

A Springtime Visit



Castlemaine Botanical Gardens and Nature Reserve. The beautiful, historic 23-hectare Castlemaine Botanical Gardens and Nature Reserve is right next door to us and it's especially lovely in the spring. Enjoy walking and cycling, admire the abundant birdlife and colourful spring garden beds, and let the kids loose in a creative, award-winning play space.

[The Mill Complex.](#) What can we say! This extraordinary foodie and artisan complex situated in a repurposed 1860s woollen mill is a three-minute stroll from BIG4 Castlemaine. It's your go-to for amazing meals, coffees, breads, cheeses, wines, beers, chocolates and smallgoods with special events, live music, vintage shopping and arts and crafts thrown in for good measure.

[Theatre Royal.](#) This iconic theatre was built in 1855 and is the longest continuously running theatre on mainland Australia. Today it's still the place to catch a movie, but it also puts on great live music from near and far and offers excellent wines, beers and gourmet pizza.

[Jirrahlinga Wildlife Sanctuary.](#) On the outskirts of Castlemaine, in the Chewton Bushlands, you'll find this very special dingo preservation and wildlife education centre, dedicated to the sustainability of wildlife and the environment. Learn about, and get up close to, koalas, kangaroos, emus, wombats, reptiles, birds, dingoes and more. See Jirrahlinga's website for visiting times. (BIG4 Perks+ members enjoy free entry for one child; all park guests enjoy an entry discount).

[Buda House.](#) Enjoy an afternoon at Castlemaine's Buda House, a Museums Australia accredited historic goldfields villa and gardens that is especially beautiful during the spring months.

Castlemaine Art Museum (CAM). This gallery and museum in the heart of Castlemaine is well worth a visit to view the range of art and artefacts reflecting the history of Castlemaine and surrounding region as well as impressive exhibitions from local and regional artists.

Woop Woop. Quirky, fun and unforgettable, Woop Woop is a five-acre outdoor wonderland packed with playful Aussie sculptures, bushland paths, and a 9-hole mini golf course. You'll find it on Blackjack Road, near Harcourt, 10 minutes from Castlemaine. (BIG4 Perks+ members enjoy a 10 % discount on a game of mini golf)

Steam Train. Catch the Victorian Goldfields Railway heritage steam train to the historic town of Maldon! A journey on the beautiful and luxurious old steam train makes a very special family outing. (There's a discount for BIG4 Perks+ members – just book your tickets with us!)



Maldon. Whether you catch the heritage train, drive or walk or cycle the 17.7-kilometre Castlemaine Maldon Trail, be sure to visit this historic town, classified with the National Trust. Visit Mount Moorul and the stunning Rock of Ages (a special picnic spot) or try the Anzac Hill walk and the Mt Tarrengower lookout, all delivering splendid scenery and views. Be sure to explore Maldon township as well - there are heritage-listed streetscapes dating back to the goldrush and great cafes and pubs.

Forest Creek Historic Gold Diggings, Chewton. This is an ideal starting point for exploring the history of Castlemaine's vast Central Goldfields. A 400-metre track circles around an historic alluvial goldfield and detailed signboards along the way provide fascinating facts and information about the ancient Forest Creek riverbed, the gold rush of the 1850's and 1860's, and the remnants and relics of the structures and equipment left behind.

Mt Alexander Regional Park. Located in North Harcourt, just a 10-minute drive from BIG4 Castlemaine Gardens Holiday Park, this 1400-hectare park, great walking tracks, and a picnic area. (Note: some sections and trails remain closed following the January 2026 bushfire. See the official Parks Victoria Mount Alexander Regional Park page for updates).

La Larr Ba Gauwa Park and Oak Forest. The enchanting Oak Forest was planted in 1900, and the grove is a beautiful place for a walk in the shade of the trees and a picnic. La Larr Ba Gauwa is also a renowned world-class mountain bike park with 34 kilometres of trails.

Gardens and Flowers. Spring, of course, is the time for re-growth, and for beautiful spring bulbs and new buds on the trees. So, if you love flowers and gardens this is your time! [The Castlemaine District Festival of Gardens](#) returns in November this year and attracts visitors from around the State. Also be sure to visit the magnificent Bendigo Annual Tulip Display running from mid-September to mid-October, when more than 40,000 tulips are in bloom in the city's central Rosalind Park.



Stay an Extra Day or Two!

Castlemaine is literally in the heart of the Central Victoria Goldfields region, so why not stay on for a day or two and visit some of our neighbouring towns and cities. You'll discover more beautiful landscapes, more art and architecture, more great food and more family fun. See our [Scenic Day Trips From Castlemaine](#) for even more inspiration!

Bendigo. Victoria's fourth largest city is just a 35-minute drive (or 20-minute train ride) from Castlemaine. Once the site of one of the worlds' largest goldfields, Bendigo offers grand architecture, beautiful parks, gardens and lakes, extensive bush reserves, great dining. Take in the annual Tulip Display at Rosalind Park running mid-September to mid-October, visit the Central Deborah Gold Mine Complex, ride the Talking Tram through central Bendigo, and visit the Golden Dragon Museum, which pays tribute to the city's long associations with Chinese people and culture. Don't miss the remarkable Great Stupa of Universal Compassion. only 15 minutes outside Benda, one 't of the largest Buddhist monuments in the Western world. Put a day aside for your Bendigo visit – it's well worth it.

Daylesford. Beautiful Daylesford is a 35-minute drive from Castlemaine. Head there for some great galleries including the award-winning Convent Gallery housed in a 19th century former convent. Visit the Wombat Hill Botanical Gardens, perched high on an extinct volcano, for breathtaking views, or head to Lake Daylesford for a walk and a picnic and perhaps a paddle boat hire.

All this is just for starters! But whether you're after a little peace and quiet in beautiful winter landscapes, good old-fashioned family fun (think toasted marshmallows and hot chocolate around a campfire) or a few days enjoying some sophisticated wining, dining and arts, Castlemaine and Central Victoria is the place to be.