

# Regional Victoria touring options

## Phillip Island – Mornington Peninsula – Melbourne



**Recommended duration:** 2-3 days, 1-2 nights

**Distance:**

Phillip Island – Mornington Peninsula – 100kms, 90 minutes  
Mornington Peninsula – Melbourne – 70kms, 1 hour

### PHILLIP ISLAND

While at Phillip Island, why not visit the seaside fishing village of San Remo. At midday see the daily feeding of the pelicans at the San Remo wharf, before heading over the bridge and exploring the rest of Phillip Island.

Once on Phillip Island, turn left to the south of the island towards Cape Woolamai – a renowned surf destination and a great place for a walk through the rugged coastal scenery. Make the time to visit historic Churchill Island for a tour of the historic farm, homestead and gardens, which date back to 1872.

Next, turn inland to the centre of the island and the Koala Conservation Centre, where you can see koalas at close range from a treetop boardwalk. If you're interested in motor sport, take a quick detour to the Phillip Island Grand Prix circuit. For something different visit A Maze'N Things and challenge yourself to puzzling and mind-boggling activities.



Continue to Cowes at the north of the island. Cowes has a wealth of charming cafés and restaurants and is a rewarding place to stop for lunch.

From Cowes you can jump aboard an eco-cruise amongst one of Australia's largest fur seal colonies on Seal Rocks, or head over to the Nobbies to walk along the boardwalk to the blowhole and enjoy spectacular views along the island's rugged south coast.

Before leaving the island, make sure you witness the Penguin Parade, the highlight of any trip to Phillip Island. Line the board walk at dusk to watch hundreds of little penguins returning to their burrows on Summerland Beach after a day at sea.



Find your way to the Mornington Peninsula via the Bass Highway which connects to the South Gippsland Highway and turning left at the Baxter-Tooradin Road.

- Recommended duration: one day and/or overnight

### MORNINGTON PENINSULA

Packed with excellent wineries and eateries, designer golf courses, luxurious spas and vast coastlines encouraging all manner of adventure activities, you'd be forgiven for not knowing where to start on your Mornington Peninsula escape.

Follow one of these suggested self-guided itineraries to get the most out of your day, whether you're interested in wine, golf, art and culture, nature and wildlife, spa and pampering, outdoor adventure, or all of the above.

**Golf with an afternoon twist** – In the morning tee off at one of Mornington Peninsula's golf courses including Eagle Ridge Golf Course, Moonah Links Resort, Portsea Golf Club, RACV Cape Schanck Resort, the Flinders Golf Course or Rosebud Country Club, then grab an after-golf ale and spot of lunch overlooking the water at the Portsea Hotel. Enjoy the afternoon on a trail ride on Gunnamatta Beach, swimming with dolphins or seals on a Moonraker or Bayplay cruise or indulging at Peninsula Hot Springs.



#### Business Events Victoria

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WHERE PEOPLE AND IDEAS MEET... *naturally*

**Artistic and cultural discovery** – The peninsula's idyllic landscapes have long attracted top Australian artists. See their work at galleries in coastal villages or in the inspiring hinterland bush.

Start your day at McLelland Gallery + Sculpture Park and Jenny Pihan Fine Art. Have lunch in a Tuscan castle at Manyung Gallery or at the historic Morning Star Estate. Spend the afternoon at Gordon Studio Glassblowers, then hide and seek at the Enchanted Maze Garden. End your day with the bay views from Landmark Bridge in Frankston.

**Food and wine lovers trail** – Visit the cellar doors at Paringa or Red Hill estates or Tuck's Ridge. Stay around for lunch or sample more options at Montalto, T'Gallant or Vines of Red Hill. Get back onto the tasting trail after lunch at Willow Creek, Hickinbotham and Morning Star Estate.



**Snorkel with sea dragons, swim with seals** – Swim with whiskery seals, dive with playful dolphins, snorkel with sea dragons or take a cruise or kayaking tour to watch the watery antics. Make the most of the vast coastlines with a swim, surf or diving expedition.

Start the day with a dolphin swim with Polperro, a diving trip with Fish 'n' Ships or a gallop along the beach with Gunnamatta Trail Rides. Eat lunch at the Portsea Hotel before getting adventurous with Bayplay Adventure Tours, discovering local history at Point Nepean or walking along Cape Schanck boardwalk.

Don't stop when the sun sets – take a night swim in the heated pools at Peninsula Hot Springs, meet nocturnal animals at Moonlit Sanctuary or see Port Phillip Bay shimmer as the sun goes down from a Moonraker Dolphin Cruise.

**Perfectly personalised pampering** – Take the opportunity to reconnect or recharge on the Mornington Peninsula. Spend a morning wandering through local galleries or just meandering along the foreshore. Savour lunch at Salix at Willow Creek, Tuck's Ridge or Paringa Estate and then spend the afternoon winding down at a luxurious day spa.



**Visit Sorrento** – Linger in Sorrento where beautiful nineteenth-century limestone buildings house excellent eateries, boutiques, galleries and specialist shops. Surf at Sorrento's ocean beaches, swim with dolphins and seals or take a fishing cruise into the bay.

Stop at nearby Portsea for a drink on the lawns of the famous Portsea Pub with its bay views. Visit Point Nepean and explore the remains of Victoria's coastal defence at Fort Nepean.

- Recommended duration: one day and/or overnight

## RETURNING TO MELBOURNE

After exploring the Mornington Peninsula, return to the beach road and amble back to Melbourne taking in the breathtaking coastal scenery. Cruise through Mornington and have a coffee overlooking the yachts bobbing in the harbour and the colourful beach boxes lining the sand.



Stop on the city's outskirts at Frankston and visit the renowned McClelland Gallery+Sculpture Park. See works by painters Russell Drysdale and Fred Williams, or stroll through the sculpture park for art in a beautiful bushland setting.

An alternative route back to Melbourne is via Hastings, an historic fishing town and a good place to take a charter or a cruise of Westernport Bay before heading back to the city.

Head back to Melbourne inland via the Frankston Freeway and Eastlink or take the more scenic Nepean Highway.

For further information including visitor and destination information and regional highlights go to [www.visitvictoria.com](http://www.visitvictoria.com)

This information has been sourced from [www.visitvictoria.com](http://www.visitvictoria.com)

Driving time/distance source [www.maps.google.com.au](http://www.maps.google.com.au)

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