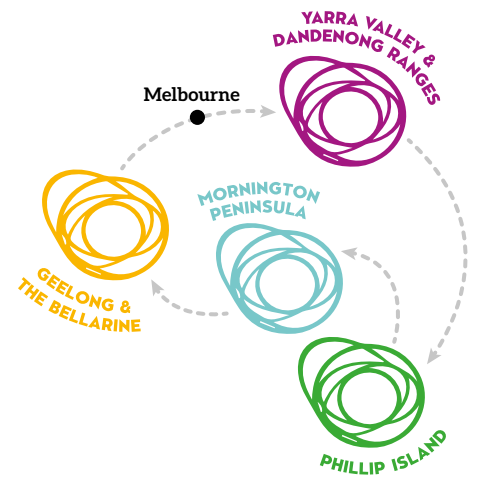


Full-on fun together

FAMILY FUN

5 Day Itinerary

Family holidays don't get any better than this! Adventures, Australian wildlife, fantastic beaches and aquatic activities, farm life, mazes and magic in four exciting regions. You can pick your own fruit, sweeten up at a chocolate factory, have lunch at fun cafés. Lots of holiday parks and spacious family apartments for your overnight stays too.



LINKING FOUR EXTRAORDINARY REGIONS



FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

Rediscover your inner child when you take your family on this fantastic five-day self-drive tour.

You can choose your route - drive from Melbourne to Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula, across Port Phillip Bay by ferry to the Mornington Peninsula, then drive to Phillip Island and the Yarra Valley. Or you can head for the Yarra Valley, and do the whole circuit in reverse.

This touring route is so compact with so many attractions - it's perfect for families because the kids will never have time to say 'Are we there yet?' You'll find places to visit and explore within about 30 minutes of each other all along the

route. And best of all, you don't need to come back to the city each night because there's a huge choice of accommodation along the way.

You can arrange your itinerary to take in all your kids' interests and even sneak in a little education as you travel... Australian history, wildlife in sanctuaries and natural habitats, national parks, water sports including snorkelling with seals, diving with dolphins or sea kayaking. And land adventures from tree surfing to an aerial gondola, an historic steam train to bike hire in a national park.

Every night there's a different accommodation option... self-contained cottages, family villas, beach-side holiday parks, glamping and more.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN THEMES

You can easily make Australian history and wildlife front and centre of your travels. There's a 100-year-old vintage steam train and a working farm of the same era, wildlife sanctuaries where you can watch a platypus and hand-feed wallabies, a koala reserve and Phillip Island's famous penguin parade each night.

Indeed, Geelong was once the centre of a huge wool boom, and a museum in a restored 1872 bluestone wool store tells many intriguing stories. Along the waterfront, the famous Bollard trail comprises 104 intricately carved bollards which depict key characters who've shaped Geelong throughout history. The vintage carousel nearby was constructed circa 1892 and is one of only 200 in operation globally.

DIAL UP THE ADVENTURE

When there's energy to burn, the Mornington Peninsula's tree adventures with flying foxes, tight ropes and tunnels are set to go. Out in the ocean from the Mornington Peninsula and the Bellarine, sea creatures intrigue and entertain. Diving or kayaking with dolphins, snorkelling with curious weedy sea dragons, swimming with seals, or just enjoying the sea spray and fresh air from a comfortable boat while the kids get right in amongst it.

Fun is the name of the family game too, and there's plenty of it. Tractor rides on a tulip farm in the Yarra Valley, whip cracking on an historic farm, getting lost in mazes on the Mornington Peninsula, interactive attractions and a world of illusions on Phillip Island.

Feeling hungry? Make your own chocolate masterpiece on Phillip Island, take a fruit tasting tractor tour through an orchard, in Yarra Valley and pick your own cherries in summer. And there's a huge range of cafés, wineries, breweries and restaurants, including family-friendly bistros, BBQs and stone-cooked pizzas.



1. Phillip Island Nature Parks Penguins Plus, Phillip Island
 2. Puffing Billy Steam Railway, Yarra Valley & Dandenong Ranges
 3. Rocky Creek Strawberry Farm, Mornington Peninsula
 4. Point Lonsdale Rockpools and Lighthouse, Geelong & The Bellarine

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

© Dean Gifford

MORNING ACTIVITIES



Puffing Billy Railway – Share the sense of wonder of steam train travel with the whole family aboard! Puffing Billy is a thrilling experience. Board the 100-year old heritage steam train and journey through winding forests and fern gullies, across historic timber bridges to Gembrook, the perfect family picnic spot. puffingbilly.com.au



Tesselaar Seasonal Festivals – Tesselaar hosts the famous Sep/Oct tulip festival as well as the Mar/April KaBloom festival, both family favourites. Enjoy live entertainment, tractor rides, treasure hunts, sculpture exhibits plus food and wine. Be immersed in Dutch culture with clog dancing performances and workshops, staff in traditional Dutch costumes. tulipfestival.com.au



Cherryhill Orchards – A third generation family orchard with a passion for growing the world's greatest cherries. It is open every day through cherry season (Nov-Jan) for pick-your-own cherry adventures. After, get into gourmet cherry delights in the farm shop. Cherry ice-cream anyone? cherryhill.com.au

LUNCH ACTIVITIES



Paradise Valley Hotel – A true local hero. Convivial hotel with the best regional beers on tap, award-winning bistro, leafy beer garden close to Puffing Billy's railway. Local produce and sustainability are key. paradisvalleyhotel.com



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

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES



Healesville Sanctuary – Explore a bushland haven for Australian wildlife. Wander tranquil tracks to meet iconic Australian animals. Don't miss the Spirits of the Sky show, Tales from Platypus Creek (world-first interactive show) or meeting vets and nurses who care for more than 1,500 native animals each year. zoo.org.au/healesville



Rayner's 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 Café, explore the retail shop and extensive fruiting plant Nursery. raynersorchard.com.au



Warburton Adventure Co – Come and unearth your wild in Warburton! Family-friendly outdoor experiences. Qualified school educators take you river tubing, on a river sled adventure or a family mountain bike ride. Book food foraging and Wurundjeri cultural practices too. warburtonadventure.com.au

WHERE TO STAY



Big4 Yarra Valley Park Lane Holiday Park – Maximum fun! Wildlife, swimming, bike track, jumping cushions, playgrounds. Stay in a meticulously restored 1930s Melbourne tram (sleeps 8). parklaneholidayparks.com.au/yarravalley



Rydges Ringwood – Bespoke rooms, and 1-bedroom apartments that sleep 4. Have a family dinner in the restaurant, or let the kids order from the 24-hour room service menu. rydges.com/accommodation



Nightcap at York on Lilydale – Explore the mountains, swim in the free form pool, go wine tasting. 40 renovated rooms with lake views and balconies, hearty bistro meals or order room service. nightcaphotels.com.au



Balgownie Estate – The ultimate luxury family getaway in the Yarra Valley. Pack your racquet for a hit of tennis on the onsite courts or explore the extensive Balgownie 1.6 kilometre walking trail. balgownie.com/yarra-valley/



PHILLIP ISLAND

MORNING ACTIVITIES



Maru Koala and Animal Park
Get in touch with wildlife at Maru! Learn about wildlife rescue, let the kids pat and feed kangaroos and wallabies. Koala, dingo and snake experiences. See wombats, Tasmanian devils, reptiles and birds. Book a fully guided Park Keeper tour or play 18 holes of Pirate Pete's Mini-golf. marukoalapark.com.au



Phillip Island Nature Parks - Churchill Island - is a tiny gem off Phillip Island. A 19th century working farm, it's magnificently preserved with heritage equipment, farm animals, beautiful gardens and historic buildings. Get involved in the daily farm activities of blacksmithing, milking, sheep shearing, whip cracking and working dog demonstration. penguins.org.au



Phillip Island Nature Parks Koala Reserve - See koalas in their natural environment, explore the tree top boardwalks. Wander extensive trails through the natural Australian bushland and enjoy the abundant birdlife. The woodland is home to many animals including wallabies, echidnas and bats. 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, Western Port, French Island and the Mornington Peninsula. beachhq.com.au



Phillip Island Chocolate Factory
Observe the chocolate factory in action! See the entire production facility in full view with Panny's team creating chocolates non-stop. phillipislandchocolatefactory.com.au

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES



Wildlife Coast Cruises
The waters surrounding Phillip Island teem with wildlife. Immerse yourself in all-season fun. Year-round tours showcase Australia's largest wild fur seal colonies at Seal Rocks. For even more wildlife magic, book ahead for summer twilight cruises and winter whale-watching cruises. wildlifecoastcruises.com.au



A Maze 'N Things - offers hands-on family sharing activities including illusions, puzzles, mini-golf, giant 3D maze, amazing interactive magic displays, mysterious caves and SkyTrail, a thrilling high ropes course. This exciting world of optical illusions, mazes, puzzles and magic will astound, intrigue and confuse for hours. amazethings.com.au



Phillip Island Nature Parks Penguin Parade - As dusk falls, witness these endearing little penguins emerge from the sea and waddle 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

WHERE TO STAY



Anchor Belle Holiday Park - Set in bushland just 100 metres from the beach. Book a deluxe self-contained cabin or three bedroom villa and set the kids loose on the giant jumping cushion and playground. anchorbelle.com.au



Phillip Island Park Lane Holiday Park
Motel rooms, cabins, new family safari tents. A Maze'N Things right next door, Koala Conservation Reserve over the road. Pool, playground, on-site restaurant and brewery. parklaneholidayparks.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



Ramada Resort - Family central! 65 acres of bushland, bike and walking tracks. Wildlife, surfing, swimming nearby, 10 minutes to Penguin Parade. On-site restaurant, family eco-cabins with full kitchens. ramadaphillipisland.com.au



MORNINGTON PENINSULA

MORNING ACTIVITIES



Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne
Explore the diversity and wonder of Australian landscapes. Book a ride on the electric, open-air Explorer bus around the Australian Garden and hear stories of the landscape. Then visit the BoonWurrungCafé for something sweet or savoury with views over the Garden. rbg.vic.gov.au



Arthurs Seat Eagles
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. Wander walking trails in Arthurs Seat State park spotting wildlife then relax in the family-friendly café at the summit. aseagle.com.au



Enchanted Adventure
Explore a wonderland of hedge mazes, artistic garden design and adventure activities. Nestled over 25 acres in the beautiful hinterland of Arthurs Seat, this adventure garden offers five mazes, bushland obstacles, a Canopy Walk, Tube Slides and adventure activities such as Tree Surfing for nippers and Sky Scramble. enchantedadventure.com.au

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES



Rocky Creek Strawberry Farm
Discover the biggest, sweetest, most delicious strawberries. Take to the fields and pick-your-own (Nov-Apr) or head to the café for choc dipped strawberries and strawberry ice-cream. Buy seasonal fresh produce or peruse the retail shop for tempting local gourmet products and a variety of strawberry themed gifts. rockycreek.com.au



Moonraker Dolphin Swims
Snorkel with dolphins, swim alongside fur seals, explore underwater marine parks and join the search for weedy sea dragons. Suited to all ages and experience levels providing the chance to view some of Australia's marine animals in their wild natural habitat. Sightseeing option also available. moonrakercharters.com.au



Moonlit Sanctuary
A brilliant spot to hand-feed kangaroos, wallabies and emus, and get up close to koalas. The sanctuary is awesome by day but comes alive by night when the wildlife is ready to play. Take a lantern-lit tour to glimpse night birds, gliders swooping, endangered quolls foraging and more. moonlitsanctuary.com.au

LUNCH ACTIVITIES



Green Olive at Red Hill - An exciting small farm experience. Let the kids play a game of pickleball, take a sustainable farm tour, see sheep and hens, enjoy lunch from farm and other local produce. greenolive.com.au



Red Gum BBQ - A little slice of South Georgia set up for families and socialising with craft beers on tap, indoor and outdoor dining, children's play area, and seriously mouthwatering BBQ. redgumbbq.com.au



Main Ridge Dairy - What a treat for kids! They can feed the goats that produce the superb cheese you can enjoy as you picnic surrounded by pastures. Cheese Tasting Cellar, Dairy Deck, providore, local wine and beer. mainridgedairy.com.au



T'Gallant - Rambling, rustic piazza overlooking vineyards - the perfect place for family lunch. Share fabulous pizzas, choose from the cellar door's wine styles including Pinot Gris and Grigio. tgallantvineyard.com.au

WHERE TO STAY



Nightelier Rye Hotel - Opposite the beach. Offers the choice of award-winning poolside and beachfront suites, some with magnificent bay views. Dine in the on-site bistro or select a venue just steps away. nightcaphotels.com.au



Motel Flinders - Retro charm blends with relaxed coastal living. Light-filled rooms, modern bathrooms. Prime village location close to beaches, walks, shops, national parks. Make it your base to explore the whole Peninsula. motelfinders.com.au



Links Lodge at The Dunes - Luxury accommodation, close to beaches, hot springs. Golf for juniors, beginners, expert players. 18-hole championship course; 9-hole course for learners. thedunes.com.au



Peppers Moonah Links - Overlooks championship golf greens, vineyards and farmland. Treat the whole family to a resort stay in a deluxe suite with stunning views of the 18th fairway. moonahlinks.com.au



MORNING ACTIVITIES



Werribee Open Range Zoo
Offers a unique opportunity to encounter magnificent animals of the African savannah where they are given space to behave as they would in their natural habitats. Jump on board a guided safari tour across the unique open range savannah spotting rhinos, zebra, giraffes, and endangered African antelopes.
zoo.org.au/werribee



You Yangs Precinct
The granite peaks of the You Yangs dominate the skyline north of Geelong. This magnificent Regional Park is home to koalas, kangaroos and echidnas. Bushwalk or hike to the top of Flinders Peak (340m), visit Serendip Sanctuary's wetlands with 150 species of birds, plus other native wildlife.
parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks



Go Ride A Wave
Dive right in at Ocean Grove and learn to surf with qualified lifeguard instructors in a safe, fun environment where beginners can build confidence in the waves. Go kayaking or try stand-up paddle boarding, with all equipment provided at one of Victoria's most beautiful family beaches on the Bellarine Peninsula.
gorideawave.com.au

LUNCH ACTIVITIES



Little Creatures Brewery - Set in the historic Valley Worsted Mills with soaring ceilings and loads of character. Brunch, lunch or dinner with wood-fired pizzas, big share plates and family friendly hospitality. littlecreatures.com.au



Little Malop Street Precinct - Merges a flourishing arts and cultural precinct with a lively zone packed full of eateries. It is emerging as Geelong's coolest spot to eat, drink and enjoy the good things about a city. visitgeelongbellarine.com.au

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES



Sea All Dolphin Swims
Specialises in awesome outdoor experiences ideal for the whole family. Snorkel, swim or sightsee with wild seals and dolphins or catch a wave at one of the best beaches in Victoria. Ride the boom-net hammock, jump from the boat's roof, enjoy a duck spa! All equipment provided.
dolphinswims.com.au



The Carousel
This recently restored work of art is fully operational and fun for the whole family. Constructed circa 1892 and is one of only 200 in operation around the world. Enjoy views of the dazzling waterfront while being serenaded by an original Band Organ.
geelongaustralia.com.au/carousel/



National Wool Museum
Housed in a beautifully restored 1872 bluestone wool store on the Geelong waterfront. The Museum showcases the Geelong region's wool story from the sheep's back to the clothes rack. Learn about wool, fibre and textiles. Enjoy contemporary exhibitions and special events, including sheep shearing days.
nwm.vic.gov.au

WHERE TO STAY



BIG4 Ingemia Holidays Queenscliff
Offers luxury villas set amongst native gardens. Chill out just 500 metres from the beach, dip in the indoor pool and let the kids explore the family-friendly resort. ingeniaholidays.com.au



Quest Geelong Central - Choose your space, from studios with kitchenettes to 3-bedroom apartments. Stunning rooftop reveals yoga lawn, BBQs and views of Geelong's waterfront, shopping and dining below. questgeelongcentral.com.au



Holiday Inn & Suites - Exactly what you need after a big day exploring Geelong Bellarine. Relax in this stylish hotel with 24-hour room service, 24-hour fitness centre, indoor heated pool and in-house restaurant. hoidayinngelong.com.au



Bayside Geelong Hotel & Apartments
Newly transformed 4.5 star hotel on the spectacular waterfront. Guestrooms and apartments include accessible options. Two restaurants and bars, fitness centre, event spaces. baysidegeelong.com.au