

Starting Points for Exploring the Great Outdoors



Castlemaine Maldon Trail

This 18-kilometre Castlemaine–Maldon Trail follows the route of the historic Victorian Goldfields Railway through beautiful bushland and rural landscapes. Ideal for walking and cycling, it offers a gentle way to explore the countryside.

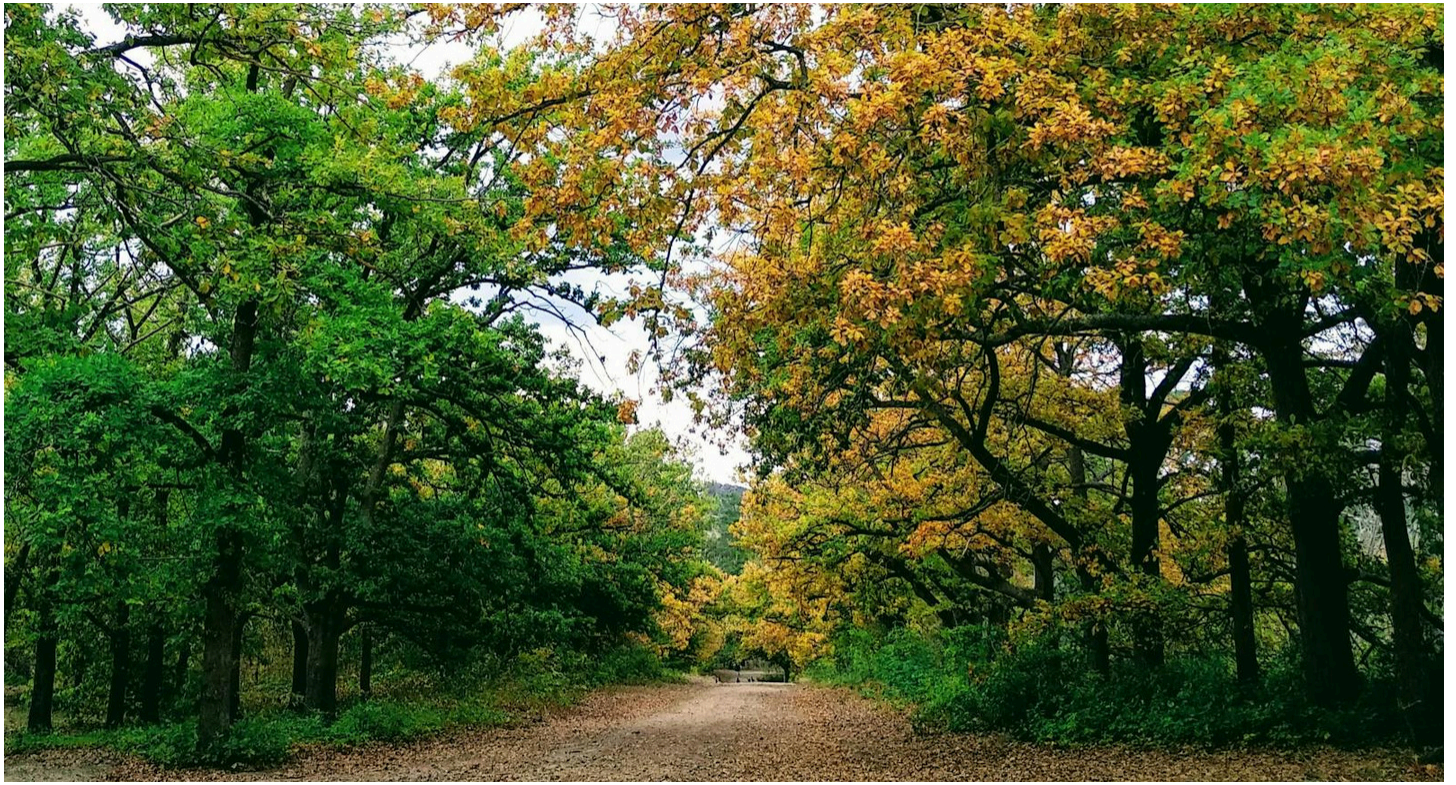
The Goldfields Track

One of the best ways to experience the region is along the **Goldfields Track**. Shared by bushwalkers and mountain bikers, this 210km trail winds through the heart of Victoria's historic Goldfields and showcases an ever-changing natural landscape.

Of course, you don't have to tackle the full distance – simply choose a section for an energetic day out. A popular access point close to Castlemaine is the trail section around **Chewton and Forest Creek**, just a short drive from the park.

Vaughan Springs Reserve

Experience nature at its best at **Vaughan Springs Reserve**. Pack a picnic, enjoy a bushwalk, paddle in the river and don't miss the giant slippery dip. Be sure to bring an empty drink bottle so you can sample the reserve's famous mineral water.



Mount Tarrengower

For another unforgettable view, make the short trip to **Mount Tarrengower** near Maldon, around 25 minutes from Castlemaine. Rising above one of Victoria's most picturesque gold rush towns, the mountain offers panoramic views across central Victoria from its historic lookout tower. On a clear day, you can see for miles across forests, farmland and distant ranges, making it a favourite destination for walkers, photographers and sunset seekers.

Mount Alexander

Note some areas and walking trails remain closed following the January 2026 bushfire. Check the official [Parks Victoria Mount Alexander Regional Park](#) page for the latest updates.

Mount Alexander overlooks Harcourt, the apple centre of Victoria. Its northwestern slopes are home to **La Larr Ba Gauwa Park**, 34km of world-class mountain bike trails that make the most of the area's spectacular views and unique granite landscapes. The park's 11 trails cater for all abilities, from beginners to experienced riders.

There are also plenty of family-friendly bushwalking tracks, picnic and BBQ facilities, scenic lookouts and opportunities to spot local wildlife. Keep an eye out for kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas and a variety of colourful birdlife.

Near the summit of Mount Alexander you'll find **Dog Rocks**, a collection of huge, picturesque granite outcrops. A favourite location for abseiling and bushwalking, it's also the perfect place to pause for a picnic while taking in the sweeping views.



Swimming, Kayaking, Boating

Of course, the **Castlemaine Pool** is at the entrance to our park, but if you're looking for freshwater swimming or kayaking during the summer months, head to **Expedition Pass Reservoir**, a peaceful bushland setting just minutes away.

For a bigger adventure, **Cairn Curran Reservoir**, approximately 35km from BIG4 Castlemaine Gardens, offers fishing, boating, kayaking, swimming and plenty of space to explore. Surrounded by natural bushland, it's an ideal spot for a family day out, with picnic and BBQ facilities available. You may even spot kangaroos grazing along the shoreline in the early morning or late afternoon.

For even more outdoor adventure, the **Crusoe Reservoir and No. 7 & Park** encompasses 210 hectares surrounded by the **Greater Bendigo National Park** and is known for its beautiful landscape, indigenous vegetation, rich cultural heritage and range of recreational opportunities. On the "Castlemaine side" of Bendigo, it is an easy 30-minute drive and is popular for walking/hiking, swimming, canoeing and small-scale sailing. There are accessible toilets and tables and seating.

Lake Eppalock is just 40km from BIG4 Castlemaine Gardens. One of Central Victoria's largest lakes, it offers excellent boating, fishing, kayaking, swimming and picnic spots, making it an ideal destination for a day exploring the region's natural beauty.