GREAT ALPINE ROAD
VICTORIA • AUSTRALIA

HIGH COUNTRY TO THE GIPPSLAND LAKES

You’ll love every piece of Victoria
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THE GREAT ALPINE ROAD

WANGARATTA TO BRIGHT
76km – 1 hour

BRIGHT TO OMEO
109km – 2 hours

OMEO TO BAIRNSDALE
121km – 2 hours

MELBOURNE TO WANGARATTA
239km – 2.5 hours

MELBOURNE TO BAIRNSDALE
283km – 3 hours

MELBOURNE – WANGARATTA – BAIRNSDALE – MELBOURNE
828km – 11 hours

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Tour the Great Alpine Road, a rich setting for lovers of nature and adventure and one of the most diverse combinations of scenery imaginable in the country. Discover stunning valleys, mountains, lakes and waterways as you drive Australia’s highest year ‘round sealed road as well as great local food and wine and historic towns.

EXPERIENCE THE ADVENTURE

The Great Alpine Road is Australia’s highest year ‘round accessible sealed road (at 1825m) linking Victoria’s High Country to the spectacular Gippsland Lakes and passing through the Alpine and Mount Buffalo National Parks.

Throughout your journey experience the adventure and history of the Great Alpine Road, including aboriginal culture, European settlement and gold fever, as well as the ski industry, the legends of the mountain cattlemen and some of Australia’s well known bushrangers including Ned Kelly.

Discover the sheer cliffs, wildflowers and granite tors of Mount Buffalo National Park, and 10 of the state’s 11 highest peaks in the Alpine National Park.

The Great Alpine Road promises you an adventure all year ‘round. Summer promises balmy days for fishing, mountain biking, boating, bush walking, kayaking or horse riding. In winter hit the slopes on downhill and cross country skis or enjoy snow play amongst the Snow Gums. Melting snow creates lush green landscapes in spring and in autumn the countryside comes to life with the reds and golds of the changing leaves.

Call in at the cellar doors and winery restaurants to taste local food and produce. Expect a warm welcome and a full range of accommodation options in historic towns, at ski resorts and in quiet bush settings along the way.

Take the time to explore the six discovery routes off the Great Alpine Road, clearly sign posted with the ‘Flying A’ that will lead you to gourmet destinations, gold history, lake and mountain experiences in nearby towns and villages.
WANGARATTA TO BRIGHT

The Great Alpine Road starts (or ends) at Wangaratta, an historic town known for its hospitality and popular annual jazz festival. Located at the junction of the Ovens and King Rivers, Wangaratta is a bustling commercial city of gardens, parkland and churches.

Famous for its world class wines, gourmet food, spectacular mountains, valleys, rivers and streams, historic links to Ned Kelly and Victoria’s pioneering gold rush, the region also heralds the beginning of the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. Discover fine wine and local produce in the valleys along the northern leg of the Great Alpine Road. The Ovens Valley is home to many wineries and farm gate producers. Gapsted, Michelini, Ringer Reef and Boyntons are just a few of the wineries in this section of the Great Alpine Road or call into one of the many local produce stops along the way.

Enjoy a pub meal with local wine at the Ovens Hotel before passing through Porepunkah, a pretty settlement located at the junction of the Ovens and Buckland rivers. The view along this stretch of the road is dominated by Mount Buffalo, located in the Mount Buffalo National Park.

Mount Buffalo National Park, one of Australia’s oldest national parks is a popular summer and winter destination. Walking trails take you past waterfalls, granite formations and lookouts with great views of the valleys and High Country. For the more adventurous, pitch a tent by Lake Catani, bike through bushland, and set out on a longer hike through alpine meadows, stands of eucalypt and rocky outcrops.

In addition to the wineries and local produce, the outdoors promises plenty of outdoor activities. Try your hand at fishing, canoeing, rafting, tandem microlighting, hang gliding or paragliding. There are numerous walking and cycling trails and the Ovens River is the perfect place to swim in the warmer months.

If you prefer to travel on two wheels, this section of the Great Alpine Road can also be cycled along the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail – a 100-kilometre trail that follows the Ovens Valley from Wangaratta to Bright through forests, past rivers and bushland, wineries and into towns along the Great Alpine Road.

This leg ends at Bright, a beautiful town on the Ovens River filled with deciduous trees, some more than 70 years old that are breathtaking through the autumn months.
MUST SEE & DO

- Walk or cycle along the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail from Wangaratta to Bright
- Chill out with cool tunes at the Wangaratta Festival of Jazz
- Discover amazing photography, pottery, weaving and woodwork in regional galleries
- Sample fine wine and local produce on the Gourmet Food and Wine Drive in Milawa and the King Valley
- Explore historic Beechworth on the Golden Heritage Drive

VALLEYS TO HIGH COUNTRY DISCOVERY DRIVES

Gourmet Food and Wine Drive
Wangaratta, Milawa Gourmet Region, King Valley, Gapstred, Myrtleford
130km on sealed roads
Minimum 2 hrs, plus stops
Take a trip along the Gourmet Food and Wine Drive from Wangaratta to the Milawa Gourmet Region and King Valley. Take the time to sample outstanding local produce including; cheese, mustard, bread, olives, berries, preserves and honey. At Milawa call in at the famed Brown Brothers cellar door, and sample great produce at the Milawa Cheese Factory. The King Valley is breathtakingly picturesque, set against the backdrop of the Victorian Alps.
- Call in to family run wineries and cellar doors throughout the King Valley at Whitfield, Cheshunt and Myrtleford
- Visit Power’s Lookout on the way to Mansfield and take in the same view that Australian bushranger, Harry Power enjoyed before his arrest
- Experience the hospitality of the regions’ award winning country hotels and fine dining restaurants

Golden Heritage Drive
Wangaratta, Tarrawinege, Beechworth, Worongee, Yackandandah
140km on sealed roads
Minimum 2 hrs, plus stops
Just off the Great Alpine Road, along the Golden Heritage Drive, is Beechworth – a village built on the wealth of the gold rush of the 1800s and home to the popular Beechworth Bakery. Nestled in the foothills of Stanley State Forest, the historic town of Yackandandah is home to many talented artists and artisans and is brimming with arts, crafts, antiques and specialty shops.
- Wander around Beechworth, the beautifully preserved goldfields town, with more than 30 National Trust classified buildings. Browse through speciality shops, art galleries and sample fine local fare at cafes
- Explore the Historic & Cultural Precinct including the Courthouse where bushranger Ned Kelly’s committal hearing took place
- Explore the tree-lined streets of Yackandandah with its stately Victorian architecture
BRIGHT TO OMEO

From the leafy avenues of Bright, the Great Alpine Road climbs out of the Ovens Valley into the Alpine High Country.

Before you set off from Bright, take the time to sample the array of local food and wine at the many cafes, bars and restaurants. A visit to Bright in Autumn and Spring promises a spectacular display of colour, best experienced on foot or for something different, hire a bike and cycle the rail trail. Bright is brimming with wonderful things to do and with a variety of accommodation is the perfect place to take a break on your tour of the Great Alpine Road.

From Bright the Great Alpine Road begins its ascent to the mountains and your High Country touring experience begins. Farm gates and cafes along the way offer a range of local produce from free range eggs, berries and jams to home made ice cream and cakes.

Harrietville is the last town before you leave the Ovens Valley to start your drive up the mountain. The Harrietville Museum recounts the history of the town, from the discovery of gold in 1852. There are numerous walking and bike trails in the surrounding area and the town is a great base if you are planning to walk the Feathertop and Bon Accord tracks.

The Alpine National Park is Victoria’s largest national park, and is a popular summer and winter destination. Take in the spectacular views from Danny’s Lookout to the summit of Mount Feathertop, the second-highest mountain in the state, the Bogong High Plains and Mount Buffalo.

Hotham is Victoria’s highest alpine village and a mecca for skiers and boarders of all ages and abilities in winter. In summer visitors can enjoy bushwalking, mountain biking and take in the uninterrupted views of the Victorian Alps. A range of accommodation is available on the mountain.

Just south of Mount Hotham is Dinner Plain, a small alpine village blending into the surrounding Snow Gums and environment. The accommodation reflects the stone, timber and iron of early cattlemen huts. Dinner Plain has plenty on offer all year round, including the Japanese inspired Onsen Retreat and Spa, places to eat out, bushwalking and bike riding along the numerous trails in the surrounding area.

The descent from Dinner Plain takes you into the Cobungra Valley and the historic town of Omeo.
MUST SEE & DO

> View the amazing colour palette on display in Bright and the surrounding region during Spring and Autumn
> Step back in time at Wandiligong and explore the town’s century-old general store, miners’ cottages and the amazing Wandi Maze
> Mountain bike or walk along bush trails in the summer months
> Explore the Great Alpine Discovery Drive through Mount Beauty, Bogong Village, Falls Creek, the magnificent Bogong High Plains and down to Anglers Rest and Omeo
> Experience the beauty and magnificent views of the Mount Buffalo National Park on the Mount Buffalo Drive from Porepunkah

HIGH COUNTRY DISCOVERY DRIVES

Mount Buffalo Drive
Porepunkah, Mount Buffalo, Porepunkah, Bright 54km on sealed roads.
Minimum 1.5 hrs, plus stops
The Mount Buffalo National Park is one of Australia’s oldest and boasts spectacular views of the surrounding High Country and the Alps.
• Get a birds eye view and go microlighting, paragliding or hang gliding from Porepunkah
• Experience Mount Buffalo on the many walking tracks leading to hidden waterfalls mountain lakes and majestic granite lookouts
• Take a guided walk, pitch a tent by Lake Catani or bike through bushland
• Enjoy a local wine and spectacular sunset from the Horn
• Try out rock climbing and abseiling with a licensed operator

Great Alpine Discovery Drive
Bright, Mount Beauty, Mount Bogong, Falls Creek, Bogong High Plains, Anglers Rest, Omeo. (Note, the Falls Creek – Anglers Rest section is closed during winter)
90km on sealed roads.
Minimum 2 hrs, plus stops
The Great Alpine Discovery Drive takes you through forests, past rivers and into Mount Beauty before ascending to Falls Creek and the Bogong High Plains. The Tawonga Gap is a great photo stop and looks out over the town of Mount Beauty in the Kiewa Valley below.
• Discover the of wide range of activities and local produce of Mount Beauty and the Kiewa Valley including fly-fishing, wineries, walking and cycling trails.
• Windsurf, canoe and fish on the highest bodies of water in Australia at Falls Creek
• Saddle up and ride the Bogong High Plains or visit rustic cattlemen’s huts around Falls Creek and Anglers Rest
• Go swimming, fishing or white-water rafting on the Kiewa, Mitta Mita, Cobungra or Bundarrah rivers
• Relive Omeo’s gold fever past at the Historic Justice Precinct
The Great Alpine Road leaves the grazing country and gold history of the Omeo district and makes its way to Bairnsdale and the Gippsland Lakes, Australia’s biggest and most beautiful expanse of inland waterways.

Gold was discovered around Omeo in the mid-1800s, attracting European and Chinese gold seekers, and became known as Australia’s most lawless goldfield. Settled in 1863, the main street is lined with heritage buildings, many of which have interpretive signage.

The Oriental Claims and Victoria Falls Historic areas are well worth a visit. In its day, the Oriental Claims was one of the largest gold-sluicing operations in the world. Today many of the mining remnants, caves and mining sites can be viewed along short walks around the Claims.

Ensay is the home of the Little River Inn and the Ensay Winery. The Little River Inn first started serving drinks in the early 1840’s and is thought to be the oldest hotel in the Omeo district.

Swifts Creek was originally settled by Europeans in the gold rushes of the mid 1800s, and has a history of grazing and timber milling. Drop into the local bakery which still houses the original 19th-century wood-fired oven and the Great Alpine Gallery featuring the work of local artists.

Bruthen is a rustic town overlooking the Tambo River. Wander the tree lined streets for local crafts and pottery or indulge yourself with cakes from the local bakery and old fashioned lollies from the local sweet shop. A stroll through Fairy Dell as you head towards Bairnsdale is a must do. Picnic and barbecue facilities are provided and the half-hour walk takes you through the Lilly Pilly rainforest to a lookout over the Tambo River flats.

Bairnsdale, now a rural city, was originally settled as an inland port for steam boats and traders, sits on the banks of the Mitchell River. The town’s heritage walk takes you past the Rotunda, St Mary’s Church, the interior of which was painted in the 1930s by Francesco Fioreani and the Courthouse, noted for the 19th century architecture. Travel on two wheels is also possible along the popular East Gippsland Rail Trail beginning in Bairnsdale and taking you through farmland and forest for 100km to Orbost on the Snowy River.

At Bairnsdale the Great Alpine Road ends and your exploration of the spectacular Gippsland Lakes begins.
LAKESS

MUST SEE & DO

> Walk or cycle along the East Gippsland Rail Trail from Bairnsdale
> Visit the Den of Nargun and Mitchell River National Park
> Tour the Bataluk Cultural Trail and discover history and artefacts of the Gunai/Kurnai people at the Krowathunkoolong Keeping Place
> Sample your way along the Wine and Gold drive through Omeo, Cassilis, Swifts Creek, calling in at wineries, bakeries and historic towns
> Explore the Gippsland Lakes Drive past heritage buildings, busy ports, lakes and the towns of Bruthen, Nowa Nowa, Lakes Entrance, Swan Reach, Bairnsdale, Paynesville and Metung

HIGH COUNTRY TO THE LAKES DISCOVERY DRIVES

Wine and Gold Drive
Omeo, Cassilis, Swifts Creek
27km on sealed roads.
Minimum 45 mins, plus stops

Get off the main road and explore the drive from Omeo to Swifts Creek via Cassilis, once a thriving mining community in the 1800’s. The Cassilis Historical Area including the cemetery and old goldmine are reminders of this once bustling town.

• Take a step back in time and visit the heritage listed buildings, historic Police Camp and Courts complex at Omeo
• Explore the historical Oriental Claims area near Omeo. Interpretive signage in the area will take you on a journey back to the miners life of 100 years ago
• Visit the Mount Markey Winery to sample berry and fruit wines, local mead and barrel fermented real ales
• Call into the Great Alpine Gallery, specialist book stores and unique shops of the region
• Experience the region’s historic past by 4WD, bike or on horseback

Gippsland Lakes Drive
Bruthen, Nowa Nowa, Lakes Entrance, Swan Reach, Bairnsdale, Paynesville
90km on sealed roads.
Minimum 2 hrs, plus stops

Fed by the waters of five major rivers and fringed by the Ninety Mile Beach the Gippsland Lakes system is Australia’s biggest expanse of inland waterways, with over 400 square kilometres of lakes, rivers and lagoons to experience. The Gippsland Lakes Drive is an 90 kilometre alternative route from Bruthen to Bairnsdale.

• Visit heritage buildings at Bruthen including the Old Post Office and St Matthews Church
• Take a boat ride to Raymond Island to see the large koala colony and nearby Rotamah Island, famous for its bird life
• Explore the trails of the Nowa Nowa Walk through wetlands, forests, an ancient gorge and past local sculptural works
• Hire a bike at Bairnsdale and ride the East Gippsland Rail Trail
• Explore the Lakes National Park, Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park and walk the Ninety Mile Beach
EXPLORE OUR NATIONAL PARKS

Mount Buffalo National Park
Mount Buffalo National Park was declared a national park in 1898 and is loved by bushwalkers, adventurers and birdwatchers alike. The park has a rugged beauty with spectacular views over valleys and vineyards, amazing opportunities for bird watching and wildlife spotting, snow play in winter and plenty of adventure pursuits during the rest of the year.

Mount Buffalo is famous for rock climbing, abseiling, hang gliding and caving, with local operators available to provide you with training and guidance. There is a network of easy walks, including a one hour walk around the top of the Gorge. Lake Catani is a great place to stop for a picnic in addition to canoeing, swimming and fishing. There are also designated camping areas for visitors.

Alpine National Park
The vast Alpine National Park has 10 of the state’s 11 highest mountains and is the high point of your Great Alpine Road journey. The park covers 646,000 hectares with Mount Bogong (Victoria’s highest mountain at 1986m), Mount Feathertop and the Bogong High Plains amongst its best known features.

The Great Alpine Road peaks at 1825m at Mount Hotham and has magnificent views with the alpine valleys and the High Country clearly visible on a fine day.

The park is home to rare fauna, including the mountain pygmy-possum, the world’s only exclusively alpine marsupial. There is also a rich botanical community ranging from alpine herb fields to snow gum woodlands with more than 1100 native plant species, 12 of which (including the Bogong daisy bush and silky daisy) are only found in the area.

Mount Hotham, Falls Creek and Dinner Plain are popular year-round destinations to base yourself when exploring the Alpine National Park.

SUMMER IN THE HIGH COUNTRY
Victoria’s alpine areas are all about adventure in summer and there are a range of activities to suit everyone from indulging yourself at a high country day spa to fishing, bushwalking, cycling and mountain biking.

Dinner Plain Alpine Village
Dinner Plain is situated 10kms from Mount Hotham Resort. Nestled amongst the Snow Gums, the architecture of this unique village is reminiscent of the cattlemen’s huts.

GREAT WALKS TO GREAT VIEWS
If you need to take a break and stretch your legs, there are a variety of trails to suit all levels of fitness in our National Parks.

Mount Buffalo National Park - The Gorge
Duration: 1 hour
Distance: 2.5 kilometres
Grade: Good track; flat grade; easy walk

Alpine National Park (Mount Hotham)
Mount Feathertop via the Razorback
Duration: Full day – at least 8 hours return
Distance: 22 kilometres
Grade: Rocky, rough track; steep grade
For more information call 131963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

Wallace’s Hut – Cope Hut
Duration: 3 hours
Distance: 6.7 kilometres
Grade: Good track; easy grade (summer and autumn)
Open all year ‘round, there is an extensive choice of accommodation, café’s, restaurants and bars. Relax by the fireside, explore the Alpine National Park or indulge yourself with a visit to the Onsen Retreat and Spa.

Mount Hotham Resort
A skier’s paradise in winter with more natural snowfalls than any other Victorian resort and a nature lovers playground in summer. The highest point on the Great Alpine Road, Mount Hotham provides commanding 360 degree views of the Victorian Alps. Summer is the time for bushwalking, cycling and mountain biking. Pick up a map for directions to the Silver Brumby Hut and Three Huts Walk.

Falls Creek Resort
The ski resort of Falls Creek is open all year ‘round and when the snow melts, there is an action packed calendar of events and activities available including bushwalking, cycling, boating and fishing in summer at Rocky Valley and Pretty Valley Lakes. The Bogong High Plains Road can be accessed from Falls Creek and takes visitors through another magnificent section of the Alpine National Park providing an opportunity to visit Cope and Wallace’s Hut.

MUST SEE & DO

ALPINE NATIONAL PARK – DINNER PLAIN, MOUNT HOTHAM AND FALLS CREEK

- Explore the variety of bush tracks and cross country ski trails on foot or on your bike. Guided tours are available
- Discover the high country cattlemen’s huts
- Relax and indulge yourself at a High Country Day Spa
- Walk the Razorback ridge to Mount Feathertop in the Alpine National Park
- Throw in a line at Rocky Valley Lake and Pretty Valley Dam at Falls Creek
- Drive or walk to the top of Mount McKay for 360 degree views of the alps
- Take a guided horseback trek on the Bogong High Plains from operators in Mount Beauty or Anglers Rest

MOUNT BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK – MOUNT BUFFALO

- Explore the network of walking tracks that lead to delightful waterfalls, great lookouts and amazing granite formations
- Take in the fantastic views of the Australian Alps
- Camp at Lake Catani and enjoy swimming or canoeing
- The adventurous can try hang gliding or rock climbing. Mount Buffalo is a top Australian venue for both
- Discover summer wildflowers, Snow Gums and a range of fauna, including wombats, wallabies, echidnas, lyrebirds and flame robins
If you prefer to travel on two wheels, the rail trails provide a different way of seeing the ever-changing countryside along the Great Alpine Road. Bike hire is available in towns along the way.

MURRAY TO THE MOUNTAINS RAIL TRAIL

Ride or walk along Australia’s premier rail trail. The Murray to Mountains Rail Trail is almost 100 kilometres of easy, sealed trail with gentle gradients. Following historic railway lines, many old station sites can still be seen along the way as the trail winds its way from Wangaratta to Bright.

Experience some of Australia’s most spectacular rural scenery from river gums to mountain ash on the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. North East Victoria’s four distinct seasons gives the trail a different feel every time you use it. Autumn colours blaze through the valleys giving way to winter snow on the ranges and spring blossoms beckon the way for warm summer days.

Sample the region’s superb food and wine along the way as the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail passes wineries and farm gates. Absorb living history as you pass by old tobacco kilns and witness the prosperity of the gold rush era or the haunting legend of Ned Kelly.


EAST GIPPSLAND RAIL TRAIL

Ride or walk the East Gippsland Rail Trail for a few relaxing hours, or a day, or even a long weekend to really explore this area. The East Gippsland Rail Trail is 100km of both sealed and unsealed surface. Starting in Bairnsdale and finishing in Orbost, the trail crosses several rivers and historic timber trestle bridges passing through rural landscapes, native forests and promises spectacular views of the Gippsland Lakes.

Marvel at the early hand built timber bridges spanning rivers and creeks. Enjoy the local fine foods. The rail trail brings you close to the wonderful range of birds and other animals, through farmlands and peaceful forests. Add Lakes Entrance to your visit or try the Lakes Discovery Trail, which is great for walks and mountain bike riding.

Visit www.eastgippslandrailtrail.com for more information.

Visit Railtrails Australia – www.railtrails.org.au for more information about railtrails around Australia.
There is always a reason to stop and stay on your tour of the Great Alpine Road, whether it's for the food and wine, the adventure activities or the festivals and events held all year 'round.

Discovering the towns and villages along the Great Alpine Road is all part of the adventure. Some are known for their gold mining heritage and beautifully preserved 19th century architecture while others have an Italian influence that's at the heart of our flourishing food and wine regions.

Around 38 towns and villages, each with its own special character and colour, are dotted along the 308km Great Alpine Road and its six touring routes offering a variety of accommodation and activities. Take some time out to explore…

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For great food and wine festivals and events, please refer to page 18.
**Wangaratta**

Located at the junction of the Ovens and King rivers, Wangaratta is a bustling regional city of beautiful gardens, parklands and historical sites. The Wangaratta Jazz Festival is held in November each year. Warby Range State Park, Milawa Gourmet region and the Rutherglen wine region (40 km north) are nearby for visitor enjoyment.

**Tarrivegee**

Tarrivegee features a number of historic buildings, including St Peters Church, the Plough Inn and the local Golf Course, a challenging nine hole course with narrow tree-lined fairways. Open to the public year-round.

**Everton**

An historic farming settlement, Everton has old style charm evident in its buildings including the school, church and pub. Everton is a convenient meeting point for those riding the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail or journeying along the Great Alpine Road.

**Myrtleford**

Hops and tobacco were grown on the rich alluvial flats of the Ovens and Buffalo Rivers around Myrtleford from the mid 1800s with timber, walnuts beef and grapes now sustaining the local economy. The town boasts a renowned ‘chef hat’ restaurant and excellent cafes with seasonal menus and local produce.

**Ovens**

The landmark hotel at Ovens was built in 1854 and has been a popular stopping point for travellers for almost 150 years. The surrounding area has a lavender farm, olive grove and wineries open to the public.

**Eurobin**

Home to many farm gate producers, including roses, berries, walnuts and chestnuts. The old Eurobin station offers cyclists and walkers a rest stop on the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail and impressive views of Mount Buffalo.

**Porepunkah**

Porepunkah is located at the junction of the Ovens and Buckland Rivers and is the nearest town to Mount Buffalo. There is a variety of accommodation in the town and nearby Buckland Valley, riverside picnic areas and local wineries including Mayford Wines, Ringer Reef and Boynton’s Feather Top Winery.

**Beechworth (Golden Heritage Drive)**

A beautifully preserved goldfields town characterised by wide shady streets and century-old public buildings in honey coloured granite. National Trust classified buildings recall the town’s boom years after the discovery of gold in 1952. The historic precinct which includes the famous Courthouse and Telegraph Station is a must see whilst visiting Beechworth.

**Yackandandah (Golden Heritage Drive)**

Yackandandah is a classic Australian country town, featuring wide verandahs, shady trees and heritage buildings. Brimming with unique arts, crafts and antiques, the town is home to many talented artists and artisans.

**King Valley (Gourmet Food & Wine Drive)**

Follow the Wangaratta to Whitfield road into the heart of this picturesque region renowned for its Italian heritage with a growing reputation for European varietals such as Sangiovese, Barbera and Nebbiolo. Powers Lookout offers stunning views over the Valley towards Mount Buffalo.

**Oxley/Milawa (Gourmet Food & Wine Drive)**

Brown Brother’s Vineyards are the star attraction of this traditional farming and grape growing area along with Milawa Mustards and the Milawa Cheese Factory complex. This is truly a gourmet region with a proliferation of excellent wineries, restaurants and farm gates to explore.

**High Country Touring – Bright to Omeo**

**Bright**

Bright’s magnificent sub-alpine setting and combination of good shopping, cafe life, dining and four very distinct seasons has made it one of Victoria’s favourite holiday destinations since the 1870s. Bright’s famous avenues of trees were planted in the 1930s and are at their best during spring and autumn. Several short to medium walks are available around the town.

**Freeburgh and Smoko**

This area is home to a range of diverse horticultural products. Here you’ll find a berry and nut farm plus orchards of apples, chestnuts, hazelnuts and walnuts. Big Shed Cafe at Smoko features seasonal home grown produce in their menu.

**Harrietville**

Harrietville is an historic gold mining town settled in 1852 and is an excellent base for walking and cycling activities. Enjoy country hospitality at pubs and cafes, visit the museum, and indulge in homemade ice-cream, locally made sauces and jams and lavender products.

**Mount Beauty (Great Alpine Discovery Drive)**

This picture postcard town sits at the foot of Victoria’s highest mountain (Mount Bogong 1986m). Mount Beauty is widely regarded as a mecca for nature and adventure lovers alike and offers a variety of activities on the trails, the water and in the air! There is also an abundance of local produce and wineries in the area.
Omeo
The history of this fascinating frontier town since the mid 1800s has been forged by European and Chinese gold seekers, mountain cattlemen and farming families. The town has an historical precinct with many heritage buildings and interpretive signage for visitors.

Swifts Creek
Originally settled in the mid 1800s, Swifts Creek has a history steeped in grazing and timber milling. Indulge in some local mead at the Mount Markey Winery in nearby Cassilis and explore the historic gold mining area.

Ensay
Ensay is on the junction of Little River and the Tambo River and home to the Little River Inn and the Ensay Winery. The Little River Inn still features the original rings on which past customers once tied-up their horses.

Bruthen
The rustic town of Bruthen looks over the Tambo River Flats and oozes country charm and historical character. Shady streets and several heritage buildings and bushwalks make for a pleasant stopping point.

Bairnsdale
Set on the banks of the Mitchell River, Bairnsdale was once home to steam boats and traders, and is now the major commercial centre servicing East Gippsland and the Gippsland Lakes. Stroll along the Heritage Walk to view the Rotunda, St. Mary’s Church and the Courthouse, noted for its 19th century architecture. The popular East Gippsland Rail Trail begins in Bairnsdale.

Nowa Nowa (Gippsland Lakes Drive)
Nestled at the lower end of the tranquil waters of Lake Tyers, this tiny timber town boasts three art galleries and some great walking tracks, including the popular walk that follows the water’s edge to the Boggy Creek Lookout.

Lakes Entrance (Gippsland Lakes Drive)
The undisputed ‘capital’ of the Gippsland Lakes and a premier holiday spot. The expanse of the Ninety Mile Beach and a myriad of waterways and islands that make up the Lakes National Park and Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park are only a hire boat away for visitors.

Metung (Gippsland Lakes Drive)
Almost completely surrounded by water, the waterfront village of Metung is a centre for sailing and boat charters. The many waterside accommodation options make the town an ideal base to explore the Gippsland Lakes or to just gaze at the passing parade of water craft from the village green, cafes or restaurants.

Paynesville (Gippsland Lakes Drive)
Paynesville is surrounded by the Gippsland Lakes system and dates from the days when steamships plied the waters. Just offshore, the tranquillity of Raymond Island is a nature lover’s paradise and home to a large koala colony. Fishing and water sports are a major pastime.
Take some time out from your travels to taste the flavours of the Great Alpine Road. Discovering the stunning wines and amazing local produce is all part of your touring adventure.

Choose from a wide range of award-winning country bakeries, wineries, gourmet food producers, eateries, fresh produce and fine food outlets. Sample local cheeses, mustards, berries and olives and call in at cellar doors to sample a diverse range of wines along the way.

The regions along the Great Alpine Road are home to an amazing variety of wines and an abundance of local produce… take the time to experience it for yourself.

MUST SEE & DO

> Call in at farm gates to meet the people who grow and make local produce – olives and oils, meats, game, fresh fruits and berries, berry wines and meade, nuts, honey, jams, sauces and preserves. (The list really is endless!)

> Navigate your way around a variety of eateries serving up fresh seafood on the Gippsland Lakes

> Discover Mediterranean influenced and cool climate wines and meet the people behind the labels

> Explore the Breweries along the way with guided tours, dining opportunities and tastings with hands-on craft brewers. You can even try your hand at being a brewer for a day

> Call into local produce stores for local delicacies, award winning olive oils and local wines

> Spoil your taste buds with a delicious seasonal menu at one of the many award winning restaurants or cafes

> Take a food and winery cruise stopping at Paynesville, Metung and Lakes Entrance

> “Pedal to Produce” with a basket and fantastic regional offers for an array of local produce from the Valleys to the High Country

EVENTS & MARKETS – Tempt Your Tastebuds

**VALLEYS TO THE HIGH COUNTRY – Wangaratta to Bright**

- Beechworth Oktoberfest (October)  www.beechworthonline.com.au
- La Dolce Vita (November)  www.visitwangeratta.com.au

**HIGH COUNTRY TOURING – Bright to Omeo**

- Alpine Valleys Gourmet Weekend (January)  www.visitalpinevictoria.com.au
- Taste of Falls Creek Festival (January)  www.fallscreek.com.au
- Mountain Fresh Festival (July)  www.mountainfreshfestival.com.au

**HIGH COUNTRY TO THE OCEAN – Omeo to Bairnsdale**

- Feast on East Festival (March)  www.discovereastgippsland.com.au
- Omeo Region Local Produce Market (monthly April-Sept)  www.omeoregion.com.au
- East Gippsland Farmers Market (Bairnsdale)  www.discovereastgippsland.com.au

For more information, call in to any Visitor Information Centre along the Great Alpine Road.
Hedonistic Hiking offers high quality, fully-inclusive guided walking holidays in the Alpine High Country. Plus, new for 2008/09 is an exclusive range of luxury three night packages in the Alpine Valleys of Northeast Victoria. Experience the natural beauty, fascinating history and the gourmet traditions of each area. Luxurious boutique accommodation, award winning restaurants and magnificent local wines.

Address: PO Box 200, Porepunkah 3740
Tel: (03) 5755 2307  Fax: (03) 8625 0038
Email: info@hedonistichiking.com.au
Web: www.hedonistichiking.com.au
Contact: Jackie

The prettiest park in Bright. Luxury and budget cabins, powered sites, tennis court, swimming pool, spa, wireless access, children’s playground, camp kitchen and BBQs. All located in peaceful, shady grounds. Close to all NE ski centres. Go walking, fishing, golfing, bike riding, enjoy gourmet food and wines or simply lay back and relax.

Address: 7-15 Churchill Avenue, Bright 3741
Tel: (03) 5755 1010  Fax: (03) 5750 1720
Email: bookings@pinevall.com.au
Web: www.pinevall.com.au
Contact: David Kennedy
Valleys to High Country – BRIGHT

HIGHLAND VALLEY HOLIDAY UNITS

Enjoy colonial style units with verandahs in shady gardens or the luxury of our spacious spa and woodfire units with total privacy. Multi Alpine Award winning accommodation for two to eight guests. Ten minutes stroll from Bright’s restaurants and shops on the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. King beds, A/C, pool, bikes, DVD library and toboggans for your comfort and enjoyment.

Address: 14 Gavan Street (Great Alpine Road), Bright 3741
Tel: (03) 5755 1631
Email: info@highlandvalley.com.au
Web: www.highlandvalley.com.au
Contact: Sue and Arno van Winden

Valleys to High Country – POREPUNKAH

POREPUNKAH PINES TOURIST RESORT

The Porepunkah Pine Tourist park is a beautiful award winning park, situated on the Ovens river at the foot of Mount Buffalo. This uniquely attractive Park has something to appeal to all tourists. Perhaps a leisurely stroll over our swing bridge along the bush walking track to the golf course or along the river into historic Porepunkah, fish or relax by the serene Ovens River while the children play in safety.

Address: 7063 Great Alpine Road, Porepunkah 3741
Tel: 1800 621 529
Email: info@porepunkahresort.com.au
Web: www.porepunkahresort.com.au
Contact: Lynette

Valleys to High Country – BUCKLAND VALLEY/BRIGHT

THE BUCKLAND AND ABALINA LUXURY CONTEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION ★★★★★

Choose from a luxury retreat for couples at the award-winning studios at The Buckland (12 km from Bright) overlooking spectacular Mount Buffalo or for couples and families at the two, recently-built, luxury 3 bedroom abalina cottages, 660m to Bright CBD. Check availability and book on-line.

The Buckland
Tel: (03) 5756 2383
Email: stay@thebuckland.com.au
Web: www.thebuckland.com.au
Contact: Sabine

abalina cottages
Tel: (03) 5755 1559
Email: stay@abalinacottages.com.au
Web: www.abalinacottages.com.au
Contact: Lesley

Valleys to High Country – MILAWA

LINDENWARRAH COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL

Lindenwarrah Country House Hotel at Milawa is a unique blend of Australian country-style hospitality and international sophistication. The 40 individually appointed guest rooms are complemented by stylish lounges, sun filled courtyards, soothing fountains, a vast rooftop terrace, fragrant gardens and an invigorating pool. Showcasing gourmet local produce and premium regional wines, Restaurant Merlot at Lindenwarrah overlooks the estate vineyard.

Address: Milawa-Robinawarrah Rd, Milawa 3678
Tel: (03) 5720 5777 Fax: (03) 5720 5700
Email: stay@lindenwarrah.com.au
Web: www.lindenwarrah.com.au

Valleys to High Country – DINNER PLAIN

ACCOMMODATION SERVICES OF DINNER PLAIN

Located in the unique alpine village of Dinner Plain, Accommodation Services of Dinner Plain has fully self contained apartments and chalets to suit all standards and budgets. Many with open fires and spa baths. Let us help you have the holiday of a lifetime.

Address: Big Muster Drive, Dinner Plain 3898
Tel: (03) 5159 6696 Fax: (03) 5159 6690
Email: info@accommdinnerplain.com.au
Web: www.accommdinnerplain.com.au
Contact: Fiona

High Country Touring BRIGHT TO OMEO

DISCOVERY DRIVES:

Mount Buffalo Drive
Porepunkah, Mount Buffalo, Porepunkah

Great Alpine Discovery Drive
Bright, Mount Beauty, Bogong, Falls Creek, Bogong High Plains, Anglers Rest, Omeo

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES:

Bright 1800 111 885
Dinner Plain 1300 734 365
Mount Beauty 03 5754 1962
ONSEN RETREAT AND SPA

In Dinner Plain, Onsen Retreat and Spa presents a distinctively Australian interpretation of the Japanese Onsen experience. Offering relaxing and therapeutic body and skin treatments, memberships and the simple experience of the “soak”. Facilities include five treatment rooms including one couple’s suite, indoor 15 metre lap pool, signature outdoor Onsen pool (40°C), gymnasium, change areas with saunas and spas and conference area seating 40 guests. Open year round.

Address: Big Muster Drive, Dinner Plain 3898
Tel: (03) 5150 8880 Fax: (03) 5150 8811
Email: info@onsen.com.au
Web: www.onsen.com.au
Contact: Alison McEwan

BIRCHES LUXURY SPA CHALETs HIGH COUNTRY RETREAT


Address: Top of Ranch Rd, Mount Beauty 3699
Tel: (03) 5754 1524
Email: relax@luxuryspachalets.com.au
Web: www.luxuryspachalets.com.au
Contact: Kent

BOGONG ALPINE VILLAGE

25 self contained cottages with AAA rating from 3 through to 4 star; Our 2, 3 or 4 bedroom cottages sleep from 2 to 8 people. The Alpine Village Belle Café, Bar and shop is situated in the heart of the village with a great view of the picturesque Lake Guy from the deck. Canoe hire, tennis courts, swimming, fishing, BBQs and picnic grounds within the village. A short drive uphill will take you to Falls Creek and the Bogong High Plains where you can enjoy skiing in winter and lots of bush walks in spring, summer and autumn.

Address: 27 Main Street, Bogong 3699
Tel: (03) 5754 1131 Fax: (03) 5754 1131
Email: manager@bogongvillage.com
Web: www.bogongvillage.com
Contact: Helle

CHESTNUT TREE HOLIDAY UNITS

• All units north facing with carports, verandas and great views.
• Kitchen with dishwasher, microwave & full stove.
• Lounge with new flat screen digital TV, Austar (extra channels), DVD, Video and remote TV in main bedroom.
• Queen size, king size and single beds.
• 7 units with spa.
• Tennis courts, swimming pool & outdoor heated spa, golf chipping green & playground.
• Large covered BBQ area with tables & chairs.
• Wireless Internet.
• 3 acres of landscape gardens.

Address: 154-158 Delany Avenue, Bright
Tel: 1800 682 100 Mob: 0412 342 684
Email: info@chestnuttree.com.au
Web: www.chestnuttree.com.au
Contact: John & Nola Williams

DINNER PLAIN CENTRAL RESERVATIONS

Dinner Plain is the place where the family can be together by the fireside or miles apart exploring the cross-country trail network. Where you stroll the treelined streets simply for the sights or to meet friends for a restaurant dinner or drinks at the bar. The village itself helps set the community atmosphere, natural building materials and earthy tones blur the line between man made and alpine environment. Over 200 lodges and chalets with all the conveniences of a modern resort.

Address: Big Muster Drive, Dinner Plain 3898
Tel: 1800 670 019 Fax: (03) 5159 6515
Email: info@dinnerplain.com
Web: www.dinnerplain.com
Contact: Monique

FALLS CREEK ALPINE RESORT

Escape the heat this summer at Falls Creek, take in the spectacular views across the Bogong High Plains and Kiewa Valley and explore the stunning alpine wildflowers. Try out mountain biking, horseriding or hike out to historic cattleman’s huts. Take a scenic chair ride or experience the lakes while fishing or boating. Join us for one of our many events. Relax at the Taste of Falls Creek or get a team together for the Dragon Boat Championships.

Address: Bogong High Plains Road, Falls Creek
Tel: (03) 5758 3224 Fax: (03) 5758 3415
Email: fcr@falls creek.com.au
Web: www.falls creek.com.au
Contact: Amy

High Country Touring – MOUNT BEAUTY

High Country Touring – BRIGHT

High Country Touring – DINNERS PLAIN

High Country Touring – BRIGTH

High Country Touring – BOGONG

High Country Touring – FALLS CREEK
GREAT ALPINE ROAD

OMEO TO BAIRNSDALE

DISCOVERY DRIVES:
Wine and Gold Drive
Omeo, Cassilis, Swifts Creek
Gippsland Lakes Drive
Bruthen, Nowa Nowa, Lakes Entrance, Metung, Swan Reach, Bairnsdale, Paynesville

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES:
Omeo 03 5159 1679
Nowa Nowa 03 5155 7247
Lakes Entrance 1800 637 060
Metung 03 5156 2969
Bairnsdale 1800 637 060

STRINGYBARK COTTAGES
high country to the Lakes – SARSFIELD
Experience that little piece of paradise, tranquil and delightfully different.
Eco friendly, Multi Award winning one and two bedroom luxury cottages, amongst native and exotic gardens.
Fully self contained, private verandahs, BBQ and scrumptious breakfast hamper.
Rural views, just off the Great Alpine Road, 19 km north of Bairnsdale.
Address: 77 Howards Road, Sarsfield 3875
Tel: (03) 5157 5245  Fax: (03) 5157 5639
Email: neil@stringybarkcottages.com
Web: www.stringybarkcottages.com
Contact: Neil & Lois Triggs

SVARMISK
high country Touring – MOUNT BEAUTY
Experience the ‘discovery drive’ - plan your stop at luxurious Svarmisk. Situated hillside, overlooking the Kiewa Valley, Svarmisk offers stunning architecture and award winning design. Contemporary spaces suitable to couples and families, big kitchens, all the mod cons and a balcony hot tub with endless mountain views. A perfect base for guests seeking the ultimate in comfort and adventure.
Address: 84 Bogong High Plains Road, Mount Beauty 3699
Tel: (03) 5754 4544  Fax: (03) 5754 4066
Email: info@svarmisk.com.au
Web: www.svarmisk.com.au
Contact: Lena

RUNDELLS ALPINE LODGE
high country Touring – DINNER PLAIN
Travel along The Great Alpine Road and discover Victoria’s spectacular High Country and the unique architecture of Dinner Plain village. Enjoy fresh mountain air, endless mountain views and experience alpine luxury at Rundells 4 star Lodge located in the heart of Dinner Plain. Bed & Breakfast from $98 per person twin share. Dinner, Bed & Breakfast from $149 per person twin share. High Tea every Sunday at 11 am & 1 pm from $38 per person. Bookings essential.
Address: Big Muster Drive, Dinner Plain 3898
Tel: (03) 5159 6422  Fax: (03) 5159 6500
Email: info@rundells.com.au
Web: www.rundells.com.au
Contact: Fiona

Chestnut Hill Country Retreat

CHESNUT HILL COUNTRY RETREAT
high country to the Lakes – SWAN REACH
‘Where Simple Tasks are Accomplished to Perfection’
We invite you to experience our 4.5 star Award Winning Country Retreat. Tranquil, Stylish privacy. Designed exclusively for adults. Situated at the gateway to Metung, positioned high on our own hill overlooking the Tambo River.
Address: Metung Road, Swan Reach
Tel: (03) 5156 4146
Email: guests@chestnuthill.com.au
Web: www.chestnuthill.com.au
Contact: Pearl and Malcolm Findlay

NICHOLSON RIVER WINERY
high country to the Lakes – SARSFIELD
Between Bruthen and Bairnsdale at Sarsfield is the signpost to the Nicholson River Winery cellar door, famous for its richly flavoured Chardonnays, Shiraz and Pinot Noirs. Enjoy a picnic overlooking the Nicholson River with a glass of regional wine. Open 7 days, 10am - 4pm. Advisable to phone ahead outside holiday times.
Address: 57 Liddells Road, Nicholson 3882
Tel: (03) 5156 8241  Fax: (03) 5156 8433
Email: nichowine@wideband.net.au
Web: www.nicholsonriverwinery.com.au
Contact: Ken and Juliet Eckersley

STRINGYBARK COTTAGES
high country to the Lakes – SARSFIELD
Experience that little piece of paradise, tranquil and delightfully different. Eco friendly, Multi Award winning one and two bedroom luxury cottages, amongst native and exotic gardens. Fully self contained, private verandahs, BBQ and scrumptious breakfast hamper. Rural views, just off the Great Alpine Road, 19 km north of Bairnsdale.
Address: 77 Howards Road, Sarsfield 3875
Tel: (03) 5157 5245  Fax: (03) 5157 5639
Email: neil@stringybarkcottages.com
Web: www.stringybarkcottages.com
Contact: Neil & Lois Triggs
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The Sydney to Melbourne Touring Route encompasses three distinctive touring routes between Australia's two largest cities. The routes traverse diverse terrain and take you into welcoming cities, towns and villages. Discover the history along the Sydney-Melbourne Heritage Drive, the adventure of the Great Alpine Road and the beauty of the beaches along the Sydney-Melbourne Coastal Drive.

Visit sydneymelbournetouring.com.au to discover more.
VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES

Bairnsdale
Main Street,
Bairnsdale
Freecall: 1800 637 060

Beechworth
Old Shire Hall Ford Street,
Beechworth
Freecall: 1300 366 321

Bright
Gavan Street,
Bright
Freecall: 1800 111 885

Dinner Plain
Big Muster Drive,
Dinner Plain
Freecall: 1300 734 365

Lakes Entrance
Cnr Marine Pde & The Esplanade,
Lakes Entrance
Freecall: 1800 637 060

Metung
Metung Rd,
Metung
Tel: 03 5156 2969

Mount Beauty
Bogong High Plains Road,
Mount Beauty
Tel: 03 5754 1962

Myrtleford
Great Alpine Road,
Myrtleford
Freecall: 03 5752 1044

Nowa Nowa
Princes Hwy,
Nowa Nowa
Tel: 03 5155 7247

Omeo
Day Avenue,
Omeo
Tel: 03 5159 1679

Wangaratta
Murphy Street,
Wangaratta
Freecall: 1800 801 065

Yackandandah
High Street,
Yackandandah
Tel: 02 6027 1988

www.greatalpineroad.info
Freecall: 1800 801 065