

A Suggested Three-Day Itinerary Just For You



Day One: History, Art, Food and Wine

Stop 1: A Big Country Brekkie!

Start your Castlemaine adventure with a great Fair Trade coffee and a hearty breakfast at local institution Saffs Café. Serving locals and visitors for more than 20 years, it's the perfect introduction to the town.

Stop 2: Visitor Information Centre

After breakfast, stroll down to Castlemaine's Visitor Information Centre in the historic Market Building. Browse local souvenirs, pick up maps and insider tips, and visit the award-winning Boorp Boorp Boondyil exhibition, which shares the stories and culture of the Dja Dja Wurrung People and welcomes visitors onto Djaara Country.

Stop 3: Castlemaine Art Museum

Just a short walk away, the Castlemaine Art Museum showcases Australian art, First Nations cultural material and fascinating artefacts from the region's gold rush past. The beautiful heritage-listed Art Deco building is worth a visit in its own right.



Stop 4: Lunch and an Afternoon in Maldon

Just 15 minutes from Castlemaine, Maldon is one of Australia's best-preserved gold rush towns. Browse galleries, antique stores and cafés, enjoy lunch along the historic main street and don't leave without a visit to the famous lolly shop.

Before heading back, drive up to Mount Tarrengower Lookout and climb the tower for spectacular views across Central Victoria. It's the perfect place to pause, relax and take in the scenery.

Stop 5: A Country Pub Dinner

After a day of sightseeing, enjoy dinner at the historic Bridge Hotel, directly across the road from BIG4 Castlemaine. Settle in with a local beer, wine or cocktail and enjoy the welcoming country pub atmosphere.

Alternative: Head into Castlemaine to the iconic Theatre Royal, one of Australia's oldest continuously operating theatres. Enjoy organic pizzas, local wines and cocktails in the lovely garden bar, and perhaps catch a live performance or film. The lovely Albion Hotel on Duke Street, five minutes' drive from the park, is also a warm and welcoming venue, serving up excellent food.

Day Two: Markets, More History, Shopping and Local Flavours

Stop 1: Wesley Hill Market

Start your morning at the Wesley Hill Market, Castlemaine's much-loved local market. Grab a coffee, browse fresh produce, baked treats, books, plants and handmade goods, and soak up the friendly community atmosphere.

Stop 2: Forest Creek Historic Gold Diggings

A few minutes away in Chewton, this fascinating site offers an introduction to the region's gold rush history. A short walking track winds through former mining grounds, with informative signs explaining how thousands of hopeful diggers once searched for gold here.

Stop 3: Pennyweight Flat Cemetery

Nearby, Pennyweight Flat Cemetery provides a moving glimpse into the realities of gold rush life. Scattered among the bushland are the graves of miners, families and Chinese migrants who helped shape the history of the region.

Stop 4: Picnic Lunch at the Botanical Gardens

Head to The Mill opposite BIG4 Castlemaine and gather some gourmet picnic supplies. Artisan bread, local cheeses, cured meats, chocolates and other delicious treats are all on offer.

Then head to the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens next door to BIG4 Castlemaine Gardens Holiday Park and enjoy lunch beneath the shade of magnificent trees planted more than a century ago.

Alternative: Stay at The Mill for lunch at ShedShaker Brewing - The Taproom or Boomtown Winery and Bistro.

Stop 5: Explore The Mill

Spend the afternoon exploring The Mill, a beautifully restored 1870s woollen mill now home to artisan makers, food producers, vintage clothing and treasures, galleries and

creative businesses. It's one of Castlemaine's most popular attractions and a wonderful place to browse, shop and discover something unique.

Stop 6: Dinner at Bar Midland

For a special evening, book a table at Bar Midland, one of regional Victoria's standout dining destinations. The menu celebrates outstanding Victorian produce, and the intimate atmosphere makes it perfect for a memorable dinner.

Alternative: Relax with a simple takeaway back at the park (Pizza, Chinese and Indian options are available from town). If it's winter, enjoy our communal campfire for that country holiday experience.



Day Three: Discover Bendigo

Stop 1: Breakfast at Das Kaffeehaus

Begin your final day back at The Mill with breakfast at Das Kaffeehaus. This charming Viennese-style café serves excellent coffee alongside favourites such as Austrian pancakes, smoked salmon and dark rye bread.

Stop 2: Bendigo's Heritage Heart

Just 40 minutes north of Castlemaine, Bendigo offers grand gold rush architecture, beautiful parks, shopping, galleries and fascinating history. Spend the morning exploring View Street and the surrounding city centre before wandering through leafy Rosalind Park. Stop by the Visitor Centre, browse local shops and enjoy a coffee while admiring the impressive historic streetscapes.

Stop 3: Golden Dragon Museum

One of Bendigo's most fascinating attractions, the Golden Dragon Museum tells the story of the Chinese communities who arrived during the gold rush and helped shape the city's identity. Be sure to visit the adjoining Yi Yuan Garden of Joy.

Stop 4: Lunch in Bendigo

Bendigo offers plenty of excellent lunch options within walking distance of the city centre. Whether you're after a relaxed café meal, shared plates and wine, or something more substantial, you'll find plenty to choose from.

Stop 5: Central Deborah Gold Mine

Experience the gold rush underground at Central Deborah Gold Mine. Explore historic tunnels, heritage buildings and mining equipment, or choose a surface tour if you'd rather stay above ground.

Stop 6: A Final Country Pub Meal

Round out your long weekend with dinner at the award-winning Five Flags Hotel in Campbells Creek, known for its excellent food and warm country hospitality.

Alternative: Head back into Castlemaine for a casual meal and local beer at Love Shack. Then sit back, relax and reflect on three wonderful days discovering everything that makes Castlemaine and Central Victoria such a rewarding place to visit.