



# Grampians & the Goldfields

## Includes ➔

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Castlemaine.....	575
Maldon .....	577
The Grampians (Gariwerd).....	577
Halls Gap.....	580
Mt Arapiles State Park .....	582

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Royal Mail Hotel (p582)
- ➔ Public Inn (p576)
- ➔ Dispensary Enoteca (p573)
- ➔ Mr Carsisi (p574)
- ➔ Catfish (p569)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ The Schaller Studio (p573)
- ➔ Maldon Miners Cottages (p577)
- ➔ D'Altons Resort (p581)
- ➔ Little Desert Nature Lodge (p581)
- ➔ Comfort Inn Sovereign Hill (p567)

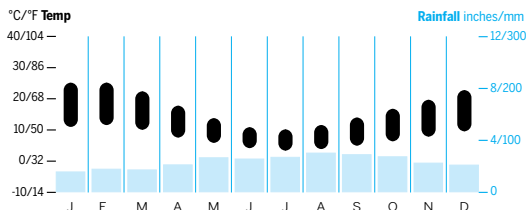
## Why Go?

History, nature and culture combine spectacularly in Victoria's regional heart. For a brief time in the mid-19th century, more than a third of the world's gold came out of Victoria and, today, the spoils of all that precious metal can be seen in the grand regional cities of Bendigo and Ballarat, and the charming towns of Castlemaine, Kyneton and Maldon. This is a fantastic region for touring, with a range of contrasting landscapes, from pretty countryside and green forests, red earth and granite country, to farmland, orchards and wineries.

Further west, there's a different type of history to experience at Grampians National Park, one of Victoria's great natural wonders. Some 80% of Victoria's Aboriginal rock-art sites are found here, and the majestic ranges are an adventurer's paradise, lording it over the idyllic Wartook Valley and the towns of Halls Gap and Dunkeld.

## When to Go

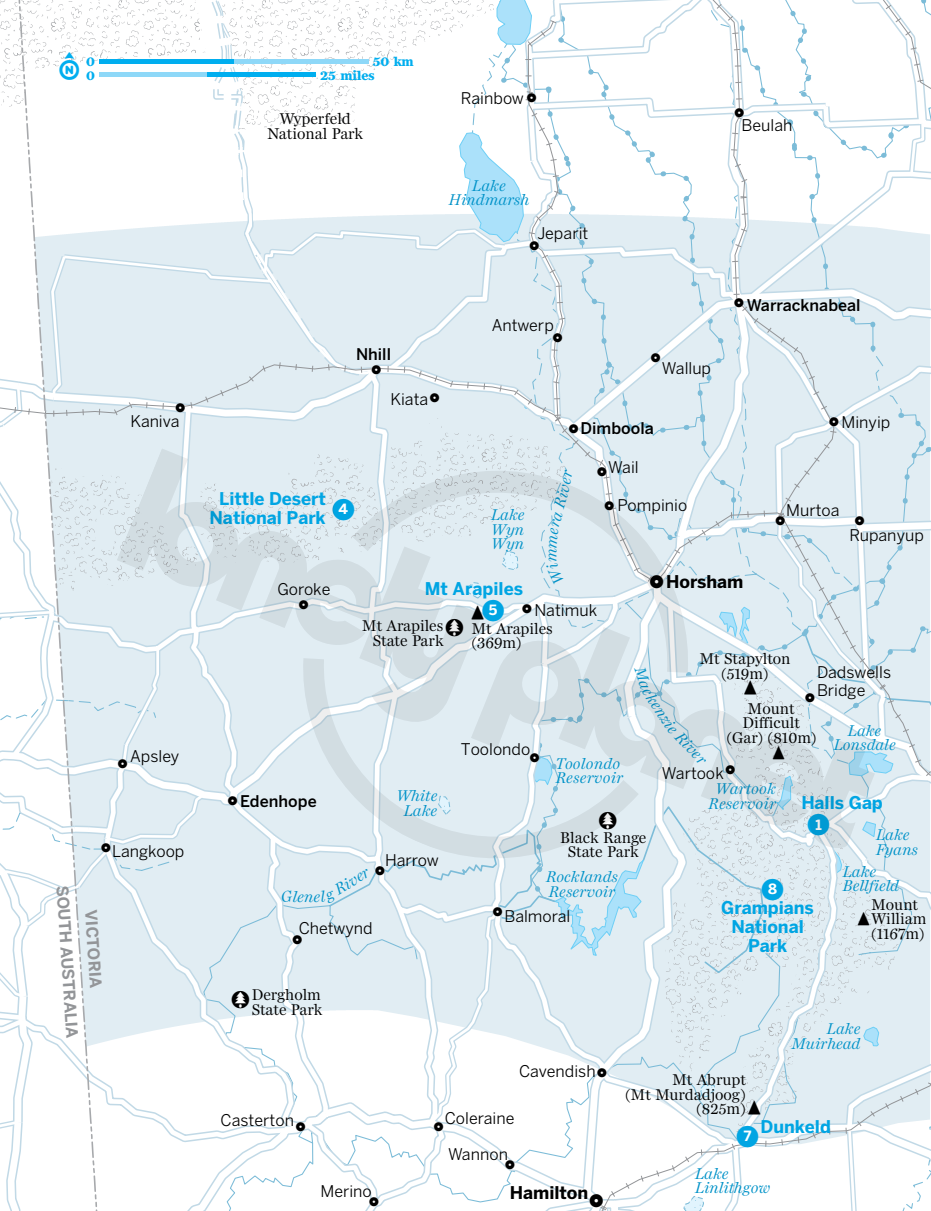
### Ballarat



**Easter** Join the dragon procession at the Bendigo Easter Festival.

**Mar–May** Autumn colours, hiking and wine touring without the crowds.

**Sep–Nov** When the wild flowers bloom in Grampians National Park.



## Grampians & the Goldfields Highlights

- ① Discovering the traditional stories of Gariwerd at **Brambuk Cultural Centre** (p580) in Halls Gap.
- ② Descending deep into a gold mine, riding the talking

tram, then eating well in **Bendigo** (p570).

- ③ Riding the restored **steam train** (p575) from Maldon to Castlemaine.

- ④ Camping under the stars in **Little Desert National Park** (p581).
- ⑤ Scaling the heights at Victoria's best rock-climbing