



**WE DRIVE YOU
SINCE 1992**

GREATER VICTORIA & THE GRAMPIANS

*with Ezi Drive Coaches &
HolidayCoachTours.com.au*



9 Days / 8 Nights - with Mary and Brian

Tour Departs: Saturday 14 May - Sunday 22 May, 2022.

Tour Inclusions:

- Pick up from your home, transport and return to Greater Victoria
- Luxury coach travel, seatbelts & restroom
- 8 Nights quality accommodation
- 8 Three course dinners with choices & fully cooked breakfasts
- Lunches: Day 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8
- All entry fees & guides as per Itinerary
- Fully escorted tour

Tour Highlights:

Sand Art Gallery; Amazing Mill Markets; Garden of St Erth; Daylesford Chocolate Mill; Daylesford Museum & Historical Society; Boathouse Daylesford; Convent Gallery; J Ward Museum; Seppelts Great Western Winery; Reed Lookout; Stunning MacKenzie Falls; Wartook Gardens Tour & M/Tea; Zumsteins Historic Site; Halls Gap Zoo; Soldiers Memorial Museum; Sacred Heart Cathedral; Bendigo Pottery & Interpretive Museum; Bendigo Town Hall; Bendigo Historic Talking Tram; Golden Dragon Museum; Bendigo Historical Society & Victoria Hill Mining Reserve; Ulumbarra Theatre & Sandhurst Gaol; Benalla Golf Club & much more!

Tour Fee including GST:	Members	\$3238.00 per person, twin share
	Non Members	\$3288.00 per person, twin share
	Single Supplement	\$650.00

Book and pay by Thursday 17 March, 2022

For information and bookings phone: 02 4774 9700

Website: holidaycoachtours.com.au – Email: book@holidaycoachtours.com.au

Please note that the itinerary is subject to change without notice

PO Box 109 BRINGELLY 2556

Day 1. Sat 14 May: Home - Wangaratta

Dinner

This morning we pick you up from home and begin our drive to Wangaratta. We enjoy several comfort stops and arrive into Wangaratta for check in, rest and freshen up before dinner in the motel restaurant.

Overnight Wangaratta: Quality Hotel Wangaratta Gateway

Day 2. Sun 15 May: Wangaratta - Daylesford - Hepburn Springs

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today we follow the Hume Highway into Riddells Creek home to the **Sand Art Gallery**, a permanent sand sculpting exhibition with 400 tonnes of sand transformed by experienced sculptors into an Enchanted Forest Adventure. Each sculpture is made from 30 tonnes of sand reaching heights of 3.6m. After morning tea and guided tour we continue into Daylesford, calling into the **Amazing Mill Markets**, filled with vintage clothes, furniture, collectables, antiques, memorabilia, home decor, fine china, art, glass, coins, jewellery, books and records. We enjoy a light lunch here before visiting the **Garden of St Erth** where each season has something to offer, including carpets of daffodils in spring, long flowering flower borders in summer and magnificent autumn garden colour. Stroll around the **Diggers Garden Shop** for a wide range of incredible edibles, hardy perennials and shrubs and stock up on seeds for the vegetable and flower garden. Purchase afternoon tea and relax surrounded by the beautiful gardens and Wombat State Forest. This afternoon we check-in to our accommodation for a rest before dinner in the resort restaurant.

Overnight Hepburn Springs: Bellinzona Resort

Day 3. Mon 16 May: Daylesford

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

This morning we make our way to the **Chocolate Mill** to enjoy the worlds finest chocolate, lovingly crafted in their unique straw-bale building, surrounded by beautiful bushland. Through the viewing window we can see into the kitchen as the staff are busy hand making an amazing range of chocolates. We enjoy some of the chocolate samples alongside our morning tea. Next we visit the **Daylesford Museum and Historical Society** for a guided tour of the museum. Established in 1971, the Museum has approx 800 square metres of interior displays plus approx 250 square metres of covered yard that houses a large collection of local memorabilia and artefacts. We then travel to the **Convent Daylesford**, nestled on the crest of Wombat Hill Botanical Gardens, over-looking Daylesford, The Convent boasts expansive views of the countryside and township below. A feast for the senses, the gallery is more than a three level haven of fine art in an historic 19th century mansion. The building is steeped in history, showcases the work of a range of artists, has beautiful, award winning gardens and sculptures plus some of the best views of the area. We enjoy a **Guided History** tour here and lunch, before making our way back into Hepburn Springs to our accommodation, dinner tonight is in the resort restaurant.

Overnight Hepburn Springs: Bellinzona Resort

Day 4. Tue 17 May: Ararat - Halls Gap

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today after breakfast and check out we depart for Ararat, stopping at the **J Ward Museum** for a guided tour and morning tea. Originally the Ararat County Gaol and Lunatic Asylum, our guide explains the early history of the goldfield times, the incarceration of the criminally insane as well as stories of murderers, ghosts and mistreatment of mental illness. We continue to the **Seppelts Great Western Winery** where we enjoy lunch and a tour of the famous **Underground Champagne Cellars**, followed by tastings at the cellar door. Then it's into Halls Gap to check in to our accommodation for a rest before dinner.

Overnight Halls Gap: Grampians Motel

Day 5. Wed 18 May: Grampians National Park

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

After an exhilarating start to the morning and hearty breakfast at the motel we set off again for our morning up in the Grampians National Park travelling up along the Mount Victory Road to our first stop, **Baroka Lookout** with two easy accessible **viewing platforms allowing for amazing views across Halls Gap and Lake Bellfield**. Our next stop is at **Reed Lookout** offering stunning views over the Victoria Valley. There are a couple of different vantage points to enjoy and we can also walk up towards the fire tower which overlooks the interior of the park. From Reed Lookout its about a 15min drive to **Mackenzie Falls** one of the **largest waterfalls in Victoria** and only waterfall in the Grampians that flows all year round.



Day 5 cont..

See the beauty and power of MacKenzie Falls from a variety of lookouts and walks, which start at the carpark and cater to a range of abilities. We suggest of the four walks that we take the **Broken Falls Walk** where we can admire beautiful views of the upper sections of MacKenzie Falls. The 500m walk is wheelchair friendly and has only a slight track gradient. **Broken Falls Lookout** is one of the best places to see the impressive geological formations of the MacKenzie River Gorge. **Wartook Gardens** is our next stop for **morning tea and tour of the garden** established to grow a very wide collection of Australian Plants and in so doing provide not only a haven for birds but a showcase for the incredible diversity of our plants. Already 115 bird species have been recorded in the garden and approximately 1,000 species of Australian Plants are being grown with many Acacias, Eucalypts, Grevilleas, Hakeas, Banksias, Dryandras, Dampieras, as well as many representatives of additional genera. On our return we stop by the **Zumsteins Historic Area** which provides a great little stop beside the banks of the MacKenzie River. Explore the historic ruins of a former thriving tourist resort where beekeeper Walter Zumstein played host to hundreds of holidaymakers in the 1930s. Follow interpretive signs through the settlement and see remnants of cottages built in the 1930s as part of an old retreat. We then call into the **Halls Gap Hotel for lunch**, the family bistro is surrounded by a huge open verandah and a perfect place to enjoy the magnificent views of the Grampians. After lunch we visit the **Halls Gap Zoo**, Victoria's largest regional zoo, featuring over 160 species of native and exotic mammals, reptiles and birds. Take the time to wander and visit the inquisitive meerkats, gigantic giraffe, colossal rhinoceros, swift cheetah, regal red panda, playful lemurs, colourful macaws and a plethora of wallaby and kangaroo species. This afternoon we return to our accommodation to freshen up before dinner.

Overnight Halls Gap: Grampians Motel

Day 6. Thu 19 May: Halls Gap - Bendigo

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

This morning we check out and make our way across to **Bendigo**, with our first stop the panoramic views over the Black Range and Grampians National Park at the **Big Hill Lookout** in Stawell. We travel onto Avoca with a morning tea stop at the Avoca Chinese Garden, before we make our way into Bendigo and enjoy a quick lunch stop at a local restaurant before our visit to the **Soldiers Memorial Military Museum**, which is home to a broad range of wartime memorabilia. We then visit the **Bendigo Pottery**, regarded by many to be Australia's most famous working pottery, producing quality traditional ceramic cookware and tableware available at factory prices. **The Bendigo Pottery Interpretive Museum** is a step back in time where we learn about the production processes, machinery, working conditions and traditional skills of Bendigo Pottery from its beginning in 1858 to the present. We then check in to our accommodation for a rest before dinner.

Overnight Bendigo: Quality Inn Colonial

Day 7. Fri 20 May: Bendigo

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today we step back into a golden era as we experience one of the most remarkable boom time buildings in Victoria, the **Bendigo Town Hall**. Featuring stunning interior, elaborate plasterwork, extensive hand painted decoration and delicate gold leafing. After our guided tour we learn the history of Bendigo as we travel 100 years an hour on the famous **Bendigo Historic Talking Tram**. Once onboard the meticulously restored tram, the expert commentary explains the history and significance of the buildings and locations as they pass us by. We hear the story of the Majestic Sacred Heart Cathedral, Alexandra Fountain, The Grand Beehive Store and the world famous Shamrock Hotel. After our tram tour we stop by the **Golden Dragon Museum** where we enjoy a light lunch and guided tour through the museum and beautiful gardens. The museum houses the world's best collection of Chinese processional regalia and features the world's longest and oldest imperial dragons, Sun Loong and Loong, who have been in the annual Easter Monday procession for over 100 years. We are then joined by our **local guide from the Bendigo Historical Society** and proceed to the **Victoria Hill Mining Reserve**.



Day 7. Fri 20 May: Bendigo

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

During its 97 years of operation, the Victoria Hill mine yielded about \$8bn worth of gold in today's values and was the deepest mine in the world at 4,613 feet. We view the 150 year old **Coath Cottage** nearby which was almost destroyed in the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires and has since undergone restoration. **The Goldmines Hotel** opposite the reserve built in 1872, has historic significance - unlike many historic hotels which have had their layout remodelled and refurbished this hotel has retained its individual rooms and layout. Adorned by original décor, antiques and collectables it has a remarkably authentic feel, with beautiful old gardens creating a quaint atmosphere. Following our tour we farewell our guide and return to our accommodation where there will be time to freshen up before dinner.

Overnight Bendigo: Quality Inn Colonial

Day 8. Sat 21 May: Bendigo - Albury

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

After breakfast and check out we visit the **Ulumbarra Theatre**, which rises from within what was once the **Sandhurst Gaol**. Constructed in the early 1860s, the gaol was based on the Pentonville prison model where the wings radiate from a central tower, now the symbiotic link between the heritage and contemporary architecture. Our guide will explore spaces throughout this extraordinary arts and community facility, telling the tales that once remained behind the walls. After our tour we depart for Benalla, calling into the **Benalla Golf Club for lunch**. Later this afternoon we arrive into **Albury** for check in prior to dinner in the motel restaurant.

Overnight Albury: Albury Siesta

Day 9. Sun 22 May: Albury - Home

Breakfast

Today we make our way home, travelling along the Hume Highway and enjoying several comfort stops to purchase morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. We arrive home late afternoon after a wonderful holiday touring Greater Victoria region and the Grampians National Park with Mary and Brian.



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