

# Ballarat

## and Surrounds

An Insider's Guide to the best of Ballarat and Surrounds.



Ballarat Visitor Information Centre  
225 Sturt Street, CBD, Ballarat, Vic, 3350  
1800 446 633 /[visitballarat.com.au](http://visitballarat.com.au)



LEFT : Lal Lal Falls are picture perfect in the wetter months

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# Getting here

We're located just an hour and 15 minutes west of Melbourne.

## From Melbourne

### Driving

Take the 110km journey along the Western Freeway (M8).

### Train

Direct from Melbourne's Southern Cross station, swipe your Myki to arrive in less than 90 minutes on the direct V/Line train at the 19th century-built Railway Station right in the centre of town.

### Airport

The road trip from Tullamarine or Avalon airports to Ballarat takes about one hour. Options to get you here direct from the airport include hiring a car, or booking the Airport Shuttlebus which departs from Tullamarine.

## First stop

### Visitor Information Centre

Located in the historic Town Hall, in the heart of the CBD. This is a terrific info stop when you arrive in Ballarat. You can nab local knowledge from the locals themselves, including advice on attractions, local transport, maps, guided tour options and suggested itineraries for your stay.

## Contact

Ballarat Visitor Information Centre,  
225 Sturt Street CBD  
Ballarat VIC 3350 | 1800 44 66 33  
visitballarat.com.au  
Hours: Daily 9am — 5pm, closed Christmas Day.

## Follow Us

#visitballarat @visitballarat





LEFT : Multi-award winning Sovereign Hill is an outdoor living museum



LEFT : Ride around the heart of Ballarat and admire the passing natural wonders

RIGHT : Walk, jog or picnic by the glistening waters



**For 150 years, visitors, Ballarat locals, fishermen and sportspeople have been making the most of Lake Wendouree for recreation or a leisurely stroll.**

# Welcome

Hello! We're so happy you're here. We think our city is pretty great, and we're excited to share its wonders with you. As you flick through the pages of this visitor guide, you will discover the melting pot that is Ballarat — a pot of gold, art, culture, food, wine and attractions, set against an iconic heritage backdrop.

**To help you along your journey of discovery, we have asked five of our best home grown talents to shed some light on a Ballarat getaway well spent. Join ceramicist Ruby Pilven, meatsmith Mick Nunn, presenter Gorgi Coghlan and influencers Holly Titheridge and Shaun Lyle as they share some of their favourite ways to experience our city.**

As you take your time exploring the old (buildings), the new (eateries), the hidden (laneways) and the iconic (attractions), you will discover that there's plenty of gold to be unearthed in Ballarat. We're pleased to be with you every step of the way as you navigate your way around this bustling city of ours.

RIGHT : Ballarat's  
heritage streetscapes



**We want our visitors to love Ballarat as much as our locals do, so we've chatted with some of Ballarat's homegrown talent to cast a spotlight on their favourite parts of our city.**

**After all, there's nothing like a bit of inside knowledge to have you experience Ballarat like a local.**

## Homegrown

BELOW : Ruby Pilven's ceramics studio on the outskirts of Ballarat, where all her magic happens



# The Entertainer

Photos by Tony Evans

**Homegrown** Gorgi Coghlan is one of the most recognised faces in Australian television. Having been on-screen for more than 15 years, she started her career in TV as a reporter on Channel 31 before moving on to The Today Show, National Nine News, then The Circle. Nowadays, you'll see her as one of the presenters of celebrated current affairs show The Project.

Words by Della Vreeland

## Gorgi Coghlan



# Gorgi's Top 6

What some people might not know about this media muse is that no matter where her work takes her, she will always be a country girl at heart. Gorgi, along with her husband and daughter, call Buninyong, just outside of Ballarat, very much their home.

To read the full story and more details of all Gorgi's favourite spots head to [visitballarat.com.au](http://visitballarat.com.au)



## 1 For a unique cultural experience: Her Majesty's Theatre.

"In general, the arts and culture here in Ballarat is outstanding. We're so blessed to have Her Majesty's here. It has this beautiful history with so many incredible shows and artists that come here. We've enjoyed an excellent program of high quality shows at Her Maj, as well as a high standard of local theatre productions. A highlight was definitely seeing Dame Kiri Te Kanawa in her final show ever in 2016."



## 2 For a bit of me-time: Mitchell Harris + Catfish Thai.

"I love sipping on a glass of Curly Flat Pinot at Mitchell Harris Wine Bar and enjoying dinner with a girlfriend at Catfish Thai."



## Homegrown : Gorgi Coghlan

## 3 For a family day out: Sovereign Hill.

"We love the Winter Wonderlights program. It's engaging, the mulled wine keeps the parents happy, and the faux snow is really spectacular. Our daughter has enjoyed school excursions here and I like that we have such an excellent national tourist attraction right on our doorstep."



## 4 For a family dining experience: The Western Hotel.

"I may be a bit biased because we're part of the small team here, but the meals are delicious, families love the space, and it's also great for a quick drink or work function. The new beer garden will also be firing in summer!"



## 5 For a family stay: BIG4 Ballarat Goldfields Holiday Park.

"Buninyong has beautiful Bed and Breakfast options and the BIG4 Ballarat Goldfields Holiday Park is perfect for families in summer."



## 6 For a family getaway: Ballarat Winter Festival.

"This festival has expanded and offers a wonderful program of activities for kids in the school holidays. It's a great time to visit Ballarat and enjoy our excellent restaurants at night. The cold weather certainly helps build up the appetite!"



"I like that we have such an excellent national tourist attraction right on our door step."

**Homegrown** Ballarat born and based Holly Titheridge and Shaun Lyle are creating quite a buzz in the fashion and lifestyle industry with their eye catching digital content and creative styling. Their blog, Base Colour, was launched in 2014 as a destination dedicated to showcasing their love for fashion and photography.

Photos by Tony Evans

## The Influencers

Words by Della Vreeland

## Holly and Shaun



What began as an outlet to post about their daily outfits has transformed into an addictive platform to viewers, with the low-down on fashion, travel and must-haves.

“I’ve seen Ballarat evolve a lot over the years. The food and wine industry has really kicked up a gear.”

To read the full story and more details of all Holly and Shaun’s favourite spots head to [visitballarat.com.au](http://visitballarat.com.au)



### 1 For your morning coffee: Webster’s Market and Café.

HOLLY “We can’t go past a cheeky almond croissant to accompany a great coffee, and Webster’s delivers in both departments.”



### 2 For a boutique shopping experience: Sweet Fern Fragrance Boutique.

HOLLY “I love my perfume, especially when they come in beautiful packaging and Sweet Fern has an amazing collection of brands to choose from.”



### 3 For the region’s top drops: Mitchell Harris Wine Bar.

HOLLY “Wine and cheese are a girl’s best friend. A quality glass of Shiraz and a delicious cheese board goes down a treat on a Saturday afternoon at Mitchell Harris.”

## Homegrown : Holly and Shaun



### 4 For a relaxing afternoon: Lake Wendouree.

HOLLY “I love the relaxed lifestyle here and we do so much work in Melbourne that it’s nice to come back to Ballarat, take a walk around the lake, and just relax. We love a quiet stroll around the Lake on a Sunday morning, especially in winter. You just need to remember your coat!”

SHAUN “Ballarat offers a great outlet from the hustle and bustle in the city. It allows us to take a step back and focus on growing Base Colour, and it really allows us time to think creatively and to really plan for how we see our business developing over the next couple of years.”



### 5 For a luxury stay: Ballarat Premier Apartments.

HOLLY “Ballarat Premier Apartments is in an amazing location just a couple of minutes’ stroll to the heart of the city, and you’ll be blown away by the beautiful interiors. It has been restored to absolute perfection.”



### 6 For a photogenic backdrop: The main historic thoroughfare of Lydiard Street.

SHAUN “We love the old buildings; it’s perfect for our style of content, particularly with street style photography.”



HOLLY “Ballarat is filled with beautiful heritage and historic buildings. Anywhere in and around Lydiard Street is sure to provide a classic backdrop and we have to admit we’ve visited the Town Hall more than once to take a few shots.”

### 7 For a quality brunch: Yellow Espresso.

SHAUN “I’ve seen Ballarat evolve a lot over the years. The food and wine industry has really kicked up the gear and definitely love getting out and grabbing a coffee and going for brunch.”

HOLLY “Yellow Espresso is a cute café with amazing staff, and interiors to match. I recommend the spicy baked eggs. You will never try anything else once you go down that path!”



**Homegrown** Born and raised in Ballarat, Mick Nunn is the founder of Salt Kitchen Charcuterie and brings to the table loads of experience at some of the world's best eateries.

## The Meat Maker

Photos by Tony Evans  
Words by Della Vreeland

# Mick Nunn



Most chefs search their whole career to find their passion. Some open a bakery. Some will start a taco shop. Some will go into fine dining. For Mick, it was always making batches of salami, having a prosciutto hanging somewhere, making terrines and parfaits.



### ❶ For craft beer: Red Duck Brewery.

"I love the experimental nature of the Red Duck team. They always have new beers that are really interesting. They understand seasonality and are always looking for new styles, bottles and ingredients to complement the next brew."



### ❷ For a unique dining experience: The Forge Pizzeria.

"I probably need to declare my bias having worked at The Forge for two years, but it is one of Ballarat's most delicious and consistent dining experiences. It ticks a lot of boxes – atmosphere, service, craft beer, good regional wine list – and as a dad with young children, it's family friendly and the pizza is brilliant."

To read the full story and more details of all Mick's favourite places and products head to [visitballarat.com.au](http://visitballarat.com.au)

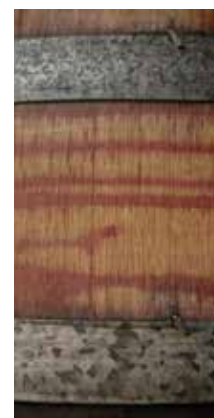
## Homegrown : Mick Nunn



### ❸ For a local producer: Inglenook Dairy.

"The major reason for me coming back to Ballarat to live and work was the produce of the region. We are smack-bang in the middle of the food belt here, and we've got the advantage of all these fantastic producers right on our doorstep."

"In a tough time for dairy farmers, Inglenook have created a business that delivers a great product that is a true taste of our region. I'm excited to hear there are more products to be released in the not too distant future as well."



### ❹ For local wine: Warrenmang Estate's Black Puma Shiraz.

"My first fine wine experience as a teenager back in the late 1990s was at Warrenmang Estate. We did a tasting at the cellar door with Luigi Bazzani and I tried Black Puma for the first time. It was probably the first time I had been exposed to a wine of this calibre. I still remember Luigi talking about how the climate affects the size and intensity of the grapes used to make Black Puma and the selection process of each vintage, and while walking through the barrel room underground it gave this experience a context that made it all the more special."

**"The major reason for me coming back to Ballarat to live and work was the produce of the region."**

### ❺ For the best coffee in town: Kittlety's.

"Kittlety's is a great little spot on Ballarat's grandest old street, and it's been made to feel very homely with the décor and delicious food. I love Hellbilly Roasting coffee (at Kittlety's), it's blended locally and carefully from beans sourced from all over the globe to create a unique flavour profile."



### ❻ For a fresh produce market: Talbot Market.

"When you see what's on offer each time you go to the Talbot Market, it shows just how many passionate small producers there are in western Victoria. It always seems to draw a good crowd."



**Homegrown Ruby Pilven is one of Australia's most exciting emerging ceramicists. Her presence in the art and design industry has been cemented by works featured at the National Gallery of Victoria and sold through iconic stores such as Gorman and Anthropologie.**

## The Creator

Photos by Tony Evans

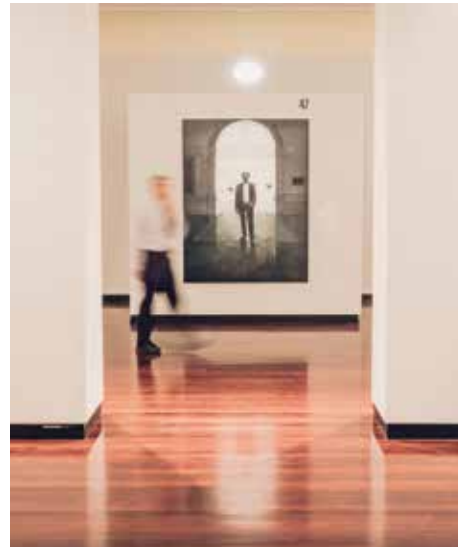
## Ruby Pilven

Words by Della Vreeland



The loud, bold, colourful and unique pieces created from her humble yet stylish studio on the outskirts of Ballarat has garnered a cult following.

“Meigas is the best Spanish restaurant I have ever eaten at and by far one of the most popular places to dine out in Ballarat.”



### 1 For immersing yourself in art: The Art Gallery of Ballarat.

“The arts and culture space is really thriving in Ballarat. I love visiting the Gallery and admiring some of the earliest artworks and artefacts from the region, as well as some of Australia’s most contemporary pieces. Each space in the gallery is sensitively curated towards the artworks’ aesthetics and meaning, while keeping the viewer front of mind.”



To read the full story and more details of all Ruby’s favourite spots head to [visitballarat.com.au](http://visitballarat.com.au)

## Homegrown : Ruby Pilven

### 2 For craft beer: Athletic Club Brewery.

“They brew their own beer, allow you to taste beer, make your own beer, have functions and it’s a great place to relax especially in summer. When I go here I like to relax and sink a Eureka Red IPA.”



### 3 For nature: Lake Wendouree.

“The Lake is a place of contemplation and natural beauty. The old trees that surround it and the small bird habitats create a positive eco-system that is a visual delight. Watching the native birds fly over the lake during sunset is a sight everyone should experience and I often symbolise this in my artworks.”



### 4 For dinner: Meigas.

“Meigas is the best Spanish restaurant I have ever eaten at and by far one of the most popular places to dine out in Ballarat. The best experience would be to go with a group of people for dinner and select the Feed Me option where the chef will cook you delicious serves of food until you are full.”

### 5 For your coffee: The Local café.

“It’s my go-to coffee spot. It’s cosy, the coffee is brilliant and it has a really awesome atmosphere.”



### 6 For a great night out: Karova Lounge.

“Karova Lounge is hands-down the best place to go out in Ballarat for great live entertainment. This intimate venue makes watching the live band an up-close-and-personal experience. Karova’s open and relaxed atmosphere means every one of all different ages feel welcomed and can have a good time.”



# Ballarat Botanical Gardens:

## Top 5 fun facts

RIGHT : Ballarat Botanical Gardens, located  
on picturesque Wendouree Parade



**1. It used to be a police horse paddock**

Before the discovery of gold in the 1850s, Ballarat was an isolated squatter settlement, and the Botanical Gardens were used as the Police Horse Paddock.

**2. The fernery is more than 100 years old**

Remnant footings from the 1880s still remain exposed in the gardens west of the current fernery (which will soon be undergoing a redevelopment).

**3. It was once home to the Ballarat Zoo**

Nursery Drive and Zoo Drive in the gardens are a legacy to this zoo which was there from 1917 to 1959. You will still see some of the historic concrete structures from the 1940s which are the leftovers of the animal enclosures.

**4. It features Australia's only avenue of Prime Minister busts**

The Prime Ministers Avenue is a feature of national significance. It is a collection of bronze Prime Minister portraits mounted on polished granite pedestals and housed along the magnificent Horse Chestnut Avenue of the gardens.

**5. It houses a large selection of authentic Italian statues**

Wealthy Ballarat citizen Thomas Stoddart bought 12 marble statues during a visit to Carrara in Italy in the 1880s and gave them, together with Sicilian marble pedestals, to the citizens of Ballarat.



# Festivals and Events

RIGHT : White Night  
Ballarat showcases the  
city in a whole new light



**Celebrate. Rock and Roll.  
Swap and Shop and Sell.  
Get Cultured, Get Active.  
Raise your Voice  
(and your glass).**



## **2018 Cycling Australia Road National Championships**

**January**

See Australia's cycling greats in action. Now in its 11th consecutive year in Ballarat, this major cycling event runs over four days including the Criterium, Road Race and Time Trials. One of Australia's premier cycling events — not to be missed.

**roadnationals.com**

## **Ballarat Winter Festival**

**June — July**

Cascading snowflakes, soul-warming red wine and hearty fare — whimsical winter adventures await at this year's Ballarat Winter Festival. Whether it's Sovereign Hill's iconic Winter Wonderlights display, school holiday fun, or a romantic rendezvous that you're seeking, there's a day out to enthral every visitor.

**ballaratwinterfestival.com.au**

## **White Night Ballarat**

**March**

A rare opportunity to experience the city in a different light. White Night Ballarat is the city as you know it, turned on its head in a dusk 'til dawn celebration of culture and creativity. The event transforms the impossible into the possible through installation, lighting, exhibitions, street performances, film, music, dance and interactive events taking place in the streets and laneways, parklands, public spaces and cultural institutions of Ballarat.

**whitenightballarat.com.au**

## **BOAA**

**September — November**

BOAA is a Visual Arts Festival, showcasing over 150 of Australia's most innovative contemporary artists from across Australia. Ballarat will come alive with large and intimate scaled projects in over 50 different indoor/outdoor locations. This six-week event will be the largest showcase of Australian Art ever, attracting significant national and international audiences.

**boaa.net.au**

## **Western Bulldogs AFL Games**

**Saturday 5 May | Round 7, 1.45pm**

Western Bulldogs vs Gold Coast Suns

**Sunday 29 July | Round 19, 3.20pm**

Western Bulldogs vs Port Adelaide

The Bulldogs will host the Suns in their first game at Mars Stadium in Round 7, and will return to the venue in Round 19 to face the Power.

**westernbulldogs.com.au**

## **Open House Ballarat**

**October**

Ballarat's best architecture and significant buildings will open for public viewing as the highly-popular Open House Melbourne (OHM) extends its program of events to the region. The two-day event will see a series of private contemporary houses, and architecturally significant commercial and civic buildings and landscapes open for viewing.

**openhouseballarat.com**

## January



### Ballarat Beer Festival

#### January

One-day event showcasing over 100 of the best craft beers and ciders, with the masterminds behind each brand on-site to chat with punters. Plus: gourmet food, live music and a kids' zone with train rides, jumping castle and a mini-farmyard.

[ballaratbeerfestival.com.au](https://ballaratbeerfestival.com.au)

### Ballarat Pacing Cup

#### January

The Group 1, \$120,000 PET stock Ballarat Pacing Cup headlines the Racing Calendar.

[ballaratracingclub.com.au](https://ballaratracingclub.com.au)

### Organs of the Goldfields

#### January

Some of Australia's finest singers and instrumentalists join with international musicians in 10 summer days of classical music and social events in the beautiful heritage churches and halls of the Ballarat Goldfields. Includes 25 recitals over 10 days.

[ballarat.com/organs](https://ballarat.com/organs)

## February — March



### Ballarat Beat Rockabilly Festival

#### February

It's a rockabilly takeover of Ballarat's CBD, with international music acts spilling from bars and balconies, glamorous retro guys and gals, classic cars and hot rods, unique market stalls and more. Discover the colour and excitement of 1950s rock 'n' roll.

[ballaratbeat.com.au](https://ballaratbeat.com.au)

### Ballarat Swap Meet

#### February

On the last weekend in February, collectors and motoring enthusiasts descend upon Ballarat for the Southern Hemisphere's largest swap meet. More than 2000 site holders spruik their wares to over 20,000 punters at the Ballarat Airport grounds.

[ballaratswapmeet.com.au](https://ballaratswapmeet.com.au)

### Ballarat Begonia Festival

#### March Long Weekend

Be inspired by beautiful begonias, gardeners' and designers' markets, a cheeky local wine in the Mitchell Harris Wine Garden, and an endless array of kids' activities. Don't forget the Power FM Begonia Parade on the Monday.

[ballaratbegoniafestival.com](https://ballaratbegoniafestival.com)

## Festivals and events : 36 — 43

## April — July



### Clunes Booktown Festival

#### April — May

Bookworms, rejoice! Over 50 visiting book traders join with Clunes' seven permanent bookshops to offer an unprecedented weekend of book browsing, with thousands of second hand, collectable, small press and out-of-print books on sale.

[clunesbooktown.com.au](https://clunesbooktown.com.au)

### Ballarat Heritage Weekend

#### May

Vintage fashion, markets, tours, open heritage buildings, horses and carriages, steam trains and trams. Don your finest tweed and join the Tweed Ride. Loads of free events and activities.

[ballaratheritageweekend.com](https://ballaratheritageweekend.com)

### Royal South Street Competitions

#### July — November

This iconic local event has competitions in drama, speech, dance and a range of artistic disciplines, with competitors vying for \$85,000 in prizes. Held each year in Her Majesty's Theatre.

[royalsouthstreet.com.au](https://royalsouthstreet.com.au)

## October — November

### Ballarat Cabaret Festival

#### October

This festival sees the city come alive with music, dance and theatre. There's a range of performances showcasing brilliant entertainers from across the country.

[ballaratcabaret.com](https://ballaratcabaret.com)

### Springfest Market Weekend

#### November

Held along the 6 kms of beautiful Lake Wendouree foreshore, this huge annual market offers locally made fashions, health and beauty stuff, accessories, food, flowers, plants, toys and art, plus Saturday evening twilight entertainment.

[ballatrspringfest.com.au](https://ballatrspringfest.com.au)

### Ballarat Cup

#### November

A day shaped by racing tradition, the Ballarat Cup is the perfect way to celebrate the end of an always-spectacular Spring Racing Carnival. Reminisce with friends from the past, soak up the colourful atmosphere and enjoy the roar of the crowd as our finest thoroughbreds battle it out down the straight.

[country.racing.com/ballarat](https://country.racing.com/ballarat)

### Australian Jazz Convention

#### December

The 72nd AJC will present premium Australian jazz across venues in the historic quarter of one of the gold mining icons from Boxing Day until New Year's Eve. Musicians will jam in parks, on the street, and in the pubs in addition to programed performances accessible through registration for the week or a day pass.

[2017jazzconvention.org.au](https://2017jazzconvention.org.au)

# Festivals

# and Events



## Ballarat Events

Ballarat Events offers specialist event design, management & support. We specialise in Music & Arts, Expos, Corporate & Specialist Events. Ballarat is the ideal location to conduct any event. Contact us for more information.

PO Box 2220 Bakery Hill, Ballarat VIC 3354  
03 5332 3100  
ballarat.events  
**MAP 4:G4**

### White Night : Top 5 tips

#### 1. Charge

Make sure your phone is well charged for some social media action

#### 2. Rug up!

It can get chilly in the late evening.

#### 3. Time it well

Venture out super early in the night to avoid the crowds

#### 4. Supplies

Stock up your survival kit with water, snacks and spending money

#### 5. Location, Location, Location

Study the program and have a clear idea of the exact locations you want to see during the event

## Festivals and events : 36 — 43



## Ballarat & District Trotting Club

The Ballarat and District Trotting Club is your total entertainment venue. The Flying Horse Bistro is open 7 days a week with 32 race meetings and 3 function rooms available for hire. Offering something for the whole family.

Cnr Bell Street and Sutton Street, Redan VIC 3350  
03 5335 9041  
ballarattrottingclub.com.au  
Hours: Daily from 9am to late  
**MAP 5:B5**



## Royal South Street Society

Ballarat's gold is famed for coming from the earth, but today 'pure performance gold' is found on stage at Australia's oldest Eisteddfod. Royal South Street, since 1891 and on annually between August and November.

Level 1, Eureka House, 11 Lydiard St Sth,  
Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5332 1054  
royalsouthstreet.com.au  
**MAP 4:E4**



## Bridge Mall Farmers Market

Buy direct from the farmers, bakers, growers and makers. Sample fabulous food and wine, enjoy a coffee and a bite, and listen to local artists playing live in the Mall.

Bridge Mall, VIC 3350  
bridgemallmarket.com.au  
Hours: 9am to 1pm on the first Saturday of every month  
**MAP 4:F4**



## Talbot Farmers Market

Explore over 80 regional produce and gourmet food stalls. Hang-out with farm animals, listen for live music and forage for a yummy breakfast. Experience an authentic country farmers' market with real community spirit!

Scandinavian Cres and Camp St Talbot VIC 3371  
0459 327 637  
talbotfarmersmarket.org.au  
Hours: 9am to 1pm on the third Sunday of every month  
**MAP 3:E2**

# Things to do

Have your own golden hour (or day). Make like a medieval knight. Say hi to a wombat. Wander, get lost and discover.



## Blood on the Southern Cross

Blood on the Southern Cross happens at Sovereign Hill after dark every night. This explosive sound-and-light show depicts the story of the Eureka Rebellion, an 1854 battle between gold miners and government forces.

Bradshaw St, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5337 1199  
sovereignhill.com.au  
Hours: See website for show times  
**MAP 5:E5**



## Ballarat Gold Museum

Discover the beauty and power of gold as you view an impressive and valuable collection of gold nuggets, alluvial deposits, priceless gold artefacts and gold coins. Entry free with Sovereign Hill ticket.

Bradshaw St, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5337 1107  
sovereignhill.com.au  
Hours: Daily 9.30am to 5.30pm  
**MAP 5:E5**



## Sovereign Hill

The multi award-winning Sovereign Hill is an outdoor living museum set across 64 acres of hillside on the edge of town. Here you'll find all the action and excitement of the 1850s Gold Rush, depicted with an extraordinary attention to detail. You'll be swept up in the hustle and bustle of Main Street, where costumed ladies and gents parade their new-found wealth and Redcoat Soldiers fire their rifles. Discover shops selling 1850s-style goods including the museum's iconic Raspberry Drops and assorted boiled lollies. There's hotels and schools to visit, a theatre with goldfields entertainment, century-old photographic opportunities and a plethora of activity to be discovered. See a spectacular \$150,000 gold pour, ride in a horsedrawn carriage and – if you're feeling particularly adventurous – find out what it was like to work in an underground mine as you head below the surface on an inclined tramway ride. For anyone interested in trades, you'll be fascinated to watch blacksmiths, coachbuilders, wheelwrights, confectioners and candlemakers, and chat to them about their work. Pan for gold yourself – and keep what you find. During winter, watch in awe as the museum comes to life as part of the spectacular Christmas in July: Winter Wonderlights display. Smell the sweet scent of Christmas spices as they fill the air, enjoy the sound of traditional carols, and glory in the faux snow as it falls at regular intervals. By night, watch as the Main Street comes to life in spectacular style with magical yuletide projections. Wheelchair accessible.

Bradshaw Street, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5337 1199  
sovereignhill.com.au  
Hours: Daily from 10am to 5pm  
**MAP 5:E5**

**Local Tip**  
Ask to have your ticket validated at Sovereign Hill's Post Office and visit again the following day for free!



### Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial

Honouring more than 35,000 Australians held prisoner during the Boer War, and wars and conflicts in the 20th century.

Cnr Wendouree Pde & Carlton St,  
Ballarat VIC 3350 | 0419 500 983  
powmemorialballarat.com.au  
Hours: Always open  
**MAP 5:C4**



### Ballarat Municipal Observatory & Museum

View the night skies, planets and stars with telescopes and discover the amazing universe with our 3D Astrotour movies.

439 Cobden St, Mt Pleasant VIC 3350  
03 5332 7526  
observatory.ballarat.net  
Hours: Check website for seasonal hours  
**MAP 5:E5**



### Ballarat Tramway Museum

A moving museum located by the stunning Ballarat Botanical Gardens South Gardens Reserve and across from Lake Wendouree.

Botanical Gardens on the Western shore of Lake Wendouree | 03 5334 1580  
btm.org.au  
Hours: Check website for seasonal hours  
**MAP 5:C4**



### Creswick Woollen Mills

Founded in 1947 by Polish migrant, Paul Ryzowy, Creswick Woollen Mills is now the only coloured woollen spinning mill of its type in Australia and is the home of luxurious, natural fibre products designed in Australia to suit Australian conditions. As well as watching the machines operate, you can wander through interactive exhibit, A Very Fine Yarn, which explain the whole process and tells the story of manufacturing in this country. Shop for a huge range of products and get close to cute alpacas, cashmere goats and sheep. Wheelchair accessible.

Railway Pde, Creswick VIC 3363  
03 5345 2202 | creswickwool.com.au  
Hours: Daily from 9am to 5pm  
**MAP 3:F3**



## Things to do : 44 – 51



### Ballarat Wildlife Park

Get close to nature at Victoria's most interactive family-owned Wildlife Park. Hand-feed 100 free roaming Kangaroos, see Koalas, Emus and even meet a Wombat. Admire the darling Little Penguins in their new state of the art enclosure and see Crunch, the five-metre Super Croc. Learn about the Park's important conservation work and see Victoria's only Komodo Dragon exhibit. Grab a bite to eat in Café Brolga while being entertained by some spectacular birds in the aviary. See some of Australia's most iconic animals, including Alpine Dingoes, Blue Tongued Lizards, the endangered Tasmanian Devils, Southern Cassowary and Corroboree Frogs. Join our daily free guided tour at 11am and feeding demonstrations and Keeper talks throughout the day. You may even see Australia's youngest ranger, Charlie Parker. Wheelchair accessible and free parking.

250 Fussell St, Ballarat East VIC 3350  
03 5333 5933 | wildlife.com.au  
Hours: Daily from 9am to 5pm  
**MAP 5:F4**



## Creswick Museum

The Creswick museum features a range of historic exhibitions, collections and tours.

70 Albert St, Creswick VIC 3363  
03 5345 2845 | [creswickmuseum.org.au](http://creswickmuseum.org.au)  
Hours: Weekends and public holidays  
11am to 3.30pm  
**MAP 3:F3**



## Friends of J Ward Museum

A gold rush period gaol taken over by The Lunacy Department became an asylum for the criminally insane until 1991.

1 — 7 Girdlestone St, Ararat VIC 3377  
03 5352 3357  
[jward.org.au](http://jward.org.au)  
Hours: Open daily (daily tours)  
**MAP 3:D2**

## Sovereign Hill : Top 5 things to do

- 1. Pan for gold**  
at the Sovereign Hill stream and take home your own piece of treasure
- 2. Raspberry Drops**  
Devour the iconic Raspberry Drops and watch the boiled lollies being made
- 3. Blood on the Southern Cross**  
Catch the renowned show and discover all about the story of the Eureka Rebellion
- 4. New York Bakery**  
Partake in some heart-warming pies and pastries
- 5. Winter Wonderlights**  
Schedule in a visit during the Winter Wonderlights in July and make sure to rug up!



## Funbugs Playhouse

At Funbugs Playhouse indoor playground, you'll discover massive slides, a jumping castle, trampoline and other fun equipment for the kids. There's also a café with food, coffee, and drink options.

903 Doveton St Nth, Nth Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5332 1525 | [funbugs.com.au](http://funbugs.com.au)  
Hours: Mon—Fri 9am to 5pm, Sat—Sun 10am to 5pm  
Public Holidays 10am to 4pm  
**MAP 5:D3**



## Go2000 Sightseeing

The provider of the official Doctor Blake Tours, as well as select tours of Ballarat, Great Ocean Road, Gold Towns & Grampians. Every Tour is a Postcard from the Past. Pick-up available any-where in Ballarat.

PO Box 4010, Alfredton, VIC 3350  
03 5334 3322 | 0407 966 651  
[go2000.com.au](http://go2000.com.au)  
Hours: Various, please call to book  
**MAP 5:B4**

## Things to do : 44 — 51

**“You’ll be swept up in the hustle and bustle of Main Street, where costumed ladies and gents parade their new-found wealth and Redcoat Soldier’s fire their rifles.”**

## Sovereign Hill



## Museum Of Australian Democracy at Eureka

MADE is an innovative, 21st century museum built on the historic site of the 1854 Eureka Stockade — the birthplace of Australian democracy. MADE is home to the Eureka Flag and tells Ballarat’s unique story. MADE explores the events of Eureka and the evolution of democracy in Australia, how democracy has shaped cultures and countries around the world. Using interactive displays, MADE inspires visitors to contemplate issues important to them today. MADE’s café overlooking the Eureka Park Memorial gardens and lake — takes visitors on a food adventure, with a tasty menu that features local fare. The food-store also offers a great range of Australian bush food spices and gourmet foods.



## Maze House

Loads of outdoor fun! Maze House has a 25 year old hedge maze set in a beautiful country garden with carnival games and cafe milk bar serving coffee, milkshakes, cakes and light lunches.

3155 Midland Hwy, Newlyn North VIC 3364  
0437 842 018 | [mazehouse.com.au](http://mazehouse.com.au)  
Hours: Weekends and school holidays  
10am to 5pm or by appointment  
**MAP 3:F2**

102 Stawell St Sth,  
Ballarat VIC 3350 | 1800 287 113  
[made.org](http://made.org)  
Hours: Daily from 10am to 5pm  
**MAP 5:F4**



## Gold and Relics Gold Prospecting Adventures

Get out in the bush and learn to prospect for gold like the old-time miners; the only difference is you'll be using modern metal detectors and panning techniques. Pick up trade secrets from some of the most experienced prospectors in the business, who will take you to locations you'd never find by yourself. You may even come home with a nugget or relic. You'll have a thrilling day out in the Goldfields.

PO Box 339, Ballarat VIC 3353  
1300 882 199  
[goldandrelics.com.au](https://goldandrelics.com.au)  
Hours: Various, please call to book

 **Local Tip**  
Ask our tour guide to show you  
a real gold nugget.



## Eerie Tours

Boo! Walk on the dark and spooky side with a Ballarat ghost tour or Ballarat Old Cemetery tour, brought to you by Eerie Tours. We specialise in the haunting and horrifying, and you'll be scared silly as we take you down dark alleys, into underground buildings and the remains of the old Ballarat Gaol. Look at the Gold Rush and the Eureka Stockade from a new angle as you explore parts of the country's most haunted city.

Lydiard Street, Ballarat VIC 3350  
1300 856 668  
[erietours.com.au](https://erietours.com.au)  
Hours: Various, please call to book  
**MAP 4:E3**



## Gold Rush Mini Golf

Home of the Big Miner, Gold Rush Mini Golf features two fully themed 18 hole courses offering fun for the whole family! Putt your way through the two courses and the range of facilities provided for your fun and enjoyment, including an all-weather themed indoor course, a themed outdoor course, BBQ facilities and outdoor seating, a function and conference room and themed café.

4 / 9367 Western Highway, Warrenheip VIC 3352  
03 5334 8150  
[goldrushgolf.com.au](https://goldrushgolf.com.au)  
Hours: School term Fri–Sun, school holidays everyday 9am to 6pm  
**MAP 5:H4**



## Kryal Castle

Kryal Castle is a legendary land of adventure, with knights, dragons, wizards, kings, queens, princesses, fairies and more. Once you cross the drawbridge an adventurous, fun-filled day within the sprawling village awaits. Experience the drama of a medieval joust, as knights and their warhorses battle it out on the main arena; get lost in our maze; be enchanted by pantomimes; or learn the ancient art of archery.

121 Forbes Rd, Leigh Creek  
VIC 3352 | 03 5334 8500  
[kryalcastle.com.au](https://kryalcastle.com.au)  
Hours: From 10am to 4pm on weekends, public holidays and Victorian school holidays  
**MAP 5:H4**

# Art

See art old and new. Stroke your chin and have thoughts provoked and minds (gently) blown.

# and

Take in a show. Don't miss your curtain call.

# Culture





**LEFT : The Lost Ones Contemporary Gallery and Basement Bar is a hub of art, music and culture located in the heart of Ballarat's arts precinct.**



## Art Gallery of Ballarat

Situated in the heart of the city's historical precinct, the Art Gallery of Ballarat is widely recognised as Australia's oldest and largest regional art gallery. Owned and operated by the City of Ballarat, it is known as one of the region's significant cultural flagships. Visitors are always surprised by the collection, which presents a comprehensive view of Australian art from the colonial period right through to contemporary works, and includes art from the Heidelberg School, Hans Heysen, Russell Drysdale, William Dobell, Jeffrey Smart, John Brack, Charles Blackman, Fred Williams and Brett Whiteley. With lovely light-filled spaces, the gallery is able to host three or more temporary exhibitions at one time, often showcasing the work of individual artists, whether emerging, mid-career or established. Over the past few years, the gallery has hosted acclaimed exhibitions such as The Archibald Prize as well as the Ballarat International Foto Biennale's headline photographer David LaChapelle in what was his first appearance in Australia. The gallery also offers trails for children to follow, school holiday programs under the instruction of professional artists, and free tours of the collection at 2pm every day. The popular gallery shop is a great spot for picking up local ceramics, hand-made jewellery and other quaint gifts, as well as souvenirs and children's art supplies. Drop in to the adjoining Kittelty's café, which faces onto the beautiful historic Lydiard Street, for a locally-made coffee, meal or snack.

40 Lydiard St Nth, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5320 5858  
artgalleryofballarat.com.au  
Hours: Daily from 10am to 5pm  
**MAP 4:E3**



## Creative Clunes

Making Clunes one of the great Booktowns of the world, Creative Clunes aims to create and develop the township as a vibrant rural cultural hub for books, writing and ideas.

The Clunes Station, PO Box 287,  
Clunes VIC 3370 | 03 5345 3947  
clunesbooktown.com.au/creative-clunes  
**MAP 3:E2**



## Macarthur Frameworks and Gallery

Macarthur Frameworks and Gallery showcases works by popular Victorian artists, including Vida Pearson, Lyn Cooke, Jane Reyne, Peter Bryan, Liz Cogley and Jon Crawley. We stock a large range of Australian made giftware, souvenirs and cards. This includes hard-to-find Australian made plush toys (native birds and animals), hand crafted wooden jewellery boxes. These make ideal gifts for sending overseas, or to give as presents to overseas visitors. We also have access to photographs of Ballarat from the past and the present.

We can also custom-frame your artwork, photographs, certificates, and memorabilia.

1008 Sturt Street, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5331 6958  
macarthurframeworks.com.au  
Hours: Mon—Fri from 8.30am to 5.30pm  
Sat from 9.00am to 12.00pm  
**MAP 4:A4**



## Adam Lindsay Gordon Craft Cottage (Crafts Council of Ballarat)

If it's hand-knitted, carved, sewn or painted, you'll find it here. With all the wares made entirely by locals, this little piece of Ballarat history will have you feeling all warm inside.

Ballarat Botanical Gardens, Wendouree Pde,  
Lake Wendouree VIC 3355  
03 5334 2005  
craftballarat.com  
Hours: Daily from 10am to 4pm  
**MAP 5:C4**

## Art and culture : 52 — 57

**“Visitors are always surprised by the collection, which presents a comprehensive view of Australian art from the colonial period right through to contemporary works, and includes works from the Heidelberg School.”**

## Art Gallery of Ballarat



## Overwrought Sculpture Garden

Our unique garden art, furniture and gates are made onsite and displayed in our Sculpture Garden and Gallery.

3409 Midland Hwy, Blampied VIC 3364  
0403 675 170  
overwrought.com.au  
Hours: Daily 10am—5pm  
**MAP 3:F2**



## Gallery on Sturt/Accent Framing

Spacious art gallery in Ballarat CBD. We exhibit artworks by notable Australian artists together with our talented local and regional artists. Custom framing and wide-format fine art printing services also provided onsite.

421 Sturt Street, Ballarat 3350  
03 5331 7011 | accentframing.com.au  
Hours: Mon—Fri from 9am to 5.00pm,  
Sat from 10am to 2pm.  
**MAP 4:C4**



## Post Office Gallery

Federation University Australia's Post Office Gallery is housed in the former Ballarat GPO. The Gallery features an exciting program of temporary exhibitions by local, emerging and significant Australian contemporary artists.

Cnr Sturt & Lydiard St Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5327 8615 | federation.edu.au/pogallery  
Hours: Open Wed—Sat 12pm to 5pm, Mon + Tue by appointment. \*check website for extended hours  
**MAP 4:E4**

# Shop

Handmade lovelies, high-end treats and vintage one-of-a-kinds. Find a gift for someone special.

# and

(Ps. that 'someone special' can be you)

# Relax

RIGHT : Sweet Fern is one of seven stockists in the world to have the full Aesop range





## Bridge Mall Traders

With more than 100 stores located in the heart of Ballarat, The Bridge Mall has the largest and most exciting mix of national and independent stores in the city.

62A Bridge Mall, Ballarat Central VIC 3350  
03 5331 8948  
bridgemall.com.au  
Hours: Please check individual stores for trading hours  
**MAP 4:F4**



## Elysium Day Spa

From skin care products to a contemporary day spa design, Elysium sets the highest standards of service and is geared towards promoting a holistic approach to health, wellbeing and beauty.

24 Doveton Street, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5332 9772  
elysiumdayspa.com.au  
Hours: Mon—Sat from 10am to 6pm  
**MAP 4:C4**



## Lana-Rose

Immerse yourself in the world of 50s fashion at your one stop-shop for all-things rockabilly, psychobilly, pinup and vintage-inspired.

14 Lydiard St North, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5332 2993 | lana-rose.com.au  
Hours: Tues—Fri from 10am to 5pm,  
Sat from 10am to 3pm  
**MAP 4:E3**



## Mary and Peg Home Essentials

With a range of contemporary Australian made and designed products, we offer beautiful, functional pieces to add style to your home.

319 Mair Street, Ballarat VIC 3350  
0409 557 692 |  
Hours: Tues—Fri from 10am to 4.30pm,  
Sat from 10am to 3pm  
**MAP 4:D3**

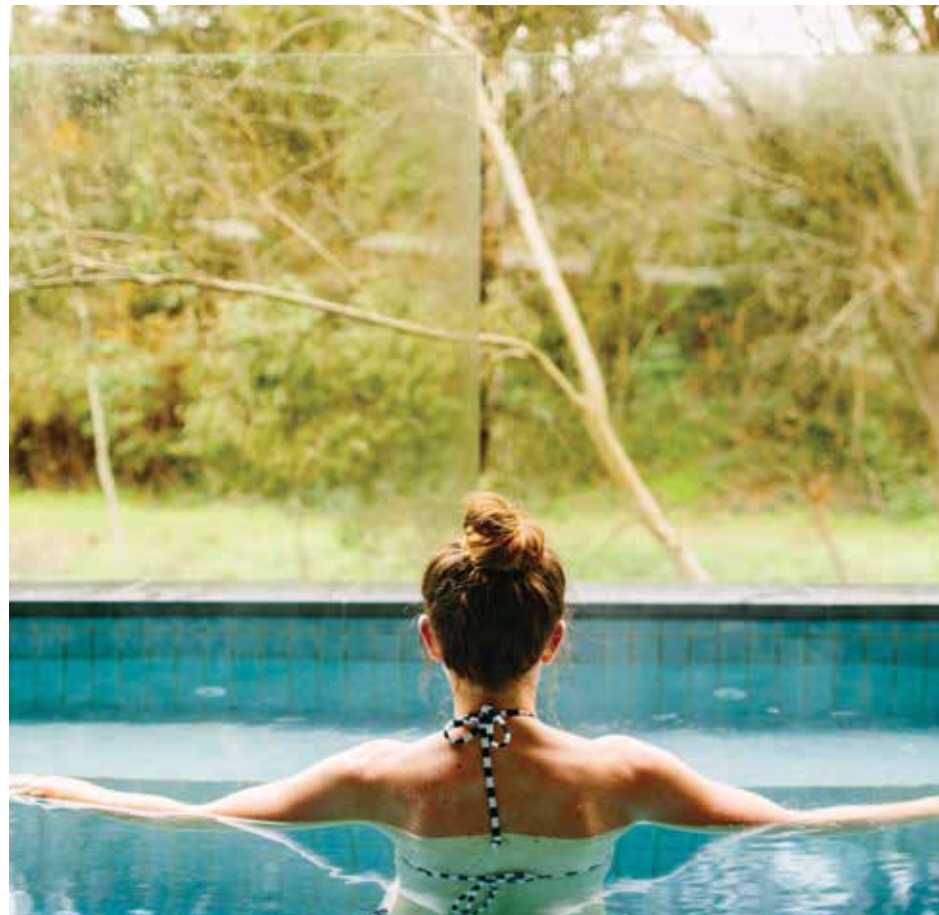


## Sweet Fern

A treasure trove in the heart of Ballarat, Sweet Fern houses Aesop and a luxurious range of niche perfumes, body, bath and home fragrances.

114 Armstrong St S, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5332 9297 | sweetfern.com.au  
Hour: Wed—Fri 10am to 5.30pm,  
Sat 10am to 2pm  
**MAP 4:D5**

## Shop and relax : 58 — 63



## Hepburn Bathhouse and Spa

The historic Hepburn Bathhouse & Spa offers mineral bathing direct from the source, dating back to the 1880s. With traditional social bathing in warm mineral water pools, 'taking the waters' is the most essential wellness experience on offer and one not to be rushed! You can combine this with a number of hydrotherapies, including spa couches, mineral hammam, outdoor bathing and a salt therapy pool in the Sanctuary. Opt for a private mineral bathing experience combined with massage therapies, facials, and other mineral wellness treatments. While you're here, drop in to the heritage-listed Hepburn Pavilion Café for a coffee or lunch. Visit the bathhouse for an hour, a day, or stay a while at our 5 star onsite luxury villas. Hepburn Bathhouse & Spa is a place where ancient spa bathing techniques meet with modern wellness modalities.

Mineral Springs Cres, Hepburn Springs VIC 3461  
03 5321 6000 | hepburnbathhouse.com  
Hours: Mon—Thu from 9am to 6.30pm, Fri from 9am to 9pm,  
Sat from 8am to 9pm and Sun from 8am to 6.30pm  
**MAP 3:F2**



## Sew Darn Special

Looking for some craft supplies for your next big project? Or perhaps you're in dire need of some suave new buttons for your favourite frock? Sew Darn Special is your one-stop-shop for all your sewing needs and clothing repairs. Stocking a large variety of sewing and craft supplies, we also offer frequent sewing and craft classes, a dry-cleaning service, wool and knitting accessories, alterations and a range of stunning embellishments. Sew Darn Special is also the largest button supplier outside of Melbourne, housing thousands of buttons in a variety of shapes, colours and sizes. The buttons have been lovingly-sourced from closing down sales, online auctions, manufacturers and designers. So whatever your crafting requirement, you can be sure that our specialised staff will be able to help.

107 Rubicon Street, Sebastopol VIC 3350  
03 5335 5302 | buttonheaven.com.au  
Hours: Mon—Fri from 8am to 6pm,  
Saturday from 10am to 3pm  
**MAP 5:D5**



## The Crafty Squirrel

Discover a wonderful mix of unique gifts, cool craft kits, homewares, vintage treasures and gorgeous haberdashery collected from around the world at this quirky independent store in the heart of Ballarat.

Cnr Errard & Urquhart Sts, Ballarat Central VIC 3350  
03 5331 4548 | thecraftysquirrel.com.au  
Hours: Thurs—Fri from 10am to 5pm,  
Sat from 10am to 4pm  
**MAP 5:D4**



## Studio g.a.s Ballarat

A quaint little store; Studio g.a.s Ballarat has been totally transformed and re-branded as Ballarat's one-stop destination for all-things women with its eclectic style allowing for a mix and match smorgasbord between labels.

207A Creswick Rd, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5338 8202 | studiogasballarat.com  
Hours: Mon—Fri from 10am to 5.30pm,  
Sat from 10am to 4pm  
**MAP 5:D4**

## Shop and relax : 58 — 63



## The Mining Exchange Gold Shop

Featuring in the Australian Lonely Planet guide, the shop caters for all your gold needs: nuggets, jewellery and more. Helping people with their golden needs for more than 20 years.

8A Lydiard St Nth, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5333 4242 | thegoldshop.com.au  
Hours: Closed Sun and Tue, Sat from 10.30am to 3.30pm  
and other days from 10.30am to 5pm  
**MAP 4:D3**



## UFS Dispensaries

Your not-for-profit community pharmacy. Open 24 hours, every day of the year. Includes free nursing service every evening 6 to 10pm.

717 Sturt St, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5331 9811  
ufs.com.au  
Hours: 24 hours, 365 days a year  
**MAP 4:B4**



## Woolshed Clothing

Woolshed Clothing has an extensive range of fashion for all ages, ranging from knitwear, casual and evening wear.

48 Armstrong St N, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5333 3550 | ballarat.com/  
woolshedclothing  
Hours: Mon — Fri 9am to 5pm, Sat 10am to 2pm  
**MAP 4:D3**

## Shop and relax : Top 5

### 1. Sweet Fern

Find your signature scent at regional Australia's only niche perfumery.

### 2. Hepburn Bathhouse and Spa & Elysium Day Spa

Pamper yourself with spas, mineral springs and a massage.

### 3. The Crafty Squirrel Sew Darn Special

Fossick through the crafty bits and bobs.

### 4. Bridge Mall

Explore the many specialty shops.

### 5. Mary and Peg, Lana Rose Studio Gas Ballarat

Stock up on the latest on-trend threads.

# Eat and Drink

RIGHT : Eclectic Tastes serves up delicious seasonal fare

Throw down local brews and wines and delicious, delicious coffee. Make a meal of it with regional produce and clever menus. Eat all the things.





LEFT : Mitchell Harris Wine Bar serves up the best of the region's local food and wine

## Eat and drink : 64 — 75



### Beechworth Bakery

Located in the Ballarat CBD, Beechworth Bakery serves great coffee, all day breakfast, baked goods, desserts and a large range of lunch options.

6 Grenville St S, Ballarat Central  
VIC 3350 | 1300 233 784  
beechworthbakery.com.au  
Hours: Daily from 6:30am to 6pm  
**MAP 4:E4**



### Billy's Bistro

Specialising in fresh Mediterranean-inspired food, Billy's is a friendly place to enjoy regional produce and a variety of local wines and beers with seating outdoors or indoors by the fire.

613 Main Rd, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5327 1295  
mercureballarat.com.au/billys  
Hours: Daily 7am to last order 9pm  
**MAP 5:E4**



### Brown Grain Thai Restaurant

Located right in the heart of Ballarat, Brown Grain serves a modern take on authentic Thai food. Fully licensed, diners have the option to eat in or take away.

212 Sturt St, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5340 0517 | 0474 193 995  
browngain.com.au  
Hours: Wed—Fri 11.30am to 2.30pm, dinner daily from 5pm  
**MAP 4:E4**



### Carboni's Pizza Kitchen

Relax and enjoy the authentic Italian hospitality at Carboni's Italian Kitchen. Located in the iconic Eureka Stockade precinct, the restaurant will give you a real taste of Italian cuisine.

152 Eureka St, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5331 2184  
carbonis.com.au  
Hours: Daily lunch and dinner  
**MAP 5:E4**



## City Oval Hotel

The City Oval Hotel is renowned as a warm and friendly destination for travellers and locals alike. It boasts a range of beers, ales, and wines from around the world.

1321 Mair Street Ballarat. Victoria. 3350  
03 5332 1155  
cityoval.com.au  
Hours: Daily from 11am to late  
**MAP 5:D4**



## Golden City Hotel

Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, our family-friendly restaurant is a firm favourite. Located in one of the city's historic buildings, we serve a range of dishes and cuisines to suit all.

427 Sturt St, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5331 6211  
goldencityhotel.com.au  
Hours: Daily from 8am to late  
**MAP 4:C4**



## Craigs Royal Hotel

Dine under the stars by night, or bathed in sunlight by day, in the glass-roofed Gallery in one of Ballarat's stunning heritage locales. Sample acclaimed menus devised by Head Chef Shannon Easton and Consultant Chef Ian Curley featuring the finest local produce. With an eclectic wine list featuring boutique and local producers, as well as international and cellar-aged wines, Craig's offers a divine dining experience in the heart of historic Ballarat.

10 Lydiard St Sth, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5331 1377  
craigroyal.com.au  
Hours: Daily from 7am to 9pm  
**MAP 4:D4**

## Eat and drink : 64 — 75



## Europa Café

Serving all day breakfast, tasty seasonal lunches, delectable house baked treats, and coffee by boutique roaster Cartel Coffee.

411 Sturt St, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5331 2486  
europacafe.com.au  
Hours: Daily from 7am to 6pm  
**MAP 4:C4**



## 金冠酒樓 Golden Crown Chinese Restaurant

Serving the community for over 35 years, Golden Crown offers authentic Chinese cuisine for dine-in, take away or home delivery.

101–105 Main Rd, Ballarat East VIC 3350  
03 5332 2169  
Hours: Open 6 days a week  
(closed Tuesday)  
**MAP 5:E4**



## Little Bird Ballarat

A friendly licensed cafe serving fresh homemade food, including cakes, biscuits and pastries, in an eclectic 50s setting.

205 Sturt St, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5331 1255  
facebook.com/littlebirdballarat  
Hours: Mon–Sat from 7.30am to 5pm  
**MAP 4:D4**



## Eclectic Tastes Café and Pantry

Locally owned and operated, Eclectic Tastes offers more than just your usual café experience. With seasonal breakfast and lunch daily, we give our customers a touch of fine dining coupled with a metropolitan city café vibe. Showcasing the diversity of what the region has to offer including local produce, wines, boutique beers and great coffee, our relaxed cafe environment and family-friendly atmosphere makes for a surprising and comfortable dining experience.

2 Burnbank St, Lake Wendouree VIC 3350  
03 5339 3391 | eclecticstastes.com.au  
Hours: Mon–Fri from 7am to 4.30pm  
Sat–Sun from 8am to 4pm  
**MAP 5:D3**



## Gor Gai Thai Noodle & Street Food

Nestled in Sturt Street in the middle of Ballarat's foodie precinct, Gor Gai Thai Noodle and Street Food brings a taste of Bangkok to the city with its mouth-watering Thai dishes.

320 Sturt Street, Ballarat Central 3350  
03 5331 1809 | 0499 509 950 | gorgaithaifood.com.au  
Hours: Lunch Tues—Sat from 11.30am to 3pm  
Dinner 7 days from 5pm to 10pm  
**MAP 4:D4**



## Hog's Ballarat, Australia's Steakhouse

Bring the whole family along for an indulgent dining experience. Serving a range of American-inspired dishes, we are known nationwide for our delicious meals and our steaks — cooked to perfection.

8 Victoria St, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5333 3655 | hogsbreath.com.au  
Hours: Mon—Thurs from 11.30am to 2.30pm and 5.30pm to 9pm, Fri—Sun from 11.30am to 9.30pm  
**MAP 4:G4**



## Irish Murphy's Ballarat

Come in and enjoy the good Craic at Irish Murphy's, with hearty meals, and live entertainment, right in the centre of Ballarat.

36 Sturt St, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5331 4091 | murphysballarat.com.au  
Hours: Daily from 11.30am to 2pm for lunch and 6pm to 9pm for dinner  
**MAP 4:E4**



## Le Pêche Gourmand

Le Pêché Gourmand boulangerie — patisserie is a French bakery and pastry shop offering both sweet and savoury French delights in the heart of the charming goldfields township of Creswick.

69A Albert St, Creswick VIC 3363  
03 5345 2731  
lepechegourmand.com.au  
Hours: Tues—Sat from 7am to 3pm  
**MAP 3:F2**

## Eat and drink : 64 — 75



## Meigas

Immerse yourself in an authentic Spanish experience at Meigas. One of the local crowd favourites, Meigas offers everything from paella to Galician-style octopus and an impressive Spanish wine list.

33 Armstrong St N, Ballarat Central VIC 3350  
03 5331 9444  
facebook.com/meigascave  
Hours: Tue—Sat from 12pm—late  
**MAP 4:D3**



## Oscars Café & Bar

Nestled in the centre of the city, Oscar's has a reputation for great food and excellent customer service. With a recently-extended contemporary open-plan restaurant, you're guaranteed a memorable dining experience.

18 Doveton St Sth, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5331 1451  
oscarshotel.com.au  
Hours: Check website  
**MAP 4:D4**



## Munster Arms Hotel

The Munster Arms is a family owned gastropub serving a large range of craft beers, local wines, food, coffee, Sunday roast.

10 Victoria Street, Bakery Hill Ballarat VIC 3350 | 03 5332 2323  
themunsterarmshotel.com.au  
Hours: Mon—Thurs from 11am to 10pm  
Fri—Sat from 11am to late.  
**MAP 4:G3**



## Pancake Kitchen

A Ballarat institution since 1978, the Pancake Kitchen is set in a heritage building, providing a relaxing dining experience.

2 Grenville Street, South Ballarat VIC 3350 | 03 5331 6555  
facebook.com/thebankit  
Hours: Daily from 7.30am to 10pm  
**MAP 4:E4**



## Talbot Provedore and Eatery

Offering a taste of the region on our menu and in the pro-vedore, plus regional wines, cider and craft beer to enjoy in or take-away.

42 Scandinavian Cres, Talbot VIC 3371  
03 5463 2008 | talbotprovedore.com.au  
Hours: Thurs — Sun from 10am to 5pm  
Saturday Dinner from 6pm  
**MAP 3:E2**



## Peter Ford Catering

Established in 2000, Peter Ford Catering adds sophistication to regional Victoria's catering scene. Using the freshest ingredients from regional producers and suppliers, and with an innovative and creative approach. We specialise in weddings, corporate and private functions across Ballarat, regional Victoria and Melbourne. With an infectious enthusiasm and passion for fine food, it's not surprising that Peter Ford Catering has become the best catering company this side of the state.

21 College St, Wendouree VIC 3355  
0410 331 146  
peterfordcatering.com  
**MAP 5:C3**



## Pipers by the Lake

Nestled amongst century-old trees, Pipers By The Lake is located on the shores of Ballarat's iconic Lake Wendouree directly across the road from the magnificent and historic Botanical Gardens. The 1800's century building features outside tables overlooking Lake Wendouree, a stylish light-filled interior, and Australian style cuisine. The restaurant is renowned for offering quality and value in an amazing setting. Come in for a coffee or choose from the extensive breakfast and lunch menu.

403 Wendouree Parade, Lake Wendouree, VIC 3355  
03 5334 1811 | pipersbythelake.com.au  
Hours: Mon—Fri from 9am to 4pm,  
Sat—Sun from 8am to 4.30pm  
**MAP 5:C3**



## Racers Bar and Café

Located by the shores of Lake Wendouree, Racer's offers a menu boasting fresh home-made food and quality coffee with a view. Open from early morning brekky to lunch and arvo tea.

2 Wendouree Pde, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5332 6492  
racersbar.com.au  
Hours: Daily from 7.00am to 6pm  
**MAP 5:D4**



## The Forge Pizzeria

Boasting a tempting selection of wood-fired pizzas made with the region's best ingredients, The Forge is a go-to spot for singles, couples and families alike. Also serving local beers, wines and locally roasted coffee.

14 Armstrong St Nth, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5337 6635  
theforgepizzeria.com.au  
Hours: Daily from 12pm to 10pm  
**MAP 4:D4**



## Red Lion Hotel

An award-winning Ballarat venue, the Red Lion offers all-day dining, seven days a week, and features a cafe, restaurant, bar, sports bar, playground and exclusive brewery fresh Carlton Draught tank beer.

221 Main Rd, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5331 3393  
theredlion.com.au  
Hours: Daily, all day dining until 10pm  
**MAP 5:E4**



## The Lane at The George Hotel

Take a vibrant laneway walk to the street café, bar and restaurants that are The Lane and delight in the varied menu of fine food, quality coffee, local wine, live music and entertainment.

27 Lydiard St Nth, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5333 4866 | georgehotelballarat.com.au  
Hours: Mon—Fri from 7am to late,  
Sat—Sun from 8am to late  
**MAP 4:D4**



## The Mallow Hotel

One of Ballarat's most-loved gastro pubs, The Mallow Hotel offers a fine selection of wine, ales and spirits from Ballarat and beyond, as well as a satisfying contemporary pub menu.

18–20 Skipton St, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5331 1073  
themallow.com.au  
Hours: Wed–Thurs 4pm to late, Fri–Sun 12pm to late  
**MAP 5:D4**



## Tokyo Grill House

Located in the heart of Ballarat's food precinct, Tokyo Grill House serves a variety of Japanese and Teppanyaki meals. The restaurant has served the community for more than 25 years.

37 Armstrong St N, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5333 3945  
facebook.com/tokyogrillhouse  
Hours: Daily 11.30am to 2.30pm and 5.30pm to 10.30pm  
**MAP 4:D3**



## The Yacht Club

The Yacht Club is Ballarat's premier waterfront venue. The café and restaurant offers everything we are about — a lakeside setting, fresh modern Australian cuisine with a seafood influence, relaxed furnishings and interiors, and an amazing deck to relax. Open seven days, The Yacht Club offers breakfast and lunch with dinner available on Thursdays and Fridays. There is ample parking onsite, wheelchair access and we are pram friendly.

18 Lake Wendouree Foreshore, Wendouree Parade Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5331 2208  
theyachtclub.net.au  
Hours: Daily from 7am and Sunday from 8am  
**MAP 5:D4**

## Eat and drink : 64 — 75



## Tuki Trout Farm

Catch your own trout for lunch (or take it home for later). Nosh on our fresh farm produce, amazing trout and local lamb and beef. Admire our stunning natural surroundings.

60 Stoney Rises Rd, Smeaton VIC 3364  
03 5345 6233  
tuki.com.au  
Hours: Daily from 11am to 6pm  
**MAP 3:E2**



## Webster's Market and Cafe

Tucked away in Ballarat's historic Webster Street and housed in a charming renovated heritage corner store, you will discover the city's 'go-to' brunch and coffee destination.

61 Webster St, Ballarat Central VIC 3350  
03 5331 2498 | webstersmarketandcafe.com  
Hours: Mon–Fri from 7am to 5pm,  
Sat–Sun from 8am to 4pm  
**MAP 4:B2**



## Western Hotel

At The Western, it's the usual spiel with an unusual twist. A family-friendly pub with all the trimmings, it's the perfect place for a meal, drink with friends, or work function.

1221 Sturt St, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5332 2218  
westernhotel.com.au  
Hours: Daily from 10am, meals from 11.30am  
**MAP 5:D4**



## Yellow Espresso

Serving a slice of Melbourne's world-class coffee scene in Ballarat, with popular brunch choices for the hungry and health-conscious.

13 Sturt Street Ballarat, VIC 3350  
03 5332 3050  
yellowespresso.com  
Hours: Tue–Sun from 8am to 4pm  
**MAP 4:E4**

# Eat and Drink Craft Beer, Gin and Wine

**Throw down local brews and relish handcrafted wines.**



## Kilderkin Distillery

At Kilderkin Distillery our focus is on the very best premium gin and whisky. While our whisky is still in barrels, we are very proud to be producing the finest gins for you to enjoy. To distill a smooth, clean gin we carefully select the finest botanicals and we run our stills slowly. You can't rush a great gin. We have our three premium gins at our cellar door with the occasional limited release gin as well.

11A Michaels Dr, Ballarat VIC 3350  
0424 791 790  
kilderkindistillery.com.au  
Hours: Mon—Fri 10am to 4pm, Sat 12pm to 5pm  
**MAP 5:B4**



## Eat and drink, craft beer, gin and wine: 76 — 77



## Athletic Club Brewery

Located in the centre of Ballarat, we are the community's family-owned small-batch brewery. Boasting an eclectic range of beers which are served from our taproom that looks out across the fully operational brewery.

47 Mair Street East,  
Ballarat VIC 3350 | 03 5332 7031  
athleticclubbrewery.com.au  
Hours: 11am until late 7 days  
**MAP 4:F3**



## Cubby Haus Brewing

Cubby Haus is a family-run brewery with a passion for good living, fantastic beer and building stuff.

884 Humffray St S, Mount Pleasant VIC 3350 | 03 4343 1777  
cubbyhausbrewing.com.au  
Hours: Check website  
**MAP 5:D5**



## Red Duck Brewery

Since 2005 Red Duck has been at the forefront of the craft beer revolution. We brew our regular range all year round and there is always a great range of limited releases and seasonal beers at our cellar door.

11a Michaels Dr, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5332 0723 | redduckbeer.com.au  
Hours: Mon—Fri from 10am to 4pm  
Sat from 12pm to 5pm  
**MAP 5:B4**



## Hop Temple

Follow the umbrellas and festoon lighting to Hop Temple, a laneway delight enthusiastic about good beer, wine and food.

Rear of 24-28 Armstrong St Nth, Ballarat VIC 3350 | 03 5317 7158  
hoptemple.com.au  
Hours: Wed—Fri 4pm to late,  
Sat—Sun 12pm to late  
**MAP 4:D3**



## Captain's Creek Organic Wines

With a café and cellar door, Captains Creek provides visitors a taste of the region's finest wines.

Kangaroo Hills Rd, Blampied VIC 3364 | 03 5345 7408  
captainscreek.com  
Hours: Cellar door and cafe; Sat — Sun from 11am to 5pm  
**MAP 3:F2**

# Pyrenees Wine Region

**The Pyrenees Wine Region, about half an hour outside Ballarat, is the sort of place you can drop in to for a couple of days or quite happily potter around for a week — however long you manage to stretch your trip out for, you can't really help but have more than your fair share of delicious food and locally produced wine.**

There are dozens of cellar doors where you can pick up a bottle or two, and more often than not, have lunch or a bit of a snack. There are several Pyrenees wineries which have been given five red stars in wine critic James Halliday's most recent Australian Wine Companion. Eating and drinking isn't all that there is to do here though – it's a gorgeous part of the country, with ironbark forests, flora and fauna reserves, great spots to picnic and lots of good bushwalking, including some tracks most suitable for the super experienced. There are some lovely old towns in the area as well, with Moonambel and Avoca the perfect places to use as a base.

To find out more about the Pyrenees Wine Region, go to [visitypyrenees.com.au](http://visitypyrenees.com.au)



LEFT : Blue  
Pyrenees cellar

RIGHT : Sally's Paddock  
barrel shed



Avoca and Moonambel are two of the liveliest little towns in the Pyrenees Shire, and definitely worth exploring. Come for the weekend or, if you're in the Ballarat area, drop in for the day.

## Avoca and Moonambel

### Avoca & Moonambel : Top 5 things to do

#### 1. The Avoca Hotel

Visit a traditional country pub serving contemporary fine fare. The hotel has bags of character, a great atmosphere, and some of the best food and wine in the region.

#### 2. Avoca Riverside Market

Stock up on produce, craft, clothes, jewels and more by the banks of the Avoca River at the on the fourth Sunday of the month.

#### 3. ANZAC Day Races & Avoca Cup

Schedule your visit to coincide with these events — both ideal for singles, couples or the whole family!

#### 4. Explore

The cafes, bakeries and collectable shops that line the Avoca main street, boasting leftover buildings from the goldrush era.

#### 5. Moonambel, Pyrenees State Forest, & St Arnaud National Park

Admire the panoramic views and tranquil settings.

TOP : Avoca  
Hotel platter

BOTTOM: Avoca  
Hotel exterior

## Beaufort

You won't go short of something to eat or drink at Beaufort, which is known as the coffee capital of the Pyrenees. The town is packed with cafes, some of which also serve wine and beer from the region.



### Beaufort : Top 5 things to do

#### 1. Pyrenees Pantry and Sparrows Cafe

Enjoy home-cooked treats, gift ideas or fresh sourdough.

#### 2. Vintage and collectable shops

Pick up a unique bargain or two.

#### 3. Walk alongside Beaufort Lake Koori Art Trail

Explore the indigenous wonders by the lakeside.

#### 4. Mount Buangor State Park & Mount Cole State Forest

Discover the eucalypt forests, creek flats and wildflowers.

#### 5. Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally

Celebrating the beauty in vintage vehicles.

TOP : Pyrenees Pantry

BOTTOM : Beaufort  
Motors building



## Blue Pyrenees Estate

One of Australia's first ventures into cool climate viticulture, Blue Pyrenees Estate is committed to making authentic, world-class wines from its Estate vineyards. Cafe open each day serving grazing plates of local produce.

656 Vinoca Rd, Avoca VIC 3467  
03 5465 1111  
bluepyrenees.com.au  
Hours: 11am to 5pm, 7 days (lunch from 12–2.30pm)  
**MAP 1:D4**



## DogRock Winery and Cellar Door

A 5 red-star rated James Halliday winery, DogRock produces its own small batches of premium Riesling, Chardonnay, Shiraz, Grenache, Tempranillo and Cabernet Sauvignon mostly from estate-grown fruit.

114 Degrares Road, Crowlands VIC 3377  
0409 280 317  
dogrock.com.au  
Hours: Open any time by appointment  
**MAP 1:A4**



## Sally's Paddock

Sally's Paddock sits amongst the pristine natural environment of the Pyrenees Ranges. The temperate climate is idyllic for the production of complex estate-grown red wines of exceptional quality.

1926 Sunraysia Hwy, Redbank VIC 3477  
03 5467 7255  
sallyspaddock.com.au  
Hours: Mon—Sat 9am to 5pm | Sunday 10am to 5pm  
**MAP 1:C2**



## Wimmera Hills Winery

Not only does Wimmera Hills Winery make a range of shiraz wines, but they are also a boutique distillery making gin, triple sec and blueberry liqueur from locally harvested botanicals. Cottage accommodation and meals available.

606 Elmhurst-Glenpatrick Road, Elmhurst VIC 3469  
0418 141 685  
wimmerahills.com.au  
Hours: Open by appointment  
**MAP 1:C5**

## Wander the region, Pyrenees Wine Region : 78 — 83



## Taltarni Vineyard

Taltarni Vineyard and Winery was founded on the principles of individuality, independence and expression, which still guide us today. Combining old-world traditions with innovative new-world techniques, Taltarni produces a diverse range of high-calibre still red and white wines, and internationally award winning méthode-traditionnelle crafted sparklings.

339 Taltarni Rd, Moonambel VIC 3478  
03 5459 7900  
taltarnivineyard.com.au  
Hours: Daily from 11am to 5pm  
**MAP 1:B3**



# Buninyong

For a little town, Buninyong has a lot going for it. Located only 15 minutes from Ballarat, this township has its own film festival, marmalade fair and Good Life festival. Home to some great examples of goldfields' architecture, as well as some of the region's most beautiful natural wonders, there's plenty to discover.

To find out more about Buninyong, go to [buninyong.vic.au](http://buninyong.vic.au)



## Buninyong : Top 5 things to do

### 1. Mount Buninyong

Take a bushwalk, hike or cycle up Mount Buninyong and soak up the views.

### 2. Buninyong Botanic Gardens

Wander through the historic Buninyong Botanic Gardens, designed in the 1860s by Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, director of Melbourne's Botanic Gardens.

### 3. Cafes

Settle into the eclectic cafes along the main street for some locally made refreshments.

### 4. Historic Walks

Take the Buninyong Historic Walk to enjoy the heritage buildings including the Town Hall, Police Court House, old library and bluestone brewery.

### 5. Cool climate vino

Visit Sinclair of Scotsburn or Mt Buninyong Winery to taste some cool-climate vintages.

LEFT : Buninyong cycling

TOP RIGHT : Buninyong

BOTTOM RIGHT :  
Buninyong Cafes

# Central Goldfields

TOP LEFT : Talbot Farmer's Market apples

BOTTOM LEFT : Maryborough wine store

RIGHT : Maryborough produce



## Central Goldfields : Top 5 things to do

### 1. Talbot Farmer's Market

Visit the award-winning Talbot Farmers' Market on the third Sunday of every month and grab yourself some fresh regional goodies.

### 2. Talbot Provedore and Eatery

Find your place at the Talbot Provedore and Eatery – serving up the best in regional food and wine.

### 3. Maryborough's Railway Station.

Admire Maryborough's iconic 19th-century Queen Anne-style red brick Railway Station and savour some delicious treats and coffee in the station café.

### 4. Museums and galleries

Visit the region's scattering of museums and galleries including the Central Goldfields Art Gallery, Corridor Gallery, and the Talbot Arts and Historical Museum.

### 5. Walking and cycling

Walking and cycling is one of the best ways to enjoy the Central Goldfields' town-ships, so wonder through some of the beautiful box ironbark parks and forests including Paddys Ranges State Park, Maryborough Regional Park and Craigie State Forest, or pedal the Ballarat-Maryborough Heritage Cycling Trail.

Home to the Talbot Farmer's Market, one of the first and best markets in Victoria, the Central Goldfields is just that — the centre of Victoria's goldfields map. Comprised of several historic townships, you'll be able to experience some modern offerings while wandering through the glory of yesteryear.

To find out more about the Central Goldfields, go to [centralgoldfields.com.au](http://centralgoldfields.com.au)





# Clunes

There are only 20 or so International Booktowns in the world, and Clunes is one of them. There's everything there for the discerning bookworm — shops selling bargain secondhand books as well as first editions, rare books and, of course, new ones. But there's plenty more than books that characterise this bustling little hamlet.

To find out more about Clunes, go to [hepburn.vic.gov.au](http://hepburn.vic.gov.au)



LEFT : Clunes Central Garage  
RIGHT : Clunes region

## Clunes : Top 5 things to do

### 1. Clunes Booktown

Clunes Booktown runs in May every year, and is the perfect time to visit. The annual festival has the largest collection of books for sale in Australia as well as workshops and author talks.

### 2. Insta-worthy

Go on your own photographic expedition of the town. The Main Street hasn't altered much since the 1800s and most of the buildings and shopfronts are heritage listed.

### 3. Explore the history.

Take a sticky beak in the Lee Medlyn home of bottles which houses 6,000 rare bottles dating back to the goldrush.

### 4. Cafe scene

Indulge in some ice-cream, coffee, sweet treats or pastries at the cafés and eateries that line the main street.

### 5. Antiques

Fossick for some vintage treasures or antiques and find your own piece of gold to take home.

Creswick has always been pretty, but now it's home to a fine selection of gourmet cafes and eateries and is turning into quite a foodie hub as well. Combine this with its boutique retailers, monthly market and intriguing history, and you have a village full of charm.

To find out more about Creswick, go to [visitorswick.com.au](http://visitorswick.com.au)

# Creswick

RIGHT : Creswick  
Woollen Mills alpaca

BOTTOM : Le Pêche  
Gourmand baguette



## Creswick : Top 5 things to do

### 1. Creswick Woollen Mills

Head to the award-winning Creswick Woollen Mills, one of the town's largest employers. Wander through its Very Fine Yarn exhibition, pet the alpacas, shop for some woollen wonders, and discover all there is to know about the attraction's rich history.

### 2. Creswick Market

Visit the Creswick Market on the third Saturday of every month and grab yourself some local produce, wares, arts and crafts and other bits and bobs.

### 3. French bread and pastries

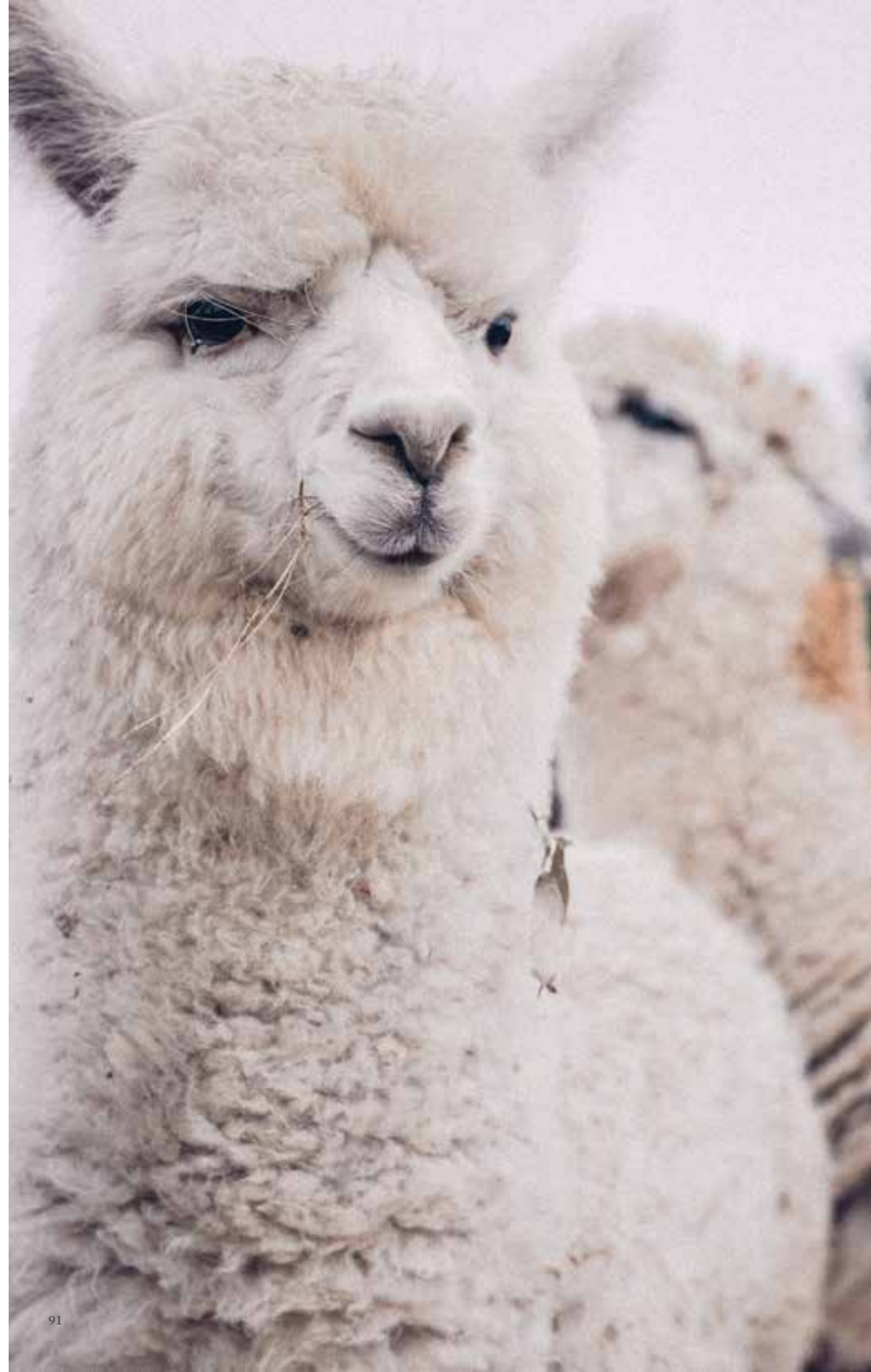
Pick up some delectable treats at the authentic French bread and pastry shop Le Pêche Gourmand.

### 4. Lakes

Have a picnic, swim, walk or barbeque at St George's Lake or Calembeen Lake.

### 5. A day on the greens

Go for a round of golf at the RACV Goldfields Resort championship course. You can even lay your head to rest in one of their luxury rooms, too.





South of Ballarat, Golden Plains is just the spot to drink good wine, head outdoors, check out some goldfields history, see a bit of art, rock a music festival or do absolutely nothing at all. The people of Golden Plains love what they do and want to share it with you.

To find out more about the Golden Plains region, go to [goldenplains.vic.gov.au](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au)

# Golden Plains

LEFT : Nimons Bridge

## Golden Plains : Top 5 things to do

### 1. Country Markets

Visit the Smythesdale Country Market or the Golden Plains Farmers' Market in Bannockburn and pick up some local goodness.

### 2. Music Festivals

Rock out at the acclaimed Meredith Music Festival in December or Golden Plains in March – both hosted at the Meredith Supernatural Amphitheatre.

### 3. Wineries.

Tour one of the Golden Plains' acclaimed wineries along the Moorabool Valley Taste Trail.

### 4. Steiglitz Historic Park

Visit the early gold mining town at Steiglitz Historic Park and discover the history behind the quaint, photogenic goldfields buildings.

### 5. Ballarat to Skipton Rail Trail

Tackle the Ballarat to Skipton Rail Trail on foot, bike or horseback.

# Goldfields Track

While most visitors to the Ballarat area arrive — and leave — by car, the more energetic and adventurous can travel by foot or mountain bike on the 210km-long Goldfields Track, which meanders through central Victoria from Mount Buninyong right up to Bendigo. Originally known as the Great Dividing Trail, this natural bush track takes you through some of the region's most interesting villages and towns as well as forests, farmland and hill country.

**To find out more about the Goldfields Track,  
go to [goldfieldstrack.com.au](http://goldfieldstrack.com.au)**

## Goldfields Track : Top 5 things to do

### 1. Stay

Stay in the different accommodation providers dotted along the track, with everything from budget to luxurious options available.

### 2. Eat

Refuel at the many cafes and eateries, starting with breakfast in Buninyong followed by fine fare in Creswick, Daylesford, Castlemaine and finally Bendigo.

### 3. Explore

Take a dip at St George's Lake in Creswick before continuing your journey along an abandoned railway line.

### 4. Indulge

Treat yourself to a day spa or sweet treats at the Chocolate Mill in Daylesford, or find the odd spot of vintage shopping in any of the village shops.

### 5. Art and nature

Stop in at galleries and museums and revel in the wild flowers, spectacular gullies and native bushland.





# Great Southern Touring Route

Ballarat might be your focus, but there's a lot more to see in Victoria, and the 850km-long Great Southern Touring Route can set you in the right direction. It's one of the best drives you can possibly imagine, starting in Melbourne and heading towards Geelong.

To find out more about the Great Southern Touring Route, go to [greatsoutherntouring.com.au](https://greatsoutherntouring.com.au)

## Great Southern Touring Route : Top 5 things to do

- 1. Geelong to the Bellarine**  
Stop in at Little Creatures' Victorian outpost, housed in the old Valley Worsted Mills.
- 2. Great Ocean Road**  
Admire the spectacular views along the Great Ocean Road coastline, and watch the sun set over the iconic Twelve Apostles.
- 3. Grampians**  
Find out about the local environment and indigenous culture at the Brambuk National Park and Cultural Centre at the Grampians National Park.
- 4. Ballarat**  
Discover the city's major attractions such as Sovereign Hill and the Art Gallery, while basking in the food, wine and cultural offerings of today against the backdrop of yesteryear.
- 5. Daylesford Spa Country**  
Take a small detour towards Daylesford and Trentham for a nice relaxing end to your trip.

**LEFT : Great Southern  
Touring Route coastline**

**Learmonth has a bit of everything — a sculpture precinct, great birdwatching, and heritage buildings. To help you make the most of it, local organisations have put together some self-guided walking tours.**

**To find out more about Learmonth, go to [visitballarat.com.au](https://visitballarat.com.au)**

# Learmonth

## **Learmonth : Top 5 things to do**

### **1. Heritage Walk**

The Heritage Walk features 26 stops featuring places of interest from the 1860s when Learmonth was booming with blacksmiths, hotels, saddlers, bakers and dozens of other businesses.

### **2. Eat and sip**

Grab a bite to eat at the Stag Hotel, one of the oldest hotels in the district, or visit Café Sidra. While you're there, try the cider which is made with apples from their own orchard.

### **3. Lake Learmonth.**

Take a stroll along the Lake Learmonth foreshore and learn about the history, geography and wildlife of the area.

### **4. Birdwatching**

Do a spot of birdwatching along the trail, which features a bird hide for bird enthusiasts.

### **5. Scenic views**

For fantastic views over the whole area, head to Bankin Hill, one of the many volcanoes in the district.



# Smeaton

# and

# Blampied



## Smeaton and Blampied : Top 5 things to do

### 1. Tuki Trout Farm

Fish for your luck at Tuki Trout Farm. Your catch will be cleaned and cooked for you, or packaged to take home and eat later.

### 2. Country Pubs

Visit some of the townships' hubs including the Cumberland Hotel or Victoria's oldest pub the Swiss Mountain Hotel.

### 3. Goldmining history.

Follow the Buried Rivers of Gold Heritage Trail or visit Anderson's Mill and learn more about the area's goldmining history.

### 4. Overwrought Gallery

Wander through the gardens at Overwrought Gallery and Sculpture Garden where you'll come across loads of garden art made onsite.

### 5. Captains Creek Organic Wines

Drive through the countryside and discover small wineries and farm gates, such as Captains Creek Organic Wines, where you can try their wine and cider, or have a delicious lunch from produce grown on the property and nearby.

It's hard to imagine now, but in 1850 there were eight hotels, a five-storey bluestone flourmill, butter factory and several banks in Smeaton. Some things don't change, and there is still a lot to do in Smeaton, Blampied and surrounds to keep you going for a long while.

LEFT : Captains Creek  
Organic Wines

BOTTOM : Tuki Trout Farm





**Stay**

**Places to rest up**

**and relax**



BELOW : Lascelles offers modern luxury in the heart of town

LEFT : Perfectly positioned and sun-drenched Lakes Edge Apartments



## Ballarat Accommodation Guide

Search and book over 50 Bed and Breakfast, Self-Contained and Boutique accommodation options in the Ballarat and Goldfields region. Contact operators directly, receive live vacancy information, and get your own accommodation map.

[ballarataccommodationguide.com.au](http://ballarataccommodationguide.com.au)



## Ballarat Central City Motor Inn

Quality accommodation with indoor heated pool in historic Bakery Hill and CBD. Close to restaurants, theatres and shops.

16 Victoria St, Bakery Hill VIC 3350  
03 5333 1775  
[ccmotorinn.com.au](http://ccmotorinn.com.au)  
**MAP 4:H4**



## Barkly Motor Lodge

Located just 200 metres from the Bridge Street shopping mall, the Barkly Motor Lodge is a great central base for your visit to Ballarat, with everything you need for a pleasant stay.

43 Main Rd, Bakery Hill VIC 3350  
03 5331 8838  
[barklymotorlodge.com.au](http://barklymotorlodge.com.au)  
**MAP 4:H4**



## Begonia City Motor Inn

We pride ourselves on our quality accommodation with an emphasis on value, cleanliness and hospitality. With great services all within walking distance, Begonia City provides everything you need for a pleasant stay.

244 Albert St, Sebastopol VIC 3356  
03 5335 5577 | 1800 665 199  
[begoniacity.com.au](http://begoniacity.com.au)  
**MAP 5:D6**

## Stay, hotels and motels : 102 – 113



## Craig's Royal Hotel

Located on historic Lydiard Street in the heart of beautiful Ballarat, Craig's Royal Hotel is a destination in itself. The legendary Australian gold-rush era grand hotel is a true icon of the Victorian period. Opening in 1853, it has played host to poets, princes and prime ministers over its 160-year history. Now, after extensive restoration, the magnificent accommodation, dining experiences and business facilities offered, are also establishing Craig's as a modern day icon.

Stay in one of the 41 luxurious rooms or suites, where elaborate attention to detail is evident in every finishing. Enjoy a coffee and cake in Craig's Larder café & local produce store, or a drink in the legendary Craig's bar, with its antique carved Australian cedar detail. Dine in The Gallery, where you can enjoy breakfast or lunch basking in the sun-drenched conservatory or dinner under the stars. The seasonal menu produced by head chef Shannon Easton highlights some of the best local produce on offer, matched with an extensive wine list, featuring both local and international wines. If you're looking to entertain, why not host a private party in the original bluestone cellar? Or if you're looking for a beautiful historical wedding space, celebrate your special day in any of the three stunning banquet rooms.

If you're looking to experience the extraordinary, then it's time you experienced Craig's.

10 Lydiard St Sth, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5331 1377  
[craigroyal.com.au](http://craigroyal.com.au)  
**MAP 4:D4**



## Lake Inn Ballarat

The Lake Inn combines modern and traditional Motel Accommodation. It has a perfect location quiet but central. The Lake Inn Ballarat offers spacious extra-large motel rooms with free wifi.

1317 Mair St, Ballarat Central VIC 3350  
03 5338 8344  
lakeinnballarat.com.au  
**MAP 5:D4**



## Mercure Ballarat Hotel & Convention Centre

Set in three hectares of grounds opposite Sovereign Hill, Mercure Ballarat is a four-star hotel and conference venue. The retreat-like setting includes gardens and bushland plus an ornamental lake with sun deck areas.

613 Main Rd, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5327 1200 | mercureballarat.com.au  
Hours: 24 hour reception  
**MAP 5:E5**



## Oscars Hotel

Located in the heart of the city in close proximity to dining, retail and attractions, our unique bou-tique hotel offers stylish accommodation with contemporary amenities to ensure a comfort-able stay.

18 Doveton St Sth, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5331 1451 | oscarshotel.com.au  
Hours: 24 hour reception  
**MAP 4:D3**



## Quality Inn Heritage on Lydiard

This centrally located luxury boutique hotel offers modern facilities, dining and entertainment in one of Ballarat's most beautiful historic buildings. Art Gallery, cinema, retail and a range of dining options also at your doorstep.

15 Lydiard St N, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5327 2777  
heritageonlydiard.com.au  
**MAP 4:D3**

## Stay, hotels and motels : 102 — 113



## Miners Retreat Motel

A good mixture of accom-oda-tion options, including cabins. Good value of money, minutes from CBD and attractions.

604-610 Eureka St, Ballarat VIC 3350  
5331 6900  
minersretreat.com.au  
**MAP 5:F4**



## Sovereign Hill Hotel

The only accommodation loc-ated onsite at Sovereign Hill, with direct access through a secret entrance to the outdoor museum.

39-41 Magpie St, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5337 1199  
sovereignhill.com.au  
**MAP 5:E5**



## Sovereign Park Motor Inn

Ballarat's best indoor heated pool and, based on guest reviews, we're ranked 15th in Australia for family accommodation.

223 Main Rd, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5331 3955  
sovpark.com  
**MAP 5:E4**



## Quest Ballarat

Located in the heart of Ballarat in a redeveloped historic building, Quest Ballarat offers a range of studio, one and two bedroom serviced apartments, onsite conference facilities, complimentary car parking and a courtyard BBQ area. With wifi and Foxtel, and only a stone's throw away from the CBD, chargeback arrangements with cafes and restaurants are also available. Quest Ballarat is an ideal choice for both corporate and leisure travelers alike.

7 Dawson St Nth, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5309 1200  
questballarat.com.au  
**MAP 4:C3**



## The George Hotel

This centrally located luxury hotel offers modern facilities, dining and entertainment in one of Ballarat's most beautiful historic buildings. Close proximity to Art Gallery, cinema, Her Majesty's Theatre, retail and a range of dining options.

27 Lydiard St N, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5333 4866  
georgehotelballarat.com.au  
**MAP 4:D3**

## RACV Goldfields Resort

Located between Ballarat and Daylesford in the centre of Victoria's historic gold rush country only 90 minutes from Melbourne, RACV Goldfields Resort offers the full resort experience of swimming, day spa, tennis, and mountain biking, along with a quality 18-hole golf course set in the stunning natural surroundings of the Creswick State Forest. Experience contemporary luxury in the resort's flexible accommodation rooms, ranging from hotel-style rooms to two-bedroom family rooms and premium suites, all with views of the golf-course or forest. Revive and revitalise with remedial and relaxation massages and skin treatments in our day spa, Spa 407, and choose from Harvest Restaurant's contemporary Australian cuisine, or dine at Springs Bar and Terrace

1500 Midland Hwy, Creswick VIC 3350  
03 5345 9600  
racv.com.au/resorts  
**MAP 3:F2**



## Seymours on Lydiard

Seymours on Lydiard provides comfortable 4 star rated accommodation within a stone's throw of the CBD and the Ballarat Train Station, offering easy access to all you need for an enjoyable and memorable stay in Ballarat.

302 Lydiard St N, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5332 9966  
seymoursonlydiard.com.au  
**MAP 4:E1**

## Stay, hotels and motels, apartment and self-contained : 102 — 113



## Ballarat Central Contemporary Apartments

Ballarat Central Contemporary Apartments offer two bedroom, self-contained apartments in the centre of Ballarat, metres to the cafe and shopping precinct.

1 Dawson St S, Ballarat central VIC 3350  
0415 147 861 | www.bcca.com.au  
**MAP 4:C4**



## Ballarat Luxury Accommodation

Phyl and May's offers two fully equipped self-contained properties, newly renovated and offering a range of modern facilities.

412-412A Lydiard St N, Ballarat VIC 3350  
0467 454 848  
ballaratluxuryaccommodation.com.au  
**MAP 5:E4**



## Ballarat Station Apartments

Ballarat Station Apartments offers guests self-contained accommodation on the iconic Lydiard Street, situated opp-osite the Ballarat Train Station.

225 Lydiard St N, Ballarat VIC 3350  
0458 326 688  
**MAP 4:D1**



## Ballarat Premier Apartments

Steeped in tradition and heritage, yet equipped with the latest facilities and amenities, our luxurious, spacious apartments are perfect for corporate and leisure travelers. Located in the heart of Ballarat.

2 Lyons St, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5332 1003  
ballaratpremierapartments.com.au  
**MAP 4:B4**



## Lakes Edge Apartments

Stunning, self-contained apartments located on the shore of Lake Wendouree, Lakes Edge is a quality, boutique collection of five self-contained, fully serviced two-bedroom apartments available for short or long stays.

1306 Mair St, Lake Wendouree VIC 3350  
0439 320 777  
lakesedgeapartments.com.au  
**MAP 5:D4**



## Lake Wendouree Luxury Apartments

Voted in Trip Advisor's Top 20 Hotels in Australia and awarded the certificate of excellence for successive years in 2013 to 2017, these fully renovated apartments are centrally located in Ballarat's historical lake precinct and are surrounded by restaurants, hotels, hospitals and supermarkets. Guests are catered for with fully equipped kitchens, sleeping up to 5 guests, A/C, king beds and gas log fires with large living areas/bedrooms offering private entry, free parking and excellent customer service. Guests also enjoy 10% discounts from nearby cafes and restaurants.

128 Webster St & 18 Grove Street, Lake Wendouree VIC 3350

0487 487 057 | lwla.com.au

Hours: Daily from 9am to 9pm (by phone) check in is 24/7

**MAP 5:D4**



## Phoenix House

Phoenix House is a centrally cooled and heated three bedroom, two bathroom, double storey town house in Lake Gardens Estate. The home is fully self-contained with a range of amenities, private courtyard area and security parking for two vehicles.

26 Lake Gardens Avenue, Lake Gardens VIC 3355  
03 5332 4776 | 0438 053 565

**MAP 5:C3**



## Mary's on Seymour

A piece of historical wonder, Mary's has been beautifully renovated in memory of the previous owner, Mary Calvert.

3 Seymour Crs, Soldiers Hill VIC 3350  
5331 8029

marysonseymour.com.au

**MAP 4:F1**

## Stay, apartment, self-contained, cottages, bed and breakfast : 102 — 113



## 165 on Bogong

165 on Bogong offers three-bedroom, self-contained, contemporary, stylish accommodation backing on to Midlands Golf Course.

Unit 2, 165 Bogong Ave, Invermay Park

VIC 3350 | 0477 577 165

facebook.com/165onbogong

**MAP 5:E2**



## Calbung Stays

Calbung Stays is a combination of Californian bungalow and miners cottage transformed into a self contained bed and breakfast.

315 Windermere St, Ballarat VIC 3350  
0409 942 707

stayz.com.au/208137

**Map 5:D4**



## Cave Hill Creek

Cave Hill Creek is an award-winning group accommodation and outdoor recreation venue hosting camps, walks and weddings.

110 The Glut Rd, Raglan VIC 3373  
03 5349 7381

cavehillcreek.com.au

**Map 1:C8**



## Ballarat Cottages

Offering a beautiful country escape, we boast three self-contained spa cottages, large gardens and lots of birdlife. Located in a bush setting, our cottages are only minutes from the CBD and Sovereign Hill.

711 Morres St, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5331 5558

ballaratcottages.com.au

**MAP 5:F4**



## Shady Acres Caravan Park

Shady Acres Caravan Park Ballarat is situated in a relaxed, peaceful setting on 13 acres of shaded bush-land on the outskirts of Ballarat, offering an escape from the hustle and bustle of life.

9435 Western Hwy, Ballarat East  
03 5334 7233

ballaratcaravanpark.com

**MAP 5:H4**



## BIG4 Ballarat Windmill Holiday Park

Set in the bush, close to Lake Wendouree, we're only a five-minute drive from the centre of Ballarat and other local attractions. We're a family-friendly park offering lots of kids' activities. They'll really know they're in the country when they feed the resident chooks and collect the eggs. The whole family will enjoy the free pancake breakfast every Saturday morning, and have great fun in the indoor heated pool and spa.

56 Remembrance Dr, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5334 1686  
ballaratwindmill.com.au  
**MAP 3:E3**



## Eureka Stockade Holiday Park

Only 2 kms from the CBD, we are metres away from the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka, walking distance to the Ballarat Wildlife Park and only a few minutes' drive to Sovereign Hill and Kryal Castle. We offer free entry to the adjoining Eureka Swimming Complex (open Nov-Apr), a games and recreation room and camp kitchen. We're directly opposite the Eureka Stockade Reserve with adventure playground for the kids.

104 Stawell St Sth, Ballarat VIC 3350  
03 5331 2281  
eurekaholidaypark.com.au  
**MAP 5:F4**



## BIG4 Ballarat Goldfields Holiday Park

Life should be one BIG holiday... Whether you love the freedom of camping or 'glamping' in great cabin accommodation with fantastic facilities, you can experience it all at BIG4 Ballarat Goldfields Holiday Park. Just a short 300m walk from Sovereign Hill, this multi-award-winning park is a children's haven. There is plenty of year-round fun to be had, from the giant jumping pillow to the outdoor adventure playground and resort style pool. There are also free kids activities during Victorian school holidays and an indoor tiny tots playground to ensure everyone is entertained. You can continue to make new friends over a game of air hockey or simply relax by watching an in-house movie. Book online or call to make your reservation today.

108 Clayton Street Ballarat VIC 3350  
1800 632 237  
ballaratgoldfields.com.au  
**MAP 5:E5**

# General Services



## Airport Shuttlebus

The Ballarat Airport Shuttlebus provides 148 services a week between Creswick, Ballarat, Ballan, Bacchus Marsh, Melton & Tullamarine Airport.

Ballarat Railway Station, Lydiard St, North Ballarat VIC  
03 5333 4181 | airportshuttlebus.com.au  
Hours: Office open Mon — Fri from 8.30am to 5.30pm,  
Saturday from 9am to 1pm. Buses operate 7 days.  
**MAP 4:E3**



## Avis Australia

Offering great country service and a wide range of cars to choose from, Avis Car Hire should be your first port-of-call upon your visit to Ballarat. Book now, pay later.

1263C Howitt St, Wendouree VIC 3350  
03 5339 4555 | avis.com.au  
Hours: Mon — Fri from 7am to 6pm, Sat from 7am to 2pm,  
Sun from 8am to 1pm  
**MAP 5:D3**

## General services : 114 — 115



## Budget Car Rentals

Updating our fleet constantly, you're sure to get the best in comfort and safety at Budget Car Rentals. With competitive prices, you won't need to look anywhere else.

1263c Howitt St, Wendouree VIC 3350  
03 5338 1883 | budget.com.au  
Hours: Mon — Fri from 8am to 6pm,  
Sat — Sun from 8am to 4pm  
**MAP 5:D3**



## Gold Bus

We can take you, your family, or organisation anywhere you please — be it local, regional or interstate. Children love travelling on our gold-laden buses, making our service perfect for any age group.

9 Martin Dr, Delacombe VIC 3356  
03 5335 5005  
goldbus.com.au  
Hours: Mon — Fri from 8.30am to 5pm  
**Map 5:B5**



## Ballarat Taxis

We offer safe and reliable local taxi services and to Melbourne, the airport and many other destinations.

911 Doveton St Nth, Ballarat VIC 3350  
131 008 | Wheelchair bookings 03 53290050  
131008.com/ballarat  
ballarattaxis.com.au  
**MAP 4:D2**



## Europcar

We aim to provide the best service and look after your needs, ensuring your rental experience is stress-free.

1007 Howitt Street,  
Wendouree VIC 3355  
03 5339 1058  
europcar.com.au  
**MAP 5:C3**

## Getting around : Top 5 tips

### 1. Ballarat Railway Station

Train and coach services to-and-from Melbourne, Adelaide, Geelong, Bendigo and everywhere in between.

### 2. Ballarat Taxis and Uber

To get you from point A to B.

### 3. Ballarat Shuttlebus

Offering daily services to and from Melbourne's Tullamarine Airport.

### 4. Local bus service / MYKI

The trusted way of getting around Ballarat, just ensure you have your MYKI handy.

### 5. Walking and bike tracks

Are aplenty and a sure way of admiring Ballarat in all its glory.

# General

Thank you for visiting our city

# Information

(tell your friends and come back soon).

# & Farewell

## FIRST STOP

### Ballarat Visitor Information Centre

Located in the historic Town Hall, in the heart of the CBD. This is a terrific information stop when you arrive in Ballarat. You can nab local knowledge from the locals themselves, including advice on attractions, local transport, maps, guided tour options and suggested itineraries for your stay.

### Contact

Ballarat Information Centre,  
225 Sturt Street CBD  
Ballarat VIC 3350  
1800 44 66 33  
visitballarat.com.au  
Hours: Daily 9am — 5pm,  
closed Christmas Day.

### Follow Us

#visitballarat @visitballarat

### Image Credits

Tony Evans Photography  
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## EMERGENCY SERVICES

### Police, Fire and Ambulance

Tel: 000

### Hospitals

#### Ballarat Base Hospital

Drummond Street North  
Tel: 5320 4000

#### St John of God Hospital

Drummond Street North  
Tel: 5320 2111

### Poisons Information Service

Tel: 131 126

### Pharmacies

UFS Pharmacy located on 717 Sturt Street, Ballarat is open 24 hours, seven days a week

### Public Toilets

For a map of public toilet locations in the region.  
toiletmap.gov.au

### Places of Worship

Please contact the Ballarat Visitor Information Centre on 1800 44 66 33

### Wifi

Free wifi is available at the Ballarat Visitor Information Centre.  
Town Hall, 225 Sturt Street, Ballarat