

BRIGHT IN AUTUMN

6 DAYS

DEPARTING WEDNESDAY 18TH APRIL TO MONDAY 23RD APRIL 2012

MOTEL ACCOMMODATION – RESTAURANT MEALS



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HIGHLIGHTS

- * AUTUMN LEAVES
- * BOGONG NATIONAL PARK
- * WANDILIGONG * HARRIETVILLE
- * BUCKLAND VALLEY
- * BUCKLAND VALLEY ALPACAS
- * LAVENDER HUE LAVENDER FARM
- * BRIGHT BERRY FARM
- * MT BUFFALO * MT. BEAUTY
- * MYRTLEFORD * KIEWA VALLEY
- * HISTORIC BEECHWORTH
- * BEECHWORTH GAOL
- * YACKANDANDAH

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 18TH APRIL

HOME TO BRIGHT

D.

Depart your hometown and join our luxury coach en-route, as we travel to Bright via Bendigo and Benalla. Benalla is the centre of a large agricultural and dairying district, first settled in 1839. Weary Dunlop grew up in Benalla and a statue has been erected to commemorate his Second World War achievements. See this statue nearby to one of the finest displays of roses in the state. Continue on to Bright, our home for the next five nights. In the heart of the picturesque Ovens Valley, Bright is nestled amongst pine and eucalypt forests and is at the cross roads to the alpine country. The discovery of gold was responsible for the town's beginnings and it was named in honour of John Bright, an English political reformer. Many European deciduous trees were planted in the early days at the suggestion of world renowned Baron von Mueller, the founder of Melbourne's Botanical Gardens, and autumn sees the town ablaze with glorious colour. Stands of poplars form golden sentinels along the waterways and in the township stately avenues of exotic trees shower the ground with a carpet of scarlet, orange and gold. Time to settle into our motel and freshen up before dinner at the motel restaurant.

Accom: High Country Motor Inn Ph: 03 5755 1244

DAY 2: THURSDAY 19TH APRIL

BRIGHT HIGH COUNTRY & BUCKLAND VALLEY

B.D.

A local guide joins the coach this morning for an informative commentary on the area. We travel to Harrietteville, a tiny and tranquil township situated on the Ovens River at the foot of Mt. Feathertop, and named after Harriet the first baby to visit the district. Harrietteville is home to one of the growing number of underground gold mining operations in Victoria and also to the largest bucket dredge in Australia, the Tronoh. See the remains of early gold dredging in the area. Return to Bright for lunch and marvel at the beauty of autumn colours. We see Wandiligong, a National Trust classified hamlet in a scenic valley linked to Bright by a walking and cycle track. Bright is well known as a chestnut producing area, the trees a legacy of forward thinking by early settlers. Visit the Bright Berry Farm and Mt Buffalo Vineyard in Eurobin to sample local produce including jams and berry wines. We tour the beautiful Buckland Valley and visit Buckland Valley Alpacas. The rest of the afternoon is free to spend as you wish. How about some shopping, an Autumn stroll in the beautiful Centennial Park or maybe, just put your feet up and relax. Dinner tonight will be at the motel restaurant.

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DAY 3: FRIDAY 20TH APRIL

BEECHWORTH, YACKANDANDAH & MYRTLEFORD

B.D.

After breakfast this morning our coach takes us to Beechworth, one of the best preserved of Victoria's old goldmining settlements with over thirty buildings classified by the National Trust. The town has been systematically planned and its broad streets lined with English trees are a special feature, as are the giant North American sequoias. The main industries are farming, sheep breeding, tobacco, fruit and vegetable growing. We will enjoy a guided tour of historical Beechworth including the now closed gaol which reveals Beechworth's less well known history, one that's rich with tales of great escapes, betrayal and even romance, all within the walls of the gaol. Our day takes us on to the picturesque township of Yackandandah, situated between Beechworth and Wodonga and an old mining township, sometimes referred to as the "Strawberry Capital of Victoria". Many of the original settlers were

miners from the North American goldfields and the architecture is strongly reminiscent of a North American frontier town. Yackandandah is derived from the Aboriginal meaning of 'hilly country'. See the fine stone bridge built in 1867 when Yackandandah was on the main road between Sydney and Melbourne. Turn your back on the 21st Century for a while as you contemplate the winding Main Street with old shops and beautiful trees, the historical Post Office, Bank of Victoria Museum and Public Hall were all built in the mid 1800's. Return via Mudgegonga to the town of Myrtleford. Located in an important tobacco and hop growing area, the town is positioned at the junction of the Ovens and Buffalo Rivers. The Victorian Alps can be seen at various points as we return to our motel in time to freshen up before dinner at the motel restaurant.

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DAY 4: SATURDAY 21ST APRIL MT. BEAUTY KIEWA VALLEY B.D.

After a hearty breakfast this morning we travel to Mt. Beauty, a pretty little timber milling town which lies at the base of Victoria's highest mountain, Mt. Bogong (1,984 metres). From the township admire the spectacular views down the lush Kiewa Valley. Mt. Beauty was established in 1947 and was originally built by the State Electricity Commission due to the construction of the Kiewa Hydro-Electric Scheme, now Southern Hydro Ltd. The main storage, Rocky Valley Reservoir, is 1,615 metres above sea level on the Bogong High Plains and is usually under snow for four or five months of the year. See around the Rocky Valley River and Ovens Reservoir and the European styled Falls Creek Alpine Village (weather permitting). We return to Bright via the Kiewa Valley. Arrive at the motel in time for dinner at the restaurant.

DAY 5: SUNDAY 22ND APRIL BRIGHT MT. BUFFALO B.D.

Today we enjoy free time in Bright. Perhaps you might like to explore the parks and gardens, or follow the many walking paths meandering by the peaceful Ovens River. Discover the galleries, craft shops, little gourmet shops or why not call into The Sweet Retreat for some old fashioned confectionery. After lunch we enjoy the panoramic views looking out over the valley from the majestic Mount Buffalo. See the Mount Buffalo Chalet, built of timber and granite in 1910 and Australia's oldest and most spectacular guesthouse. Feed the parrots at the chalet before returning to Bright via Harrietville and the Lavender Hue Lavender Farm. Dinner tonight will be at the motel restaurant.

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DAY 6: MONDAY 23RD APRIL BRIGHT TO HOME B.

Enjoy a leisurely drive home via the Hume Highway to Glenrowan in Ned Kelly Country and onto Violet Town, situated between Euroa and Benalla and close to the Strathbogie Ranges. Continue on through the historic towns of Murchison and Rushworth. Murchison is on the west bank of the Goulburn River and is noted as the River Bank Garden Town. Rushworth is a notable tourist town, made popular due to the discovery of gold in the 1850's. The name Rushworth evolved from Gold Commissioner Daley's statement that it was a 'goldrush worthwhile'. Continue home through Bendigo, after a memorable six days sightseeing.

PRICE: \$1795.00 per person
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$ 290.00
Prices include GST

PRICE INCLUDES: Luxury Coach Travel
Motel Accommodation - Twin Share
All Meals & Admissions as Specified
B: Breakfast D: Dinner
Pick up and return to your home town

Travel Insurance is highly recommended and is the responsibility of each passenger.

