



Victorian High Country

Includes ➔

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Why Go?

With its enticing mix of history, adventure and culinary temptations, Victoria's High Country is a wonderful place to spend some time. The Great Dividing Range – Australia's eastern mountain spine – curls around eastern Victoria from the Snowy Mountains to the Grampians, peaking in the spectacular High Country. These are Victoria's Alps – a mountain playground attracting skiers and snowboarders in winter and bushwalkers and mountain bikers in summer. Here the mountain air is clear and invigorating, winter snowfalls at the resorts of Mt Buller, Mt Hotham and Falls Creek are fairly reliable, and the scenery is spectacular.

Away from the mountain tops, there are activities aplenty and Bright is one of the loveliest gateway towns in the state. Throw in historic towns such as Beechworth, the wineries of King Valley and Rutherglen, and the gourmet food offerings of Milawa and you'll find plenty of reasons to linger.

Best Places to Eat

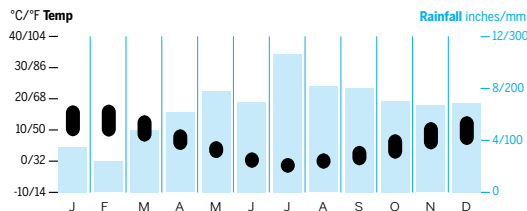
- ➔ Simone's Restaurant (p598)
- ➔ Provenance (p592)
- ➔ Pepperleaf Bushtucker Restaurant (p598)
- ➔ Tuileries Restaurant & Cafe (p593)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Freeman on Ford (p592)
- ➔ Odd Frog (p597)
- ➔ Dreamers (p599)
- ➔ Eildon Houseboat Hire (p586)

When to Go

Mt Hotham



Apr–May Best time for glorious autumn colours around Bright and Omeo.

Jul–Aug Hit the snowy mountain slopes for the peak ski season.

Dec–Feb The green season for mountain biking, horse riding and wine touring.

Victorian High Country Highlights

1 Cycling the **Murray to Mountains Rail Trail** (p592), Victoria's second-longest bike path.

2 Visiting Ned Kelly's cell, then sampling the brews at Bridge Road Brewers in historic **Beechworth** (p591).

3 Hitting the gourmet trail, tasting wine, cheese, mustard and olives in **Milawa** (p590).

4 Skiing the pistes at fashionable **Falls Creek** (p600).

5 Enjoying the vibrant colours of the autumn and spring festivals in **Bright** (p596).

6 Spending a day or two sampling the reds in one of Victoria's best wine regions near **Rutherglen** (p592).

7 Making like *The Man from Snowy River* and going horse riding on the high plains around **Mansfield** (p587).

8 Driving along the Great Alpine Rd to the isolated, picturesque town of **Omeo** (p602).

