

# 11 Day High Country Spring Touring & Marvellous Melbourne



The High Country is one of Victoria's most precious jewels. It offers rugged mountains, magnificent snowfields, quaint country towns, picturesque wineries, powerful rivers and a rich history that dates back to the mid 1800's. From our base in Albury venture every day in a new direction. Experience quaint Yackandandah, historic Beechworth and the breath-taking Corryong region. In Melbourne enjoy some marvellous sightseeing. We invite you to join us on this very special holiday!



per flight

*Prices relate to airfare & taxes from/to Eastern Seaboard major terminals only. Flights to/from other major airports are available but may incur an additional fee. Passengers are welcome to delay their flight home or fly in early but may incur an additional fee due to flight price fluctuation. Extra accommodation expenses will apply. For earlier flights or if delaying flight home passengers will need to arrange their own transport home to/from the airport.*

COACH/FLY

Departs: 2nd November 2021

Fitness Level: M - Moderate

## DAY 1 HERVEY BAY – ARMIDALE D

Tuesday, 2nd November: With Wide Bay passengers on board make our way to Brisbane picking up passengers enroute. Interstate, Brisbane and Gold Coast passengers join in Brisbane City (location to be advised). Travel through the beautiful Scenic Rim over Cunningham's Gap to Warwick where we pause for lunch. Continue south along the New England Highway to the Celtic-flavour of Glen Innes. Here we stop to explore the Australian Standing Stones, a national monument to Celtic people, past and present. At Armidale settle into our overnight accommodation. Stay All Seasons Motel Armidale.

## DAY 2 ARMIDALE – DUBBO BMD

Wednesday, 3rd November: Our first stop today is at Chaffey Dam, unique for its distinctive brick-red rock wall made of semi-precious stone and its unusual morning glory spillway. This type of spillway is basically a giant cement funnel. Rather than spilling over the dam, high waters spill into the funnel. On to the quaint and pretty village of Nundle surrounded by undulating hills, beautiful trees and parks. At the Nundle Woollen Mill enjoy a fascinating tour of one of the last spinning mills still operating in Australia. Free time is allowed in Nundle for you to purchase lunch and explore this delightful village. Continue to Dubbo. Stay Golden West Motor Inn.

## DAY 3 DUBBO – GUNDAGAI BMLD

Thursday, 4th November: Continue south along the Newell Highway to Forbes for morning tea, then onto Young for lunch at Poppa's Fudge and Jam Factory. For the sweet toothed there is a huge range of delicate chocolates and tempting lollies as well as their well-known freshly made fudge. At Cootamundra, the birth place of Sir Donald Bradman, take a walk along the Captains Walk featuring 42 bronze sculptures of Australian Test Cricket Captains, including Unaarrimim, the leading Aboriginal player in the first Australian cricket team to tour England. After a photo stop at Bradman's Cottage, continue to Gundagai where we stop at the 'Dog on the Tuckerbox'. Next, a visit to Rusconi's Marble Masterpiece. Taking 28 years to build, the masterpiece was started in 1910 and finished in 1938. It is made entirely of NSW marble, in all, 20 different kinds. The masterpiece is a magnificent example of meticulous accuracy. We take a moment to visit the Dad, Dave, Mum & Mable statues before arriving at our motel. Stay Comfort Inn Sovereign.

## DAY 4 GUNDAGAI – ALBURY BMLD

Friday, 5th November: Farewelling Gundagai, we're off to Wodonga for a delicious morning tea provided by your crew before arriving in Yarrawonga to board the MV Paradise Queen for a delightful lunch cruise on Lake Mulwala. Reboarding your coach, enjoy a scenic drive through Collendina and Gooramadda to Albury. Four night stay Quality Resort Siesta.

## DAY 5 HIGH COUNTRY TOURING BMLD

Saturday, 6th November: Travel along the Murray arm of the Hume Weir to the small township of Granya for morning tea at the Granya Pioneer Museum. Time to explore the exhibits, featuring the history of the Bungil and Thologolong Stations and the birthplace of the Murray Grey cattle. On to the township of Tintalra, nestled beneath

the Snowy Mountains on the Victorian banks of the Murray River. The historic **Tintaldra Store and Tea Rooms** is a top spot to enjoy lunch. Built of natural materials available in the area at the time (such as River Red Gum and Stringy Bark) the store is a living history taking visitors back in time. Dinkum Aussie tucker is served on enamel plates in the licensed dining room where you will be entertained with Bush Poetry and Bush Music. On to Corryong to visit the Man from Snowy River Museum. Next, travel west along the Murray Valley Highway stopping at the Lawrence Alpine Lookout for a spectacular view of the Snowy Mountains before returning to base in Albury after a wonderful day in the High Country.

#### DAY 6 GOLDFIELDS EXPLORING BD

Sunday, 7th November: Today, discover quaint old towns and learn a little goldfields history. Tour to the National Trust town of Yackandandah, surely one of the prettiest towns in Victoria. Visit the **Schmidt's Strawberry Winery** set amidst acres of lush strawberry fields, this winery is unique in Australia. Taste the strawberry wines and perhaps purchase some delicious fresh strawberries. A little further on we reach the old goldfields town of Beechworth. Visit the Beechworth Gaol for a guided tour before some free time to purchase lunch. After lunch, visit the **Beechworth Historic Precinct** which includes the old Courthouse where we participate in a re-enactment of Ned Kelly's trial, the Burke Museum, Powder Magazine and the Telegraph Station. After a full day of exploring return to our accommodation.

#### DAY 7 KIEWA VALLEY & MILAWA GOURMET REGION BLD

Monday, 8th November: Capture some of the magic of the Kiewa Valley during our pleasant morning tour through Dederang and Tawonga. Time for a quick stop at the township of Mt Beauty, then up and over the mountain pass. Time to admire the view from Mt Bogong Lookout before our descent into Bright. Free time in the main street to purchase morning tea and explore. Reboarding the coach head along the Great Alpine Road to Eurobin for lunch at the Red Stag Deer Farm. This afternoon we look forward to sampling some gourmet delights as we head to Milawa. Our first stop is to Brown Brothers Winery for a leisurely tasting of their range of wines, then on to Milawa Mustard to sample their finest mustards and condiments. Finish our day with a visit to Milawa Cheese Factory for a cheese tasting before returning to Albury.

#### DAY 8 ALBURY – MELBOURNE BMD

Tuesday, 9th November: Farewelling Albury, follow the Hume Highway to Glenrowan where we visit the Glenrowan Railway Station, a key site in the infamous Last Stand of the Kelly Gang. Enjoy morning tea at the **Benalla Rose Garden** followed by a sightseeing drive to view the amazing wall art. Continue to Seymour for lunch (own expense), arriving in Melbourne mid-afternoon. Six night stay Oaks Melbourne on Collins.

#### DAY 9 YARRA RIVER CRUISE BMLD

Wednesday, 10th November: Enjoy some free time this morning at Queen Victoria Markets before heading to Docklands to board the world's first floating tram for a delightful lunch cruise on the Yarra River. On return, reboard our coach for a visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Shrine of Remembrance. The Royal Botanic Gardens are one of Melbourne's most glorious attractions. Sprawling beside the Yarra River, the beautifully designed gardens feature a global selection of plantings and specifically endemic Australian flora. Within the gardens is the Shrine of Remembrance, a memorial to the sacrifice of our servicemen and women.

#### DAY 10 MELBOURNE FREE DAY BD

Thursday, 11th November: Today is a free day to enjoy the City of Melbourne.

#### DAY 11 MELBOURNE – FREE DAY BD

Friday, 12th November: A free day for passengers continuing on tour. Farewell to passengers leaving the tour today. Arrangements have been made for transfer to Tullamarine Airport for your return flights to Brisbane. A free day for passengers continuing on tour.

#### DAY 12 NEIGHBOURS FILM SET BD

Saturday, 13th November: Everybody needs good neighbours! This morning we visit Australia's most iconic TV location, Ramsay Street and the studio backlot. Enjoy a behind the scenes guided tour around exterior sets at the studios. Our professional guides will provide you with plenty of gossip, laughs and on-board entertainment. Finish our day with a visit to the National Gallery of Victoria, Australia's oldest, largest and most visited art museum. After an

enjoyable and entertaining day, return to our accommodation.

#### DAY 13 MELBOURNE SIGHTSEEING BLD

Sunday, 14th November: After a leisurely breakfast, we make our way to Belgrave Station to board the historic Puffing Billy Train. The journey takes us through the magnificent Dandenong Ranges. With lush fern gullies brushing past and Mountain Ash trees towering overhead, Puffing Billy makes for a wonderful opportunity to relax and breathe in the fresh air whilst the train makes its way through the temperate rainforest. Disembark at Lakeside Station, then make our way to Olinda, in the heart of the Dandenong Ranges, to enjoy a delicious German smorgasbord lunch at the Bavarian styled Cuckoo Restaurant. With the staff dressed in traditional Bavarian costume and live entertainment, music and a floor show, cowbell rings & some pretty fancy yodelling, it's sure to be a fun-filled visit. Next, make the short journey to the National Rhododendron Gardens with its unparalleled variety of brilliantly coloured blooms, mainly rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, cherries and daffodils. After a thoroughly delightful day return to our accommodation.

#### DAY 14 MELBOURNE – GEELONG BMLD

Monday, 15th November: Begin our day with a visit to Living Legends, home to some of Australia's finest retired champion racehorses. Meet and mingle with turf racing champions down in their paddocks. Just some of the equine royalty in residence are Rogan Josh, Silent Witness, Apache Cat, Paris Lane, Fields of Omagh (Foo) and Might and Power. Reluctantly, we say farewell to our equine friends and make our way to Werribee Open Range Zoo. After lunch, board the safari bus and be transported through arid landscapes and savannah grasslands to explore the open plains and learn about some of the world's most endangered species. Sit back and immerse yourself in the wonder of wildlife. Make our way to our accommodation for a well-earned rest before dinner. Stay Novotel Geelong.

#### DAY 15 GEELONG – COWES BLD

Tuesday, 16th November: Travel to Queenscliff this morning to board the Searoad Ferry to Sorrento on the Mornington Peninsula. Sit back and relax on the 40-minute journey across Port Phillip Bay. A café is onboard for your enjoyment. After disembarking, we make our way to historic **Churchill Island** for lunch and a guided tour of the Heritage Farm, before we embark on a virtual journey to the world's most extreme continent at the exciting new Antarctic Journey at the Nobbies. Stroll along **the Nobbies Boardwalk** and enjoy spectacular views along Phillip Island's rugged south coast. See the awesome blowhole, a spectacular sea cave that thunders during big southern swells. Enjoy the sea bird gardens offering spectacular flowering displays in the spring. Silver Gulls nest here, and chicks can be seen during spring and early summer. Little Penguins are often seen here resting between seasonal and daily duties. Make our way to our accommodation to rest and prepare for tonight's visit to Penguin Parade. Stay Comfort Resort Kaloha.

#### DAY 16 COWES – LAKES ENTRANCE BMLD

Wednesday, 17th November: Take a sightseeing tour of Phillip Island this morning as we make our way to Panny's Amazing World of Chocolate. See the chocolatiers at work as they hand make delicious chocolate varieties. See the statue of David (made from chocolate), the mural of Dame Edna consisting of 12,000 chocolate pieces, a chocolate waterfall made of 400 litres of chocolate and the chocolate village where even the buildings are made of chocolate. Continue our journey north to Moe for lunch and free time at Old Gipps town before arriving in Lakes Entrance mid-afternoon to settle into our accommodation. Two night stay Bellevue on the Lakes.

#### DAY 17 GIPPSLAND LAKES CRUISE BLD

Thursday, 18th November: A little sightseeing tour is in order this morning before boarding the ML Stormbird for a four hour cruise into Lake King, then around the shores of Metung for lunch at the Metung Hotel. Enjoy some free time in Metung before the return journey to Lakes Entrance.

#### DAY 18 LAKES ENTRANCE – EDEN BLD

Friday, 19th November: From Lakes Entrance follow the Princes Highway to Eden where we visit the Killer Whale Museum, followed by lunch and a talk at Wheeler's Oyster Farm. Return to Eden for some sightseeing then on to our accommodation. Stay Coachman's Rest Motor Inn.

#### DAY 19 EDEN – WOLLONGONG BLD

Saturday, 20th November: Northward bound, stop at the **Bodalla Dairy** before continuing our journey to Nowra for lunch. Mid-afternoon arrive at Kiama's famous Blowhole. The blowhole is the largest in the world and is an awesome natural spectacle. The powerful display is dependent on southeast ocean swells and waves entering the rocky cavern. Next, visit the Wollongong Head Lighthouse before arriving at our motel. Stay Novotel Wollongong

Northbeach.

**DAY 20 WOLLONGONG – KATOOMBA BMD**

Sunday, 21st November: Relax over a delicious breakfast while admiring the ocean view from the dining room, then we say goodbye to the coast and head inland to the beautiful Blue Mountains. At Leura enjoy a Devonshire morning tea and guided tour at **Everglade Gardens** before free time in Katoomba to purchase your lunch. After lunch, make our way to Echo Point with its stunning views of the Jamison Valley and the **iconic Three Sisters**. Finish our day with a visit to Scenic World. Choose from a range of activities which include unlimited rides on the cableway, skyway and railway or take a stroll along the walkway. Stay Skyrider Motor Inn.

**DAY 21 KATOOMBA – FORSTER BD**

Monday, 22nd November: At Blackheath, take in the iconic Blue Mountains views from Govetts Leap Lookout, including sandstone escarpments, sheer cliff walls, the deep canyons of the Grose Valley, and tall waterfalls. Next, enjoy a guided tour of the Blue Mountains Botanic Gardens at Mount Tomah followed with some free time to purchase morning tea or further explore the gardens. Continue our journey through Richmond and the outskirts of Sydney to Wyong for lunch (own expense), then follow the Pacific Highway to Forster. Stay Island Palms Motor Inn.

**DAY 22 FORSTER – BALLINA BMLD**

Tuesday, 23rd November: Travelling north, stop at Macksville for morning tea followed by a visit to Mary Boulton's Pioneer Cottage and Museum. The cottage is a replica of an early settlers' home with furnishings appropriate to the era. Arriving in Coffs Harbour enjoy lunch at the Clog Barn's Big Oma's Café, watch a clog making demonstration and take a wander through the miniature Dutch village. Continue on to our home for the night in Ballina. Stay Ballina Byron Islander Resort.

**DAY 23 BALLINA – HOME BL**

Wednesday, 24th November: This morning admire the panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean and Seven Mile Beach from Pat Morton Lookout at Lennox Head. On to Macadamia Castle for some free time, then onward to Duranbah's Tropical Fruit World for lunch and a Plantation Tour. Arrive in Brisbane mid-afternoon and Wide Bay early evening.

Adult: \$8158 pp

Pensioner: \$8115 pp

Past Passenger: \$8089 pp

Single Supplement: \$2451 pp

Final Payment Due: 18th September 2021

## Terms & Conditions

**DEPOSIT:** Unless otherwise stated, a deposit of \$250 per person is payable within seven days of booking. A deposit of \$500 is required for Early Bird discount. Final payment is due 45 days prior to departure unless otherwise advised.

**CANCELLATIONS:** The following amount will be deducted from your fare according to notice given plus any non-refundable tickets or airfares. No refund is payable once your tour has commenced. **Please note: If booking through a travel agent please check the agent's cancellation policy as extra charges may apply. Cancellation fee is per person.**

Days Notice	45 or more	44 - 30	29 - 15	14 or less
% of fare	\$50 admin fee (plus any non-refundable costs)	Loss of Deposit (plus any non-refundable costs)	50%	100%

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** We STRONGLY ADVISE passengers to take out travel insurance cover for health, baggage and personal effects, loss of monies through cancellation, additional expenses incurred through illness and early departure from a tour.

**LUGGAGE LIMITS:** Luggage space is limited onboard our coaches. Each passenger is entitled to take one suitcase, the size of which is not to exceed H60cm x L25cm x W40cm, the weight limit is 20 kilos (44lbs). Personal items should be carried in a travel bag.



**CLOTHING:** Pack a wash 'n' wear wardrobe of casual, comfortable clothing with some warmer clothes for evenings. Include a jacket, walking shoes, hat, swimsuit, towel, light raincoat, torch and a special outfit.

**PASSENGER SEATING:** A compulsory seat rotation policy is employed and there are no exceptions to this policy. While Down Under Coach Tours makes every effort to accommodate the special requirements of our passengers in fairness to other travellers, we request that all travellers participate in the seat rotation.

**DAILY ROUTINE:** Breakfast is usually 7.00am. Generally your coach will be ready to leave at 7.45am. You will have many opportunities to stop for photographs during the course of the day. Depending on the day's activities you will arrive at your accommodation at 4.30pm to 5.00pm. Dinner is usually 6.00pm to 6.30pm allowing time for a rest and to freshen up before dinner.

**MEDICAL & DIETARY:** All our tours have a 'Fitness Level' rating. Passengers accept that it is their responsibility to ensure that their health is in a state which allows them to enjoy the tours and successfully complete activities that the tour offers. We require all passengers to complete our Booking Form truthfully and 100% accurately with regard to their medical/physical condition. *It is essential for you to address any medical conditions/dietary requirements with us at the time of booking.*

**SPECIAL NEEDS:** A reasonable level of physical and mental health and fitness is required on all of our tours. We recommend that you visit your doctor to confirm that you are physically able to undertake the day-to-day requirements of the tour. Persons with limited mobility or those unable to adequately care for themselves are required to be accompanied by a carer. In particular, hostesses, tour guides, coach captains, and your fellow passengers will not act as assistants or carers in these circumstances. Down Under Coach Tours reserves the right to refuse to carry passengers requiring assistance who are not accompanied by a carer.

### A DOOR TO DOOR SERVICE

**A door to door service is offered to residents in the following areas:**

HERVEY BAY: 5km radius of GPO

MARYBOROUGH: 5 km radius of GPO

GYMPIE: 5 km radius of GPO

SUNSHINE COAST TO BRISBANE: 10 km from designated pick-up point.

Sunshine Coast to Brisbane Designated Pick-Up Points: Eumundi, Cooroy, Nambour, Forest Glen, Palmview, Caboolture, Burpengary.

BRISBANE & IPSWICH: 30 km radius of GPO or 10 km from a designated pick up point.

Brisbane & Ipswich Region Designated Pick Up Point: Mango Hill, Chermside, Roma Street Transit Centre, Ipswich, Blacksoil.

**A one way door to door service is offered to residents who are within 11km - 20km of a designated pick-up point as specified above.**

**FOR ADDITIONAL DESIGNATED PICK-UP POINTS OR MORE DETAILS PLEASE ENQUIRE.**

**The door to door service applies to tours of six days duration or more. Passengers requiring overnight accommodation to join or depart a tour, accommodation is an additional cost.**

**ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR:** No passenger will be permitted to embark or continue on the tour while their mental or physical condition is, in the opinion of any representative of the company, such as to render them incapable of caring for themselves, or whereby they become objectionable to other passengers, or they become a hazard to themselves or other passengers. The company will not be responsible for expenses resulting in such persons being precluded from completing the tour for any reason.

**FLIGHTS:** For an unbelievable FLY \$99 each way airfare you can join a Down Under Coach tour from all capital cities on the eastern sea board. Flights from other capital cities may incur an additional fee. To qualify simply pay for your FLY \$99 air fare with your tour deposit, within seven days of booking. FLY \$99 air fares are subject to availability. A door to door service is offered for residents who reside in the Metropolitan Taxi areas of capital cities and selected major cities. For enroute joining arrangements see your Tour Consultant or contact Down Under Coach Tours. Please note: FLY \$99 are available on specific tours only, look for the symbol.

**CONDITIONS AND LIMITS OF LIABILITY:** The conditions and terms of liability on which these tours operate are detailed as follows:

- Down Under Coach Tours finalises all arrangements for these tours upon the express condition that they cannot accept responsibility or liability for any delays, accidents, injury or damage caused by the airlines, rail, express coaches or any other service the company acts as agents on behalf of or arising out of the provision of, or failure to provide these services.
- Down Under Coach Tours have used information supplied to it by the providers of relevant tours and accommodation houses and have endeavoured to ensure the information contained is correct at the time of printing. Down Under Coach Tours can accept no responsibility for inaccuracy or mis-descriptions.
- Down Under Coach Tours reserves the right to alter or change the accommodation, carriers or coach at any time for any reason. Down Under Coach Tours reserves the right to change or amend the tour itinerary should the occasion warrant and if it becomes necessary, due to adverse weather/road conditions or unforeseen circumstances. The coach crew retain the right to alter the itinerary in a manner which will benefit all concerned.
- Down Under Coach Tours provide a Tour Leader subject to a minimum loading of 20 passengers. If the tour takes place with fewer than 20 passengers, the Coach Captain may take on both roles.
- Departures are subject to minimum number. In the event that a tour is cancelled by Down Under Tours due to low numbers, you will be notified prior to the final payment due date and any deposits paid will be refunded in full.
- Down Under Coach Tours maintains strict standards of safety and reliability of vehicles at all times, however, in rare cases mechanical failure may occur. Passengers are assured that every effort is made to minimise any small inconvenience experienced, while we utilise the large network of repair facilities Australia wide.
- Down Under Coach Tours can give no guarantee as to the exact arrival and departure times for carriers and operators used in the tour and cannot be liable for failure to make connections with any other services or attractions.
- Down Under Coach Tours will endeavour to contact clients in the event of industrial action affecting air, rail or other tour related transportation. However if contact is not made passengers should phone the free call number listed below to finalise alternative arrangements.
- Down Under Coach Tours reserves the right to vary the advertised or printed price to cover any significant increases in airfare, rail fare, fuel price or other tour related costs.
- Down Under Coach Tours accepts no responsibility for the suitability of the rooming partners allocated for single passengers willing to share accommodation. If a passenger regards the rooming partner to be unsuitable every effort will be made to arrange single accommodation for the duration of the tour with the additional costs being paid by the passenger.
- Down Under Coach Tours takes all reasonable steps to ensure an enjoyable holiday experience and cannot accept liability for any loss of enjoyment whatsoever and howsoever experienced by the passengers.

Contact your travel agent or:

**DOWN UNDER COACH TOURS**

Free Information and Booking Service

**Free Call: 1800 072 535**

PO Box 149 Maryborough

Queensland Australia 4650

Phone: 07 4123 1733 Fax: 07 4128 6499

Email: info@downundercoachtours.com.au

Web: www.downundercoachtours.com.au

ABN 20 716 553 784