

# Melbourne International Flower Show 7 Day Tour

*Itinerary*

Sunday 21 to Saturday 27 March 2021



DAY 1: Sunday 21 March

**Sydney to Wangaratta**



This morning we greet our friendly coach captain and tour escort from Southern Star Coaches and depart on our 7-day tour to the **Melbourne International Flower Show**.

From Sydney, we head south on the Hume Highway via The Southern Highlands to the little township of **Bowning**. Here we stop for lunch at the Bowning Hotel, then we hit the highway again for our afternoon's drive into Victoria where we arrive in Wangaratta for our overnight stay.

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**ACCOMMODATION** Quality Hotel Wangaratta

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**MEALS** Lunch at Bowning Hotel, dinner in Hotel

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DAY 2: Monday 22 March

## Heading to Melbourne



Leaving Wangaratta, we head to Melbourne, but first we stop at the **Kerrisdale Mountain Railway & Museum** – a unique railway built on a zig zag formation. The line climbs quite steeply as it winds its way through tall trees on a precipitous track cut into the mountain side. A panorama unfolds over the **King Parrott Valley** and further to the distant peaks of the Victorian Alps.

Following our scenic train ride, we head into Yea for some free time to purchase lunch and then make our way into the Melbourne Docklands where we step aboard the **Melbourne Star Observation Wheel** and experience spectacular views over the city and beyond. There is no better vantage point to see the entire city from, than in a spacious, air-conditioned cabin giving access to 360 degree views. The cabin is big enough to walk around so we don't miss a thing. From the Docklands we make our way to our Hotel for the next four nights.

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**ACCOMMODATION** Quality Batmans Hill on Collins

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**MEALS** Breakfast & dinner in Hotel, lunch at own expense

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DAY 3: Tuesday 24 March

## Exploring Melbourne



This morning we set off to discover the city of Melbourne – it really is a grand place! Within the parks and gardens around the city centre are many gracious buildings, such as the Old Treasury Building; the Exhibition Building, built for the Great Exhibition of 1880 and **The Shrine of Remembrance**. Known as the sporting capital of Australia, there is no better place to start our Melbourne exploration than at the famous **Melbourne Cricket Ground**. Located here is the National Sports Museum which presents world class exhibitions and sporting artefacts. Next, we join **Melbourne River Cruises** for their '**River Gardens**' trip up river. Within moments of departing Melbourne's cultural arts precinct, we are cruising through picturesque gardens, parklands and some of the famous sporting arenas. Enjoy a cuppa on board as we listen to the captains interesting commentary.

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**ACCOMMODATION** Savoy Hotel

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**MEALS** Breakfast & dinner in Hotel, lunch included at MCG

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DAY 4: Wed 24 March

### Puffing Billy & the Dandenongs



We head for the hills this morning as we drive into the Dandenong Ranges. A must do for all ages is ride on **Puffing Billy** from Belgrave to Lakeside. Belgrave has always been a railway town since a narrow gauge line was opened in 1900 to help the local farmers bring their goods to the markets in Melbourne. In 1962 the railway was restored and the now famous Puffing Billy provides a great introduction to the area. Our coach will be waiting for us for the transfer to our lunch venue. We hope you are hungry because lunch is at the **Cuckoo Restaurant** at Olinda. Designed in the Bavarian Chalet style, this restaurant is simply stunning with exceptional food, hospitality and entertainment! After a great day we return to our hotel for some free time before dinner and relax for the night.

**ACCOMMODATION** Savoy Hotel

**MEALS** Breakfast & dinner in Hotel, lunch at Cuckoo Restaurant

DAY 5: Thursday 25 March

### Melbourne International Flower Show



Today we are off to the **Old Melbourne Gaol**, which is not only Melbourne's oldest gaol but the one where characters such as the infamous Bushranger Ned Kelly and gangster Squizzy Taylor spent time. This iconic landmark is quite an eerie experience as it is the site where 135 people, including Ned Kelly, were hanged. The prison was also a focus during some of Australia's most significant historical moments, including the Gold Rush and World War II. Our guide will have many stories to tell.

Late morning, we make our way to the **Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show**. This show is a Hallmark event for Victoria and the most prestigious even of its kind in Australia. Over 300 exhibits are "on show" representing horticulture, nurseries, landscape gardening, floristry and cut flowers together with their associated products and services. The show will simply take your breath away with the work of Australia's leading floral designers creating exquisite feature displays. The remainder of the day is spent at the Flower Show, at the end of a great day we return to our hotel for dinner.

**ACCOMMODATION** Savoy Hotel

**MEALS** Breakfast & dinner in Hotel, lunch at own expense

DAY 6: Friday 26 March

### Melbourne to Albury



Following breakfast, we have some free time before we complete our check-out formalities and then we are off to the **Queen Victoria Markets**. This is a vast and vibrant centre of trade and commerce that was officially opened on 20 March 1878 and has served consumers' needs for more than 120 years.

Enjoy some free time here for shopping and buy lunch before we depart Melbourne and make our way to Albury for the final night of our tour.

**ACCOMMODATION** Quality Resort Siesta

**MEALS** Breakfast & dinner in Hotel, lunch at own expense

DAY 7: Saturday 27 March

## Return to Sydney



Unfortunately, our tour has come to an end and today we start heading back to Sydney. Re-tracing our steps along the Hume Highway we have our morning break in Gundagai and lunch is at the **Telegraph Hotel** in Gunning. This afternoon we arrive back into Sydney following a wonderful time in Melbourne.

### MEALS

Breakfast in Hotel, lunch at Telegraph Hotel

## Information

### Tour cost (per person)

\$2,254 (twin share)

\$565 single supplement

Deposit required by: 25 Jan 2021

### Further information

To enquire about this tour please contact our office on

(03) 9598 1354 or email

[info@southernstarcoaches.com.au](mailto:info@southernstarcoaches.com.au)

**All of our Tours are fully escorted with driver and hostess.**

Southern Star Tours provides a chauffeured “door to door” pick up service from your place of residence to meet the coach and return for passengers residing in the Sydney metropolitan area\*. We provide a chauffeured pick up from Sydney airport to your hotel, and return service for passengers travelling from interstate, and we provide a V/line credit for Victorian regional passengers.

Tour costs are based on a minimum 30 people travelling, should there be less than 30 people travelling per tour passengers will be offered the opportunity to pay a revised costing, or cancel their booking.

Southern Star Coaches reserves the right to cancel any tour due to insufficient numbers.

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

This complete itinerary is to be read in conjunction with the Southern Star Coaches ‘Booking Form’ together with the ‘Terms & Conditions’.

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