

TOP 5 FAMILY DESTINATIONS IN VICTORIA



Victoria is not all about trolling for tuna and 10-pound trout. In this list, we leave the tackle box at home, pack the ski-rope and the kids and head to some of our favourite family holiday spots. Actually, you might want to throw a couple or lures and a rod in, just in case...



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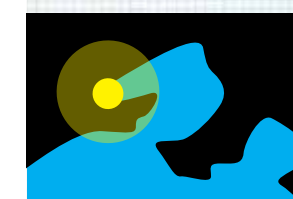
GEELONG

What was once an industrial town built on the wool trade is now an edgy city with quite an international feel. The woollen cargo that lined the pier has been replaced with fancy restaurants, former wool stores are now trendy cafés and old mills are home to high-end shopping. Yep, Geelong has certainly come a long way in the last century, and is now the second-most populated city in Victoria.

With bucket loads of culture and plenty of things to see and do, this waterfront city is a travelling boatie's mecca. The boat ramp is just minutes from the CBD, there's an exciting foreshore to explore and thankfully the fishing ain't too bad, either. Visit visitgeelongbellarine.com.au for more information on the area.

"WE WENT HERE" - THE MUST-DOS IN GEELONG

- 1** Pop into Sailors' Rest for a freshly squeezed orange juice and 'The Jack Sparrow' for brunch www.sailorsrest.com.au
- 2** Go for a spin on the beautifully restored carousel right on the Geelong Waterfront www.facebook.com/TheCarouselGeelong
- 3** Get lost in a maze of greenery at the Geelong Botanic Gardens
- 4** Cruise down Cunningham Pier at sunset
- 5** Head on over to the Little Creatures Brewery and grab a tasty ale and a gourmet pizza www.littlecreatures.com.au
- 6** Go for a victory lap of the waterfront at 1,000 feet with Geelong Helicopters www.geelonghelicopters.com.au
- 7** Walk Eastern Beach and see how many bollard sculptures you can spot
- 8** Tread the timber boards that surround the Eastern Beach ocean pool or jump in and cool off the gills
- 9** Hunt out a bargain at an antique shop
- 10** Go back in time at the Geelong Naval and Maritime Museum



FACT FILE

DISTANCE FROM MELBOURNE: ONE HOUR, OR 70KM

FAMOUS FOR: GOOD FOOD, AWESOME VIEWS AND A RICH CULTURAL HISTORY

02

NAGAMBIE

Nagambie is an aboriginal word meaning 'place by the water'. And it lives up to its name, with a wide range of water-based activities including skiing, fishing, cruising and general sightseeing.

Nagambie is a man-made lake, created by the Goulburn Weir in 1991. The lake is well known as a haven for rowers, with a 2km, fully-buoyed, National Standard rowing and canoeing course. It's famous for its 'Head of the River' rowing regatta. From the lake you can take a boat trip between Mitchelton and the historic Tahbilk wineries.

Boaties share the waterway with the abundant birdlife that inhabits the lake and wetlands. Swans, pelicans, ducks and broilgas will fill your viewfinders, and around every river bend you'll find a new species. Off the water, visit cellar doors, historic bridges and shop for little treasures in many of the quaint country towns nearby.



Photo: Holger Leue



FACT FILE

DISTANCE FROM MELBOURNE: ONE-AND-A-HALF HOURS NORTH, OR 140KM

FAMOUS FOR: PROLIFIC WETLANDS, WINERIES AND ROWING REGATTAS



"I LIVE HERE"

Wally Cubbin has been a local resident of Nagambie for 40 years. A keen angler, he's watched the fishing fortunes of his town rise and fall – and rise again. He's very proud of the fishery, claiming it's now up there with places like Lake Mulwala. From 2008 to 2014, over a million Murray cod and golden perch were released into the lake. Fish are best

caught on a slow troll with Stump Jumpers. Casting to structure with spinner baits can produce some big cod. Wally believes the bigger the spinner-bait, the better. "The deeper you go, the bigger the fish", he proclaims.

Wally loves nothing more than drifting along the river and lake, and he reckons Nagambie seems to have a different persona every day, so thriving with life is it.

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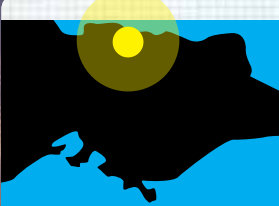
THE MURRAY RIVER

The 'Mighty Murray' is part of Australian maritime folklore. Spanning three states and over 2500km, the Murray served as a highway for shallow paddle steamers carrying wool, wheat, and other goods.

Rail transport slowed the steamer trade, but the Murray continues to serve the public as a managed waterway, with weirs, locks and dams regulating water flow and irrigation for over 1.5 million households and various industries.

The Murray no longer flows at its full potential, but boaties still flock there for waterskiing and fishing holidays. The river hosts famous events including the Murray River Marathon and the Southern 80, the longest waterski race in the world. If you prefer innerspring mattresses over inflatable ones, houseboats are a great way of exploring the river. Be sure to check out the paddle steamers still operating on the river.





FACT FILE

DISTANCE FROM MELBOURNE: THREE HOURS NORTH TO YARRAWONGA, OR 282KM

FAMOUS FOR: PADDLES STEAMERS, BIG MURRAY COD, SKI AND PADDLE RACES



LAKES ENTRANCE

A popular seaside village on the Gippsland Lakes, Lakes Entrance's marinas and jetties serve one of Australia's biggest fishing fleets. The main channel is fringed with pretty gardens, wooden sculptures, shops, restaurants and accommodation. Pop across the footbridge and you're into vast sand dunes, which cascade down into Bass Strait.

'Lakes', as it's known locally, offers plenty of saltwater fishing options. There are four major lakes feeding the main lake, and marlin are targeted offshore. The region produces snapper, bream, tailor, luderick, perch, flathead, garfish and mullet. There are a lot of small fish in the lake system, so fish with live baits early and late in the day for best results. More fish in the lakes have fallen to prawn baits than anything else. Salmon and shark fishing from the surf beaches is also productive.



FACT FILE

DISTANCE FROM MELBOURNE:

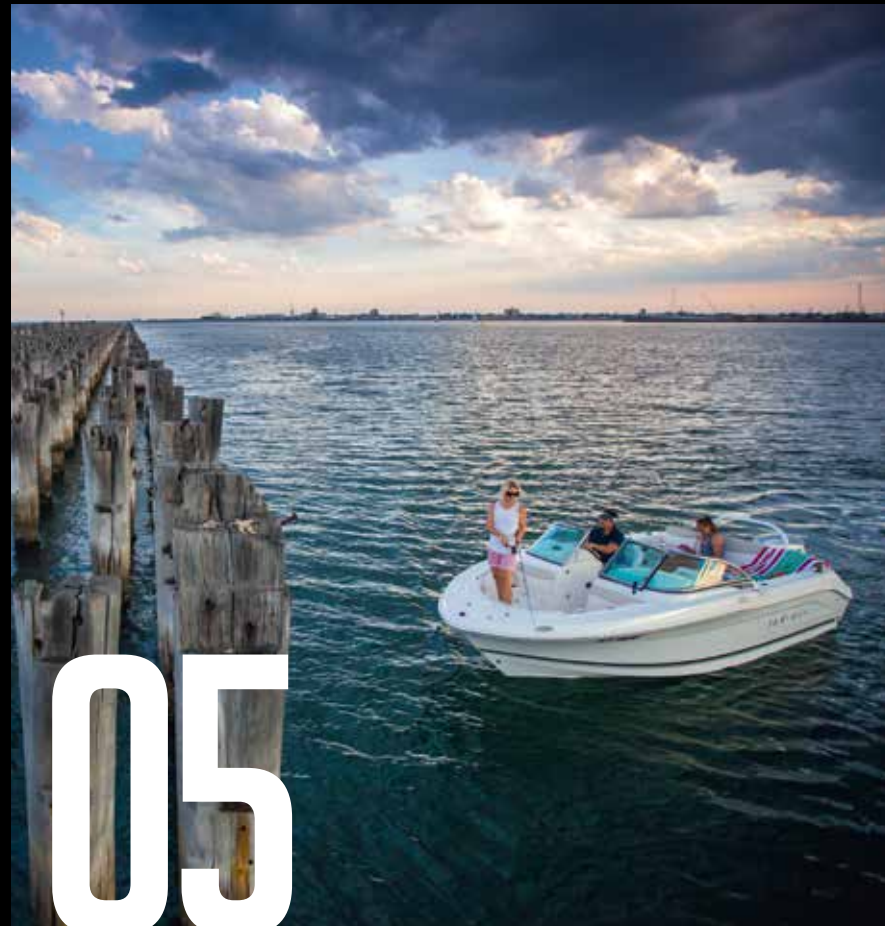
FOUR HOURS EAST, OR 318KM

FAMOUS FOR:

IMPRESSIVE VIEWS OF EXPANSIVE LAKE SYSTEM AND SEAFOOD!



04



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WILLIAMSTOWN

Surrounded by water on three sides, Williamstown was Melbourne's first working seaport. Today it's a fashionable bayside village, but thankfully it hasn't lost its maritime roots with old piers, slipways and docks dotting the foreshore. Moor your boat at Anchorage Marina and step back in time at the old Fort Gellibrand military site, or visit the Timeball Tower, which was used by ships' captains for timekeeping and navigation. Historic buildings once frequented by raucous sailors and wharfies are now dressed as chic restaurants, hotels and galleries.

Back on the water, cruise the Yarra, taking in the Melbourne skyline. Williamstown Beach sweeps along the southwestern side, where boaties can enjoy swimming, waterskiing and fishing. Heading further west, you'll come across Jawbone Reserve wetlands, named after its distinctive shape. 🐟



FACT FILE

DISTANCE FROM MELBOURNE:

ONLY 20 MINUTES

FAMOUS FOR:

MARITIME HISTORY, CHIC CAFES AND VIEWS OF MELBOURNE'S SKYLINE



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