

Eat. Explore. Repeat.

Friday Afternoon: You've Arrived

Of course you're staying at BIG4 Castlemaine Gardens Holiday Park! With the beautiful Botanical Gardens next door and the creative buzz of The Mill just across the road, you've landed in one of the best spots in town.

Arrive in time for a quick lunch. Grab a banh mi from Superhero Banh Mi or sushi from Lunchbox Sushi, then head off to explore. Wander the historic streets, browse boutiques, admire the gold-rush architecture and perhaps pick up a bottle or two of the region's excellent wine.

Call into the Castlemaine Art Museum for a dose of Australian art and local history, then visit the Visitor Information Centre to experience the award-winning Boorp Boorp Boondyil exhibition, which shares the stories, culture and language of the Dja Dja Wurrung people.



Friday Evening: Cocktails O'Clock

Start with cocktails at the cosy Maurocco Bar inside the Midland Hotel. Then it's decision time: gourmet pizza at the Theatre Royal or a fun meal and craft beer at Love Shack Brewing Co. Fortunately, there's no wrong answer.

Saturday Morning: Market Browsing Counts as Exercise

Feeling energetic? Join the weekly Castlemaine Park Run through the Botanical Gardens. Run, jog, walk or simply admire those who do.

Refuel at Saffs Café before heading to the much-loved Wesley Hill Market. Expect fresh produce, pastries, plants, recycled clothing, coffee, bric-a-brac, local gossip and plenty of characters. It's been a Saturday morning institution for decades.

Then spend a few hours exploring The Mill, a massive, repurposed Woolen mill. Vintage treasures, artisan makers, quirky studios and enough interesting finds to make your car mysteriously heavier on the drive home.



Saturday Afternoon: Long Lunches and Fresh Air

At The Mill, lunch is a choice between Das Kaffeehaus, Boomtown Winery and Bistro or Shedshaker Brewing – The Taproom. Again, no wrong answers. They are all good.

Browse the resident food makers while you're there — chocolates, cheeses, pastries, craft beer, smallgoods and more. Stock up for later or enjoy a picnic in the Botanical Gardens.

Then it's time to stretch the legs. Explore part of the Goldfields Track, wander around Vaughan Springs or visit Expedition Pass Reservoir. Fresh air, beautiful scenery and perhaps a winery or cidery on the way home? Sounds like a pretty good afternoon.

Saturday Evening: The Hardest Decision of the Weekend

Start off with a little something at one of the classy, cosy wine bars in town – Mostyn Street Cellars or Grafting Cellars. Then go all out with a degustation dinner at the hatted Bar Midland, settle into a relaxed pub meal at The Bridge Hotel or Five Flags Hotel, or

create your own feast with local produce and a bottle of regional wine back at your accommodation.

After dinner, check out the local live music scene. The Theatre Royal, The Bridge Hotel and The Mill precinct regularly host everything from emerging artists to established acts.

Sunday: One Last Adventure

If it's the first Sunday of the month, don't miss the Castlemaine Farmers' Market. Great coffee, local produce and plenty of treats for the trip home.

Or grab a coffee from Tortoise Espresso, where the menu can feature up to 50 different coffees. Decisions may be required.

Take the scenic route home via Maldon, Daylesford or Hepburn Springs. Or stay put and squeeze in one last gallery visit, long lunch or live music session before reluctantly heading home.

Got Another Day or Two?

Excellent choice.

Daylesford and Hepburn Springs are only 40 minutes away and offer everything from spa treatments and mineral baths to outstanding restaurants, galleries and festivals. Start with the iconic Hepburn Bathhouse, then spend the day eating, wandering and generally forgetting what day of the week it is.

The Convent in Daylesford is a must-see, with galleries, museum spaces, a café, bar and spectacular views.

For a bigger regional-city adventure, Bendigo is just 40 minutes away. Explore its grand gold-rush architecture, beautiful parks and gardens, excellent cafés and restaurants, delve into fascinating local history, or hop aboard the iconic Vintage Talking Tram for a leisurely tour of the city's most famous sight

Kyneton, Macedon and the Macedon Ranges all make excellent day trips. And if you've never visited Hanging Rock, now's your chance. It's one of Victoria's most remarkable natural landmarks and every bit as fascinating as its reputation suggests.

Just don't blame us if you start looking at local real estate on the way home.