



Around Melbourne

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Lake House (p154)
- ➔ Sault (p154)
- ➔ Du Fermier (p157)
- ➔ Giant Steps (p143)
- ➔ ezard's @ Levantine Hill (p144)
- ➔ Kazuki's (p154)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Clifftop at Hepburn (p152)
- ➔ 2 Dukes (p152)
- ➔ Hepburn Springs Chalet (p152)
- ➔ Healesville Hotel (p143)
- ➔ Tuck Inn (p143)

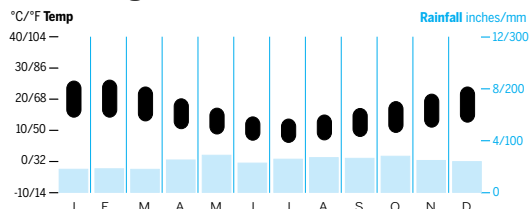
Why Go?

Getting out of the city for a day, a weekend or longer is easy – the question is not why, but where to first? Should you spend a day tripping from one winery to the next in the Yarra Valley? Disappear into the tall forest with a pair of walking boots and a keen eye for native wildlife? Indulge in some of Victoria's finest regional produce? Or pamper yourself with a massage and mineral spa?

Just a short drive from Melbourne you can experience historic towns, mountains, rivers, waterfalls, bush, vine-covered hills, cycle paths and wildlife. And don't think you have to rough it – around Daylesford and the Yarra Valley you'll find some of the finest boutique accommodation, cafes and restaurants in regional Victoria, with fresh country air to match.

When to Go

Dandenong



Feb–May The Yarra Valley is at its most colourful; grape harvest starts in February.

Jun–Sep Cross-country skiing at Lake Mountain or a hot winter soak in Spa Country.

Oct–Nov Festivals and spring weather make this a good time to hit the Dandenongs.



Around Melbourne Highlights

1 Yarra Valley (p141)
Sampling Australia's finest cool-climate pinots in this historic wine-growing region.

2 Hepburn Springs (p150)
Soaking in the soothing

mineral waters at this charming resort town.

3 Hanging Rock (p156)
Taking in the stunning vistas at this captivating, sacred site.

4 Healesville Sanctuary

(p141) Meeting native fauna at this famous wildlife park.

5 Lake House (p154) Dining in style at this Daylesford institution.

6 Lake Mountain (p150)

Relaxing in pretty Marysville, then cross-country skiing at this family-friendly resort.

7 Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail (p146) Cycling along this scenic Yarra Valley trail.

8 Puffing Billy (p140)
Steaming along on this historic train through beautiful eucalyptus and fern forests in the Dandenongs.