

PENAL ESTABLISHMENT
PENTRIDGE



National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

Community Group Visits

Discover the Stories That Shaped Victoria

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) cares for more than 35 properties across the state, each with its own story to tell.

From Australia's First Peoples to early settlers, history-makers, and cultural figures, these places reflect the people and events that have shaped Victoria's past.

Guided by National Trust-trained staff and volunteers, group visits provide an enjoyable way to explore historic homes, gaols, gardens, and landscapes in a relaxed setting.

Group bookings are welcome for **10 or more guests*** and our team can assist with planning to ensure your visit runs smoothly.

We also offer a range of programs designed for lifelong learners, creating meaningful opportunities to explore our history and deepen connections to place and community.

*Private Group bookings for Old Melbourne Gaol require a minimum of 15 people

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and recognise their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past and present.

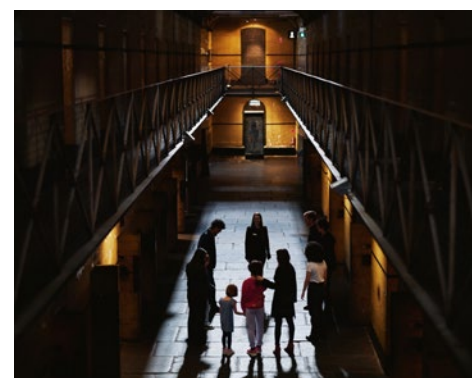
Melbourne & Surrounds	3	Lifelong Learning Programs	13
Old Melbourne Gaol.....	3	Dress Detectives.....	13
Pentridge Prison Tours.....	4	Exploring Archaeology.....	13
Rippon Lea Estate.....	4	Nature Journaling through the Gardens.....	14
Como House & Garden.....	5	Nature Journaling in the Forest.....	14
Polly Woodside.....	5	Forest Bathing in the Gardens.....	14
Labassa Mansion.....	6	Forest Bathing on the Peninsula.....	15
La Trobe's Cottage.....	6	People of Polly.....	15
Portable Iron Houses.....	6	Fashion Truck Show.....	15
Geelong & Bellarine Peninsula	7	History in a Box.....	16
Barwon Park Mansion.....	7	Exploring Archaeology.....	16
The Heights Heritage House & Garden.....	8	The Goldfields & Port Fairy	21
Barwon Grange.....	8	Mooramong Tiny Homes.....	21
Mornington Peninsula	9	Mills Cottage.....	22
Mulberry Hill.....	9	Mott's Cottage.....	22
McCrae Homestead.....	10	Packages	23
Endeavour Fern Gully.....	10	Private Champagne High Tea with Mansion & Garden Tour.....	23
Yarra Valley & High Country	11	Pentridge Prison Cellar & Cell Experience.....	23
Gulf Station.....	11	Behind the scenes with the National Trust Garden Team.....	24
Dow's Pharmacy.....	12	High Tea, Garden & Mansion Tour.....	24
Lake View House.....	12	Curator led-tour of the Fashion & Costume Collection.....	24
Federal Standard Print Works.....	12	Mornington Peninsula's Heritage Homes & Landscapes.....	25
		Geelong & Bellarine Peninsula.....	25
		House Museums: From the Humble to the Grand.....	25



Old Melbourne Gaol

Old Melbourne Gaol once held Victoria's most notorious criminals and is now one of Melbourne's oldest surviving structures and a museum devoted to its past.

From 1845 to 1924, hundreds of violent criminals were jailed and hanged at the Old Melbourne Gaol, including the infamous bushranger and outlaw Ned Kelly and gangster Squizzy Taylor. Here, visitors can gain a first-hand experience of what it was like for people who lived and died at the Gaol between 1845 and 1924.



Features

- Explore three levels of the former Old Melbourne Gaol cell block.
- See an exhibition exploring the histories of Women & Children of the Gaol.
- Collection of more than 300 items including; handcuffs, leg-irons, lashing collars, leather belts & contraband weapons.
- Original Gaol gallows, the place of 133 hangings.

Experiences

- Guided tour or self-guided audio tour of the Gaol and former City Watch House.
- Interactive 'Watch House Experience'. With a 'Charge Sergeant' as a guide, visitors are 'arrested' and encounter what it is like to be locked up.
- Tour Options: Escape Artists, Ned Kelly's - Last Stand, Gaol History.
- Night Tours: Hangman's Night Tour and Ghost Tours.



Group bookings available 7 days.
377 Russell St, Melbourne VIC 3000
www.oldmelbournegaol.com.au



Gardens



Nature Trails



House Museum



Food & Drink



Guided Tours



Night Tours



Accommodation

Pentridge Prison Tours

First opened in 1851, Pentridge Prison became one of Australia's longest-operating and toughest prisons, only closing in 1997 after 146 years of uninterrupted operation. It was Victoria's central prison and the most well-known and used gaol, housing most of Victoria's convicted and notorious criminals between 1900 and the 1990s. Pentridge Prison was also the site of Australia's final execution.

Led by National Trust guides and through cutting-edge VR technology, visitors can now uncover the stories and complex history of one of Australia's harshest prisons.



Features

- A comprehensive tour of Pentridge's prisons and grounds, narrated by expert guides, with stories of escape, rebellion, and compassion.
- Go inside the infamous 'H division', formerly the prison's maximum-security unit.
- Explore the remains of the panopticon or 'airing yard', one of only eight known of this kind in the world.
- Award-winning immersive technology used throughout the tour reveals the genuine voices and stories of former guards and inmates.

Experiences

- Guided & AR tours H-Division and Night Tours.
- Nearby cafes, restaurants and shops



Group bookings available Tuesday to Sunday
1 Champ Street, Coburg
www.pentridgeprisonstours.com.au

Rippon Lea Estate

Rippon Lea Estate is Victoria's grandest backyard. Located 10km from Melbourne's CBD, it is one of Australia's finest historic properties and was the first property to be listed on the National Heritage List in recognition of its unique significance.

The Mansion is located within a vast pleasure garden of sweeping lawns that cover more than 14 acres and features a windmill, lookout tower, heritage orchard, lake, waterfall, and the largest Fernery in the Southern Hemisphere.



Features

- The Mansion is an intact example of 19th-century suburban high life. Visitors can explore over 20 rooms in the original estate on a guided tour.
- 14 acres of gardens with many historical, landscape and sustainability features.
- The estate is recognised as a leading biodiversity hotspot and is a haven for birds and other wildlife.

Experiences

- Guided tours of the mansion and garden.
- Bird life and bird spotting tours.
- 'Hidden Rippon Lea' Sonic and AR Experience.
- Gift Shop, Nursery & Kiosk (Cafe)
- Tea & coffee and light refreshments available to purchase.
- Secluded picnic and dining experiences.



Group bookings available 7 days,
192 Hotham St, Elsternwick
www.ripponleaeestate.com.au



Gardens



Nature Trails



House Museum



Food & Drink



Guided Tours



Night Tours



Accommodation

Como House & Garden

Built in 1847, Como House and Garden is one of Melbourne most glamorous stately homes, a unique blend of Australian Regency and classic Italianate architecture, and set within over two hectares of superbly landscaped gardens.

Como House reveals the life and times of Melbourne aristocracy and offers an insight into the transformation of the city through Gold Rush, Depression and War. Como House is recognised as Australia's first house museum owing to the providence of its collection.



Features

- Glimpse into the lifestyles of former owners, who were famous among Melbourne high society and known for their lavish dances, dinners and receptions.
- The House remains furnished with original family heirlooms, and carefully preserved servant's quarters.
- Beautifully landscaped gardens, designed international garden designer Paul Bangay and based on the plant choices of William Sangster, a renowned gardener of the mid-19th century.

Experiences

- Guided tours of the House & Garden.
- Gift Shop, Gallery & Cafe
- National Trust Bookshop.
- Secluded picnic and dining experiences.
- Lifelong learning programs.



Group bookings available 7 days.

Cnr Williams St and Lechlade Ave,
South Yarra

Polly Woodside

Polly Woodside is a historic ship moored at Melbourne's vibrant South Wharf precinct, and a physical reminder of Australia's rich maritime heritage.

Launched in 1885 in Belfast, Polly Woodside made 17 trips around the world and operated between Australia and New Zealand. It was used as a coal ship following World War Two, and by 1968 was the last square-rigged deep-water commercial sailing ship still afloat in Australasia.



Features

- Explore the ship's deck and interior, a rare chance to step on board a 19th-century tall ship.
- Award-winning interactive gallery with displays about life at sea, the ship's crew, navigation, maritime language and the history of Melbourne's docks.

Experiences

- Guided tours aboard the ship.
- Gift Shop.
- Located in South Wharf, with options for nearby cafes and restaurants.
- Lifelong learning programs.



Regular group bookings are available on Mondays. Bookings on other days incur an additional charge.

21 South Wharf Promenade,
South Wharf



Gardens



Nature Trails



House Museum



Food & Drink



Guided Tours



Night Tours



Accommodation

Labassa Mansion

Labassa is an exuberantly decorated high Victorian mansion, and a rare survival of Melbourne's nineteenth-century splendour. The interiors are a treasure of ornamental decoration with lavish Japanese wallpapers, ornate stained glass and a rare *trompe l'oeil* ceiling.

Labassa houses the National Trust's internationally significant Costume and Dress Collection, providing an opportunity for exclusive curator-led tours.



Features

- Discover Labassa's vibrant history as the former home of a silent movie star, artists, and bohemians.
- Explore lavish interiors featuring original Japanese wallpapers, ornate stained glass, and a rare *trompe l'oeil* ceiling.
- Climb the tower for panoramic views across Port Phillip Bay.
- Visit the grand staircase, drawing room, and music room.

Experiences

- Guided tours exploring Labassa's architecture and social history.
- On-site parking available for cars and coaches.
- Lifelong learning programs.



Regular group bookings are available on Wednesdays. Bookings on other days incur an additional charge.

2 Manor Grove,
Caulfield North

La Trobe's Cottage

Located beside Melbourne's iconic Royal Botanic Gardens and Shrine of Remembrance, La Trobe's Cottage is Melbourne's oldest surviving building and was the home Victoria's first Governor, Charles Joseph La Trobe.

The modest yet elegant family home contains many pieces of La Trobe's furniture and other historic artefacts, and is surrounded by a cottage garden which includes plantings in keeping with the original garden design.



Regular group bookings are available on Wednesdays. Bookings on other days incur an additional charge.

Dallas Brooks Drive, Melbourne



Portable Iron Houses

Discover a glimpse of Melbourne's Gold Rush-era life at the Portable Iron Houses in South Melbourne, rare relics of nineteenth-century prefabricated iron architecture. Amidst the surge of migrants following Victoria's 1851 gold discovery, these structures offered vital accommodation solutions. Sourced from catalogues, the houses were shipped from Britain in crates for assembly on-site.

Today, Patterson House remains on its original site, while Abercrombie House and Bellhouse were relocated, preserving this unique historical narrative of migration and settlement.



Regular group bookings are available on Tuesdays. Bookings on other days incur an additional charge.

399 Coventry Street
South Melbourne



Gardens



Nature Trails



House Museum



Food & Drink



Guided Tours



Night Tours



Accommodation



Barwon Park Mansion

Located on the edge of the hinterland town of Winchelsea, Barwon Park is a majestic 42-room bluestone mansion. At its completion, Barwon Park was the most celebrated mansion house in western Victoria and provides visitors with an authentic vision of Australia's past.



Features

- Interior features elegant principal rooms and period furniture, fine plaster decoration, stained glass windows and grand staircase. Contrasting this are the children's and servants quarters.
- Historical links to prominent Western District pastoralist Thomas Austin, and Royal Connections.
- Expansive grounds and outbuildings including newly restored stables.
- *Barre Warre, Parrwang Karrung* (The Barwon – Magpie Camp). New artwork reflecting the Traditional Custodians of the land.



Regular group bookings are available on Tuesdays. Bookings on other days incur an additional charge.

105 Inverleigh Road,
Winchelsea



Gardens



Nature Trails



House Museum



Food & Drink



Guided Tours



Night Tours



Accommodation

The Heights Heritage House & Garden

Located a short distance from Geelong CBD, The Heights Heritage Home and Garden was erected in 1854 and is the largest prefabricated house in Victoria.

Owned by three generations of the one family it was bequeathed by the last owner to the National Trust in 1975. The historic garden is an oasis of plants, and has significant links to the Geelong Botanic Gardens



Features

- Collection of decorative arts and fine Georgian furniture collected by the last owners, Louis and Marnie Whyte.
- Beautifully landscaped gardens with early 1860s plantings, including aged oak trees and conifers.
- Extensive outbuildings, including stables and water tower which survive intact from the 19th century.

Experiences

- Guided tours of House and Garden.
- Gift Shop.
- Annual Spring Garden Fair with local producers and workshops.
- Annual French Festival 'Le Festival le Francis'.



Regular group bookings are available on Fridays. Bookings on other days incur an additional charge.

140 Aphrasia Street
Newtown

Barwon Grange

Located a short distance from the Geelong Waterfront & CBD, Barwon Grange is the only surviving example of the many fashionable riverfront residences built along the Barwon River during the 1850s and 1860s for the wealthy of the township.

It is an elegant Gothic Revival villa and is of architectural and historic importance to the state of Victoria.



Features

- Guided tours of the house exploring its Gothic architecture, rare smoking room and early conservatory.
- Collection of early Victorian furniture and fittings accumulated according to an inventory compiled when the house was auctioned in 1856.
- Cottage Garden with Victorian fountain and lawns sloping down to the Barwon River, and is planted with species from a mid-19th century plant catalogue.

Experiences

- Lifelong learning programs.



Regular group bookings are available on Thursdays. Bookings on other days incur an additional charge.

25 Fernleigh Street,
Newtown



Gardens



Nature Trails



House Museum



Food & Drink



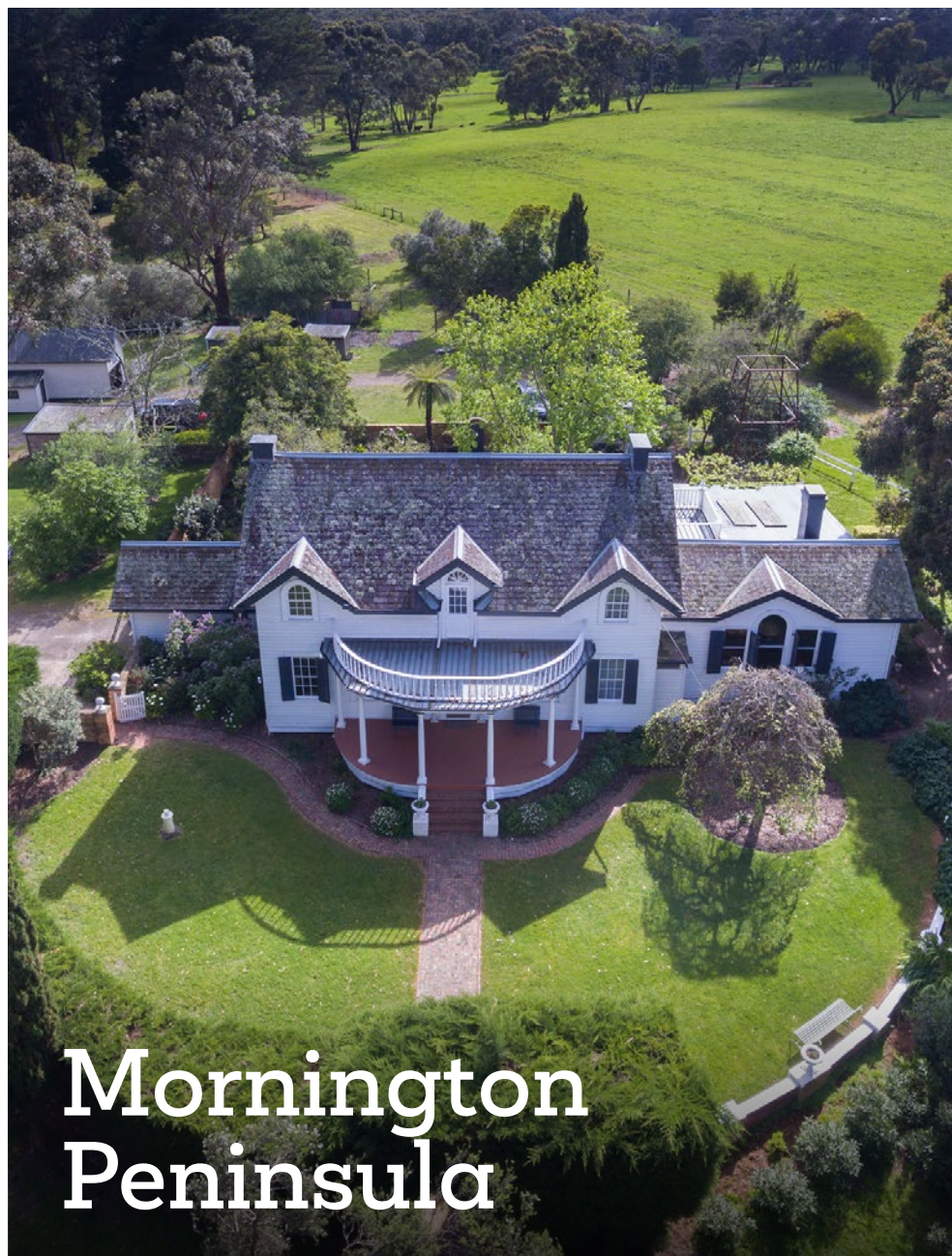
Guided Tours



Night Tours



Accommodation



Mulberry Hill

Located on the gateway to the Mornington Peninsula, Mulberry Hill is an American Colonial-style property. Built in 1926 it is best known as the home of accomplished artist for former director of the National Gallery of Victoria, Sir Daryl Lindsay, and his wife, Lady Joan, the celebrated novelist and writer of *Picnic at Hanging Rock*.

Nestled amidst serene landscapes, the home stands as a testament to the creative legacy of its former owners.

Features

- Step into Sir Daryl Lindsay's painting studio and Lady Joan Lindsay's writing room.
- Significant collection of paintings, drawings and prints by 20th-century Australian artists.
- Collection of Georgian furniture and glassware and Staffordshire ceramics.



Regular group bookings are available on Mondays. Bookings on other days incur an additional charge.

385 Golf Links Road,
Langwarrin South



Gardens



Nature Trails



House Museum



Food & Drink



Guided Tours



Night Tours



Accommodation

McCrae Homestead

McCrae Homestead is one of Victoria's oldest homesteads and a physical reminder of the life of early pioneers. Built in 1844 by Andrew and Georgian McCrae, who were one of the first six pioneer families to establish properties on the Mornington Peninsula. The interior of the homestead has been restored and furnished in keeping with the period 1844-1851.

The relationship with local Bunurong families and the home's former owners is interpreted throughout the Visitor's Centre and the Homestead, providing important insight into life pre-settlement on the Mornington Peninsula



Features & Experiences

- Guided tours.
- Museum and Visitors Centre showcasing the McCrae's art, memorabilia and the photography, artefacts and objects from the Burrell-Twycross family.
- An example of a 'Willum', a traditional Bunurong dwelling of First Nations people in the region, and remnant campsite including examples of traditional Indigenous working tools.



McCrae Homestead Visitors Centre



Regular group bookings are available on Wednesdays. Bookings on other days incur an additional charge.

11 Beverley Road
McCrae

Endeavour Fern Gully

Endeavour Fern Gully is Mornington Peninsula's original rainforest, rich in flora, fauna and habitat diversity. The gentle circuit features a rainforest, a meandering creek and lush fern gully. The Fern Gully is home to rare plant species and is a vital source of habitat and food for a wide variety of animals and birds native to the area.

Follow the 2km nature trail and interpretive signage along the Gully and through the woodland.

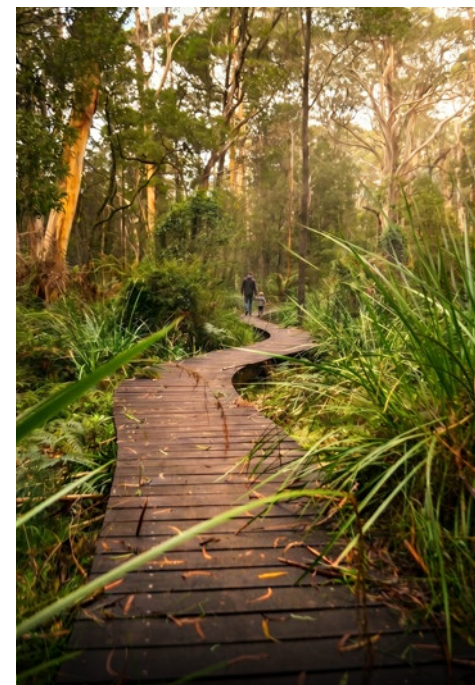


Endeavour Fern Gully



Group bookings available on request.

195 Arthurs Seat Road
Red Hill



Gardens



Nature Trails



House Museum



Food & Drink



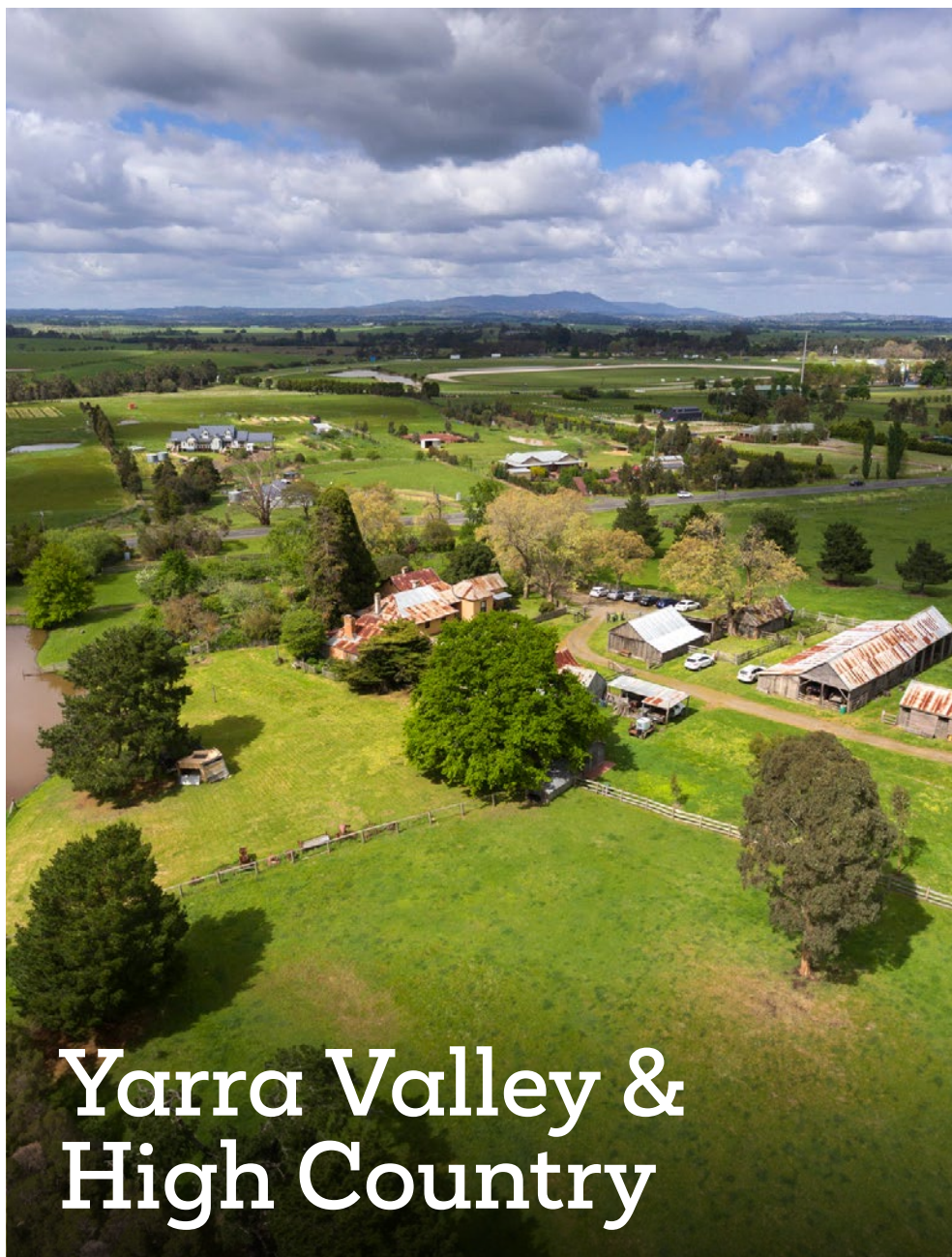
Guided Tours



Night Tours



Accommodation



Yarra Valley & High Country

Gulf Station

Gulf Station, located 1 hour from Melbourne, is one of Australia's oldest and most intact examples of a pioneer farm complex. Gulf Station began in the 1840s as part of a 25,000 acre run known as 'The Gulf' and was owned by the same family for almost 100 years until 1951.

As a working farm, Gulf Station supplied produce to gold miners of the district, and was home to prize-winning Berkshire pigs, Ayrshire dairy cattle as well as Border Leicester sheep and Clydesdale horses.



Features

- Glimpse into the domestic life of a rural colonial family.
- Collections of farm tools and domestic artefacts.
- Working farm animals including Clydesdale Horses.
- Original cottage garden includes roses, lilac, mulberry and japonica.

Experiences

- Guided tours around the property's homestead and outbuildings.
- Meet the Clydesdales.
- Hands-on experiences including butter churning, rope making and wheat grinding.*

*Available for school groups only or by negotiation, additional costs apply.



Regular group bookings are available on Thursdays. Bookings on other days incur an additional charge.

1029 Melba Highway,
Yarra Glen



Gardens



Nature Trails



House Museum



Food & Drink



Guided Tours



Night Tours



Accommodation

Dow's Pharmacy

Located on Chiltern's main street, Dow's Pharmacy is a fascinating time capsule of a rural compounding pharmacy complete with over 4,000 original items in its collection from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The pharmacy closed its doors in 1968 and much of its content remains intact. It is the only museum of its type, with original period fittings, stock and equipment, and instruments used to prepare medicines before the advent of modern dispensing.



Group bookings available on request.
42 Conness St, Chiltern



Lake View House

Lake View House is red-brick house situated on the edge of Lake Anderson. Furnished in a period style, the house recreates the romantic lakeside country villa residence from when Chiltern was a prosperous mining town.

Lake View was the home of Henry Handel Richardson, pseudonym of author Ethel Florence Richardson - acclaimed as one of Australia's greatest novelists.



Group bookings available on request.
18-22 Victoria St, Chiltern



Federal Standard Print Works

Established in 1859, the Federal Standard Printing Works is one of the few substantially intact provincial newspaper printers remaining from Australia's gold mining era.

The printing works operated for over 110 years and still houses printing equipment from the 1870s to 1930s, many of which are still working, including a 112-year-old linotype machine.



Group bookings available on request.
Main St, Chiltern





Dress Detectives

Location: Labassa Mansion, Caulfield North

Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Cost: \$490 / \$580 (weekend rate)

Group size: 30 people maximum

Clothes reflect more than just what we like to wear. From fashion to technology, expectations to restrictions, our clothes act as an expression of society itself.

Join the National Trust, don a pair of gloves, and learn how to handle and analyse historical garments up close! Explore elements from our nationally significant fashion and dress collection dating back as far as the 1830s. Glimpse into the lives of women and children through styles, silhouettes, manufacturing methods, and societal pressures from the 1800s to now. Discover the impact of changing technologies and trends in garment creation and explore what those changes meant in terms of sustainability and society.

Ask us about packaging this program with a tour of Labassa Mansion.



Exploring Archaeology

Location: Como House (South Yarra) or Barwon Grange (Geelong)

Duration: 3 hours

Cost: \$650 / \$988 (weekend rate)

Group size: 35 people maximum

Archaeologists have revealed much about past communities - their technologies, food, resources, and culture. But how do we know these things? Join the National Trust and their trained archaeologists to investigate the interesting field of archaeology! Along with your thirst for knowledge, make sure you bring all of your burning questions to ask our archaeologists, who have a wide range of specialities and experiences!

Pick up a trowel and explore our simulated colonial era site. Learn about the different tools and techniques used during archaeology and participate across the various stages of the archaeology, including excavation, surveying, analysis, and interpretation.

Ask us about packaging this program with a house tour.



Nature Journaling through the Gardens

Location: Rippon Lea Estate, Elsternwick

Duration: 2 hours

Cost: \$973

Group size: 12 people maximum

Come along and explore Victoria's most grand backyard through the practice of nature journaling. Slow down, look closely, and translate the 14-acre gardens of Rippon Lea Estate onto the page through drawing, writing, or even numbers. Each session will focus on a new corner of these nationally significant grounds, such as the fernery, orchard, flower beds, majestic trees, or tranquil lakeside. We blend science, creativity, and mindfulness to explore what each season offers. No art or science background is needed, if you can hold a pencil, you can nature-journal!

Our friendly, relaxed workshops welcome both beginners and experienced journalers. We'll wander slowly, share tips, templates, and one-on-one support, and provide all supplies along with light refreshments. Come as you are and leave with your own journal pages and simple skills to bring more mindful wonder into everyday life.

Ask us about packaging this program with a mansion or garden tour of Rippon Lea Estate.



Nature Journaling in the Forest

Location: Endeavour Fern Gully, Red Hill

Duration: 2 hours

Cost: \$973

Group size: 12 people maximum

Come along and explore a remnant of Mornington Peninsula's original temperate rainforest at Endeavor Fern Gully through the practice of nature journaling. Explore this important biolink of habitat through the page, traversing this rural bushland remnant of rain forest, a meandering creek and lush fern gully via drawing, writing, or even numbers. We blend science, creativity, and mindfulness to explore what each season offers. No art or science background is needed, if you can hold a pencil, you can nature-journal!

Our friendly, relaxed workshops welcome both beginners and experienced journalers. We'll wander slowly, share tips, templates, and one-on-one support, and provide all supplies along with light refreshments. Come as you are and leave with your own journal pages and simple skills to bring more mindful wonder into everyday life.



Forest Bathing in the Gardens

Location: Rippon Lea Estate, Elsternwick

Duration: 2 hours

Cost: \$889

Group size: 15 people maximum

Forest Bathing is immersing in the forest's atmosphere (not bathing in waterways) and is practised throughout the world to improve health and wellbeing. Scientific evidence shows that time in nature can improve physical and psychological health, including our heart health, our immune system, and even the way we think and pay attention.

Dr Kathleen Bagot from Nothing Like Nature invites you to slow down and immerse yourself in the 14-acre gardens. You'll take time to breathe deeply, notice the details, and experience these beautiful surroundings from a fresh perspective.

Kathleen is a certified Forest Therapy guide, mindfulness facilitator and nature journaling educator. She also holds a PhD in Environmental Psychology, specialising in the benefits of time in nature.

Ask us about packaging this program with a mansion or garden tour of Rippon Lea Estate.



Forest Bathing on the Peninsula

Location: Endeavour Fern Gully, Red Hill

Duration: 2 hours

Cost: \$889

Group size: 15 people maximum

If you're looking to slow down, breathe deeply and reconnect with nature, this guided Forest Bathing experience at Endeavour Fern Gully offers the perfect opportunity.

Forest Bathing is immersing in the forest's atmosphere (not bathing in waterways) and is practised throughout the world to improve health and wellbeing. Scientific evidence shows that time in nature can improve physical and psychological health, including our heart health, our immune system, and even the way we think and pay attention. Dr Kathleen Bagot from Nothing Like Nature invites you to slow down and immerse yourself in this remnant of Mornington Peninsula's original rainforest. You'll take time to breathe deeply, notice the details, and experience these beautiful surroundings from a fresh perspective.

Kathleen is a certified Forest Therapy guide, mindfulness facilitator and nature journaling educator. She also holds a PhD in Environmental Psychology, specialising in the benefits of time in nature.



People of Polly

Location: Polly Woodside, South Wharf

Duration: 90 minutes

Cost: \$490 / \$580 (weekend rate)

Group size: 20 people maximum

From her maiden voyage to her docking at the famed Duke and Orrs dry dock today, Polly Woodside's story has been shaped by people. The people who stood aboard her, worked on her, and lived in Melbourne's famous Tall Ship.

Join the National Trust and board Polly Woodside for stories of heroism and hardship on the high seas; and tales of the activism of heritage advocates and hard work of dedicated volunteers that keeps her afloat to this very day.

This tour will take visitors below decks to witness the harsh realities of life at sea for captains, sailors and their families, as well as into the Polly Woodside Museum, where priceless artefacts help us to visualise and piece together her colourful 139-year history.



Fashion Trunk Show

Location: We come to you!

Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Cost: \$490 / \$580 (weekend rate), plus travel fee

Group size: 30 people maximum

Clothes reflect more than just what we like to wear. From fashion to technology, expectations to restrictions, our clothes act as an expression of society itself.

Join the National Trust, don a pair of gloves, and learn how to handle and analyse historical garments up close! Explore elements from our nationally significant fashion and dress collection dating back as far as the 1830s. Glimpse into the lives of women and children through styles, silhouettes, manufacturing methods, and societal pressures from the 1800s to now. Discover the impact of changing technologies and trends in garment creation and explore what those changes meant in terms of sustainability and society.



History in a Box

Location: We come to you!

Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Cost: \$490 / \$580 (weekend rate), plus travel fee

Group size: 30 people maximum

History and Heritage live not only in text and in buildings, but also in the everyday objects used by those in the past. These objects have stories to tell, if only we learnt how to listen.

Join the National Trust to explore the stories of a selection of historical objects from our collections. Follow a material culture approach to History to uncover how objects tell us about our past. Learn how to 'listen' to an object and discover how one object can tell us multiple different things about the past depending on what questions we ask it.

Choose from multiple topics for this program:

- Maritime - Life on the High Seas
- Tech and entertainment - Old Fashioned Fun
- Domestic - Life Below Stairs



Exploring Archaeology

Location: We come to you!

Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Cost: \$490 / \$580 (weekend rate), plus travel fee

Group size: 30 people maximum

Australia's Deep Time past spans at least 65,000 years. Over this extensive timeframe, archaeologists have revealed much about past communities - their technologies, food, resources, and culture. But how do we know these things? Join the National Trust and their qualified archaeologists to investigate the interesting field of archaeology! Along with your thirst for knowledge, make sure you bring all of your burning questions to ask our archaeologists, who have a wide range of specialities and experiences!



Group Pricing

Group Size: Minimum 10 people / Maximum 30 people

*Group tours available on other days, incur an additional charge of \$300

SAVE 25% ON GROUP VISITS

To Old Melbourne Gaol, The Heights and Gulf Station when you visit in December 2025 or February and March 2026.

PROPERTY	REGULAR GROUP VISIT DAY*	TOUR	ADULT (pp)	CONCESSION (pp)
Old Melbourne Gaol	7 Days	Self Guided/General Admission (15-20 people)	\$38	\$30
		Guided Gaol Tour	\$45	\$35
		Watch House Tour (add-on with Gaol Tour)	\$10	\$8
Pentridge Prison Tours	Tuesday to Sunday	H-Division Tour	\$34	\$32
Rippon Lea Estate	7 Days	Mansion & Garden Tour (includes Garden Entry)	\$30	\$25
		Mansion Tour (includes Garden Entry)	\$22	\$18
		Garden Tour	\$22	\$18
Como House & Garden	7 Days	House & Garden Tour	\$30	\$25
		House Tour (includes Garden Entry)	\$14	\$9
		Garden Tour	\$14	\$9
Polly Woodside	Monday	Guided Tour	\$25	\$20
Labassa Mansion	Wednesday	Guided Tour	\$25	\$20
La Trobe's Cottage	Wednesday	Guided Tour	\$15	\$10
Portable Iron Houses	Tuesday	Guided Tour	\$15	\$10
Regional Properties				
Barwon Park Mansion	Tuesday	Guided Tour	\$25	\$20
The Heights	Friday	Guided Tour	\$25	\$20
Barwon Grange	Thursday	Guided Tour	\$25	\$20
Mulberry Hill	Monday	Guided Tour	\$25	\$20
McCrae Homestead	Wednesday	Guided Tour	\$25	\$20
Endeavour Fern Gully	On Request	Guided Tour	POA	POA
Dow's Pharmacy	On Request	Guided Tour	POA	POA
Lake View House	On Request	Guided Tour	POA	POA
Federal Standard Print Works	On Request	Guided Tour	POA	POA

Pricing is available to community groups, charitable organisations, and non-profit organisations, including any not-for-profit community clubs such as sporting clubs.

Prices valid until 30 June 2026

Lifelong Learning Programs Pricing

PROPERTY	GROUP SIZE	TOUR	COST	DURATION
Rippon Lea Estate	Max 12 people	Nature Journaling through the Gardens	\$973	2 hours
	Max 15 people	Forest Bathing in the Gardens	\$889	2 hours
Labassa Mansion	Max 30 people	Dress Detectives	\$490 / \$580 (weekend rate)	1.5 hours
Polly Woodside	Max 20 people	People of Polly	\$490 / \$580 (weekend rate)	1.5 hours
Como House & Garden	Max 35 people	Exploring Archaeology	\$650 / \$988 (weekend rate)	3 hours
Barwon Grange	Max 35 people	Exploring Archaeology	\$650 / \$988 (weekend rate)	3 hours
Endeavour Fern Gully	Max 12 people	Nature Journaling through the Forest	\$973	2 hours
	Max 15 people	Forest Bathing on the Peninsula	\$889	2 hours
At your location				
	Max 30 people	Fashion Truck Show	\$490 / \$580 (weekend rate) + Travel	1.5 hours
	Max 30 people	History in a Box	\$490 / \$580 (weekend rate) + Travel	1.5 hours
	Max 30 people	Exploring Archaeology	\$490 / \$580 (weekend rate) + Travel	1.5 hours

Prices valid until 30 June 2026

Group Visits – Frequently Asked Questions

Organising a Group Visit

Who do I contact about group visits?

For general information about group visits to National Trust properties and gardens, please contact our Bookings Team.

Email: bookings@nattrust.com.au

Phone: 03 9656 9889

To make a booking, please complete our [Online Booking Form](#). Please note that we're unable to accept bookings by phone or email.

Travel Trade Enquiries

For information about travel trade rates and products, please contact our Marketing Team at marketing@nattrust.com.au.

Making a Booking

What group sizes are permitted

To access Group Bookings pricing and availability we welcome groups of 10 or more guests at a majority of our properties. For group visits to Old Melbourne Gaol, we welcome groups of 15 or more.

How do I book a group visit?

All group bookings must be made using the Online Booking Form. Once your booking is received, and if the time and date requested is available, the Bookings team will make the booking and send you a confirmation and payment information.

Should your requested date/time not be available, our Bookings team will contact you to arrange alternative dates and times.

How far in advance should I book?

Bookings should be submitted at least two weeks before your visit to allow us to confirm arrangements and ensure the best possible experience for your group.

Admission and Payment

How do I pay for a group visit?

Payment must be made in full prior to your visit. A payment link will be provided in your invoice, where you can pay via credit card. Should you require assistance with making payment or to discuss other payment options, please contact our team.

Can I use National Trust gift cards for group visits?

Unfortunately, National Trust gift cards cannot be used as payment for group bookings.

Are group rates available?

Discounted group rates are available for visits to Pentridge Prison Tours, Rippon Lea Estate, and Como House and Garden. Private group bookings can also be arranged for the Old Melbourne Gaol.

For other National Trust properties that are not open to the public on a regular basis, designated Group Booking Days are offered. On these days, the property is opened exclusively for group visitors, and a higher per-person rate applies to cover staffing and operational costs.

How long will the tour last?

Tours generally run for approximately 45 minutes, followed by up to one hour of free time for your group to explore the wider property at your leisure.

Please note that this may vary depending on the site. Due to the delicate nature of the buildings and collections, unrestricted access to interiors is not permitted. However, groups are welcome to enjoy the gardens and outdoor areas during their free time.

Do you offer special rates for school or education groups?

Yes. The National Trust offers a range of curriculum-aligned education programs across our properties. These programs provide engaging, hands-on learning experiences across subjects including history, humanities, geography, and mathematics.

Find out more at nationaltrust.org.au/education-vic.

Groups with National Trust Members

What if some of my group members are National Trust members?

National Trust Members receive free general admission to our properties. If you are organising a group visit that includes people who are National Trust members, you can supply their Names and Member Numbers to our Bookings Team, and the cost of their visit will be deducted from the group price.

Can members of my group join the National Trust?

Yes. Membership offers free or discounted entry to National Trust properties across Victoria, Australia, and internationally (including the UK, Scotland, Italy, New Zealand, and Canada). If you are looking to visit a number of properties either here in Australia or overseas – a membership is the cheapest option.

New members can join online or in person at the property on the day of your visit, or call our team to process a Membership over the phone.

Membership must be purchased prior to the group booking – as the ticket cost cannot be refunded for a visit booked prior to membership purchase.

Group Visits – Frequently Asked Questions

General Visiting Information

Can groups visit outside regular opening hours?

Some properties offer regular days for group visits to help us manage conservation work and other on-site activities. Visits outside these times can often be arranged subject to availability and may incur an additional charge.

Is there accessibility information for visitors with disabilities?

We warmly welcome visitors with disabilities and assistance dogs. While most properties offer some degree of accessibility, facilities vary.

Please indicate any accessibility requirements on your booking form. A member of our team will contact you to confirm details or provide further information.

Are cafés or refreshment facilities available?

Some of our properties have cafés or kiosks offering light refreshments, tea, and coffee. Please ask at the time of booking, and we'll be happy to provide details for your chosen property.





nationaltrust.org.au/vic

For booking enquiries, contact:

 03 9656 9889

 bookings@nattrust.com.au