

6-DAY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GOLDFIELDS OF BENDIGO & BALLARAT

DEPARTS FROM VICTOR HARBOR | 22 MARCH 2028





6 DAYS | VICTOR HARBOR RETURN | **Departs 22 March 2028**

6-DAY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GOLDFIELDS OF BENDIGO & BALLARAT

What to expect

Step back in time on this fascinating journey through the heart of Victoria's historic goldfields. Explore the grand heritage cities of Bendigo and Ballarat, uncover stories of the gold rush era, and travel aboard the beautifully restored Victorian Goldfields Railway. Highlights include the Central Deborah Gold Mine, Ravenswood Homestead, the charming village of Maldon, picturesque Lavandula Lavender Farm, Ballarat Botanical Gardens, indulgent High Tea at the iconic Craig's Royal Hotel, and a memorable visit to Sovereign Hill. Along the way, enjoy stunning murals, historic architecture, beautiful gardens, local history, and regional hospitality as you discover the rich heritage and colourful characters that helped shape Australia's gold rush legacy.

Tour Inclusions

- 5 nights hotel/motel accommodation
- 13 meals
- Sightseeing per itinerary with applicable entry fees
- Travel by air-conditioned coach
- Vintage Talking Tram Tour
- Guided tour of Ravenswood Homestead
- Castlemaine to Maldon rail experience
- High tea at Craig's Royal Hotel
- Pre-departure function at Victor Harbor and tour documentation
- Escorted from Victor Harbor by a PHT representative

Personally escorted by a
Phil Hoffmann Travel Representative

BONUS

Choose from one of the following offers

\$50 per person reduction
on the tour cost

Wheelboard
Suitcase
Retail value \$199!



Fitness Levels



Physical Rating - Level 2

A good level of fitness is required for this tour. This tour involves getting on and off coaches, walking around sites, climbing steps or stairs, and navigating uneven terrain. Expect a moderate amount of walking each day (2- 3 hours).

TOUR FROM

FULL FARE PRICE

TWIN SHARE

\$3,499*

SOLO PRICE

\$4,199*

Advertised price is based on per person twin share from Adelaide. Departures from other capital cities available. Only one exclusive groups booking bonus is offered per booking. Subject to minimum numbers.

DAY 1 | WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 2028

Stay: Lakeside Hotel, Bendigo- 2 nights*

Departing from Victor Harbor, sit down and enjoy the views and travel towards Bendigo. Stopping along the way at St Arnaud, a former gold mining town not only with a painted silo, but home to stunning murals within the town painted by Kyle Torney, a local resident who is dedicated to the promotion of his town. Following the short visit, arrive at Bendigo. A city founded on Australia's richest goldfields. (D)

DAY 2 | THURSDAY 23 MARCH 2028

Today discover the rich history and heritage of Bendigo on a guided city tour with a local expert from the Bendigo Historical Society. Visit landmark attractions including the historic Specimen Cottage, believed to be the oldest residence in Bendigo, and admire the impressive architecture of the Beehive Building and the magnificent Sacred Heart Cathedral. After board the famous Talking Tram, and travel through the city's grand streets while learning about Bendigo's fascinating gold rush past and view iconic landmarks such as the historic Shamrock Hotel.

Later, visit the renowned Central Deborah Gold Mine for a guided surface tour of this authentic former working gold mine located in the heart of the city. Enjoy lunch at the Gold Mine Café before heading to the elegant Ravenswood Homestead for a guided tour of this significant historic property. It was here that gold was first discovered in the region, helping transform Bendigo into one of the richest goldfields in the world. Rich in history and heritage, Ravenswood offers a fascinating insight into the people and events that shaped the area's remarkable past. Following the visit, return to the hotel and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. (B,L,D)

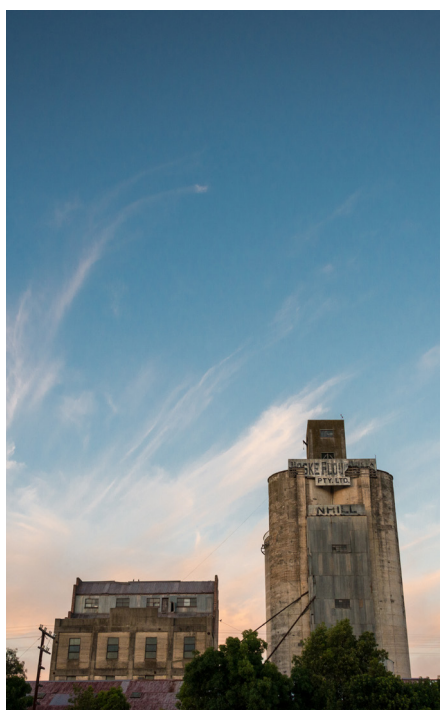


DAY 3 | FRIDAY 24 MARCH 2028

Stay: Sovereign Park Motor Inn, Ballarat - 2 nights*

This morning, travel to Castlemaine and step back in time and board the historic Victorian Goldfields Railway. Relax in beautifully restored timber carriages and enjoy a scenic journey through the countryside to the charming township of Maldon, renowned for its remarkably preserved streetscape and proudly recognised by the National Trust as Australia's First Notable Town.

This afternoon, discover the treasures of the Amazing Mill Markets, home to a fascinating collection of antiques, collectibles, vintage furniture, jewellery, books, records and unique memorabilia. After continue to Ballarat, where there will be time to explore some of the city's popular op shops before travelling to Ballarat for a relaxing two-night stay. (B,D)



DAY 4 | SATURDAY 25 MARCH 2028

Today enjoy time to explore the magnificent Ballarat Botanical Gardens, established in 1858 and regarded as one of Australia's finest examples of a Victorian-era public garden. Wander among beautifully maintained floral displays, historic monuments and elegant garden features, including the renowned Prime Ministers Avenue. For lunch, indulge in a memorable High Tea at the iconic Craig's Royal Hotel, a grand gold rush-era establishment that has welcomed poets, princes and prime ministers since 1853. Savour an elegant selection of teas, delicate finger sandwiches, freshly baked scones and exquisite, sweet treats in this historic setting. This afternoon, step back in time at the award-winning Sovereign Hill, Australia's premier living museum of the gold rush. Explore the bustling streets of a recreated 1850s township, watch traditional tradespeople at work, see costumed characters bring history to life, try panning for gold and experience the sights and sounds of Ballarat's golden past. After a fascinating afternoon immersed in history, return to hotel. (B,L,D)



DAY 5 | SUNDAY 26 MARCH 2028

Stay: William MacIntosh Motor Lodge- 1 night

Start the day with a visit to the J Ward Museum. J Ward started its life as a goldfields prison in 1859. When the gold ran out in the mid 1880s the prison buildings were acquired by the Lunacy Department as a temporary housing for the Criminally Insane. Hear stories of its time as a gaol with murderers and thieves and later as the home for Victoria's criminally insane. After enjoy lunch at the Ararat Golf Club. This afternoon stop in the small town of Harrow for a visit to the Harrow Discovery Centre. Harrow is renowned for being the birthplace of the 1868 1st Australian touring cricket team player, Johnny Mullagh. He was one of the eleven Indigenous players from the team, and the museum has a large collection to look through. After travel to Naracoorte for an overnight stay. (B,L,D)

DAY 6 | MONDAY 27 MARCH 2028

After breakfast board the coach to begin the journey back to Victor Harbor. (B)

**or similar*



