

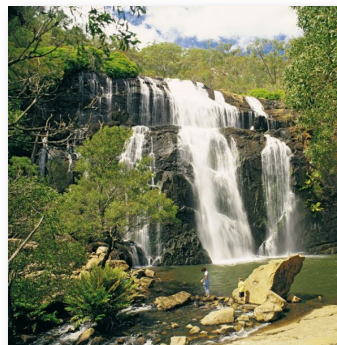


**WE DRIVE YOU
SINCE 1992**

BEST OF VICTORIAN CENTRAL WIMMERA

NEW TOUR

With Ezi Drive Coaches



8 Days / 7 Nights - with Brian and Mary

Tour Departs Sunday 16th September – Sunday 23rd September 2012

Tour Inclusions:

- Pick up from your home, transport to Wangaratta and return (Sydney Metropolitan area)
- Luxury Coach Travel Seatbelts & Restroom
- 7 Nights Minimum Three Star Quality Motel Accommodation
- 7 Three Course Dinners & All Fully cooked Hot Buffet Breakfast
- Lunch Day 4, 5 & 6
- All Entry Fees and Guides as per Itinerary
- Escorted tour

Tour Highlights:

Morris Minor Garage & 'Windrush Park' Olive Oil; Lavendula Estate Tour & Afternoon Tea; Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre - 'Gariwerd Creation Story', Rock Art with Aboriginal Guide, Banjul's Shelter; Scenic Lookouts & Waterfalls along Mount Victory Road; Stawell Information Centre; Highlights Tour of Stawell; Big Hill Lookout & Pioneers Memorial; Stawell Gift Hall of Fame; Mount Lonarch Fine China Gallery Demo & Light Lunch; Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre; Historic Village of Harrow - Johnny Mullagh Cricket Centre, Harrow Car & Transport Museum, The Harrow Historic Society Museum, Calico & Candle Shop, Browns House of Memories, Log Jail & McClure House; Night Nocturnal Walk; The Little Desert Four Wheel Drive Tour; Mallee Fowl Sanctuary Tour; Whimpey's World - Little Desert Flora & Fauna Video Presentation; Bendigo Pottery & Ardmona Factory plus more.

Tour Fee including GST:

Members	\$1899.00 per person, twin share
Non Members	\$1919.00 per person, twin share
Single Supplement	\$343.00

Minimum loading 20 passengers booked and paid by 13 July, 2012

The Itinerary

Day 1. Sunday 16th September: Hometown / Wangaratta

Dinner

This morning we pick you up from home and begin our way to **Central Victoria Wimmera** region. We travel down through New South Wales to the Victorian Border through Albury and down into Wangaratta enjoying several comfort stops for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. After checking into our accommodation we enjoy dinner in the motel restaurant before dinner.

Overnight Wangaratta

Day 2. Monday 17th September: Wangaratta / Daylesford / Halls Gap

Breakfast & Dinner

This morning we travel across through Seymour and then across to Harcourt North stopping at the **Morris Minor Garage**. The Garage is modelled on a 1920's deco design and is **home to Morris Minors** and other historical vehicles dating back to 1926. The collection is flanked by advertising memorabilia and dealer signs relating to bygone eras of motoring. The Garage is also home to **'Windrush Park' Olive Oil**, and the studio and garden of renowned artist **Claire McKellar**. After our tour we continue our drive across to Daylesford where we visit the **delightful Lavendula Estate** for a very **European experience**. It looks beautiful, it's Italian and as they say it lifts the heart. Some may like to stroll the poplar-lined driveway up to the cobbled Twenty odd years ago Carol White bought the property and was inspired to re-create the traditional mixed farm lifestyle of those earlier settlers.

Day 2 continued.....

The stone farmhouse has been restored and lived in. Now we are able to admire its superb simple rural Italian architecture. After our tour we enjoy a **delicious afternoon tea** in the rustic **La Trattoria** surrounded by the garden, lavender fields, farmyard, the olive & chestnut groves and vineyard - and in the distance the ancient volcano that delivered the good soil. Later in the afternoon we make our way up to Halls Gap where we check into our motel before dinner.

Overnight Halls Gap

Day 3. Tuesday 18th September: Halls Gap / Great Western

Breakfast & Dinner

Today we wake to the fresh air of the Grampians and after an early morning walk enjoy breakfast in the dining room. We then travel to the **Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre** to see the '**Gariwerd Creation Story**' depicting the Aboriginal legend of Tchingal the Giant Emu and War of the Crow and the formation of the Grampians / Gariwerd mountains. Our very own guide then joins us as we sense the spiritual significance of this landscape as we tour to the rock art at **Bunjil's Shelter** the spirit creator. The Grampians National Park and surrounds is home to 80% of Victoria's rock art, and it is the largest conglomeration in southern Australia. A profusion of rock art motifs exist on the orange sandstones in Gariwerd. Evidence of Aboriginal occupation in this area dates back over 22,000 years. We arrive back in Halls Gap for the chance to purchase lunch and enjoy a stroll. We travel the very scenic Mount Victory Road stopping at such places as **Boroka Lookout** offering magnificent views of Wonderland Range and down over the Halls Gap township and Lake Bellfield. We also make our way to **Reed's Lookout** taking in grand views of Lake Wartook, Victoria Valley, Serra Range and the Victoria Range. We then travel through the delightful Wartook Valley and enjoy a refreshment stop at The Wander Inn. We then travel across through Roses Gap and back to Halls Gap to our motel before dinner.

Overnight Halls Gap

Day 4. Wednesday 19th September: Stawell / Ararat

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

This morning we make our way across to **Stawell** arriving at the **Information Centre** where our local guide awaits us. We then proceed on a **highlights tour of Stawell** which includes such sights as the Old Courthouse Museum, The Police Precinct, Pleasant Creek, Central Park, Station Gallery, The Seaby Street Residences and the **Big Hill Lookout & Pioneers Memorial**. We also pay a visit to the **Stawell Gift Hall of Fame** located at Central Park. The Hall of Fame is a veritable treasure trove, complete with artefacts, memorabilia and archives dating back to the inception of Australia's greatest foot race. Our next stop is **Mount Lonarch Fine China Gallery** presenting Australia's Finest Hand-Crafted and Hand-Decorated Bone China by Lorraine Lucy who was awarded a Churchill Fellowship. After a light lunch we make our way back down through Ararat stopping at the unique **Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre**. The centre brings to life the history of the immigrant miners on the Victorian Goldfields in the late 1800's and is an important base for understanding and discovering the influence of the Chinese culture on the economic, cultural and social development of Australia. After leaving the centre we travel back up to our motel for dinner.

Overnight Halls Gap

Day 5. Thursday 20th September: Southern Grampians / Little Desert

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

This morning we travel via Moyston and Wilaura to the quite **southern hamlet of Dunkeld** where we call at the **Dunkeld Museum** where the history of the southern Grampians comes to life. We then continue across to the **historic picturesque village of Harrow**. Settled in the early 1840's and nestled on the banks of the Glenelg River beneath rolling hills and grand old red gums it is renowned for being the birthplace of the 1868 1st Australian touring cricket team player, Johnny Mullagh. He was one of the eleven Indigenous players from the team. A memorial & museum (The Johnny Mullagh Cricket Centre) has been open for tourists as well. After arriving we are met by our **local historian** and begin our **tour** including visits to the **Johnny Mullagh Cricket Centre, Harrow Car & Transport Museum, The Harrow Historic Society Museum, Calico and Candle Shop, Browns House of Memories, Log Jail and McClure House**. After our tour we enjoy lunch in the hotel before continuing up to the **Little Desert Nature Park**. After settling into our rooms at the Nature Lodge we enjoy dinner in the dining room in front of the beautiful open fire place. The fully licensed bar will be open for our convenience. After dinner we enjoy the **Night Nocturnal Walk** - where our guide will take us to see nocturnal creatures of the bush including the delightful Sugar Gliders, Bettongs and Stone-Curlews. Listen in amazement as our guide interprets the many sounds of the night such as Owls, Nightjars, Bats and Frogs. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes and bring a torch with you.

Overnight Little Desert Nature Lodge

Day 6. Friday 21st September: Little Desert Nature Park

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

After breakfast this morning we depart the Lodge remembering to take our cameras with us. **The Little Desert Four Wheel Drive Tour** will travel approximately 50km though the Central block of the Little Desert National Park following the northern boundary. Along the way pointing out the many **varieties of wildflowers**, as well as **birds and animals** that inhabit the unique Little Desert Environment, also pointing out history of the area. The tour includes morning tea and a stop for lunch and billy-tea at a pleasant spot in the bush. We then return to Little Desert Nature Lodge for afternoon tea and a relaxing afternoon of free time. There are many **nature trails** and **vantage points** around the Lodge for those wishing go for a walk or a spot of bird watching. We later meet for the evening meal in the dining room for a 2 Course evening meal, with the glow of an open fire. After dinner we enjoy **Whimpey's World - Little Desert Flora & Fauna** video presentation. This is Whimpey's newly released video a culmination of many years of dedicated observation of the Little Desert's wildlife, with particular focus on the fascinating Mallee fowl bird and showing all aspects of the elusive Mallee Fowl and Whimpey's unique relationship with the birds as well as footage throughout the Little Desert National Park.

Overnight Little Desert Nature Lodge

Day 7. Saturday 22nd September: Little Desert Nature Park / Wangaratta

Breakfast & Dinner

After an early breakfast this morning we **depart the Lodge** as say our farewells before a **fully guided tour** of the **Mallee Fowl Sanctuary**. This is a protected habitat which provides a rare opportunity to see these mound-building birds in the wild. Over the years, Whimpey has developed a unique relationship with the established breeding birds, which enables viewing at close-hand. Remember, these are totally wild birds so one must be very quiet and patient. After our tour and cuppa from the coach we depart the Little Desert and make our way across through Bendigo and Shepparton to Wangaratta. We enjoy stops at the **Bendigo Pottery** and also at the **Ardrmona Factory** in Shepparton along the way. After arriving in Wangaratta we check into our motel before dinner.

Overnight Wangaratta

Day 8. Sunday 23rd September: Albury / Homeport

Breakfast

This morning we bid our hosts and staff farewell as we **depart Wangaratta** and travel back up the Hume Highway enjoying our comfort stops for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. This afternoon we arrive back home to say goodbye at your door after a fabulous week in the Central Wimmera District with Ezi Drive Coaches.

For information and bookings phone: 02 4774 9700

Please note that itinerary is subject to change without notice.