

Five Day Itinerary

FAMILY

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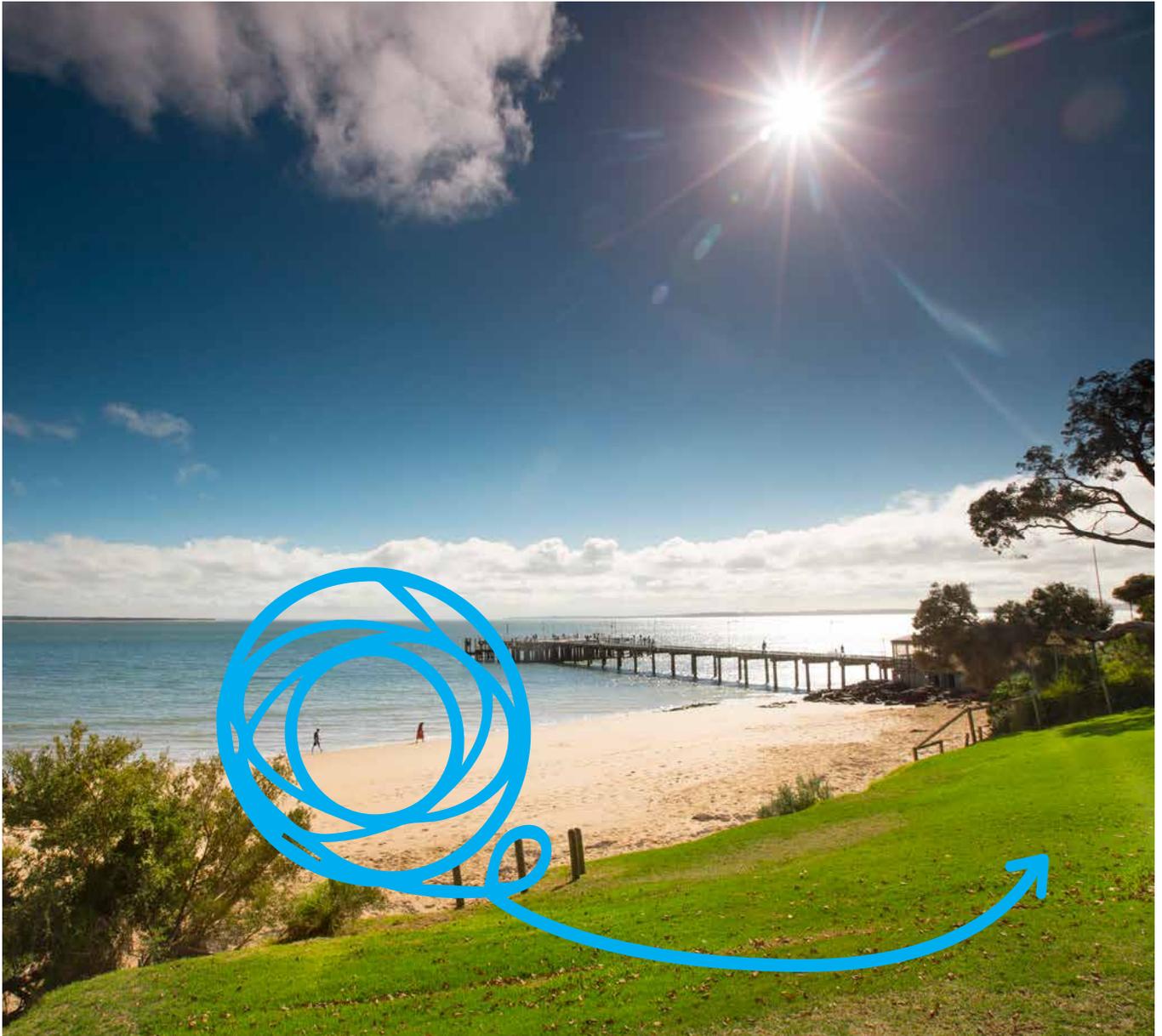


Day One:

Head off to Victoria's second largest city, Geelong, for a morning exploring the seafront attractions of Eastern Beach. Ride the historic carousel or take a dip in the lagoon, or head to Queenscliff's Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre and spend some time exploring their aquariums and displays. Wander the streets of the gorgeous seaside towns of the Bellarine, including Point Lonsdale, Barwon Heads (take a walk along the river before afternoon tea overlooking the ocean at At The Heads) and Queenscliff, before settling into your overnight accommodation at the highly awarded BIG4 Beacon Resort, replete with indoor heated pool, inflatable trampoline and indoor fun room.

Day Two:

Take the Searoad Ferries from Queenscliff to Sorrento, watching for dolphins and seals during the 40 minute crossing. In summer, pick your own fruit at Sunny Ridge Strawberry Farm or at one of the many cherry orchards; or visit Main Ridge Dairy and their flock of goats to see how they make their wonderful cheeses. Make time for lunch at Green Olive at Red Hill, take a walk around the kitchen garden, olive grove and vineyard (be sure to say hi to the Maremma guarding the massive chicken flock!), and jump to your heart's content on their trampoline. Then travel on to Red Hill to climb and fly high above the forest floor at the Enchanted Adventure Garden, with



its network of 50 aerial obstacles, zip-lines linking platforms up to 10 metres high, and one of Australia's largest tube riding networks. Of course, don't forget to spend some time at the beautiful bay beaches of the Mornington Peninsula - they're calm, clean, and home to our iconic, colourful beach boxes. Stay overnight at Aquabelle Apartments in Rye.

Day Three:

This morning, continue around Western Port Bay to Phillip Island, stopping at Churchill Island as you arrive to see the working farm activities taking place on this first farmed site in Victoria. Head to the Phillip Island Chocolate Factory to take a tour to learn how their chocolate is created - and do some creating

yourself! From here, spark your imagination at A Maze'n'Things, full of mental tests and games for all ages. Directly across the road you'll find the Koala Conservation Centre, with boardwalks into the treetops to ensure great interaction with these cuddly locals. Cruise with Wildlife Coast Cruises or the Wild Ocean Ecoboat to Seal Rocks to see the 30,000 strong colony of Australian fur seals, and take the kids to catch a fish at the Rhyll Trout and Bush Tucker Farm before the Penguin Parade at sunset. Be sure to get the Penguins Plus upgrade to enjoy the ranger commentary and the chance to see the penguins from the underground viewing area, at eye height. Then spend the night at Phillip Island Apartments in Cowes.

Day Four:

The Phillip Island adventures aren't over yet – enjoy some of the best ham and cheese toasties in Australia at Mad Cowes Café overlooking Cowes Beach, before heading to the Nobbies Centre and taking in the Antarctic Journey, coming face to face with orcas and seals (or at least 3D virtual reality versions of them). Then it's goodbye to the Island, and a journey via the Dandenong Ranges to the Yarra Valley. Take a ride on Puffing Billy, feed the native birds at Grants Reserve, or visit any of the beautiful national parks in these ranges. If you're travelling in September/October, be sure to frolic in the fields of tulips at the Tesselaar Tulip Festival. Pick peaches, nectarines, feijoas and guavas at Rayners Orchard before heading to your overnight accommodation in the Yarra Valley itself at Balgownie Estate.

Day Five:

In winter, head just 40 minutes out of the Valley to Lake Mountain, and indulge in snow play at this resort. Or, at any time of year, spend plenty of time at Healesville Sanctuary, taking in some of the most educational and inspiring shows on offer, such as Spirits of the Sky, dedicated to Australia's bird life, and Tales from Platypus Creek. Get up close to our wildlife with Magic Moment encounter, and check out the amazing work done by the staff and volunteers at the Wildlife Hospital. Stop in at Meletos for some of the Valley's best pizza for lunch, play a game of petanque at Dominique Portet Winery, and then head back into Melbourne, just 45 minutes away.

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