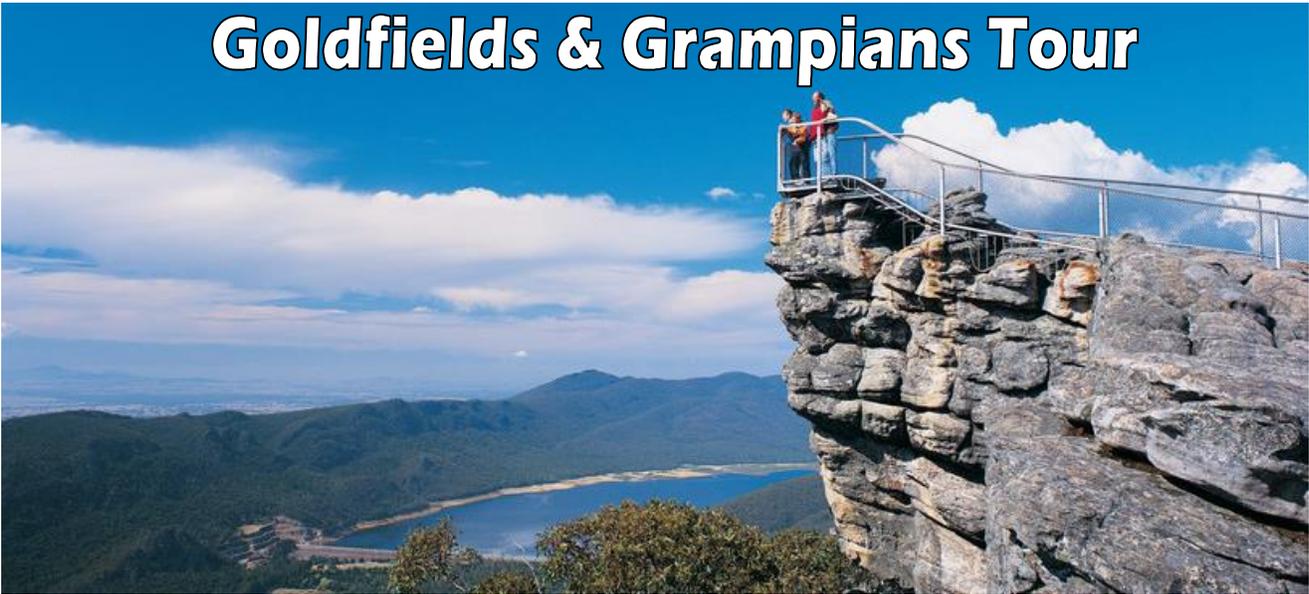




# Goldfields & Grampians Tour



## Day 1: (LD): NOWRA TO SHEPPARTON – Monday 30 September 2019

Welcome to our 10 day tour to the **Victorian Goldfields** and the **Grampians**. This morning we **depart Nowra at 7.00am** and travel over Cambewarra Mountain before heading south along the Hume Highway. This afternoon we travel through **Gundagai, Holbrook** and **Albury** onto **Shepparton**. You will have some time to freshen up before dinner. (*Lunch en route, Dinner in the motel*)

**Wyndhamere Motel, Shepparton, PH: 03 5821 3088**

## Day 2: (BLD): THE GOULBURN VALLEY & NAGAMBIE LAKES – Tuesday 01 October 2019

Following breakfast we welcome a local tour guide on board the coach for a brief sightseeing tour of the town. Our first stop of the day is at **Shepparton Motor Museum and Collectibles**. The home of up to 100 classic, heritage and muscle cars, including motorcycles and vintage bicycles, the museum also boasts a wide range of petrol memorabilia including enamel signs, petrol bowsers, oil cans, bottles and many other items tracing the history of motoring. From here, we travel down to Nagambie, home to legendary race horse **Black Caviar**, the champion racehorse that was born here in 2006 and finished her career unbeaten, winning all 25 of her races and claiming almost \$8 million in prize money. On arrival in Nagambie we board the **Goulburn Explorer** for a two hour lunch cruise on **Lake Nagambie**. Mid-afternoon we return to Shepparton and relax before dinner. (*Breakfast & Dinner in the motel, Lunch onboard Goulburn Explorer*)

**Wyndhamere Motel, Shepparton, PH: 03 5821 3088**

## Day 3: (BLD): SHEPPARTON TO BENDIGO – Wednesday 02 October 2019

Leaving Shepparton, we head to the small township of **Elmore** and have a brief visit at the **Rural Discovery Centre**. Here we will learn the interesting history of the **Sunshine Harvester** and its worldwide acclaim that saw the factory re-locate to Melbourne. Late morning we make our way to the outskirts of **Bendigo** and stop at **Confectionery Capers**, an unusual collection of machines and displays aimed at people of all ages. See the many fascinating machines as they wobble, jiggle, shake, jump and whirl in a sea of madness and mayhem, it's sure to be an interesting visit. It's only a

short drive to our **lunch** venue at the **Farmers Arms Hotel**. This afternoon we drive into Bendigo and visit **Bendigo Pottery**, known as Australia's oldest working pottery. The site and buildings have been placed on the Historic Buildings Register by the National Trust. Here we step back in time and learn about the production processes, machinery, working conditions and traditional skills of Bendigo Pottery from its beginning in 1858 to the present. There is also the chance to purchase some quality items at factory prices. We complete our day and check into our motel for the next 2 night stay. *(Breakfast & Dinner in the motel, Lunch at Farmers Arms Hotel)*

**Quality Inn Colonial Bendigo, PH: 03 5447 0122**

#### **Day 4: (BD): BENDIGO – Thursday 03 October 2019**

Following breakfast we continue our touring of Bendigo and the best place to start is on the '**Talking Tram**' for an interesting ride through the main areas of Bendigo to learn a little about the history of the Goldfields. Following our ride we visit the **Central Deborah Gold Mine** for our guided surface tour of what is an actual working mine - right in the centre of the city. For lunch we have some free time, *(passengers own expense)* then this afternoon we hear the story and the contributions made by the Chinese people of Bendigo when we visit the **Golden Dragon Museum**. One permanent display is "**Sun Loong**" the longest Imperial dragon in the world and "**Loong**" the oldest Imperial dragon in the world. We also stop by the **Chinese Joss House** - the oldest Joss House still in use in the Bendigo area. Built in 1860 it fell into disrepair but was restored by the National Trust and reopened in 1972. The Joss House is made up of three buildings - a caretakers residence, temple to Guan Kung and an ancestral hall with alters to several other gods and brilliant banners. After our interesting day, we return to our motel and freshen up for dinner. *(Breakfast & Dinner in the motel, Lunch at own expense)*

**Quality Inn Colonial Bendigo, PH: 03 5447 0122**

#### **Day 5: (BLD): BENDIGO TO THE GRAMPIANS – Friday 04 October 2019**

Departing Bendigo we have just under an hour's drive to **Castlemaine**. Settlement of this district dates back to the 1830's when most of the land was actually taken up for farming. The discovery of gold radically altered the 'agricultural' based landscape as 30,000 diggers worked a number of gold fields. The centre of the town has been virtually unaltered since the 1860's when the surface gold was exhausted. On arrival in town we take a tour of the **Old Castlemaine Gaol**. First built in 1861 and active for over 130 years, the Old Castlemaine Gaol has seen men, women and children of all ages pass through its imposing wooden gates. Based on the Pentonville style it was designed to give prisoners the chance to seek penance through silent reflection, but instead led to prisoner suicides and madness. On conclusion of our tour we drive across to the small town of **Maryborough** for lunch at the **Maryborough Railway Station Café**. In the 1890's a visit from **Mark Twain** found him describing this magnificent building as "a station with a town attached". He found the Maryborough Station to be in his words "wonderful" Here we are met by a local tour guide that will point out many interesting facts regarding the station and then take us for a guided tour of the town. This afternoon we start making our way to the Grampians for our next two nights' accommodation. On arrival we can unpack and relax before dinner. *(Breakfast & Dinner in the motel, Lunch at Railway cafe)*

**Grampians Motel, Halls Gap, PH: 03 5356 4248**

### **Day 6: (BLD): THE GRAMPPIANS – Saturday 05 October 2019**

After breakfast we are joined on the Coach by our Tour Guide to begin our day's exploring. The earliest explorer to the region was Major Thomas Mitchell, who spied the saw-toothed silhouette of the Grampians Ranges during an expedition to map the course of the Darling River to the north. Our first stop is at the **Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre** to view a video presentation as well as enjoy a look through the National Park Visitors Centre. We then head out to several of the best lookouts in the northern part of the National Park – **Reeds Lookout** and **McKenzie Falls** – all easily accessible and all with sensational views. The area is likened to a giant botanical garden, filled with one third of Victoria's fauna. In fact Major Thomas Mitchell, when he first visited the area in 1836 as the Surveyor General of New South Wales, was apparently speechless at the imposing sight that met his gaze from the top of what we now know as Mount William. The drive is quite slow as we head across to the western side of the Park for **lunch** at the delightful **Wander Inn**. Our afternoon stop, on the way back to Halls Gap is the unusual – and very Australian – **Old Dadswell Town**. It's located at Dadswell Bridge and run by Jenny and Max Green. They have recreated an old style Australian town on their 280 acre property on the edge of the Grampians. It will be a bit of fun as we take a look at Madam X's Bordello, Mad Max's Garage and Robbie's Barber Shop. There is also a Post Office and Bank, a General Store, a Bakery and the Town Hall. A Devonshire tea will be served before we return to the Grampians Motel (*breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch at Wander Inn*)

**Grampians Motel, Halls Gap, PH: 03 5356 4248**

### **Day 7: (BLD): THE GRAMPPIANS TO BALLARAT – Sunday 06 October 2019**

Leaving the Grampians we head through **Stawell** and **Great Western** to arrive in **Ararat** for our morning visit to the **J Ward**. Originally a country jail, it was assigned to the Lunacy department 1887, when it became an asylum for the criminally insane. Closing in 1991, J Ward is a fascinating relic of Ararat's past. Chilling details of the prisoners and their crimes can be discovered at 'J Ward' and the non-consecrated graves of the three convicted murderers executed in the 1870s and 1880s can be visited. On conclusion of our tour and time in the museum we call in for lunch at the Ararat Golf Club. This afternoon we drive through to **Ballarat** and on arrival take a brief sightseeing tour of the town before settling into our motel. (*Breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch at Ararat Golf Club*)

**Sovereign Park Motor Inn, Ballarat, PH: 03 5331 3955**

### **Day 8: (BLD): BALLARAT – Monday 07 October 2019**

Today we spend the entire day discovering **Ballarat**. We collect our **guide** and embark on a tour of this historic gold mining city, with its outstanding heritage architecture. Next is a visit to the **Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka**, dedicated to the central theme of democracy. Located on the site where young miners bravely stood up for their rights in 1854, M.A.D.E explores the events surrounding the **Eureka Stockade** and has exhibitions including the Eureka Flag, donated by the widow of John King, a trooper who took part in the attack on the Eureka Stockade. No visit to Ballarat would be complete without a look through **Sovereign Hill**. At Sovereign Hill we can step back in time to the golden past and the days of the goldrush. At the Red Hill Gully Diggings, miners dressed in the bright colours of the 1850s, show us how to pan for gold and along the main street, horse drawn vehicles offer tours of the town. Mid-afternoon we return to our motel for some free time before we have an early dinner and return to Sovereign Hill. (*Breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch at MADE Café*) *NSW Labor Day Long Weekend*

\*\*\* - Sovereign Hill has not announced the details for the evening Sound and Light show that will be replacing Blood on the Southern Cross. As soon as the details are made public we will include them on this day.

**Sovereign Park Motor Inn, Ballarat, PH: 03 5331 3955**

### **Day 9: (BLD): BALLARAT TO ALBURY – Tuesday 08 October 2018**

Our journey this morning takes us through country Victoria and sees us pass through the lovely towns of **Daylesford** and **Hepburn Springs** on our way to **Seymour**. Here we will stop to have a look at the new **Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk**. The walk is a meandering red earth path set in native trees and grasses that resemble rubber trees and rice paddies. These two plants are synonymous with Vietnam. The centre piece of this Walk is the wall, made up of panels of DigiGlass with the name of every Serviceman and Woman who served, in their various capacities in that conflict. The names are separated only by the Service in which they served and are in alphabetical order. The plinths on which the panels stand have holes for you to place Poppies; the effect is to have a field of Poppies under the names. Behind the names is the picture story of the Vietnam conflict. Back on the coach we head to **Benalla** where we stop for lunch, then onto Albury, where we settle into our hotel for the final night's stay of our tour. *(Breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch included)*

**Quality Resort Siesta, Albury, PH: 02 6025 4555**

### **Day 10: (BL): HEADING HOME – Wednesday 09 October 2019**

Sadly our touring has come to an end we farewell our hosts and checkout of our motel. We retrace our steps for home, stopping in **Gundagai** to stretch our legs and enjoy a morning break. Back on board we head for home pausing along the way for convenience breaks and lunch. *(Breakfast in the motel / lunch en route)*

**All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions in opening times/days of some attractions, e.g. churches, wineries etc. We cannot be held responsible for any changes due to closures, inclement weather etc**

#### **Booking Conditions**

**Accommodation** is on a share room basis in Motels, Hotels and the like. Single Supplement will apply if no twin share is available. The accommodation named may be altered without notice. The right is reserved to amend or modify the itinerary at any time without notice for unpredictable weather or road conditions or for any other reason beyond our control.

**Cancellation Fees:** In the event of the cancellation of a tour the following fees apply;

- 60 days or more prior to departure, loss of deposit.
- Between 7 and 59 days prior to departure, 50% of tour price.
- Less than 7 days prior to departure, 100% of tour price.

**Refunds:** No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour after departure.

**Responsibilities:** Please label luggage clearly. Stuarts Travel advises that the service it provides is for the booking and packaging of goods and services provided by other operators such as hotels, motels, and transportation companies. Passengers are advised to familiarize themselves with the terms and conditions on which these services are supplied. Accordingly, Stuarts Travel will not be responsible and will be excluded from any liability for any loss, damage, omission or acts being negligent or otherwise, committed by the operators of airlines, coach lines, rail travel, hotels / motels or attractions used in connection with the tour.

Passengers rotate in the Coach, giving every one forward and window seating. Min. Noø do apply.

B ó Breakfast L ó Lunch D ó Dinner Insurance is recommended

**Payment to Stuarts Travel acknowledges that you have read, understand and accept these booking conditions.**