

Our Favourite Day Trips From Castlemaine



Most of the following towns and destination are within an hour of BIG4 Castlemaine but, of course, the journey all depends on how many detours you decide to take, and how many cafes and wineries you decide to stop at!



1. The Old Glenlyon General Store

Taking in Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, Fryerstown, Daylesford and Hepburn Springs

One of the most rewarding drives in the region, this scenic journey from Castlemaine winds through historic goldfields landscapes, rolling farmland and charming country villages before arriving at the much-loved Old Glenlyon General Store.

Take the Campbells Creek, Fryers Road and Green Gully Road route and you'll travel through the historic settlements of Fryerstown and Irishtown, as well as the fascinating Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park. Maps and information are available online and from the Castlemaine Visitor Information Centre, and it's an area well worth taking the time to explore.

Pause along the way to admire Fryerstown's heritage streetscape, discover old mining relics hidden amongst the bushland and enjoy sweeping views across the surrounding hills. Then settle in at the Old Glenlyon General Store for a delicious seasonal country lunch and perhaps a glass of local wine.

On the return journey, travel via Daylesford, Hepburn Springs and historic Shepherds Flat, home to an intriguing chapter of Australian cricket history.

Be sure to enjoy a stroll along Daylesford's Vincent Street for a spot of boutique shopping and to pick up a few local gourmet treats to enjoy back at the park. Don't miss nearby Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens, where magnificent views over Daylesford make for a perfect Insta-worthy stop.



2. Mount Tarrengower Lookout

Taking in Maldon, Baringhup, Cairn Curran Reservoir and Newstead

For some of the best views in Central Victoria, make your way to Mount Tarrengower Lookout above the beautifully preserved gold rush town of Maldon, just 15 minutes from Castlemaine.

The historic poppet-head lookout tower, opened in 1924, offers panoramic views across the surrounding countryside. From the viewing platforms you can spot landmarks including Mount Macedon, Mount Alexander, Mount Franklin and, on a clear day, even the Grampians. There's also a picnic area, plenty of parking and a leisurely bushwalk that passes several fascinating mining relics.

After taking in the views, spend some time exploring heritage-listed Maldon, proclaimed Australia's first notable town by the National Trust. Wander the wonderfully preserved streets, browse antique and collectables stores and enjoy a long lunch in one of the town's welcoming cafés or historic country pubs.

Just ten minutes away, the tiny riverside community of Baringhup offers a peaceful detour, while nearby Cairn Curran Reservoir is a favourite spot for swimming, fishing, picnics and family BBQs.

Complete the loop by returning to Castlemaine via Newstead. This thriving country township on the Loddon River is full of character, with cafés, pubs, local arts spaces and a butcher famous for its unique Bull Boar sausages.



3. Lauriston Reservoir

Taking in Malmsbury, Kyneton and Harcourt

Looking for the perfect picnic destination? Fancy casting a line for trout or redfin, spotting birdlife or simply relaxing beside the water? Lauriston Reservoir is a wonderful day-trip destination just 35 minutes from Castlemaine.

Surrounded by bushland, the reservoir offers picnic tables, BBQ facilities, walking tracks, a playground and plenty of quiet spots to sit back and enjoy the scenery.

Take the scenic route through the Chewton bushlands and Elphinstone before arriving in the charming bluestone township of Malmsbury. Stop to explore the beautiful Botanical Gardens and grab a coffee and a few delicious treats from the famous Malmsbury Bakery for your reservoir picnic.

When it's time to head back to Castlemaine, return via Kyneton and its renowned Piper Street foodie precinct. Browse boutique shops, sample local produce, enjoy a coffee or glass of wine and stock up on gourmet goodies for dinner back at the park.

Complete your journey through Harcourt, famous for its orchards, wineries and cideries.



4. Clunes and Creswick

Taking in historic gold rush towns, heritage streetscapes and beautiful forest scenery

Step back in time with a day trip to Clunes and Creswick, two of Victoria's most charming goldfields towns. Just under an hour from Castlemaine, Clunes is famous for its beautifully preserved 19th-century streetscape, grand historic buildings and rich gold rush heritage. It's no surprise the town has featured in numerous film and television productions over the years.

A short drive away, Creswick offers a different side of the Goldfields, surrounded by lush forests, lakes and walking trails. Enjoy a picnic beside the picturesque Creswick Creek, explore the town's historic centre or venture into the nearby forest that once supplied timber to the goldfields.