a minute for the whole family. Fun tube slides, challenging tree surfing 10 metres above ground with courses for adults and kids, glorious fantasy gardens, huge mazes including a 3D indoor maze, brain teasers, an irresistible lolly shop, café and picnic areas. Follow the native garden trail to the Bush Adventureland Area where you will find 100m of articulated boardwalk 8 metres off the ground. www.enchantedadventure.com.au

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES



Green Olive at Red Hill - This award winning 27 acre farm features olives, grapes, herbs, vegetables, sheep and chooks. Take a walk around the kitchen garden, olive grove and vineyard and jump to your heart's content on the trampoline. The kitchen turns local farmer's produce into tempting goodies, including tapas, that you can eat in or take home. The extensive shop sells house-roasted coffee, herbs and spices too. www.greenolive.com.au



Sunny Ridge Strawberry Farm - Enjoy picking your own famous Sunny Ridge strawberries, from November to April, at this beautiful third generation owned hinterland property. Indulge year round in heavenly desserts and delectable chocolate fondue in the strawberry cafe. Buy seasonal fresh produce or peruse the retail shop for tempting local gourmet products and succulent strawberry themed gifts. . Simply delicious! www.sunnyridge.com.au



Moonlit Sanctuary Wildlife Conservation Park - Fantastic opportunities to get close to Australian native animals at this award-winning wildlife conservation park. Pet a koala, feed a kangaroo, play with dingoes, hold an owl or a python. Frequent keeper talks and daily wildlife show. Find out about local endangered species. At night, Moonlit Sanctuary comes alive in a remarkable way, with world-famous lantern-lit tours, and close encounters with wildlife when they are at their most playful! www.moonlitsanctuary.com.au

WHERE TO STAY



Brooklands of Mornington

Award-winning 4-star boutique resort set in 3 acres of landscaped gardens. Just a short stroll to beaches, boutiques and restaurants. Spacious suites, some family rooms. Private courtyards. Indoor heated pool, spa, gymnasium. www.brooklandsofmornington.com.au



Big4 Mornington Peninsula Holiday Park

Facilities for tents, winnebagos, small to large cabins, family sized units. Powered caravan and camping sites; drive through sites for bigger caravans. Solar heated pool, camp kitchen, playground, inflatable trampoline. www.big4mphp.com.au



Bayplay Tours & Illuka Retreat

Award winning adventure tour operator also offers variety of accommodation styles: Glamping bell tents, beach retreat, cottages amongst the tea trees and group lodges. www.bayplay.com.au

Day Three

MORNING ACTIVITIES (PHILLIP ISLAND)



Phillip Island Nature Parks: Churchill Island - Experience a piece of Victoria's heritage on this historic island, where you can enjoy a relaxing stroll through the fragrant cottage gardens and lawns. Coastline walks offer magnificent views of Phillip Island and Western Port, while the restored farmhouse and cottages provide a glimpse into the past lives of early Australian settlers and past farming practices. The island has been farmed since the 1850s. www.penguins.org



Phillip Island Chocolate Factory - Undoubtedly the sweetest and most addictive attraction on Phillip Island! Observe the chocolate factory in action! See the entire production facility in full view with Panny's team creating chocolates non-stop! This is a fascinating, interactive and educational celebration of all things chocolate. Visit the café, the retail store and the unique tourist attraction - Panny's Amazing World of Chocolate. www.phillipislandchocolatefactory.com.au



A Maze' N Things - Be amazed at all the crazy, funny things. A magical world of illusions, puzzles, and mini golf that will entertain, intrigue and amuse adults and children for hours. The new Puzzle Island extension at A Maze' N Things boasts world first activities, and a whole range of interactive exhibits that will have you roaring with laughter or scratching your head in disbelief. www.amazethings.com.au

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES - Select from:



Phillip Island Nature Parks: The Koala Conservation Centre - Wander through this eucalypt woodland and come 'face-to-face' with koalas in their natural habitat, living as they would in the wild. Unique tree top boardwalks provide exceptional koala viewing. Catch a glimpse of this year's koala joeys, as they take their first adventures out of the mother's pouch. Explore the life of koalas through the interactive displays in the new visitor centre. www.penguins.org.au



Wild Oceans Eco Boat - 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. Underwater cameras aboard the boat provide a unique glimpse into the seals' playful antics beneath the waves. www.wildlifecoastcruises.com.au



Rhyll Trout & Bush Tucker Farm - Gone fishing! Friendly instructors teach you to catch rainbow trout in a tree-lined lake or indoor rainforest pool. Take your catch with you or ask the chef transform your trout into a magnificent meal. Wander the bush tucker trail through three hectares of native food crops: edible fruits, berries, seeds, leaves and flowers. Learn how the Koori people harvested and used these plants from the wild. www.rhylltroutandbushtucker.com.au



Phillip Island Nature Parks: The Penguin Parade - As dusk falls, there's only one place to be - the famous Penguin Parade, to witness these endearing little creatures emerge from the sea and scurry to their burrows. The Penguin Plus experience offers an exclusive viewing area and private boardwalk or you can book the Penguin Plus Underground to enjoy up-close viewing of the Little penguins in an underground viewing window. www.penguins.org.au

WHERE TO STAY



The Island Accommodation
New, eco-friendly, lots of open spaces for relaxation, fun, dining and good times. Relaxed vibe, comfortable accommodation at budget prices. Multi-share or double rooms. 2 gourmet self-catering kitchens. www.theislandaccommodation.com.au



Anchor Belle Holiday Park
Set amongst 2.5 hectares of bush, 100 metres to Cowes beach and just 2km from Cowes village. Deluxe cabins, townhouse units, powered caravan and tent sites available. Heated indoor pool, camp kitchen, playground. www.anchorbelle.come.au



Cowes Caravan Park
Camping, caravan sites and accommodation right beside the beautiful beach. Choices include beachfront, deluxe, executive and beach view family cabins. Camp kitchen, recreation hall with open fire, playground. www.cowescaravanpark.com.au

Day Four

MORNING ACTIVITIES (PHILLIP ISLAND THEN YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES)



Antarctic Journey at The Nobbies - Take a virtual journey into the wonderful world of the Southern Ocean and Antarctica at the Nobbies Centre. Engage with the many interactive and immersive experiences in this Antarctic Journey exhibition. Enjoy 'hands on' fun and interactive experiences in The Lab. Feel the freeze in the Antarctic Chill Zone, then compare your thermal image with an Emperor penguin. Visit the Research Station and Sound Lab. www.penguins.org



Maru Koala and Wildlife Park - Get in touch with wildlife at Maru! Enjoy hand feeding and patting kangaroos and wallabies, including rare albino kangaroos. See wombats, Tasmanian devils, dingos, talk to the parrots in the animal park. Pat a koala, cuddle a dingo, get wrapped up in a python snake. Enjoy a true Aussie experience! See sheep being shorn, meet the Shearer and learn about wool and its production.. www.marukoalapark.com.au



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! Dangle your legs over the side of the open carriage and take in the amazing scenery of the Dandenong Ranges' winding forests and fern gullies. www.puffingbilly.com.au

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES



Feed the Parrots at Grants Picnic Ground - This is a unique and one-off bird feeding area located in Sherbrooke Forest in the Dandenong Ranges. Buy feed for the wild parrots, then take one of three glorious walks through Sherbrooke Forest. Walks range from 30 minutes to 2 hours, through remnants of ancient cool temperate rainforest and forests of massive mountain ash trees. Watch for elusive lyrebirds. www.visitdandenongranges.com.au/activity/grants-picnic-ground



Tesselaar Tulip Festival - Frolic amongst the tulips! The Tesselaar Tulip Festival began in 1954 and is now one of Victoria's most iconic tourist attractions. Set on a 55-acre working farm, it offers a visually breathtaking sight over one million spring flowers in bloom. The fields burst into colour each September and include over 100 different varieties of tulips alone. This unique festival runs from mid September to mid October only. Themed weekends; live entertainment; farm displays and activities. www.tulipfestival.com.au



Rayners Orchard - This boutique orchard grows 450 varieties of fruit and has fruit all year round! Take a fruit tasting tractor tour through the orchard and enjoy the best tree ripened fruit varieties depending on the season. U-Pick available on Fruit Tasting Tours. Have lunch in the Peach Cafe, explore the retail shop and extensive fruiting plant Nursery. www.raynersorchard.com.au



Yarra Valley Chocolaterie & Ice Creamery - Enjoy abundant free chocolate tastings. Watch European Chocolatiers hand craft over 250 different chocolate products. Indulge in a delicious selection of ice creams. Relax in the café specialising in decadent sweet treats and let the children run and play in the expansive lawns and gardens. Ice creams, decadent sweet treats, breakfast and lunch await in the all-day Café. www.yvci.com.au

WHERE TO STAY



Balgownie Estate
The total escape. 4.5 star resort with excellent restaurant, alfresco terrace dining overlooking the vineyards, blissful day spa. Two bedroom spa suites sleep 2 adults and 3 children. www.balgownieestate.com.au



Valley Ranges Getaways
Unique private mountain houses or cottages for couples, families and groups. All properties are conveniently located close to a village with restaurants, shops, attractions, walking trails. www.yarrarangesgetaways.com.au



The Vibe Hotel Marysville
Discover the magic of Marysville, tucked away in the forested foothills of Victoria's Great Dividing Range! This stylish, contemporary hotel is inspired by its natural surroundings. www.TFEhotels.com/vibemarysville

Day Five

MORNING ACTIVITIES (YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES) - Select from:



Chum Creek Horseriding & Huts - This is truly horse heaven! Located on 136 acres of lush Yarra Valley pastures featuring over 10 paddocks, ample dams and fresh water streams all backing onto pristine State Forest. You can ride in this bush setting forever, enjoying horse trail riding with spectacular mountain views. Riding lessons are conducted on a picturesque wood chip arena under the guidance of the Chum Creek Horseriding experienced riding instructors. www.chumcreek.net.au



Buxton Trout Farm - Great fun for first time fishers or for experienced anglers! Catch your own freshwater rainbow trout and Atlantic salmon in a picturesque bush setting. BBQ your catch fresh by the river. Tours of farm, fishout and hatcheries. Fresh local, smokehouse and deli produce. www.buxtontrout.com.au



Healesville Sanctuary - This bushland haven is perfect for meeting iconic Australian wildlife including koalas, kangaroos, platypus, dingoes, wombats and emus. Tales from Platypus Creek - A world-first interactive platypus show. Watch platypus as they play with keepers in the water and enjoy having their tummies tickled. A transparent riverside enclosure in the new amphitheatre gives you a close-up view of their antics and other animals. www.zoo.org.au/healesville



Hedgend Maze - Solve the mazes, play unlimited minigolf and checkers and tackle visual brainteasers. Play Laser Strike (it's like paintball without the paint and bruises), follow the native walk, explore the fossil dig and edible gardens then take a break in the tearooms. Step into the agricultural display called 'Backyard Garden', where the Hedgend team demonstrates clean farming methods - similar to a hobby farm. www.hedgend.com.au

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES Select from:



Meletos - Enjoy a wood fired pizza! With its walled gardens, rows of crabapple trees and raised vegetable beds, Meletos has taken an abandoned collection of century-old farm buildings and created something truly extraordinary. This regional cafe showcases regional producers from the Yarra Valley. www.meletos.com/cafe/



Oakridge Wines - Fun for the whole family with an outdoor bocce court, games include giant chess, pick up sticks, dominoes and massive building blocks. Children receive an activity pack and choice menu, while the adults enjoy spectacular views, superb seasonal menu and award winning wines in the cellar door. www.oakridgewines.com.au



Blue Lotus Water Gardens - One of the world's most spectacular floral displays! Wander through this unique 14-acre display water garden of lotus and waterlilies and enjoy the sights of rare and spectacular plants. Take the Bridge Walk through the middle of Monet's Lake which contains 70 varieties of waterlily and lotus flowers. For the young-at-heart, there is the Flower Fairy Garden, featuring fairies, giant mushrooms, fairy houses and flowering plants. (Open Dec - Apr). www.bluelotusfarm.com.au



Cherryhill Orchards - Known for growing some of the best cherries in the world! Pick your own big, sweet, fresh, cherries straight from the trees. Taste a large range of premium cherry products - such as cherry ice-cream and unique cherry cider. Open every cherry season - mid November until early January. www.cherryhill.com.au