Fun things to do around Melbourne

SUMMER EDITION

BY MELBOURNE WITH SIRI



MWS

SUMMER CALENDAR

21 NOV-24 DEC
CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
📍 Adventure Park Geelong, Wallington

25 NOV-16 DEC
CHRISTMAST NIGHT MARKET
📍 Queen Victoria Market
FREE

25 NOV-25 DEC
MELBOURNE'S CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND
📍 Caulfield Racecourse

26 NOV-31 DEC
CHRISTMAS AT DISTRICT DOCKLANDS
📍 District Docklands
FREE

27 NOV
GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET
📍 Deutsche Shule, Fitzroy North

27 NOV-13 DEC
ELF THE MUSICAL
📍 Crown Live Theatre

27 NOV-20 DEC
THE LUCKY DOOR: MERRY KIDSMAS
📍 Viva, North Melbourne

FROM 28 NOV
BARBIE: THE EXHIBITION
📍 Melbourne Museum

28 NOV-13 DEC
THE CHRISTMAS VILLAGE 2026
📍 Lara

28 NOV
THE GREATEST CHRISTMAS SHOW
📍 Bunjil Place, Narre Warren

5 DEC
SORRENTO CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL
📍 Sorrento Foreshore
FREE

5 DEC
BUNJIL PLACE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
📍 Narre Warren

TBA
SANTA ON THE EDGE
📍 Melbourne Skydeck, CBD

6 DEC
FAMILY CHRISTMAS WITH THE MSO
📍 Bunjil Place, Narre Warren

5 - 20 DEC
SANTA SPECIAL TRAINS
📍 Mornington Tourist Railway

5 - 20 DEC
THE POLAR EXPRESS™
📍 Bellarine Railway, Queenscliff

9 + 10 DEC
DINOCEMBER LITTLE KIDS DAY
📍 Scienceworks, Spotswood

9 + 10 DEC
AUSPOST SANTA MAIL
📍 Southern Cross Lane Mall
FREE

MWS

SUMMER CALENDAR

10 DEC
ELVES & FAIRIES CHRISTMAS PICNIC
📍 Wilson Botanic Park, Berwick

NOV+ DEC
CHRISTMAS WORKSHOPS
📍 Como House, South Yarra

11 - 23 DEC
SANTA TRAM
📍 Central Deborah Gold Mine, Bendigo

11 - 24 DEC
MELBOURNE CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL
📍 Birrarung Marr
FREE

12 DEC-11 APR
MOANA'S WAYFINDING ADVENTURE
📍 Melbourne Zoo
FREE WITH ENTRY

12 DEC
ENDLESS SUMMER LIVE
📍 Morris Moor, Moorabbin

12 DEC
KOORIE KRISTMAS
📍 Fed Square
FREE

13 DEC
FAMILY FESTIVE FUN DAY
📍 Como House, South Yarra

19 - 25 DEC
OUTDOOR CINEMA: CHRISTMAS
📍 Fed Square
FREE

12 DEC
PAKENHAM CUP
📍 Pakenham Raceourse

19 - 23 DEC
MR. FANTASTICO'S CHRISTMAS ROOFTOP CARNIVAL
📍 Spiegel Haus

30 DEC-6 JAN
DINOSAUR WORLD LIVE
📍 Comedy Theatre, CBD + The Round, Nunawading

2,8,9,15,16+22 JAN
SUMMER CARNIVAL
📍 Southside Racing

9 - 17 JAN
ERTH'S DINOSAURS
📍 Arts Centre Melbourne

13 - 16 JAN
THE VERY CRANKY BEAR
📍 Arts Centre Melbourne

18 - 24 JAN
BEES BY POLYGOT
📍 Arts Centre Melbourne
FREE

5 - 7 FEB
ELWOOD CARNIVAL
📍 Point Ormond Park, Elwood
FREE

4 - 8 MAR
MOOMBA FESTIVAL
📍 CBD
FREE

MWS

21 NOV - 24 DEC

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



One of Victoria's BIGGEST Christmas events is back! Adventure Park's Christmas Festival of Lights features 3.3 MILLION lights across more than 1,000 illuminated displays, giant light tunnels, glowing animals and a brand-new Santa's Village with singing reindeer, dancing polar bears and gingerbread houses.

There's heaps more to enjoy, including unlimited rides on 9 attractions, the NEW 20m Drop Zone, mini golf after dark, Christmas crafts, letters to Santa, visits with Santa and Mrs Claus, and live entertainment on selected nights.



📍 Adventure Park, 1249 Bellarine Highway, Wallington
📅 21 November - 24 December, selected nights
⏰ 6pm - 10pm
🎟️ From $44.50 off-peak | $49.50 peak
👶 Kids under 90cm FREE
🎡 Unlimited rides + Christmas activities included
📸 Professional Santa photos cost extra
💦 Waterpark closed during the event

INFO & BOOKINGS



28 NOV - 12 DEC

CHRISTMAS AT BUNJIL PLACE





Christmas is coming to Bunjil Place with a whole line-up of festive experiences for families! From spectacular live shows featuring aerialists, dancers and incredible illusions to Christmas carols performed by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, there's something for all ages.

Families can also help Deliver Joy by bringing a gift or non-perishable food item to place under the Christmas tree.

🎪 28 Nov: The Greatest Christmas Show, 3.30pm & 7.15pm (ticketed)
🎄 5 Dec: FREE Christmas Celebration, 4pm - 8.30pm
🎻 6 Dec: Family Christmas with the MSO, 2pm (Kids under 18 FREE | Adults $25 | Concessions $20)
🎬 12 Dec: FREE outdoor screening of Get Santa

📍 Bunjil Place, Narre Warren
🎟️ FREE + ticketed events

INFO & BOOKINGS



NOV - JAN

CHERRY PICKING AT CHERRYHILL





Summer means CHERRIES, and there's nothing quite like picking your own straight from the tree! CherryHill Orchards has two beautiful locations in the Yarra Valley, where families can wander through rows of cherry trees, fill their buckets and enjoy delicious, freshly picked cherries.

At Coldstream, a shuttle bus takes you to the best picking spots of the day. Afterwards, enjoy cherry ice cream, browse the cherry-themed shop, bring a picnic and let the kids enjoy the giant lawn games and classic CherryHill tractor. Make sure you book ahead, as picking sessions have limited capacity!

📍 CherryHill Orchards, Coldstream + Wandin East
🍒 Pick and eat cherries straight from the tree
⏰ Up to 2 hours of cherry picking
🧺 Picnic areas, lawn games + cherry treats
🎟️ Ticketed entry | Take-home cherries priced per kg
📅 Bookings essential

INFO & BOOKINGS



12 DEC

100TH PAKENHAM CUP

The Pakenham Cup is turning 100, and Southside Racing is celebrating with a HUGE family day out! Alongside the excitement of live horse racing, there's heaps of entertainment for kids, including a mini Ferris wheel, dodgem cars, an inflatable disco dome, pony rides, face painting and live entertainment from Music Trip Party Time. Santa will even be making a special appearance!

📍 Southside Racing, Pakenham
📅 12 December
⏰ From 11am
🎟️ Kids 17 & under FREE
🎫 Adults $25 early bird until 1 December, then $35
🎡 Carnival rides, pony rides + kids' entertainment
🎅 Meet Santa

INFO & BOOKINGS







12 DEC

MOANA'S WAYFINDING ADVENTURE AT MELBOURNE ZOO



The ocean is calling! Disney's Moana has arrived at Melbourne Zoo with Moana's Wayfinding Adventure, a NEW immersive experience taking little explorers on an exciting journey across land and sea.

📍 Melbourne Zoo, Elliott Avenue, Parkville
📅 Now until 11 April
🎟️ Included FREE with general zoo entry
👧 Kids under 16 FREE on weekends, Victorian public holidays and school holidays
👶 Kids aged 3 & under FREE every day

🗺️ Explore at your own pace
💡 Collect your wayfinder booklet on Main Drive, outside Forest of Wonder

🦁 Zoos Victoria memberships from $12.42 per month over 12 months, with unlimited entry to all FOUR zoos and kids joining FREE on adult memberships!

INFO & BOOKINGS





2 - 22 JAN

SOUTHSIDE RACING'S SUMMER CARNIVAL



Southside Racing's Summer Carnival is BACK with SIX family events across Cranbourne and Pakenham this January! Enjoy FREE waterparks, outdoor movie nights, kids' activities and the excitement of live horse racing, with Saturday Night Fever at Cranbourne and Kid-tastic Fridays at Pakenham.

💦 2 Jan: Waterpark, Cranbourne
💦 8 Jan: Waterpark, Pakenham
🎬 9 Jan: Movie night, Cranbourne
🎬 15 Jan: Movie night, Pakenham
🎨 16 Jan: Kids' activities, Cranbourne
🎬 22 Jan: Movie night + kids' activities, Pakenham



📍 Southside Racing, Cranbourne + Pakenham
📅 2 - 22 January, selected dates
🎟️ Kids 17 & under FREE | Adults $15
✨ All family entertainment included with entry

INFO & BOOKINGS



9 - 17 JANUARY

ERTH'S DINOSAURS





Get ready to come face-to-face with LIFE-SIZED dinosaurs at Arts Centre Melbourne this summer! Erth's Dinosaurs brings the prehistoric world to life through incredible puppetry, storytelling and science, featuring everything from adorable baby dinosaurs and a cheeky toddler T. rex to Australia's fearsome Australovenator.

Watch dinosaurs walk, roar and interact while discovering how these incredible creatures lived millions of years ago. For an extra special experience, upgrade to VIP tickets for premium seating, an exclusive dinosaur meet & greet and photo opportunities after the show. You can even pre-order a kids lunchbox for $15!

📍 Arts Centre Melbourne, Fairfax Studio
📅 9 - 17 January
🎟️ Tickets from $36 | Family of 4 from $129.60
🦖 VIP Meet & Greet from $45
👧 Recommended for ages 5+
⏰ 55-minute performance
🤟 Auslan interpreted performance: 15 Jan 10:30am

INFO & BOOKINGS



15 - 27 JAN

CIRQUE NOUVELLE





Cirque Nouvelle brings a whole new evolution of circus to Victoria this summer! Combining traditional Big Top entertainment with contemporary theatrical staging, spectacular aerial acts, acrobatics, balancing and juggling, this family show follows a ringmaster as he learns to embrace change.

🎪 15 Jan: Moonee Ponds
🎪 16 Jan: Geelong
🎪 17 Jan: Ballarat
🎪 18 Jan: Wonthaggi
🎪 19 Jan: Frankston
🎪 20 Jan: South Morang
🎪 21 Jan: Nunawading
🎪 22 Jan: Dandenong
🎪 25 Jan: Shepparton
🎪 27 Jan: Wangaratta

⏰ 6pm | 75-minute performance, no interval
👧 Recommended for ages 3+
🎟️ Adults $65 | Kids $45 | Concession $60 | Family of 4 $199 (prices may vary by venue)
👶 Under 24 months FREE on a carer's lap
⚠️ Contains smoke, haze and flashing lights

INFO & BOOKINGS



ONLY $99/FAM

MELBOURNE MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP



If there's one family membership I recommend getting, it's a Museums Victoria Membership! It also makes a fantastic Christmas gift for families who prefer experiences over toys.

Explore Pauline Gandel Children's Gallery, Dinosaur Walk, Forest Gallery, Our Wondrous Planet and the newly opened Barbie exhibition. Plus, your membership includes unlimited general admission to Scienceworks and the Immigration Museum, making it a great option for rainy days, hot summer afternoons and school holiday adventures.



🎟️ Household membership: $99 per year (up to 2 adults + 6 children)
👤 Adult: $59 | Concession: $39
🏛️ Unlimited general entry to all 3 museums
🚗 $15 all-day parking at Melbourne Museum
🛍️ 10% off museum shops and cafés
✨ Discounts on special exhibitions, experiences and events
🎁 Gift memberships available

INFO & JOIN



NOW AVAILABLE!

DROP. IN. SHOP. AT CHADSTONE'S IMAGINATIONATION





Need a few hours to yourself this summer? Imaginationation at Chadstone has launched Drop IN Shop, a NEW supervised play experience where parents can drop off their kids while enjoying some child-free time! The experience includes a secure check-in and collection process with matching wristbands, photo ID and a secret pick-up codeword.

📍 Imaginationation, EX002 / 1341 Dandenong Road, Chadstone
📅 Term 4: 27 November - 17 December, selected weekdays
☀️ Summer holidays: 21 December - 27 January
👧 Suitable for ages 4–8
🎟️ 2 hours: $60 per child
🎟️ 4 hours: $100 per child (school holidays)
🥪 Snacks included, plus lunch with 4-hour sessions
👫 10% OFF when booking 2+ children, including friends
🅿️ Park at Parking E or the Fresh Food car park
💡 Bookings essential. Public holiday pricing and availability may vary.

INFO & BOOKINGS





FREE (CBD) CHRISTMAS FUN

MYER CHRISTMAS WINDOWS
until Jan 5

TOY STORY CHRISTMAS PLAYLAND & SANTALAND AT MYER
until Dec 24 (Basement + Level 7)

CROWN CHRISTMAS RIVER SHOW
4 - 25 Dec

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS TRAIL
until 25 Dec

CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL
11 - 24 Dec

FED SQUARE OUTDOOR CINEMA
19 - 25 Dec from 5pm

CHRISTMAS NIGHT MARKET AT QUEEN VIC MARKET
Wednesdays 5-10pm 25 Nov to 16 Dec

PLUS...
YULTIDE ON THE YARRA
4 - 6 Dec from 6-10pm
Queensbridge Square, Southbank

To celebrate the upcoming HBO Original Harry Potter series, Yuletide on the Yarra is transforming Melbourne's Southbank into a Hogwarts-inspired Christmas wonderland.

🪄 A Hogwarts-inspired festive Christmas display

🕯️ A spectacular FLOATING CANDLE TREE inspired by the wizarding world!

📸 Christmas photo opportunities

🎶 A live Christmas choir on opening night, Friday 4 December!

MWS

CHRISTMAS MARKETS

WED — 25 NOV - 16 DEC
QUEEN VIC CHRISTMAS NIGHT MARKET
📍 Queen Victoria Market, Melbourne CBD

TUE THU SAT SUN — NOV 19 - DEC 17
SWEDISH CHRISTMAS MARKET
📍 Swedish Church, Toorak

SAT — 29 NOV
ELTHAM ARTISAN CHRISTMAS MARKET
📍 Eltham Town Square

FRI SAT SUN — 4 - 6 DEC
THE BIG DESIGN MARKET
📍 Royal Exhibition Building

FRI — 4 DEC
WATERWHEEL CHRISTMAS MARKET
📍 Warburton Waterwheel

SAT — 5 DEC
TWILIGHT XMAS MARKET
📍 Greensborough Walk

SAT — 6 DEC
COMO CHRISTMAS MARKET
📍 Como House & Garden, South Yarra

SAT — 6 DEC
THE LYGON STREET CHRISTMAS MARKET
📍 Piazza Italia, Argyle Square

SAT — 29 NOV
BUNJIL PLACE CHRISTMAS MARKET
📍 Bunjil Place Plaza, Narre Warren

SAT — 29 NOV
CROYDON CHRISTMAS MARKET
📍 Croydon Central Shopping Centre

SAT — 29 NOV
TTHA WEIHNACHTSMARKT
📍 51 Elizabeth Street, Bayswater

FRI — 4 DEC
GOLDEN PLAINS TWILIGHT MARKET
📍 Bannockburn Heart

SAT — 5 DEC
XMAS IN THE GLADE
📍 Gasworks Arts Park

SAT — 5 DEC
HILL & RIDGE COMMUNITY MARKET
📍 Red Hill

SUN — 6 + 13 DEC
GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET
📍 Park Hyatt, Melbourne

MON — 7 DEC
COMO HOUSE MARKET BY ROSE ST.
📍 Como House & Garden, South Yarra

MWS

CHRISTMAS MARKETS

WED THU — 9 + 10 DEC
CHRISTMAS FESTIVE MARKETS
📍 Collins Square

THU — 10 + 17 DEC
CHRISTMAS NIGHT MARKET
📍 Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre

SAT — 12 DEC
PARK ORCHARDS CHRISTMAS MARKET
📍 Park Orchards Primary School

SUN — 13 DEC
ARTS NUNAWADING XMAS MARKET
📍 Whitehorse Civic Centre

SUN — 13 DEC
BOHO LUXE CHRISTMAS MARKET
📍 Fed Square Atrium

SUN — 13 DEC
CHRISTMAS MARKET
📍 St Anne's Winery, Myrniong

SUN — 13 DEC
CRUDEN FARM CHRISTMAS MARKET
📍 Cruden Farm, Langwarrin

SUN — 13 DEC
JAPAN CHRISTMAS FAIR
📍 JAPANEASY, Melbourne

SUN — 13 DEC
PICCADILLY MARKET EXTRAVAGANZA
📍 Deakin University Waterfront Campus, Geelong

THU FRI SAT — 17 - 19 DEC
COBURG CHRISTMAS NIGHT MARKET
📍 Bridges Reserve

FRI — 18 DEC
MELBOURNE MAKERS CHRISTMAS MARKET
📍 City Square

SAT — 19 DEC
CHRISTMAS FAIR & MAKERS MARKET
📍 Macleod Village Rotunda

SUN — 20 DEC
WATERFRONT FARMERS' MARKET
📍 Docklands Waterfront

SUN — 6 + 13 DEC
DIAMOND CREEK CHRISTMAS MARKET
📍 Coventry Oval

SUN — 20 DEC
CHRISTMAS FARMERS' MARKET
📍 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands

SUN — 20 DEC
CHRISTMAS MARKET (RIDES AND SANTA)
📍 Elwood Park, Elwood

MWS

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

FRI — 4 DEC
CAROLS IN HARMONY SQUARE
📍 Dandenong

FRI — 4, 11 + 18 DEC
WITH ONE VOICE: CITY SQUARE CAROLS
📍 City Square, CBD

SAT — 5 DEC
CAROLS BY THE LAKE
📍 Coburg Lake Reserve

SAT — 5 DEC
CAROLS IN QUEENS PARK
📍 Moonee Ponds

SAT — 6 DEC
CAROLS ON THE GREEN, NEWPORT
📍 Paine Reserve, Newport

SAT — 5 DEC
HUME CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
📍 Anzac Park, Craigieburgn

SAT — 5 DEC
MAROONDAH CAROLS
📍 Town Park, Croydon

SAT — 5 DEC
MONASH CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
📍 Jells Park, Wheelers HIll

SAT — 5 DEC
SUMMER IN THE PARK: FUNKY CHRISTMAS CAROLS
📍 Gasworks Arts Park, Albert Park

SUN — 6 DEC
CAROLS BY KINGSTON
📍 Bicentennial Park, Chelsea

SUN — 6 DEC
CAROLS IN CANTERBURY GARDENS
📍 Canterbury

SUN — 6 DEC
CAROLS IN THE PARK, ALTONA
📍 Logan Reserve, Altona

TUE — 8 DEC
BAYSIDE CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN THE PARK
📍 Dendy Park, Brighton East

THU — 10 DEC
YARRA CAROLS IN THE PARK
📍 Curtain Square, Carlton North

FRI — 11 DEC
WHITTLESEA CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
📍 Civic Centre Lawns, South Morang

FRI — 11 DEC
EMERALD CAROLS BY THE LAKE
📍 Emerald Lake Park

MWS

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

FRI — 11 DEC
MANNINGHAM CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
📍 Ruffey Lake Park, Doncaster

SAT — 12 DEC
BANYULE CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
📍 Greensborough War Memorial Park

SAT — 12 DEC
CAROLS AT RUPERTSWOOD
📍 Rupertswood, Sunbury

SAT — 12 DEC
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT, PAKENHAM
📍 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

SAT — 12 DEC
CAROLS IN THE PARK, BALWYN NORTH
📍 Macleay Park

SAT — 12 DEC
ENDEAVOUR HILLS COMMUNITY CAROLS
📍 Reveal Church

SAT — 12 DEC
CLYDE CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
📍 Gethsemane Church, Clyde North

SAT — 12 DEC
GLEN EIRA CAROLS IN THE PARK
📍 Bentleigh Hodgson Reserve, Bentleigh

SAT — 12 DEC
KNOX CAROLS
📍 Wally Tew Reserve, Ferntree Gully

SAT — 12 DEC
MELTON CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
📍 Police Paddock, Melton

SAT — 12 DEC
NARRE WARREN NORTH COMMUNITY CAROLS
📍 A'Beckett Road Reserve, Narre Warren North

SAT — 12 DEC
OUR SONGS: CHRISTMAS SONGS AT THE LAKE
📍 Edwardes Lake Park, Reservoir

SAT — 12 DEC
WYNDHAM CAROLS
📍 Werribee Park, Great Lawn

SUN — 12 DEC
CAROLS AT COMO PARK 2026
📍 Como Park, South Yarra

SUN — 13 DEC
MONTROSE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS
📍 Montrose Town Centre

THU — 17 DEC
CAROLS BY THE BAY, ALTONA
📍 Altona Sports Club

MWS

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

FRI — 18 DEC
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT WESTMEADOWS
📍 Westmeadows Reserve

SAT — 19 DEC
BALLARAT CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
📍 Ballarat Showgrounds

SAT — 19 DEC
CAROLS BY THE BARRELS
📍 Balgownie Estate, Yarra Glen

SAT — 19 DEC
YARRAVILLE CAROLS IN THE GARDENS
📍 Yarraville Gardens

SUN — 20 DEC
CAROLS IN THE PARK, DIAMOND CREEK
📍 Diamond Creek Regional Playspace (Tram Cafe)

WED — 23 DEC
VISION AUSTRALIA'S CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT REHEARSAL NIGHT
📍 Sidney Myer Music Bowl

THU — 24 DEC
VISION AUSTRALIA'S CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
📍 Sidney Myer Music Bowl

FRI SAT — 18 + 19 DEC
ROYAL MELBOURNE PHILHARMONIC: CAROLS IN THE CATHE
📍 St Paul's Cathedral, CBD

SAT — 19 DEC
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT ALTONA MEADOWS
📍 Trafalgar Avenue Park

SAT — 19 DEC
WHITEHORSE CAROLS, NUNAWADING
📍 Whitehorse Civic Centre Precinct and The Round

SUN — 29 DEC
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT WILLIAMSTOWN
📍 Commonwealth Reserve

SUN — 20 DEC
CAROLS ON THE HARBOUR AT 360Q
📍 Queenscliff

THU — 24 DEC
AUSTRALIA'S CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
📍 Sydney Myer Music Bowl



NEW YEARS CELEBRATIONS

Looking for a way to ring in the new year? Melbourne has plenty of kid-friendly New Year's Eve events with early fireworks, outdoor movies, live music and fun activities the whole fam can enjoy. Plan ahead though - these get busy!

FREE CELEBRATION ZONES

DOCKLANDS, FLAGSTAFF GARDENS, THE SHRINE & TREASURY GARDENS.
From 6pm - 1am

WILSON OVAL, DANDENONG PARK
6 - 9.30 pm (fireworks at 9.25pm)

STUDLEY PARK BOATHOUSE, KEW
4 pm – 7.30 pm

BEST FIREWORKS VIEW POINTS

Point Ormond, Elwood
St Kilda Pier
King's Domain Gardens, CBD
Lakeside Lookout or 8th Tee Box, Albert Park
Footscray Community Arts Centre
Wurundjeri Spur Lookout, Kew
Anderson Park, Hawthorn
Williamstown Beach / Ferguson Pier
North Point, Brighton
SkyHigh, Mount Dandenong
Burkes Lookout, Olinda

TICKETED EVENTS

FLEMINGTON TWILIGHT RACING
Enjoy free rides, face painting, lawn games and a kids disco with an epic view of the 9:30pm fireworks at Footscray Park.

PENINSULA HOLIDAY PARK, DROMANA
7.30 pm – 12 am (catch the bay fireworks from the beach!)

DROMANA 3 DRIVE-IN
Kids entertainment from 5pm, live music from 5.30 pm, movies from 9 pm and midnight fireworks

BIG SAVINGS & DISCOUNTS

10% OFF

MWITHSIRI10

Fever experiences like Prison Island, Bubble Planet,, Saboteurs, Candlelight and more!

10% OFF

SIRI10

Melbourne Water Park

30% OFF

AT LEGOLAND

On visits from 2pm onwards.
Must be booked 2h in advance.

UP TO 25% OFF

SEA LIFE

when booked 24h or more in advance

10% OFF

SIRI10

Little Builders largest indoor sandpit

10% OFF

MWITHSIRI10

Bubble Planet

10% OFF

SIRI10

SuperPark Highpoint

ALMOST $100 OFF

SIRI30

Australian Sports Camps school holiday programs

ONLY $39.95/Y

SMALL IDEAS

Save on entry fees on almost 1,000 attractions across Melbourne, VIC, Australia and more!

50% OFF

RESTAURANTS

Book via First Table



WHAT TO DO

AROUND MELBOURNE CBD

STATE LIBRARY
A peaceful space inside a historic and iconic building with a huge Children's Quarter incl. free activities, storytime and quiet corners.

MELBOURNE MUSEUM
Free for kids under 16 and just $15 for adults. Book a session in the Children's Gallery (also free), catch a film on one of the world's largest IMAX screens or explore the Lego Star Wars exhibition.

CITY CIRCLE TRAM
A great way to explore the city for free, with vintage-style trams running in a loop past major attractions.

DOCKLANDS
An easy tram ride from the CBD with places like Little Builders, ArtVo, O'Brien Icehouse and Library at the Dock.

FOX CAR COLLECTION
Car lovers big and small will love this private collection of rare and iconic vehicles. Check their open days before you go.

ACMI
The museum of screen culture is packed with interactive exhibits for kids and adults alike. General entry is free. Located on Fed Square.

NGV
Free entry and always something family friendly on. Wander the beautiful galleries or check out the dedicated kids exhibitions.

ARTS CENTRE
From outdoor installations to theatre shows and creative workshops, there's always something playful on (see next pages for more)

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS & CHILDREN'S GARDEN
Let the kids explore nature play zones, splash pads and secret paths in this beautifully designed garden space. Entry is free.

ARTPLAY, BIRRARUNG MARR
Creative workshops, exhibitions and performances for kids from babies to 13. Everything is made with, by or for children - a dreamy space for imaginative play.

SEA LIFE AQUARIUM
A cool escape on hot days with sharks, rays, penguins and hands-on marine fun just steps from Flinders Street. Book tickets here.

MELBOURNE ZOO
A classic family favourite to let the kids burn off energy in the nature-inspired play spaces. Free entry for kids on weekends and school holidays.

MWS

QUEEN VIC MARKET & NAARM LIBRARY

Wander the vibrant stalls, then head to the NAARM Library for free story time, craft, and quiet reading zones for kids.

EASTERN HILL FIRE STATION

Every Friday at 10:30am, they run a free fire safety demonstration and station tour. Perfect for little ones obsessed with fire trucks.

OLD MELBOURNE GAOL

Fascinating step back in time to get a glimpse of Melbourne's history. Best for older kids who love a bit of mystery and storytelling.

MELBOURNE CENTRAL CLOCK SHOW

Watch the giant marionette clock come to life every hour, then pop into the Lego store for free play and browsing.

LANEWAY & ARCADE WALKS

Download free audio guides via City of Melbourne and explore hidden laneways, historic arcades and fascinating stories on foot.

TOUR THE MCG & SPORTS MUSEUM

Step inside the iconic MCG with a behind-the-scenes tour, then head to the Australian Sports Museum for interactive exhibits, games, and Olympic memorabilia.

ST KILDA PIER & PENGUINS

Wander the St Kilda Pier at sunset for a chance to spot wild penguins returning to their nests. The official platform is fully booked, but you might still catch a glimpse or book a boat tour.

HIJINX HOTEL & ARCHIE BROTHERS

A colourful, high-energy pick for tweens, teens and fun-loving grown-ups. Located in Melbourne Central.

MONOPOLY DREAMS

A fun, interactive Monopoly-themed attraction with games, photo ops and hands-on experiences for all ages.

MELBOURNE RIVER CRUISES

A relaxing way to see the city from a new perspective, gliding along the Yarra River past iconic landmarks and hidden gems.

SKYLINE MELBOURNE

Soar above the city on this world-class Ferris wheel, with panoramic views of Melbourne's skyline and the Yarra River.

MELBOURNE SKYDECK

Take in breathtaking 360° views from the tallest observation deck in the Southern Hemisphere – with interactive experiences and more!

CHINESE MUSEUM

A colourful and educational stop. The interactive space celebrates Chinese-Australian history - my kids love the dragon costumes!

VARIOUS THEATRES

Melbourne's historic theatres are always hosting something magical – check what's on during your visit.

YULTIDE ON THE YARRA

Free HBO Harry Potter experience on Queensbridge Square, Southbank from 4 - 6 Dec ONLY from 6-10pm.

CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL

Melbourne's Christmas Carnival runs from 11 to 24 December 2026 (daily, 2:00 pm – 10:30 pm) at Birrarung Marr along the Yarra River

MWS







ALL THE WATER FUN!

VIEW FULL LIST

Looking for the ultimate way to cool off in Melbourne? Whether you're after interactive splash zones, natural swimming holes, water parks, or beautiful beaches, there's something for every family!

BEST FREE SPLASH PARKS

WARBURTON WATER WORLD
📍 20 Woods Point Rd, Warburton

BOORAN RESERVE
📍 1051 Glen Huntly Rd, Glen Huntly

IAN POTTER CHILDREN'S GARDEN
📍 Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Birdwood Ave

EASTERN BEACH RESERVE
📍 95 Eastern Beach Rd, Geelong

RIVERWALK SPLASH PARK
📍 Newmarket Rd, Werribee

SEVILLE WATER PLAY PARK
📍 20-28 Monbulk-Seville

WALLAN WATER PARK
📍 66-80 High St, Wallan

MILL PARK ALL ABILITIES
📍 40 Morang Dr, Mill Park

+ ALL 3 ZOOS HAVE ONE!

FUN WATER PARKS

GUMBUYA WORLD
📍 2705 Princes Hwy, Tynong North

FUNFIELDS WATER PARK
📍 2365 Plenty Rd, Whittlesea

ADVENTURE PARK GEELONG
📍 1249 Bellarine Hwy, Wallington

MELBOURNE WATER PARK
📍 29 Brindley St, Dandenong South

MOST LOVED FAMILY BEACHES

📍 **ST KILDA PIER**

📍 **EDWARD'S STREET BEACH**

📍 **CARRUM BEACH**

📍 **DAVEYS BAY, MOUNT ELIZA**

📍 **ROSEBUD BEACH**

📍 **ALTONA BEACH**

MWS

NOV - MAR

ADVENTURE PARK GEELONG



Victoria's BIGGEST water theme park is celebrating 30 years of family fun this summer! Adventure Park Geelong features 24 attractions, including four world-record waterslides, the Thunder Falls free-fall slides, the triple-funnel Tsunami, Tornado and the brand-new 20m Drop Zone.

There's plenty for younger kids too, including the Tiny Tots Splash Zone, Jumping Jets, carousel and dedicated water play areas. Float along the Lazy River, ride the Ferris Wheel, play mini golf or take on the Crazy Coaster.



📍 Adventure Park, 1249 Bellarine Highway, Wallington
🎟️ 122cm+ $69 | 90–121cm $54
👶 Kids under 90cm FREE
💦 24 attractions, waterslides + water play
🎢 NEW 20m Drop Zone
💡 Book online and check individual ride height restrictions before visiting.

INFO & BOOKINGS



NEW PLAYGROUNDS WORTH VISITING

VIEW MAP



Cheltenham Recreation Reserve
📍 132 Weatherall Road, Cheltenham



Bankside Park
📍 9 Bankside Boulevard, Rowville



Wrinklewort Park
📍 32 Tanglewood Boulevard, Truganina



Heights Park Playground
📍 Thames Promenade, Chelsea Heights



Zanda Park
📍 209S Alexander Blvd, Clyde North



Wildbloom Park
📍 Mellow Pl, Clyde North

NEW PLAYGROUNDS WORTH VISITING

VIEW MAP



McCormack Park
📍 23 Jennings St, Laverton



Feronia Ave Playground
📍 36 Feronia Ave, Tarneit



Golden Square Bicentennial Park
📍 Madden Grove, Burnley



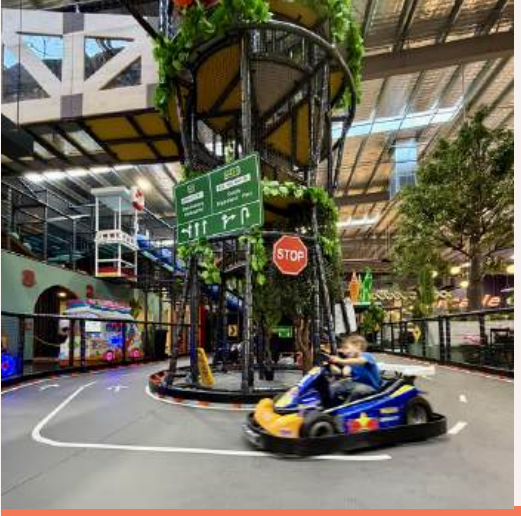
Maple Grove
📍 Annual Avenue, Pakenham



Fairfield Park Playground
📍 280-350 Heidelberg Rd, Fairfield



Murnalung Park
📍 68 Holland Ct, Flemington







NEW INDOOR PLAY SPACES

VIEW FULL LIST

Melbourne's play centre scene has had a bit of a glow up lately, with so many new spots popping up across the city over the past few months.

I've rounded up some of the newest play centres to check out, whether you're looking for a quick weekday outing, a rainy day backup or somewhere different to try with the kids.

Hoopla Pakenham
📍 10 Meadow Parade, Pakenham
🎟️ From $12

Little Amigos
📍 Highpoint Shopping Centre, Level 3, Maribyrnong (near Rebel)
📍 Westfield Fountain Gate (near Woolies) Shop 1001/2, Narre Warren
🎟️ from $18

Luma Kids
📍 15 Argon Cct, Clyde North
🎟️ from $19.90 - use **SIRI10** for 10% off!

Bounce INC
📍 17/11 Costas Dr, Hoppers Cross
🎟️ from $18

Bounce INC
📍 Bayside Shopping Centre,28 Beach St, Frankston
🎟️ from $18

Plus opening soon:
Diggerland (mid Dec)
📍 Westfield Knox

Piccolini Play Cafe (early/mid Dec)
📍 28 Mirrabook Court, Berwick

BattleKart (mid/late Dec)
📍 Westfield Knox

Metartworld (extension in Dec)
📍 Port Melbourne

Hoopla (mid Jan)
📍 Bayswater

Metfly Flying Theatre (Jan)
📍 District Docklands

Area 51 (click here for a sneak peek)
📍 Port Melbourne (early 2027)

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PRAM & BIKE FRIENDLY TRAILS

VIEW FULL MAP

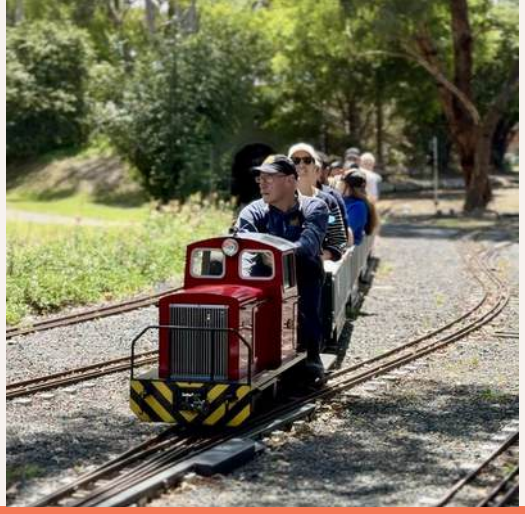
If you're looking for an easy win these holidays, pram and bike-friendly trails are where it's at. They're free, active, and an instant mood boost for everyone. Whether your kids are cruising on scooters, learning to ride, or just along for the pram ride, these trails are perfect for stretching little legs and soaking up some fresh air.

I've shared a few of our favourites below, but for the full list of kid-approved walking, riding and scooting tracks around Melbourne, head to my map!

- 📍 **ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS - MELBOURNE**
- 📍 **THE TAN**
- 📍 **FITZROY GARDENS**
- 📍 **ALBERT PARK LAKE**
- 📍 **WILLIAMSTOWN BOTANIC GARDENS**
- 📍 **ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS - CRANBOURNE**
- 📍 **SERENDIP SANCTUARY**
- 📍 **JELLS PARK**
- 📍 **BIRDSLAND RESERVE**
- 📍 **LILYDALE TO WARBURTON RAIL TRAIL**
- 📍 **MARIBYRNONG RIVER**

MWS







MINIATURE TRAINS

VIEW FULL LIST

If your kids love trains, Melbourne has plenty of charming miniature railways that make for an easy, budget friendly day out. These tiny trains run through leafy reserves and open parks, giving little ones that big thrill of hopping aboard their own special ride. Just make sure to check opening times, as some take a break over Christmas while others add extra festive events that are worth the trip. A tip to avoid missing your ride: wear closed toe shoes and skip loose or flowing clothes so you can hop on safely.

DIAMOND VALLEY RAILWAY
📍 Eltham Lower Park, Eltham
📅 Open every Sunday 11am-5pm

BOX HILL
📍 Elgar Park, Mont Albert North
📅 Open 3rd Sunday of each month 11am – 4pm

ALTONA
📍 1–21 Blenheim Rd, Altona North VIC 3025
📅 Open every Sunday 11am-5pm

NEW - **VICTORIAN MINIATURE RAILWAY**
📍 3643 Harmony Way, Harcourt
📅 Open every Sunday, 11am-5pm

MSTEC NATIONAL STEAM CENTRE
📍 1200 Ferntree Gully Rd, Scoresby
📅 Every 3rd Sunday (excl. Dec & Jan)

BULLA HILL
📍 15 Green Street, Bulla
📅 Open every 3rd Sunday of the month, 11am-4pm

PORTARLINGTON
📍 Point Richards Road, Portarlington
📅 Open every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month, 11am-4pm

DINOSAUR WORLD
📍 1385 Frankston-Flinders Rd, Somerville
📅 Open daily during school holidays from 10am - 7pm
🚫 Closed Christmas Day and New Years Day
🚂Train included in entry ticket
⏰ Departure 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm

NEW MOVIES



We love heading to VJunior for a more relaxed, kid friendly setup with slides and comfy seating, but Hoyts, IMAX and local cinemas are just as great depending on what's nearby.

💡 Save on tickets with Small Ideas, VRewards, Zoos VIC Membership, RACV, CommBank Yello, Uber One, check your telco (Telstra Plus), health insurance (AHM 2-for-1 Date Night) or opt for independent cinemas.

🪄 **DISNEY'S HEXED**
📅 **26 NOV (OUT NOW)**

🐦 **THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 3**
📅 **26 DEC**

🎩 **THE CAT IN THE HAT**
📅 31 DEC

🕵️ **ZAC POWER**
📅 7 JAN

🦣 **ICE AGE: BOILING POINT**
📅 4 FEB

🦁 **NARNIA: THE MAGICIAN'S NEPHEW**
📅 **11 FEB**







SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Looking for fun ways to keep the kids busy these school holidays? These awesome programs are best suited for children aged 5 and up and book out fast, so it's worth locking them in early! From creative workshops to outdoor adventures, here are a few of my top picks.

CODE CAMP
view here »

FIZZ KIDZ
view here »

AUSTRALIAN SPORTS CAMPS (ASC)
view here »
Use code SIRI30for almost $100 off

TRUE FAIRIES
view here »

OCEANA RANGERS
view here »

ROCKETEERS (CAMP AUSTRALIA)
view here »

RSPCA
view here »

ECO EXPLORERS
view here »

YMCA VICTORIA
view here »

HUDDLE HOLIDAYS
view here »

TEAM KIDS
view here »

PARKS VICTORIA – JUNIOR RANGERS
view here »

KIDS CO
view here »

ST KILDA PENGUIN PATROL (FREE)
view here »



COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Don't forget to check your local council for free or low-cost school holiday activities. They often run everything from craft workshops and nature play to sports, movies and library events. It's a great way to keep kids entertained close to home without blowing the budget. Many are drop-in or just a gold coin donation!

Banyule

Bayside

Boroondara

Cardinia

Casey and Bunjil Place

Frankston

Hume

Glen Eira

Greater Dandenong

Hobsons Bay

Kingston

Knox

Maribyrnong

Maroondah

Melbourne

Melton

Monash

Moonee Valley

Merri-bek

Mornington Peninsula

Nillumbik

Port Phillip

Stonnington

Whitehorse

Whittlesea

Wyndham

Yarra City

Yarra Ranges



WHAT'S ON AT SHOPPING CENTRES

Pop into your local shopping centre these school holidays – they're packed with free activities like craft zones, meet-and-greets, live shows and pop-ups. It's the perfect way to keep the kids entertained.

CBD / Inner City

- Emporium Melbourne
- Melbourne Central
- QV Melbourne

East / South-East

- Chadstone (Space Academy)
- Westfield Doncaster
- Eastland (Sonic activation)
- Westfield Knox
- The Glen
- Westfield Southland
- Bayside Shopping Centre
- Cranbourne Park
- Croydon Central

West

- Highpoint
- Pacific Werribee
- Watergardens
- Brimbank Central
- Point Cook Town Centre
- Craigieburn Central
- Stockland

North / North-East

- Northland
- Westfield Plenty Valley
- Epping Plaza (Pacific Epping)

DAY & WEEKEND TRIPS

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTE
BUSHFIRE RISK ZONES

Many of Victoria's most beautiful locations (as mentioned in the next pages) are located in high fire danger areas – especially spots like the Dandenong Ranges, Yarra Valley, Mornington Peninsula, Phillip Island, Gippsland, Grampians, and beyond.

During summer, it's absolutely essential to check conditions before you go and avoid fire-risk areas on hot or windy days.

🔥 On days rated Extreme or Catastrophic, you should leave bushfire-risk areas early in the day or even better, **DO NOT** travel there altogether.

📲 Always check conditions using the VicEmergency app, CFA website, or by calling 1800 226 226.

Here's how to stay safe:

- Check the Fire Danger Rating for the area you're visiting
- Avoid bushland areas on high risk days
- Have a bushfire plan and know where you'll go if conditions change
- Use fire safely – only in designated fireplaces or fuel stoves
- Stay informed – don't rely on just one info source

These precautions could save lives – please travel smart and stay safe out there.



DAY TRIP

MORNINGTON PENINSULA

ENCHANTED ADVENTURE GARDEN

55 PURVES RD, ARTHURS SEAT

An epic dose of adventure: tube slides, hedge mazes, tree surfing, aerial playgrounds and beautifully landscaped gardens. Combine it with the Eagle - make your way at the top first and enter Enchanted Adventure Garden or head to the Eagle station after a play here.





ARTHUR'S SEAT EAGLE

BASE STATION, 1085 ARTHURS SEAT RD, ARTHURS SEAT

Time to give your feet a break and take in the views! The gondola ride is relaxing, scenic and exciting for all ages. On clear days, you'll spot the bay and beyond.



THE BIG GOOSE

233 MORNINGTON-TYABB RD, MOOROODUC

With tractor rides, an epic splash park, a massive adventure playground, plus camels, cows, goats and baby chicks. Open Wed - Sun (daily in school holidays)



DEVILBEND BEER FARM CO

990 STUMPY GULLY RD, TUERONG

This spot is a game changer to grab something to eat with little ones. There's a massive outdoor playground, wide-open lawns, and loads of shady seating. The food is quality pub-style (think burgers, arancini, tacos) and they serve up local craft brews too.

Open Thursday to Sunday

Playground is visible from most seating areas (win!)

MWS

DINOSAUR WORLD

If your little ones are dinosaur obsessed, Dinosaur World in Somerville is such an easy win and only about an hour from Melbourne (owned by a local family)

With the biggest animatronic dinosaurs in Australia, it feels like stepping into a mini Jurassic Park. The start is a bit bumpy but the back of the park is flat and pram- friendly. It's packed with fun, from the included mini train ride to extra add-ons like Dig and Discover or indoor mini golf.

Bring snacks or grab some chippies on site and let the kids wander between the dinos naming every single one!

📍 1385 Frankston-Flinders Rd, Somerville
📅 Open daily during school holidays from 10am - 4pm
🚫 Closed 25 & 26 Dec and 1 Jan
🕒 Open Fri-Sun during term time
🎟️ $23 adults | $21 kids | under 2s free
💸 15% off with your Small Ideas membership
🪏 Dig & Discover and Mini Golf $8 each
🚂 Train included in entry ticket
⏰ Train departure 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm

MORE INFO







THE FUNKY FARM

(BOOKINGS ONLY)



A true hidden gem on the Peninsula and perfect for school holidays.

Every visit is a capped, private style tour that feels calm, personal and incredibly welcoming for all abilities. Across the 1.5h experience you can pet a wombat, feed kangaroos and emus, meet dingos and reptiles and enjoy every photo opportunity without any extra costs.

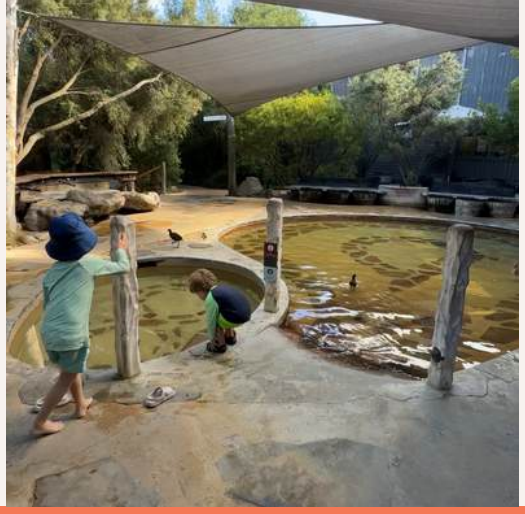
It is a boutique wildlife sanctuary that gives kids a rare chance to get close to their favourite animals, so just keep in mind this place is bookings only!

📍 209 Coolart Rd, Hastings
📅 Open Wed - Sun
🕑 Tours 9:30 • 9:45 • 10:00 • 12:15 • 12:30 • 12:45
🎟️ Adults $28.50 | Under 16 $22.50 | Under 2s free
🦘 Private tour for up to ten people $320
💸 Small Ideas members get 50% off kids tickets
📸 All photo opportunities included in your ticket

INFO & BOOKINGS






MORNINGTON PENINSULA

VIEW FULL LIST

The Mornington Peninsula is where we always escape to over summer because it just feels perfect for a family getaway. Think calm beaches, rolling vineyards, playful farm stops and cosy villages that welcome you in straight away. You can wander coastal trails, meet friendly animals, pick berries in the sunshine and spend long afternoons splashing in shallow bays. It is an easy, joy filled escape that gives you that holiday feeling the moment you arrive.

Peninsula Hot Springs (kid-friendly!)
📍 140 Springs Ln, Fingal

Alba Thermal Springs and Spa (best for older kids / adults only)
📍 282 Browns Rd, Fingal

Mornington Tourist Railway
📍 460 Moorooduc Hwy, Moorooduc

Red Hill Lavender Farm
📍 284 Main Creek Rd, Main Ridge

Fort Nepean (free - rent an e-bike)
📍 Defence Rd, Portsea

Boneo Discovery Park
📍 695 Limestone Rd, Fingal

Top Fun Shack
📍 1223 Point Nepean Rd, Rosebud

Rosebud Foreshore Playground
📍 Point Nepean Rd & Jetty Rd, Rosebud

Moonlit Sanctuary (incl. nocturnal tours)
📍 550 Tyabb-Tooradin Rd, Pearcedale

Rain Hayne & Shine Farmyard
📍 490 Stumpy Gully Rd, Balnarring

Livona Farm Private Donkey Experiences (best for aged 6+)
📍 Moorooduc

Main Ridge Dairy (free goat farm)
📍 289 Main Creek Rd, Main Ridge

Sages Cottages Farm & Cafe (free entry)
📍 85 Sages Rd, Baxter

The Briars Wildlife Sanctuary (free)
📍 Wetland Walk, Mount Martha

Kidz Shed
📍 222 Marine Parade, Hastings

We Rock The Spectrum
📍 Factory 3/36 Guelph St, Somerville

MWS



DAY TRIP

YARRA VALLEY

OASIS BERRY FARMS

22 ADAMS LN, STEELS CREEK

A family-owned seasonal spot open from November to April, perfect for a laid-back day trip with the kids. There's a fairy garden, dinosaur trail, treasure hunt, picnic grounds, under cover areas, a rose garden, and some of the tastiest blueberries and homemade pies around (no picking, just enjoying!).





35 OLD HEALESVILLE RD, YARRA GLEN

Time to give your feet a break and take in the views! The gondola ride is relaxing, scenic and exciting for all ages. On clear days, you'll spot the bay and beyond.

YARRA VALLEY CHOCOLATERIE & ICE CREAMERY



LUNCH OPTIONS

ZONZO ESTATE
YARRAWOOD ESTATE
YARRA VALLEY GRAND HOTEL
DE BORTOLI WINES



ANZAC AVE & BELL STREET, YARRA GLEN

A great all-ages spot with a huge climbing tower, flying fox, nature play areas, and shaded picnic tables. Right next to the Chocolaterie and local shops, it's an easy add-on to your Yarra Valley day out.

MCKENZIE RESERVE PLAYGROUND

MWS



DAY TRIP

WARBURTON

FREE WARBURTON WATER WORLD

20 WOODS POINT RD, WARBURTON

Free splash park with fountains, jets and beautiul views. Parking is limited, so check signs or use nearby free parking at Redwoods Centre, or take the bus from Wesburn or Yarra Junction.

You can also bring a tube and float down the Yarra River which is a minute-walk away.





CEMENT CREEK REDWOOD FOREST

CEMENT CREEK RD, EAST WARBURTON

This place feels like stepping into a real-life fairy tale – cool, shady, peaceful and filled with the earthy scent of pine needles. The towering trees and soft forest floor make it the perfect spot to escape the heat.



RAINFOREST GALLERY

ACHERON WAY, WARBURTON

Fern-filled boardwalk through the mountain forest, complete with a treetop platform that floats above the lush canopy. Walk or drive up to the Mt Donna Buang lookout for sweeping valley views, then make your way back down and stop in at the Alpine Hotel for a cosy meal



BLUE LOTUS WATER GARDEN

2628 WARBURTON HWY, YARRA JUNCTION

Opening on Dec 26 for the season, this place is a blooming wonderland of giant waterlilies, lotus flowers and winding garden paths. Kids will love spotting the fish and exploring the bridges, playgrounds and fairies (sometimes real-life ones!) while grown-ups can soak up the colour, scent and serenity. It's like walking through a real-life painting!

MWS



DAY TRIP

MARYSVILLE

STEAVENSON FALLS

FALLS RD, MARYSVILLE

One of Victoria's most stunning waterfalls and it's super accessible, with a flat path and viewing platforms perfect for prams and little legs. You can take a short stroll to the base or hike to the top in about an hour return. Visit at dusk to see the falls beautifully lit up.





BRUNO'S ART AND SCULPTURE GARDEN

FALLS RD, MARYSVILLE

A quirky space where hand-crafted sculptures peek out from the forest - it's creative, whimsical and full of surprises.



LOLLY SHOP

MARYSVILLE CENTRE

A must-stop for sweet tooths, with shelves full of nostalgic treats, handmade fudge and fun goodies for the kids. The perfect reward after lunch in town!



GALLIPOLI PARK

MARYSVILLE CENTRE

A gorgeous spot for a post-lunch play, with a nature-inspired playground, water play, creek exploration and a peaceful lake walk.

There's also a public pool next door – perfect for cooling off on warm days.

MWS



DAY TRIP

KINGLAKE

FLOUR FLOWER BAKERY

SHOP 4/1274 WHITTLESEA-YEA RD, KINGLAKE WEST

The perfect first stop for coffee, pastries or picnic snacks before heading out to explore the nearby waterfalls and forest walks. Fresh, cosy and super family friendly.





MASONS FALLS

PICNIC AREA, MASONS FALLS RD, KINGLAKE WEST

A scenic, moderate forest walk (1h return) with a stunning viewing platform and the chance to dip your toes in at the top. It's not pram-friendly, but a great for confident walkers.



WIRRAWILLA RAINFOREST WALK

TOOLANGI

A peaceful, pram-friendly boardwalk through ancient ferns, mossy trees and trickling creeks. Great for slow strolls, nature spotting and soaking in the cooler, fresh forest air.



BOLLYGUM PLAYGROUND

40 WHITTLESEA-KINGLAKE RD, KINGLAKE

A magical play space inspired by the Bollygum book, with whimsical zones, slides, water play and nature elements to explore.

\t's right in town too, so you can grab lunch or dinner nearby and make a whole afternoon of it.

MWS



DAY TRIP

HEALESVILLE

HEALESVILLE SANCTUARY

GLEN EADIE AVE, HEALESVILLE

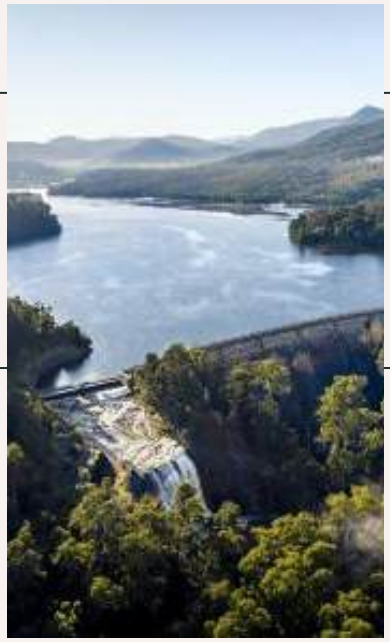
One of the best spots to meet Aussie animals up close – like koalas, kangaroos, wombats, platypus and the popular bird show. Creek Play is also fun, so pack swim gear and towels! It's easy to walk around, full of shady paths, nature-inspired playgrounds and a wildlife hospital to stop and play/learn as well. Kids go free on weekends and school holidays.





LUNCH OPTIONS

BOAT O'CRAIGO
HEALESVILLE HOTEL
WATTS RIVER BREWING
HUBERT ESTATE (COLDSTREAM)
HARROW & HARVEST (LILYDALE)



MAROONDAH DAM RESERVOIR

MAROONDAH HIGHWAY, HEALESVILLE

Impressive 41-metre high dam wall offers a scenic lookout over formal gardens, forested slopes and the broad, peaceful reservoir lake.



YARRA VALLEY RAILWAY

20 HEALESVILLE-KINGLAKE RD, HEALESVILLE

Fun heritage train ride departing from Healesville Station, chugging through the scenic Yarra Valley with vintage charm. It's a relaxing and nostalgic way to explore the region with kids in tow.

Runs weekends and school holidays, but check the timetable first.

MWS



DAY TRIP

DANDENONG RANGES

PUFFING BILLY

1 OLD MONBULK RD, BELGRAVE

Iconic steam train experience through the Dandenong Ranges, but it often **books out** fast during school holidays – so plan ahead! For a shorter (and cheaper) ride, head to Menzies Creek and back, or skip the train and watch it chug past the Trestle Bridge for a picture-perfect moment. Entry to the Lakeside Visitor Centre and Menzies Creek Train Museum (open Fri-Sun 10.30-11.30) is free and still fun too!





TREETOPS ADVENTURE BELGRAVE

OLD MONBULK RD, BELGRAVE

A high ropes and zipline park nestled in the forest, best suited for confident climbers aged 5 and up. With obstacles, wobbly bridges and flying foxes in the treetops, it's a thrilling adventure!



DANDENONG RANGES BOTANIC GARDENS

24 THE GEORGIAN RD, OLINDA

Explore 36 hectares of beautiful gardens featuring seasonal blooms, towering trees, and sweeping views.Discover the stunning Chelsea Australian Garden, enjoy a family picnic and wander the scenic walking trails.



WALKS & FOOD

THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO EXPLORE

Walk around the beautiful forest such as Dandenong Ranges Botanic Gardens, Cloudehill Gardens, Grants Picnic, Birdsland Reserve, Alfred Nicholas Memorial Gardens, and the 1000 Steps. Olinda Playspace is also great. Stop for food at The Pig & Whistle in Olinda, BamBam Italian in Avonsleigh, Micawber Tavern in Belgrave or Paradise Valley Hotel in Clematis (where you can see Puffing Billy chug past too!)

MWS



DAY TRIP

BENDIGO

BENDIGO TRAMWAYS

1 TRAMWAYS AVE, BENDIGO

Hop aboard a beautifully restored vintage tram and cruise through Bendigo's historic streets with live commentary along the way. The hop-on-hop-off route makes it easy to visit nearby attractions like the Central Deborah Gold Mine, Lake Weeroona, and the Golden Dragon Museum at your own pace.





GOLDEN DRAGON MUSEUM & YI YUAN CHINESE GARDEN

1/11 BRIDGE ST, BENDIGO

Home to some of the world's oldest and longest imperial dragons. Wander through the peaceful Yi Yuan Chinese Garden next door – a tranquil space perfect for a quiet stroll.



DISCOVERY SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

7 RAILWAY PL, BENDIGO

Hands-on science fun with over 100 interactive exhibits, a planetarium, and the famous vertical slide. Perfect for curious minds and active kids.



LONG GULLY SPLASH PARK

21 CUNNEEN ST, LONG GULLY

A colourful, free water play space with tipping buckets, jets, and shaded picnic spots – perfect for cooling down with the kids on a warm day. It's fully fenced, great for all ages, and a local favourite for summer fun.

MWS



DAY TRIP

BALLARAT

BALLARAT WILDLIFE PARK

250 FUSSELL ST, BALLARAT EAST

Home to over 100 free-roaming kangaroos, cheeky meerkats, giant tortoises, wombats, dingoes, crocodiles, and even a Komodo dragon. You can hand-feed kangaroos, book up-close animal encounters, and learn all about Aussie wildlife from passionate keepers. It's a laid-back, interactive park perfect for curious little animal lovers.





SOVEREIGN HILL

BRADSHAW ST, GOLDEN POINT

Step back in time where the gold rush comes to life with costumed characters, candle making, gold panning, mine tours and horse-drawn carriages. A fun, hands-on history adventure for the whole family.



KRYAL CASTLE

121 FORBES RD, LEIGH CREEK

Perfect for a slow stroll, picnic or scooting session by the lake. Wander through the lush conservatory, spot the Prime Ministers Avenue, or enjoy the shady paths and wide open lawns.



BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS

401-405 WENDOUREE PARADE, LAKE WENDOUREE

Perfect for a slow stroll, picnic or scooting session by the lake. Wander through the lush conservatory, spot the Prime Ministers Avenue, or enjoy the shady paths and wide open lawns and grab an ice cream nearby.

MWS



DAY TRIP

MACEDON RANGES AREA

LAVANDULA SWISS ITALIAN FARM



350 HEPBURN-NEWSTEAD RD, SHEPHERDS FLAT

Tucked just outside Daylesford, Lavandula Swiss Italian Farm is a dreamy escape bursting with lavender fields, stone cottages, and European charm. Wander the gardens, meet the resident animals, explore the heritage buildings, or enjoy woodfired pizza and lavender scones from La Trattoria café. A gorgeous spot for a family day out with space to roam, seasonal blooms, and plenty to discover.



JIRRAHLINGA DINGO CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE CENTRE

DINGO CONSERVATION CENTRE, CHEWTON

a heart-led sanctuary focused on caring for dingoes and native wildlife. Connect with animals, learn about conservation, and enjoy guided tours run by passionate carers. Visits must be pre-booked and numbers are capped.



TRENTHAM FALLS OR FOREST GLADE GARDENS

TRENTHAM FALLS RD, TRENTHAM
816 MOUNT MACEDON RD, MOUNT MACEDON

Visit one of the tallest single-drop waterfalls in Victoria, plunging over ancient basalt cliffs or pop by a historic private garden that is acknowledged as one of the most beautiful in Australia.



DAYLESFORD SPA COUNTRY RAILWAY

16/18 RAGLAN ST, DAYLESFORD

a charming heritage train ride through the scenic countryside, perfect for a relaxed weekend outing with kids. Trains run most Sundays and take you on a short round trip from Daylesford to Bullarto – complete with vintage vibes and beautiful forest views. You can grab local produce and treats at the Sunday market right next to the station too.

MWS



DAY TRIP

PHILLIP ISLAND

CHURCHILL ISLAND

246 SAMUEL AMESS DR, CHURCHILL ISLAND

Step back in time at Churchill Island Heritage Farm, where you can wander the historic grounds, watch pelicans or the famous Highland cows for free, and grab a bite at the on-site café. For more hands-on fun, purchase farm entry or try their brand new Highland Cattle Experience – a scenic and slow-paced tractor ride perfect for animal lovers.





KOALA CONSERVATION RESERVE

1810 PHILLIP ISLAND RD, RHYLL

A peaceful, shady spot where you can stroll along boardwalks and spot koalas relaxing in the treetops. It's an easy walk with prams and a great way for kids to learn about native wildlife up close.



NORTH PIER HOTEL

5 THE ESPLANADE, COWES

A family-friendly spot with an epic kids zone upstairs! There's a bouncy castle obstacle course, indoor cinema with kids' movies, foosball and more. Downstairs you can enjoy classic pub meals or grab a table outside.



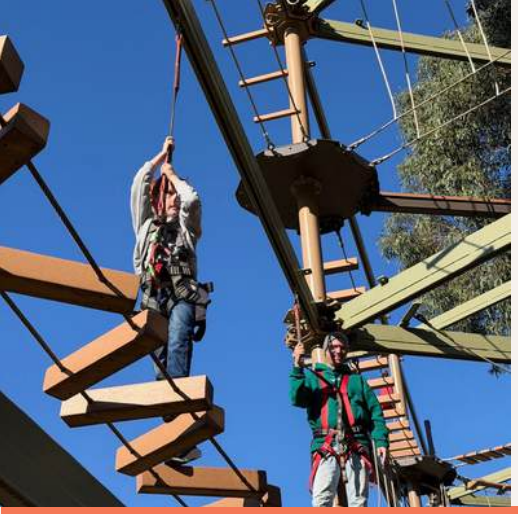
NOBBIES POINT & PENGUIN PARADE

1320 VENTNOR RD, SUMMERLANDS

Nobbies Point offers stunning boardwalk views, blowholes and wild ocean scenery – and it's completely free to visit.

For a magical evening, head to the Penguin Parade where you can book a spot to watch hundreds of little penguins waddle home at sunset from the comfort of the viewing platforms.

MWS





PHILLIP ISLAND

Phillip Island is packed with fun beyond the classic day trip circuit. Explore family-friendly beaches, grab fish and chips by the water, or explore more below. So if you've got more time, it's worth staying a few nights to soak it all in.

Free Pelican Feeding daily 12-12.30pm
📍 San Remo Pier

A Maze N Things Theme Park
📍 1805 Phillip Island Rd, Cowes

Grumpys Crazy Golf
📍 152 Thompson Ave, Cowes

Outback Chef's Wild Food Farm
📍 30 Rhyll-Newhaven Rd, Rhyll

Chocolate Factory
📍 930 Phillip Island Rd, Newhaven

Clip 'n Climb
📍 6/8 Industrial Way, Cowes

Free Fishing Clinics (for kids)
📍 Cowes or Rhyll
More info & bookings

Grand Prix Circuit & Go Karts
📍 381 Back Beach Rd, Ventnor

Phillip Island Wildlife Park
📍 2115 Phillip Island Rd, Cowes

Wildlife Coast Cruises
📍 11 The Esplanade, Cowes

Rhyll Inlet
📍 Mcilwraith Rd, Rhyll

Glamping & Luxury Safari Tents
📍 NRMA Phillip Island
📍 Park Lane Holiday Park

Maru Koala and Animal Park
📍 1650 Bass Hwy, Grantville
(on the way to or back from the island)

Phillip Island Hot Springs
Opening 2026

MWS



DAY TRIP

GIPPSLAND

TARRA BULGA NATIONAL PARK

FERN GULLY TRACK, BALOOK VIC

Visit Tarra Bulga National Park on Brataualung Country and wander through ancient rainforest before stepping onto Corrigans Suspension Bridge. The cool air, towering trees and gentle sway of the bridge create a little moment of wonder!





PARKY'S PLAY

OPEN DAILY FROM 9-5

BIG4 HOLIDAY PARK
5353 PRINCES HWY, TRARALGON

Indoor play centre comes with slides, a soft ball cannon play zone, a large ball pit and flying fox plus play mini golf with dinosaurs, tackle the high ropes and dive laser tag.



GIPPSLAND MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY

RUNNING ON DEC 7 + 14 AND FEB 22 FROM 12-4

PETERKIN ST, TRARALGON VIC 3844

Hop aboard the Gippsland Miniature Railway for a charming ride through peaceful bushland. Tickets are $4 per person and kids love every minute there.



THE BERRY DAIRY

OPEN DAILY 10-4 THU-MON
OPEN TILL 6 ON FRI

379 MEWBURN PARK RD, MAFFRA

This place is a wholesome mix of strawberry picking, cuddly animals and easygoing country charm. Kids can bottle feed tiny lambs and goats, collect warm chicken eggs, meet gentle calves and pat friendly rabbits and guinea pigs. Add a playground and wide open space and it becomes one of those simple family days that just feels good from start to finish.

MWS

LITTLE SHERWOOD PETTING ZOO



This petting zoo is small enough to feel calm and easy, yet full of sweet moments that kids remember. There are tiny goat to cuddle, soft noses to pat, donkeys wandering over for a hello and those gorgeous highland cows standing proudly in the paddock.

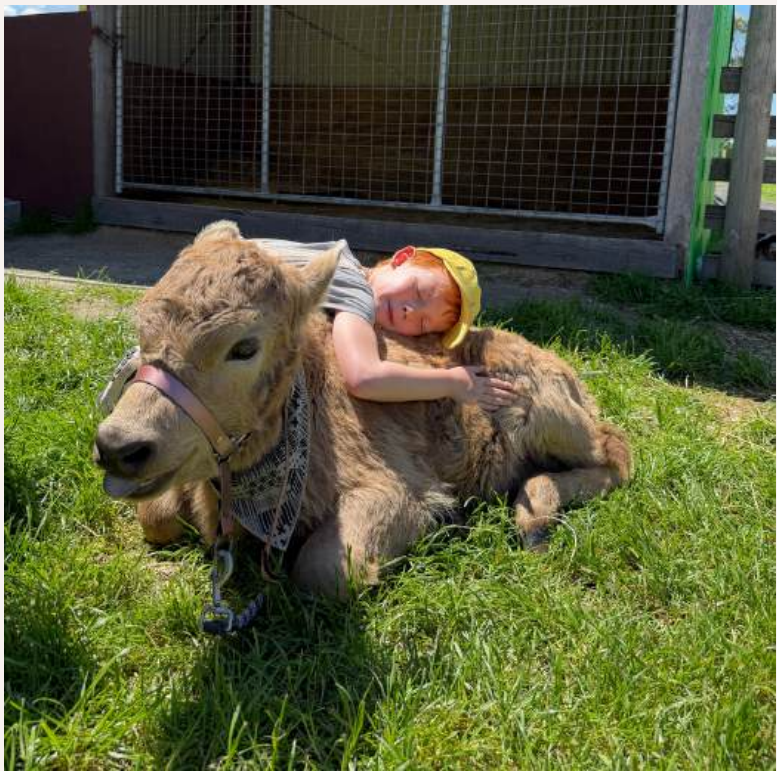
Kids drift between animals and the little playground without feeling overwhelmed, and you get to relax knowing everything is close by.

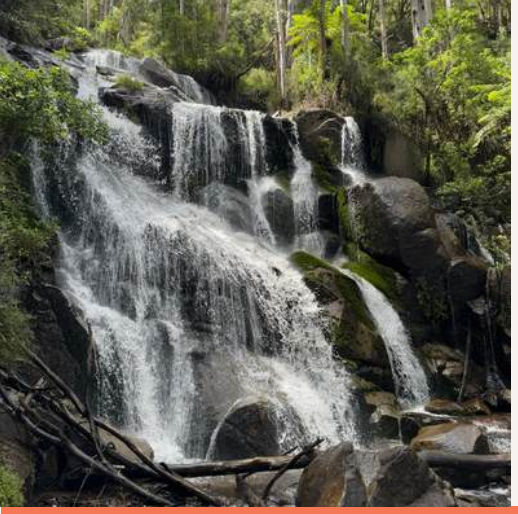
Weekdays are peaceful and perfect for prams, picnics and unhurried family time, but bookings are required on weekends and school holidays.

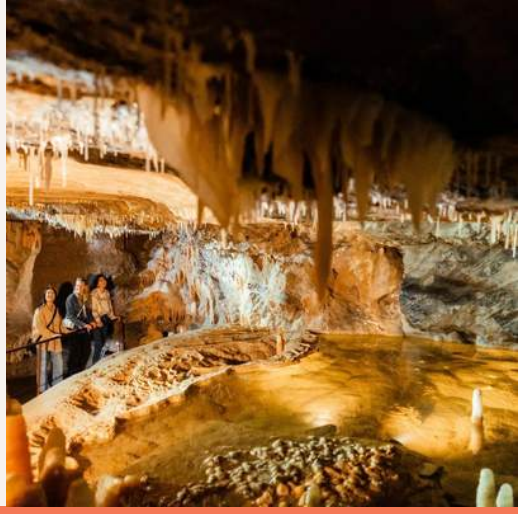
📍 315 Fisher Rd, Drouin West
📅 Wed-Sun 10am - 4pm
🎟️ $15 adults | $10 kids | $12 concession
under 2s are free
online bookings recommended

INFO & BOOKINGS









GIPPSLAND

Gippsland has with wide open spaces, friendly farm stops and beautiful nature. You can wander rainforest walks, meet animals at local farms, ride miniature trains, pick fresh berries and explore country towns that welcome everyone with open arms. It's an easy, joy filled getaway that feels good for everyone.

Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park
📍 Merriman Creek Rd, Loch Sport

Noojee Trestle Bridge Rail Trail
📍 Noojee VIC 3833

Toorongo and Amphitheatre Waterfalls
📍 Noojee VIC 3833

Noojee Heritage Centre
📍 405 to 415 Mt Baw Baw Tourist Rd, Noojee

Rubicon Valley Historic Area
📍 Rubicon State Forest

Alberton Heritage Trail
📍 Alberton

Civic Park Playground
📍 Brynwood Ave, Drouin

Gumbuya World
📍 2705 Princes Hwy, Tynong

Raymond Island
📍 Gippsland Lakes

Buchan Caves Reserve
📍 Caves Rd, Buchan

Metung Hot Springs
📍 73 Storth Ryes Ave, Metung

Prom Wildlife Walk
📍 Wilsons Promontory National Park

MWS

THANK YOU!

Whether you tick off just one idea or fill the whole calendar, I'm so happy you're here. I hope this seasonal guide makes planning a little easier, and brings a whole lot of joy, connection and fun to your family adventures.

Also, make sure to keep following me as we're currently developing an app that will make planning your trips and itinaries WAY easier!

Thank you for trusting me to help make your holidays more memorable.

And hey, if you spot us on one of your adventures, come say hi! I'd love to meet you in person and build friendships and a wonderful community :)

xx Siri



DISCLAIMER

Melbourne With Siri provides event and activity listings for informational purposes only. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy at the time of publishing, details like times, dates, prices and availability may change. Always check directly with the venue or organiser before attending.

Participation in any activities is at your own discretion. Melbourne With Siri is not responsible for any changes, cancellations or outcomes related to activities or businesses featured in this guide.

Some inclusions may be sponsored or promotional, but many are shared simply because I think Melbourne families will love them. Out of full transparency, there are a total of six businesses who were part of a promotional post in this guide.

Melbourne With Siri acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live, work and explore. We pay our deepest respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise their ongoing connection to land, water, culture and community.

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