

YARRA VALLEY, HEALESVILLE, MELBOURNE, THE DANDENONGS

6 DAYS DEPARTING MONDAY 4TH MAY TO SATURDAY 9TH MAY 2026

MOTEL ACCOMMODATION – RESTAURANT MEALS



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HIGHLIGHTS

YARRA VALLEY - MCG TOUR
HEALESVILLE SANCTUARY
MARYSVILLE – BRUNO'S SCULPTURE GARDENS
PUFFING BILLY
STEAVENSON FALLS
TEA LEAVES – QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET
CLOUDEHILL NURSERY
COOMBE COTTAGE – YARRA VALLEY CHOCOLATERIE
MT DANDENONG LOOKOUT
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
EUREKA OBSERVATION DECK
SOUTHBANK - YARRA RIVER CRUISE
RAYNER'S FRUIT ORCHARD

DAY 1: MON 4TH MAY

HOME TO MELBOURNE

D.

Today our tour departs Ararat and travels to Melbourne via Ballarat. This afternoon we take to the water for a city cruise that will take us on a picturesque journey through familiar sights and attractions, and helps us to explore the city from a unique new perspective. Melbourne's lower Yarra River is the city's tourism and recreation heart. It hums with activity, on land and water. Riverboats link the vibrancy of Federation Square, Southgate and Crown Entertainment. We travel downstream leaving the central art precinct and cruise alongside Southgate Arts & Leisure Precinct, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 19th Century sailing ship "Polly Woodside" Crown Entertainment Complex, World Congress and Trade Centre, Bolte Bridge and Westgate Bridge, Shipping Channels and dock area, Docklands and Docklands Stadium, Stunning views of Melbourne CBD. Later this afternoon we will make our way to our motel accommodation, and our home for the next five nights.

DAY 2: TUE 5TH MAY

HEALESVILLE – MARYSVILLE – BRUNO'S ART & SCULPTURE GARDEN B.D.

A special day today as after breakfast we will visit Healesville Sanctuary, nestled in a glorious bushland setting and with the largest collection of Australian native wildlife in the world. It is one of Australia's most acclaimed wildlife sanctuaries. Displaying more than 200 species of Australian wildlife, the Sanctuary is a fantastic location to view native animals in their natural habitat. Here we can experience close-up encounters with some of Australia's most unique and captivating wildlife, including koalas, kangaroos, wombats, emus, dingoes, birds of prey and the elusive platypus. After lunch at the Healesville Beechworth Bakery, we drive up over the magnificent Black Spur and visit Marysville. To see the town of Marysville, which is rebuilding and the devastation on the surrounding hills after the Black Saturday fires of 2009 is truly an amazing experience. At Marysville, yet another real highlight is Bruno's Art and Sculpture Garden. The garden began with just fifteen life sized terracotta sculptures, today there are over one hundred pieces on display, and Bruno is still making regular additions. Again, this will be a unique experience as this garden and its wondrous almost human inhabitants attract thousands of visitors a year. Following our visit we take a short drive to the Steavenson Falls, an easy walk takes us to an awe-inspiring view of one of Victoria's highest waterfalls. Plummeting 84 metres the falls have been a favourite since the 1860's. We travel back to Melbourne via Buxton and our round trip for the day is completed, returning to our motel for dinner at the restaurant.

DAY 3: WED 6TH MAY

MCG TOUR – PARLIAMENT HOUSE – EUREKA TOWER

B.D.

This morning of our six-day tour gets off to a start visiting one of Melbourne's icons, the hallowed birthplace of test cricket and the AFL Grand Final. An MCG Tour gives us the opportunity to relive great sporting memories through a comprehensive tour of this marvellous stadium. Our MCG Tour does include a tour guide who explains the glories of our sporting history, and we see prints, paintings, trophies and portraits that can only be seen behind the scenes. Being right on the edge of the city there will be time to walk down the street for your lunch, or perhaps board one of Melbourne's icons the City Circle tram for a ride around the edge of the central business district in the distinctive burgundy and cream coloured W-class tram. The service operates in a circular route passing major tourist attractions. After lunch we have arranged an interesting and personally conducted tour of Parliament House situated right at the top of Spring Street. The State Parliament House was built in 1856, and the original building was constructed of beautiful old sandstone from the quarries of the Grampians. We re-join the coach to visit the Eureka Tower which is a 297-metre skyscraper located in the Southbank precinct of Melbourne. The 90 storey, \$241 million project is a shining beacon seen from many kilometres away as it dominates Melbourne's skyline from its position by the Yarra River and Southbank. Eureka Tower is a must for a real sky deck eagle eye's view experience. Eureka is perfectly positioned for 360 degree, floor-to-

ceiling views taking in Melbourne's CBD, sports precinct, Port Phillip Bay, Docklands and everything in between. Leaving Melbourne city we return in time for dinner tonight, which is at the motel restaurant.

DAY 4: THUR 7TH MAY

**PUFFING BILLY - COOMBE COTTAGE
YARRA VALLEY CHOCOLATERIE**

B.D.

This morning we make our way to Belgrave, which is the main entrance to Sherbrooke Forest a cool lush scenic fern-clad area on the edge of the Dandenongs. Here we join a real Victorian favourite in "Puffing Billy". Puffing Billy Railway is the oldest steam railway still operating in Australia, and one of the finest preserved steam railways in the world. It is lovingly maintained by an army of volunteers who take the utmost pride in the trains. Perhaps you travelled on Puffing Billy as a child with your legs dangling outside the carriages almost touching the magnificent tree ferns that reach out towards the train. Well nothing has changed, and as part of the train trip, we arrive in Lakeside for a lunch stop with time to walk the street of this scenic small village. Back on the coach we travel to the picturesque Yarra Valley to The Melba Estate "Coombe" the once home of Dame Nellie Melba. Its seven acres of stunning gardens are bordered by their impressive hedges, the fine gardens, restaurant and cellar door makes it an even better experience. Our tour continues to sample the fine products at Chocolaterie at Yarra Glen. Set amongst one of Australia's premium wine regions and surrounded by striking Yarra Valley vistas, Chocolaterie with its 250 different chocolate products combines a stunning showroom, chocolate production area and an all-day café set on 40 acres of emerging orchard, landscaped gardens, sweeping lawns and reclaimed wetlands. We make our way back to the motel with time to relax before dinner at the motel restaurant.

DAY 5: FRI 8TH MAY

**WOORI YALLOCK - RAYNERS ORCHARD
CLOUDEHILL GARDEN - TEA LEAVES**

B.D.

Our day starts with a visit to Rayner's Fruit Orchard. This unique boutique orchard is located at Woori Yallock in the beautiful Yarra Valley. Rayners currently grow around 450 varieties of fruit and have at least 8 varieties of fruit every day of the year. Mid morning, we return to where Mount Dandenong awaits us, and it is an erosion-resistant volcanic peak, 633 metres above sea level and the highest point in the Dandenong Ranges. The first horse-drawn tourist coaches were making the trip up to the mountain by 1904. Amid cool fern glades and lush towering native forest, this peak and the Mount Dandenong Observatory are one of the premier tourist attractions in the area. On a good day, we can look at the big picture, from the Mornington Peninsula across the majestic sweep of Port Phillip Bay, surrounded by Melbourne's growing urban fringes, to the You Yangs on the southern horizon. Next we visit Olinda. At Olinda a must see garden "Cloudehill" sits on the top of the Dandenongs where a maze of stone walls and jewel like garden rooms are set within woodlands of magnificent and historic, cool climate trees. Some 20 garden compartments are threaded through glorious 80-year-old European beech, magnolias, maples and a collection of fabulous Himalayan tree rhododendrons. Cloudehill is arguably Australia's finest serious garden with features, scenes and landscape that will provide inspiration to many. If you enjoy sculpture, there are some excellent examples including water features. A short trip takes us to Sassafras and discover the village's nineteenth century charm, and visit Tea Leaves Australia. This is the tea pot shop with more fun, quirky; formal, relaxed; weird, imaginative teapots than you could imagine. The extraordinary range of leaf and bagged teas needs to be experienced to be believed. We make our way back to the motel with time to relax before dinner at the motel restaurant.

DAY 6: SAT 9TH MAY

QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET – HOME

B.

After breakfast this morning we commence our homeward journey with a visit to the Queen Victoria Market. Also known affectionately as 'Vic Market' the Queen Victoria Market has been the heart and soul of Melbourne for more than a century. A historic landmark spread over two city blocks, it's a vibrant and bustling inner-city market where you can shop for everything from Australian fruit and vegetables, and local and imported gourmet foods, to cosmetics, clothing and souvenirs. Later we depart Melbourne for home after six days enjoyable touring of the Yarra Valley and Melbourne.

PRICE: \$3210.00 per person
SINGLE SUPP: \$490.00
All prices include GST

PRICE INCLUDES:

- **Luxury Coach Travel**
- **Brendan's Australian Tours Travel Wallet**
- **Motel Accommodation – Twin Share**
- **Admission to attractions and cruises as specified**
- **All meals as specified:**
B: Breakfast D: Dinner
- **Pick up and return to your home**

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