

Melbourne Flowers

\$1455ppts
\$351s/s
(+ Flights)



24 March
2010
6 Days

Day 1: Melbourne & Sightseeing (D)

Arriving at Tullmarine airport midmorning our Northern Highland Coach will meet you. During our tour we will be using Local Melbourne Guides where necessary, and our Driver will act as your tour guide. From here we travel to the heart of the city, where our **local guide** will provide informative commentary taking in the Myer Music Bowl, Shrine of Remembrance, MCG, Parliament House and Cathedrals. There will be time for lunch before we visit the **Eureka Skydeck 88 Building**, the world's tallest residential building. This building has only recently been opened and offers spectacular views of the city, all the way to the Dandenongs. For an extra fee you can walk out onto the Edge (a glass room which projects out of the building above the city). On arrival at our hotel we check in and have time to freshen up before dinner tonight on the world's first **Travelling Tramcar Restaurant**. A luxurious three course dinner with all drinks included (alcohol, tea and coffee) whilst touring Melbourne by night. Our 4 star hotel is located across from Carlton Oval and just around the corner from the Melbourne Zoo, with outdoor pool and heated spa and gym, on the main tram route to the CBD a 10 min trip away.
Vibe Hotel Carlton 03 9380 9222 (5 nights)

Day 2: Tour Melbourne Olympic Park Aust Tennis Centre, Immigration Museum and Labassa Manor, St Kilda (BD)

We visit the **Old Customs House**, and the **Immigration Museum** and enjoy a **guided tour of Melbourne Olympic Park**, the home of Rod Laver Arena and the Australian Open. Our tour takes us into all of the areas from the change rooms, Centre Court, VIP Superboxes and the Farnham Dressing Room. Lunch can be purchased at Olympic Park Café from here we travel to Albert Park, home to the Grand Prix. We tour the **National Trust Labassa Manor** at Caulfield, an 1890 French Renaissance Mansion restored to its former glory, complete with stencilled wallpapers, grand staircases, stained windows and the rare Trompe L'oeil ceiling. This afternoon is time for ice creams and a walk along the **St Kilda Esplanade** past Luna Park. Dinner will be in the hotel this evening.



Day 3: Puffing Billy & Dandenongs (BLD)

Today we make our way towards Belgrave. From here we board the **Puffing Billy** and take this iconic train trip through the Dandenongs on a narrow gauge line with lots of opportunities to photograph the old steam engine.

Lunch today will be at the **International Cuckoo Restaurant** where we will feast on **the world famous buffet, followed by the Bavarian Floor Show with Yodelling, Schunkelling and reminiscing to some old tunes from "The Sound of Music"**, all to the beat of the Bavarian Cow Bells and the Wood Chopping Slap Dance. We will visit the world acclaimed **Ricketts Sculpture Sanctuary** and **George Tindale Gardens**, bought in 1958 with original mountain ash trees.

Day 4: Queen Victoria Markets, Geelong, Werribee Park & Victoria State Rose Gardens (B)

Our first stop will be the **Queen Victoria Markets**, to pick up a bargain, before heading towards Geelong and a visit to the **National Wool Museum**. Then Free Time to stroll along the foreshore, to enjoy lunch (own expense) and photograph the unusual "Bollards". Then **Werribee Park Mansion**, a 60 room mansion and gardens built in 1877, one of Australia's great 19th Century properties and the adjacent **Victorian State Rose Gardens** with its 4500 roses. Dinner is at your own expense in the Restaurant precinct of **Lygon Street** with a full range of meals and prices or free time to take in one of the many shows that Melbourne are showcasing at this time.



13

Day 5: Flower Show, Melbourne Museum (BD)

We visit the **Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show**, located in the magnificent Carlton Gardens, the most prestigious event of its kind in Australia. Over 300 exhibits represent horticulture, nurseries, landscape gardening, floristry and cut flower products and services. Based at the Royal Exhibition Centre, see Flower Arranging Competitions and Workshops. Lunch is at own expense. Visit the Melbourne Museum (free for pensioners) next door to the Royal Exhibition Centre, featuring Australian Society, a Forest Gallery, Mind & Body Gallery, Banjilaka (Aboriginal Centre) and Phar Lap.

Day 6 Monday: Williamstown, Hobson Bay Cruise—Home (B)

Crossing the Westgate bridge, we go to **Williamstown at Hobson Bay**, where our **local guide and historian** will share the history of this once important ship building centre, with time to see some of Australia's major TV sites, from Blue Heelers and Seachange. We will have the opportunity to clamber over the **1942 HMAS Castlemaine** warship, now housed in the museum. Free time on the wharf for lunch and browse. This afternoon we enjoy a **Cruise on Hobson Bay**, before returning to Melbourne airport to fly home.

All Local Melbourne Guides!!!
Fly from Newcastle, Sydney,
Brisbane or the Gold Coast!

Flight Price Not Included~Ask us for a Quote!