



Around Melbourne

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Lake House (p144)
- ➔ Sault (p144)
- ➔ Du Fermier (p148)
- ➔ Giant Steps & Innocent Bystander (p136)
- ➔ Reefton Hotel (p138)

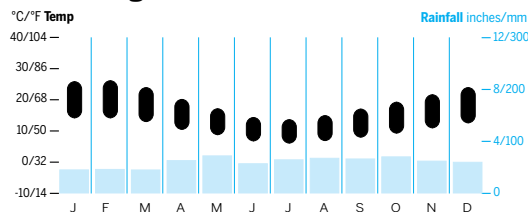
Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Lake House (p143)
- ➔ Hepburn Springs Chalet (p144)
- ➔ Delderfield B&B (p141)
- ➔ Healesville Hotel (p136)

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 Take a dawn balloon ride then sample Australia's finest cool-climate wines in the **Yarra Valley** (p134)
- 2 Soak in the soothing mineral spa at **Hepburn Springs** (p141)
- 3 Steam along on **Puffing Billy** then cruise the hills of the **Dandenongs** (p131)
- 4 Take in the spiritual surrounds and stunning vistas at captivating **Hanging Rock** (p148)
- 5 Commune with native wildlife at **Healesville Sanctuary** (p135)
- 6 Dine in style at the Lake House or Sault in **Daylesford** (p144)
- 7 Relax in pretty Marysville, then hike or ski **Lake Mountain** (p141)
- 8 Cycle the **Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail** (p138) in the Yarra Valley