



Goldfields & the Grampians

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Best Places to Eat

- Royal Mail Hotel (p212)
- GPO Bar & Grill (p200)
- Dispensary Enoteca (p200)
- Empyre Hotel (p204)
- Flouch's (p201)

Best Places to Stay

- Shamrock Hotel (p199)
- Theatre Royal Back Stage (p203)
- D'Altons Resort (p211)
- Little Desert Nature Lodge (p214)
- Comfort Inn Sovereign Hill (p193)

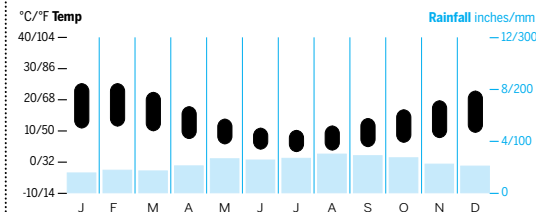
Why Go?

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 the 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

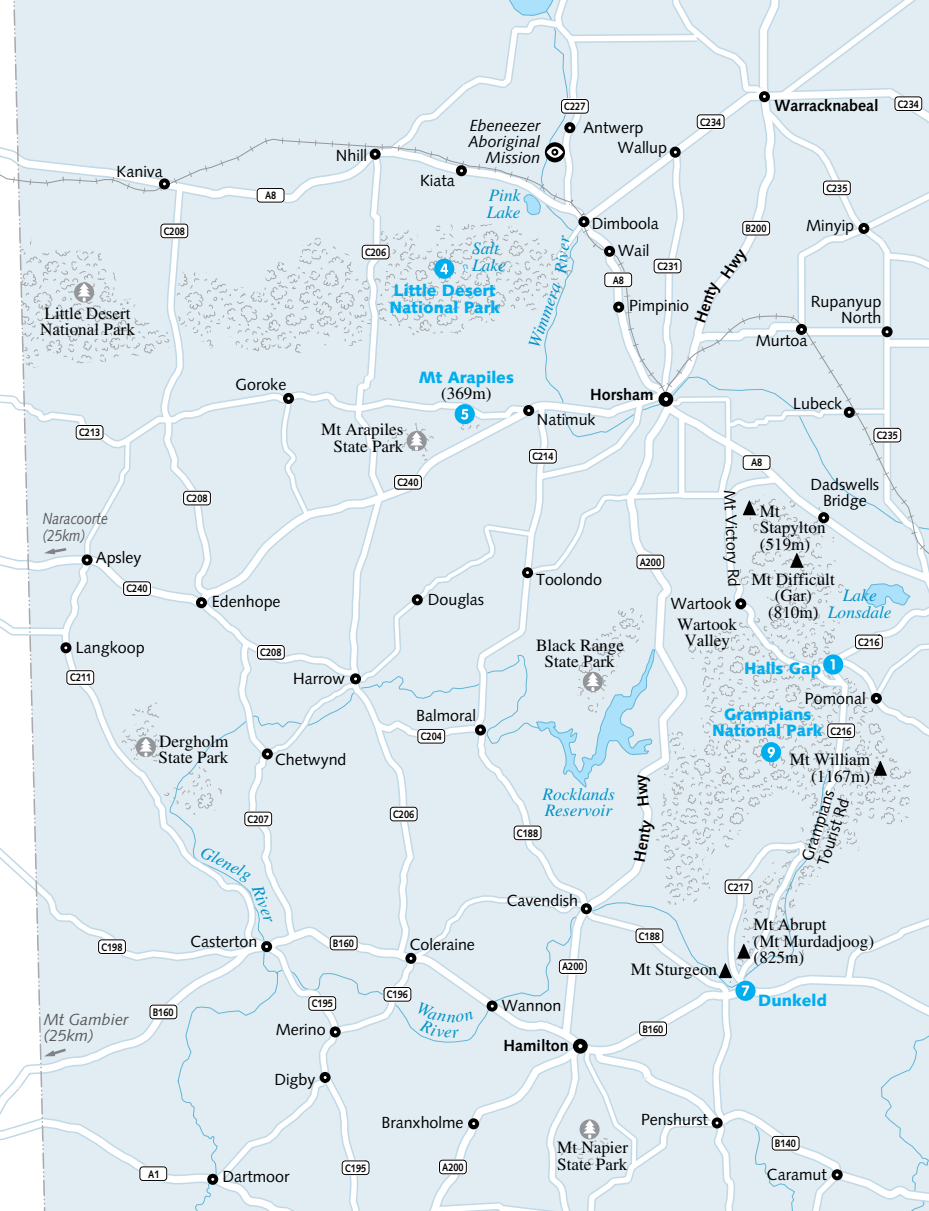
Ballarat



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 wildflowers bloom in Grampians National Park.



Goldfields & the Grampians Highlights

1 Discover the traditional stories of Gariwerd at **Brambuk Cultural Centre** (p210) in Halls Gap

2 Descend deep into a gold mine then ride the talking tram in **Bendigo** (p196)

3 Ride the restored **steam train** (p202) from Maldon to Castlemaine

4 Camp under the stars in **Little Desert National Park** (p213)

5 Scale the granite heights at **Mt Arapiles** (p213), Victoria's best rock-climbing destination