

# A GUIDE TO EXPLORE MELBOURNE WITH FAMILY



## **Abstract**

Let's explore Melbourne!!! Here is a guide to explore Melbourne with family. If you are planning your holiday with family, then Melbourne is one of the most happening cities of Australia. In this guide, we have shared everything that you need to explore Melbourne.

## **1.Introduction**

The world's your oyster in the city of Melbourne. Get ready for the ultimate family getaway.

Melbourne's multifarious activities make family getaways all the more exciting. From award-winning immersive art exhibitions to open air wildlife parks and sky-high experiences, Melbourne has an incredible selection of family activities for all interests and age groups – it's the ultimate crowd pleaser. Read on to discover our top picks for your family holiday.



## **2. Top Things To Do In Melbourne With Kids**

**INTERACT WITH MODERN-DAY ART**

Melbourne's museums are like a lot of things in this forward-thinking city: fun, arty and eclectic. Explore the vibrant art collections and immersive kids' experiences at the National Gallery of Victoria and the Melbourne Museum, or have some fun becoming part of the art itself at the quirky ArtVo gallery, fitted with over 100 giant 3D artworks to interact and pose with. Immersive art experiences continue at the family favourite ACMI (The Australia Centre for the Moving Image) where illustrated characters come to life in the celebration of film, TV videogames and art.

### **SPEND A DAY AT ST KILDA**

The city suburb of St Kilda has everything a family needs for an epic day out. Think playing on the beach, cycling down the promenade, cooling off with an ice cream and whizzing down roller coasters at Luna Park. After the excitement, take a picnic and walk along the coastal path to relax next to the colourful bathing boxes on Brighton Beach.

### **REACH NEW HEIGHTS**

If your family has an aptitude for heights, then head to the Eureka Skydeck. Here, you can soak up mind-blowing views of the region from the Southern Hemisphere's highest viewing platform while the family daredevils can brave The Edge, a transparent glass cube suspended 285 metres (935 feet) above the city.

### **TAKE A TRIP BACK IN TIME**

What's a family holiday without a spooky trip back in time? If you like the odd shiver down your spine, the historic Melbourne Gaol, Melbourne's oldest prison, offers thrills galore for the whole family. Wander through it on a guided ghost tour as you learn about the site's haunting history, or if you're up for the challenge join the Cluedo Experience. For a historic experience of a cheerier kind, step aboard the decks of the 19th Century Polly Woodside ship for plenty of pirate fun and games.

### **SURF AS A FAMILY**



Surfs up in the city? That's right. URBNSURF, Melbourne's man-made wave park, makes an awesome outing for any family looking to hit the waves. Choose between left and right waves at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. The park's controlled lagoon makes the perfect place for little ones to learn in a safe environment while mum and dad cheer on from the sidelines (or the nearby waves!). Afterwards, be sure to fuel up at the family-friendly Three Blue Ducks located on-site.

### **WALK WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE**

Australia is home to some of the most magnificent (and adorable) animals on the planet, and there's nothing quite like getting up-close to them. Drive just one hour from Melbourne's city centre and you'll be able to lay your eyes on some of the country's most iconic species. Spot them in the wild along Healesville Sanctuary's nature trails or, at Ballarat Wildlife Park, hand-feed free roaming kangaroos. To see some of our weirder wildlife species, Moonlit Sanctuary's nocturnal tour is a great way to meet quirky animals including wombats, Tassie Devils and the spot-tailed quoll.

### **EXPERIENCE MELBOURNE'S PASSION FOR SPORT**



Melbourne's AFL sports games rival some of the very best. For Melburnians they are a lot more than just a sports match, and it'll become clear before the game even begins. Expect hours of entertainment, from the ceremonial march towards

the grounds to the pre- and post-match entertainment and the roar of the stadium – it's difficult not to have a good time. Sports fanatic families should also stop by the Australian Sports Museum where kids can compete via the interactive exhibits ranging from surfing, climbing and cycling.

### **PLAY AMONG THE PLANTS**

Nestled in the heart of the city is the Melbourne Royal Botanic Gardens; a shaded oasis abundant with walking tracks, native plants and back-to-nature experiences. In the Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden kids can learn how to grow plants before cooling off in the child-friendly water fountain. Bring a picnic and enjoy an afternoon amid the pristine plants.

## **3. A Family Guide To Where To Eat, Stay And Play In Melbourne**

Your go-to guide to Melbourne's best places to eat, sleep and top things to do with kids.

### **Where to eat in Melbourne with kids**

Parents looking to ignite their children's appetite will find a lot to inspire in the multicultural capital of Victoria. Make Melbourne your next food-focused getaway at these sought-after spots attuned to pleasing the palates of diners young and old.

### **HERO AT ACMI**

ACMI is Melbourne's museum dedicated to film, TV, videogames and art. After exploring the exhibitions, attending a talk or workshop, head to HERO, chef Karen Martini's new on-site restaurant, which champions the produce of local farmers and purveyors. Line up for a house-made choc top or Maker & Monger cheese platter from Martini's carefully curated cinema cart before heading in to see a cult classic or anime film.

Address: Federation Square, Melbourne VIC 3000

### **LONA MISA**

This restaurant inside the funky new Ovolo South Yarra hotel is the perfect way to get vegetables into your kids without them even knowing. The kitchen here is helmed by chefs Ian Curley and Shannon Martinez, whose vegetarian and vegan food at Smith & Daughters has made root-to-stem dining seriously cool. The heavily vegan menu here is influenced by Martinez's Latin roots and includes incredibly flavoursome dishes like whole peri peri cauliflower, tortilla (Spanish omelette) with aioli and moqueca, a Brazilian seafood stew with prawns fashioned from konjac (and painted pink for full effect) and tofu that looks just like fish fillets.

Address: 234 Toorak Rd, South Yarra VIC 3141

## **400 GRADI**



What's a visit to Melbourne without a visit to 400 Gradi? Melbourne's pizza game has been strong for decades but founder and pizzaiolo Johnny di Francesco has taken it to the next level at 400 Gradi, which brings a slice of Naples to Brunswick in the form of his pizza, judged to be the World's Best Pizza in 2014. Go for the

marinara, or the award-winning margherita verace. Budding pizzaiolos can also sign up for a class to learn to make pizza Napoletana.

Address: 99 Lygon St, Brunswick East VIC 3057

### **CHINA RED**

This informal Chinese restaurant has a playful vibe that children will love. Beautiful red lanterns, dark-wood tables and ornate latticework set the scene in the casual restaurant where the large Chinese character symbol for 'double happiness' is everywhere. Double your family's happiness by ordering a banquet comprising dishes such as deep-fried squid in salt and pepper, special fried rice, stir-fried Chinese broccoli and stir-fried pork in plum sauce.

Address: 206 Bourke St, Melbourne VIC 3000

### **BRUNETTI CARLTON**

Melbourne's big-city culinary smarts are on show for all to see at Brunetti, a glitzy 1500-square-metre eye-popping emporium where children will love browsing the dazzling display cabinets full of pizza, cakes, pastries, macarons and gelati. Brunetti's cafe is part of the renaissance of the city's Little Italy, and while much of the business revolves around its 'grab and go' menu, there are also multi-generational families celebrating over polpetta, parmigiana, pizza and pastries.

Address: 380 Lygon St, Carlton VIC 3053

### **GRAZELAND**

Situated next to Scienceworks and five kilometres from the CBD, Grazeland is billed as a 'Playground for Foodies', where a riot of colourful custom-built food stalls have created a thrilling place for lovers of good food to wander. Arrive by bike via the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail and pinball around the precinct where you can pluck food from 50 vendors including Doughville (doughnuts), the Hooked Fish and Chipper, BBL Tea and Lucky Little Dumplings.

Address: 20 Booker St, Spotswood VIC 3015



## HIGHER GROUND



Higher Ground is a hip café that extends over six levels in a heritage-listed powerhouse on Little Bourke Street. The post-industrial space, all tall arched windows and exposed brick walls, is full of discerning Melburnians who you will find scattered around bars and tables, and draped over lounges and easy chairs. Children will find ricotta hotcakes or seasonal avocado with a Vegemite emulsion enticing propositions.

Address: 650 Little Bourke St, Melbourne VIC 3000

## TOP PADDOCK

Glimpses of life around Richmond's bustling Church Street are unavoidable when ensconced in Top Paddock. That's perhaps part of the appeal as those threading past the space – all warm woods, floor-to-ceiling windows and wall panelling – become part of the performance art. Located near to the Botanic Gardens,



families dining at Top Paddock will also enjoy the creativity on the plate on show in simple dishes such as buttermilk waffles and chilli scrambled eggs.

Address: 658 Church St, Richmond VIC 3121

### **TIM HO WAN**

When Tim Ho Wan staked out a place in Melbourne's CBD mid-2020, locals couldn't be happier. While the original Michelin-starred institution was a humble hole in the wall in Hong Kong, the Melbourne version of the franchise is big, bright and boisterous. Here, you can order dim sum for breakfast, lunch and dinner in the no-frills space. We recommend sweet-and-savoury pork buns, prawn and pork dumplings, and spinach and shrimp dumplings to get the party started.

Address: 206 Bourke St, Melbourne VIC 3000

### **HIGH TEA AT THE LANGHAM**

The Children's High Teas at The Langham, Melbourne, are both satisfyingly decadent and innovative. The hotel, which runs a range of themed high teas throughout the year, offers a morning or afternoon tea which arrives on a three-tiered cake stand. Kids are encouraged to dress up and dig into treats that could range from rainbow cupcakes to mermaid doughnuts and unicorn cake pops.

Address: 1 Southgate Ave, Southbank VIC 3006

## **3.1. Where to stay in Melbourne with kids**

### **NOTEL**

This one is capital F fun: Notel is a collection of six sleek silver 1970s Airstream caravans assembled on an inner-city rooftop, and little ones can be accommodated in an extra bed or cot. Each trailer comes with an en suite, its own private deck, mini-bar with complimentary snacks, free wi-fi and Netflix via an iPad Pro, and an HP Sprocket Photo Printer to print out happy moments and selfies.

## **SOYA APARTMENT HOTEL**



Your teens will adore SoYa (it stands for South Yarra, don't you know), a 1960s apartment complex transformed into a boutique hotel of one- and two-bedroom apartments complete with kitchens, Netflix, funky mid-20th-century furniture (which you can buy), arresting wall murals, and even a pet-friendly room.

## **MILANO SERVICED APARTMENTS**

The kids may never want to go home after staying at this CBD property which boasts an indoor pool, private cinema, rooftop tennis court and rock climbing wall. You are going to love the bright and cheery apartments, laundry service, on-site supermarket and terrace barbecue area.

## **ARISE AUSTRALIA 108**

Located in Melbourne's bustling Southbank precinct, this ultra-modern tower juts into the sky offering expansive views from its family-friendly two-bedroom apartments. While in residence be sure to make the most of the facilities including an indoor pool, gym and private cinema.

### **BRADY HOTELS JONES LANE**

This Little Lonsdale Street laneway property has 153 rooms spread out over 21 storeys, with great views through floor-to-ceiling windows. The rooms are all sleek and modern, and families can be accommodated in two interconnecting rooms that create a private wing. There's a self-service laundry, casual dining and 24-hour reception.

### **MANTRA ON RUSSELL**

Enviably positioned on Russell Street in the heart of the city, rooms here include one- and two-bedroom apartments with all the facilities needed for a comfortable stay. The real selling point for the kids is the indoor pool where they can splash away rain, hail or shine.

### **TRAVELODGE HOTEL MELBOURNE DOCKLANDS**

Leave your preconceived notions at the door and embrace this hotel's bright and stylish interconnecting family rooms with kitchenette and two bathrooms, the free wi-fi, the lobby with its coffeehouse vibe (and grab-and-go café for morning caffeine hits) and the great position close to all the action.

## **3.3. TAKE A DAY TRIP FROM MELBOURNE**

### **The Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges**

The Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges combine to offer day-trippers a grab bag of quaint towns and stunning natural landscapes. Drop in at Healesville to visit Healesville Sanctuary to see our fabulous fauna up close, then head to the Rainforest Gallery/Donna Buang in Yarra Ranges National Park. When tummies start to rumble, visit Meletos Garden and Café in Coldstream for gyros

overlooking the vineyard and then venture into the lush natural landscape of the Dandenong Ranges to ride the Puffing Billy Railway on your way back to the city.

### **Torquay**

Driving the Great Ocean Road needs to be undertaken over a few days to do it justice, so in the case of a day trip head straight to one of its sparkling coastal towns. In Torquay, less than 1.5 hours from Melbourne, life revolves around the water so spend the day paddling at Torquay Front Beach or Cosy Corner. The kids can take surf lessons (try Torquay Surfing Academy) and you will all love the Australian National Surfing Museum (\$25 for a family ticket).

### **Mornington Peninsula**

The Mornington Peninsula is where Melburnians day-trip to in search of beaches, cute towns and great food and wine. There is so much to do here that you will need to plan ahead (or go back for a longer stay), but some suggestions include a visit to Mt Martha to see the colourful bathing huts, a tour of Pt Leo Estate's Sculpture Park in Merricks, and zip lining at the Enchanted Adventure Garden in Arthur's Seat.

### **Churchill Island**

In spite of the fact it's right next to Phillip Island, Churchill Island (the land of the Boon Wurrung /Bunurong people) is definitely a secret gem. Head here to wander the wide open spaces, do a spot of birdwatching and see the historical buildings dating back to European settlement in the 1850s. Spend the arvo at Churchill Island Heritage Farm watching displays of blacksmithing, cow-milking, sheep-shearing and whip-cracking, and enjoy a horse-drawn carriage ride, too.

### **Phillip Island**

Just 90 minutes' drive from the city, Phillip Island is famed for its penguins (32,000 versus just 10,387 people), its motorbike race and as the spot where the Hemsworth brothers spent their formative years. It's also a great day trip with lots to explore, from visiting the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre and watching the little cuties shuffle ashore to wandering the treetop boardwalks to see koalas in



their natural habitat at the Koala Conservation Reserve to spotting whales in season and spending time in the island's townships of San Remo, Newhaven, Cape Woolamai and Cowes.

### **Ballarat**

An attraction that combines dressing up and a sneaky history lesson is worth a 1.5-hour drive, ask any parent. Sovereign Hill in Ballarat recreates life at the height of the gold rush complete with hands-on gold panning and the chance to dress in Victorian-era school clothes.

## **4.The best places to live in Australia: Melbourne**

Moving to Australia but don't know where to live? Take a tour of Australia's capital cities and what they have to offer.

### **Living in Melbourne**

Melbourne is Australia's second-largest city and has legitimate claims to be the country's cultural and sporting capital. The city's four million residents love both the arts and sports, and the city is also home to some of Australia's best dining and nightlife. With this in mind, it's no wonder that The Economist regularly names Melbourne as one of the most livable cities in the world. Weather-wise, Melbourne is known for having "four seasons in one day", while it follows the seasons, the weather often changes during the day expectantly. As it is further south than Sydney, winters and summers generally tend to be a few degrees lower with frost sometimes appearing during the winter months.

### **Where to live**

The heart of Melbourne sits on the banks of the Yarra River, with the city branching out in all directions from there.

Of course, choosing where to live will depend on your lifestyle and preferences.

You might choose to live by the sea in the artsy St Kilda suburb, or perhaps further afield in Sandringham. Or maybe you'll find the unpretentious and vibrant

surrounds of somewhere like Fitzroy more up your alley. Richmond boasts plenty of cafes and restaurants, Camberwell is leafy and family-friendly, while Surrey Hills is another great spot for those with kids. Melbourne is also a multicultural city, boasting large pockets of Greek, Italian, Chinese and Indian residents.

### **Transport**

Designed around a grid system, Melbourne's city centre is generally easy to navigate. The city also boasts an extensive public transport system which, especially in inner city areas, is quick and easy to use. Most popular spots can be easily reached by train or tram, while buses are generally used to link those areas without train or tram connections. All services are offered under the myki ticketing system.

### **Working life**

Job prospects are generally quite reasonable for migrants moving to Melbourne. The main industries in Melbourne – and Victoria as a whole – include the automotive industry, aviation, building and construction, education, engineering, nursing, financial services, and information and communications technology. The city and its employers are welcoming of migrants looking for work and Australia has a reasonably low unemployment rate, meaning job prospects are good.

### **Universities and educational institutions**

The state of Victoria has the highest university participation and graduation rates in the Asian region, and Melbourne is home to some world-class educational institutions. Students can study at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), the University of Melbourne, La Trobe University, Monash University, or one of a number of other educational providers.

Both Monash Uni and the University of Melbourne are members of the Group of Eight, which is a coalition of leading tertiary institutions in the fields of research and professional education, while Melbourne is regularly ranked as one of the world's top student cities.

### **Cost of living**

Melbourne may not be as expensive as Sydney when it comes to cost of living, but it's still quite pricey. A one-bedroom apartment outside the city centre might cost you around \$1,237.15 per month to rent.

#### **4.1. Affordable Living in Pakenham**



One of the reasons for moving to Pakenham is its affordability in terms of housing. The suburb is 53 km away from the Melbourne CBD but has a population that is steadily increasing. As a result, many new housing developments are coming up in the region, easily accessible through road and railways. Pakenham is well-known for its amenities that locals can utilise, such as a community centre, sports and aquatic centre and council offices. It has several schools and a wide range of supermarkets, including Woolworths, Coles, Bunnings, etc. The suburb also has an active sports scene that includes rugby, tennis, horse racing, golf, lawn bowls, baseball, netball, etc.

#### **5. Melbourne's Best Park Playgrounds**

Kids can get outdoors and enjoy nature at one of the many fabulous playgrounds in Victoria's urban parks. With playscapes designed for all ages and abilities, you're sure to find a playground perfect for your family. Dig out the sunhats, pack a picnic and take the kids for an outdoor adventure through their imaginations. Our top tip: visit before 10:30am or after 3pm to avoid the crowds and get the most out of your play-date.

### **Brimbank Park Playscape**

The extensive playscape at Brimbank Park has been designed for children of all abilities, including those in wheelchairs. Tactile circular paths run through the playground, and animal sculptures beckon kids to explore. The playground has signage in Braille and Auslan, plus an accessible water fountain and sand pit. Make sure you check out the swings, which cater for younger and older children with physical disabilities, as well as the interactive murals and the build-it-yourself cubby house.

Brimbank Park Playscape is a great opportunity for play-based education, too - kids can learn about the Aboriginal and European history of the area with features like the giant 'Bunjil the Creator' nest and Waa's Message maze. For adventurous, creative play, this is a spot you won't want to miss.

### **Jells Park Playscape**

Visit the new playscape at Jells Park (enter via Waverley Road) where kids can learn all about the special flora and fauna of the area on brand-new all-abilities equipment. Local artists Jeanette Jennings and Kylie Crampton worked with local primary schools Jells Park and Wheelers Hill Primary Schools to create the mosaics you'll see throughout on the large turtle and yabby at the playscape. There's so many features to explore, including a wheelchair carousel, spiders' climbing web, swings, a sandpit, the incredible floating rock garden, and heaps more. Plus, you can stop for a coffee or a snack at the famous Madeline's at Jells.

### **Karkarook Park Playground**



Stop off at Karkarook Park's Dragonfly Picnic area, where you'll find a playground with all the classic equipment: slides, swings, monkey bars, a rope-climbing wall and some great towers - perfect for scouting the surrounding country for wildlife. You can take a breather at the individual picnic tables, wander near the water nearby, or take a leisurely stroll around the lake on the Lake Circuit Trail.

### **Braeside Park Playground**

At Braeside Park, you'll find all kinds of educational and recreational opportunities. Meander past the park's murals, which teach kids about the plants, animals and cultural heritage of the area. They'll love getting up close to the tree stump carvings of local celebrities that line Cypress Drive, and they can get into nature in the interactive community garden. Braeside Park's adventure playground is a play paradise for kids of all ages and abilities, with monkey bars, bridges, a great slide and plenty of cycling paths to test out their training wheels.

### **Westerfolds Park Playground, Yarra Valley Parklands**



Nestled in the Yarra Valley Parklands, Westerfolds Park playground is a wonderful location for spotting some of the abundant wildlife in the area. The kids will love

clambering over the old-school wooden adventure playground, swinging on the swings, and refuelling with a snack on the expansive lawns. The playground is close to car parking, a large shelter with electric barbecues, a toilet block and picnic tables.

### **Andrews Reserve Playground, Yarra Bend Park**

Set up a picnic in the shade while the kids run free and explore the fortress-like playground in Andrews Reserve, the perfect spot for a family day out. Kids will love the speedy slides, flying fox and swings, while grownups can unwind in the shade on the riverside picnic tables. For older kids, or for a fun school holiday activity, take a packed lunch and a scrapbook and settle in for some nature-spotting in this gorgeous urban park setting.

### **Albert Park**

For all-access play, make a stop at Albert Park's Coot Picnic Ground. Here you'll find a small but delightful playground with a wheelchair swing - just pop in to the Parks Victoria Office to grab the key. You can also stroll down to the lake front, where you'll find concrete pathways suitable for wheelchair access and some picturesque floating jetties.

Or visit the Community Playground, which is fully accessible from the Middle Park light rail station. This extensive, shady adventure playground will charm kids of all ages and abilities. Make a day of it at the accessible barbecues and nearby picnic area, a beautiful spot for families to gather after a big day out.

### **Silvan Reservoir Park**

Set in the beautiful Dandenong Ranges, Silvan Reservoir Park is a perfect spot for an outing with young children. Take a stroll to the lookout to watch the reflections in the enormous reservoir, then head back to the playground at the Lower Picnic Ground. You'll find accessible undercover and outdoor picnic tables here, making it a great place to stop for lunch. The kids can enjoy slides, a climbing wall, monkey bars and a classic chain bridge while you relax in the peaceful bush setting.

## 6. Cool Day Trips From Melbourne To Do With Kids

Melburnians pack your bags and load up the car and embark one of these fun day trips from Melbourne.

### Yarra Valley

For: Wining and dining

Drive time: 1 hour

The beautiful Yarra Valley has long been a staple day trip for those visiting Melbourne, with the big drawcard being its peaceful wineries and vineyards. With rolling hills and farmland, the area is an undeniably beautiful place to explore for those embarking on a walk or bike ride through the region, or simply eating and drinking the day away.

#### Must do:

- Soar into the skies via a hot air balloon with Global Ballooning Australia.
- Head to Healesville Sanctuary for close up encounters with native wildlife.
- Indulge like never before at the Yarra Valley Chocolaterie & Ice Creamery.
- Make the most of the local produce and go family fruit picking at Rayners Orchard.
- Visit Coombe Yarra Valley to explore the home of the famous Dame Nellie Melba, and enjoy an outstanding meal or high tea at the acclaimed restaurant.

### Ballarat

For: Museums and mines

Drive time: 1.5 hours

A celebrated gold rush town, Ballarat is packed with history and the perfect place to visit for families hoping for more than just a good view. The town has retained a lot of its rich heritage in the form of architecture and open-air museums, leaving

visitors feeling as though they have stepped back in time and are seeking the same good fortune as their predecessors.

**Must do:**

- Travel through time at the town's gold-star attraction, Sovereign Hill, and pan for gold.
- Learn about the plight of the miners at the Eureka Centre.
- Walk, bicycle, barbecue and bird watch at the urban Lake Wendouree.
- Buy a beer at Hop Temple, where they have over 40 options to peruse.

**Daylesford**

For: Fresh produce and mineral springs

Drive time: 1.5 hours

Cosy, quiet and with a heavy emphasis on spas, Daylesford is the place to go for some R&R. Surrounded by postcard-worthy countryside and boutique wineries to boot, visitors of the area can enjoy the history, take to the hills or a dip a toe into the springs – whatever ticks the boxes when it comes to achieving the ultimate recharge.

**Must do:**

- Get the 'gram at Hanging Rock, which offers the best view in the region.
- Visit the historic and award-winning RedBeard bakery for what many consider the best sourdough in the world.
- Do as the locals do and enjoy the spoils of Lake Daylesford with either a picnic or a sleepy stroll.
- Head into Hepburn Bathhouse & Spa, which has been dealing in relaxation since 1985.

**Phillip Island**

For: Wildlife and waves

Drive time: 2 hours



Just off the coast, Phillip Island boasts incredible natural beauty and plenty to do for wildlife lovers and adventurers. The sandy shores are perfect to watch the sun come up, catching a wave or spotting the feathered friends for which the island is so famous. Make sure Phillip Island is at the top of your list of day trips from Melbourne to do this year.

**Must do:**

- You haven't been to Phillip Island unless you've caught sight of the famous penguin parade, which happens every evening at sunset
- Catch sight of fur seals and visit the blowhole along the Nobbies
- Wander woodland walkways and tree-top trails at the Koala Reserve.
- Get lost in the optical illusions and puzzles of A Maze'N Things.

**Bright**

For: Hiking and a good brew

Drive time: 3.5 hours

The sub-alpine town of Bright is nestled in the Ovens Valley, surrounded by the Australian Alps. Charming and full of character, Bright is all about slowing down and enjoying the view, whether that be from an outdoor activity among the surrounding topography or from a stool at one of the areas many craft breweries.

**Must do:**

- Have a beverage at the Bright Brewery, which overlooks an impressive playground for kiddies.
- Pedal through picturesque landscapes along the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail.
- Wander the one-hour-return Canyon Walk for suspension bridges, rock formations and stunning vistas.
- Catch your dinner or simply feed the fish at the trout and salmon farm in Harrietville.

- Scoff a share plate at Ginger Baker Wine Bar & Cafe, with waterfall views over the Ovens River.

## **East Gippsland**

For: Pristine national parks and lakes galore

Drive time: 4.5 hours

East Gippsland is one of our favourite day trips from Melbourne. Take a little longer and East Gippsland will certainly make it worth your while; this spectacular stretch of wilderness encompasses some of the most remote and untouched national parks in the state and too many charming towns than are possible to visit in one visit.

### **Must do:**

- Explore the ever-popular Gippsland Lakes, including Lakes Entrance, Loch Sport, Paynesville and Metung, which all have plenty of accommodation availability now and in weeks and months to come.
- Take a swim at Marlo, Ninety Mile and Lake Tyers beaches.
- Visit the koalas on Raymond Island, aka Koala Island, for some guaranteed oohs and ahhs. The tiny island is just 200 metres across the water from Paynesville and is only accessible via the free ferry!
- Take a ride on the Rail Trail, a quirky bike track that passes through forest and farmland with occasional views of the Gippsland Lakes and lots of opportunities for wildlife spotting.

## **Conclusion**

Hope you like this guide!! We have shared all the amazing information to make your Melbourne trip memorable and explore lots of things including restaurants, places to stay, things to do with kids, and much more.

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