



**WE DRIVE YOU  
SINCE 1992**

# BENDIGO GOLD FIELDS

*with Ezi Drive Coaches*



*7 Days / 6 Nights - with Mary and Brian*

**Tour Departs Sunday, 19 May - Saturday, 25 May, 2013**

### Tour Inclusions:

- Pick up from your home, transport and return (Sydney Metropolitan Area)
- Luxury Coach Travel Seatbelts & Restroom
- 6 Nights Minimum Three Star Quality Motel Accommodation
- 6 Three Course Dinners with Choices & All Fully Cooked Breakfasts
- Lunches Days 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
- All Entry Fees and Guides as per Itinerary.
- Escorted tour

### Tour Highlights:

Gudagai Highlights Tour; Kerrisdale Mountain Railway & Museum; Hume & Hovell Cricket Ground; Bendigo Historic Talking Tram; Golden Dragon Museum; Bendigo Town Hall; Morris Minor Garage Museum & 'Windrush Park' Olive Oil & Gallery; Skydancers Butterfly Sanctuary; Buda House & Garden; Restorers Barn; Henry of Harcourt Cindery; Tour & M/Tea at the Magnificent Garden of Tieve Tara; Mount Macedon Memorial Cross; Lunch Top of the Range Café and Gallery; Hanging Rock Winery & Cellar Door; Bendigo Pottery; Campaspe Run - H. V. McKay Rural Discovery Centre; SPC Factory Sales and more.

<b>Tour Fee including GST:</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>\$1759.00 per person, twin share</b>
	<b>Non Members</b>	<b>\$1789.00 per person, twin share</b>
	<b>Single Supplement</b>	<b>\$324.00</b>

**Minimum loading 20 passengers booked and paid by Thursday 14 March, 2013.**

For information and bookings phone: 02 4774 9700

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Please note that itinerary is subject to change without notice.

# The Itinerary

## Day 1 Sunday 19 May: Home Port / Wangaratta

Dinner

This morning we **pick you up from your home** and begin our drive down into Victoria to explore the wonders of the Gold Fields Region. We enjoy stop in **Gundagai** for the chance to purchase lunch and also enjoy a **highlights tour with a local guide** that takes in the Rotary lookout to view the town and the 3 long bridges. We visit Prince Alfred Bridge, built in 1866, which, at nearly one kilometre in length, is the longest wooden bridge in The Southern Hemisphere. The bridge, together with the adjacent historic railway bridge has been classified by the National Trust as a structure whose preservation is essential to Australia's heritage. Take a stroll on Prince Alfred Bridge's new viewing platform. We also visit Captain Moonlight's grave and the historic Road to Gundagai Railway Station building, the longest timber station building in N.S.W., now restored to its original 1886 glory days. After leaving Gundagai we travel down into Albury where we check into our motel before dinner.

**Overnight Albury: Quality Resort Siesta 02 6025 4555**

## Day 2 Monday 20 May: Albury / Bendigo

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today we continue down into Victoria through Benalla to Kerrisdale arriving at the scenic **Kerrisdale Mountain Railway and Museum** offering 360 degree panoramic views across the valleys. We enjoy an intriguing tour of the live steam museum, railway workshop, carriage sheds and of course a ride on the MM Locomotives. We then visit the picturesque **Hume and Hovell Cricket Ground** and hear Don's engaging poetry recitals ranging from the stirring "The Man from Snowy River" to the humorous "Sonia Snell". We can also walk through the rose beds with over 200 varieties of roses, including the fragrant Don Bradman roses and browse through a selection of homemade chutneys and sauces in the gift area. After lunch we continue our drive across to Bendigo where we check into our motel before dinner.

**Overnight Bendigo: Quality Inn Colonial 03 5447 0122**

## Day 3 Tuesday 21 May: Bendigo

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today we experience the history of Bendigo as we travel 100 years an hour on the famous **Bendigo Historic Talking Tram**. Once onboard the meticulously restored tram the expert commentary explains the history and significance of the buildings and locations as they pass us by. We hear the story of the Majestic Sacred Heart Cathedral, The Alexandra Fountain, The Grand Beehive Store and the world famous Shamrock Hotel. After our tram tour we proceed to the **Golden Dragon Museum** where we enjoy a guided tour through the museum and beautiful gardens. The museum houses the world's best collection of Chinese processional regalia and features the world's longest and oldest imperial dragons, which includes Sun Loong and Loong, who have been in the annual Easter Monday procession for over 100 years. The exhibition called "The Bendigo Chinese Community - A Unique History" depicts the history of the Chinese Community since the famous gold rush days. After our tour and light lunch we step back into our Golden Era and experience one of the most remarkable boom time buildings in Victoria. **Bendigo Town Hall's** stunning interior features elaborate plasterwork, extensive hand painted decoration and delicate gold leading. Later in the day we return to our motel for a rest before dinner.

**Overnight Bendigo: Quality Inn Colonial 03 5447 0122**

## Day 4 Wednesday 22 May: Harcourt / Castlemaine

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today we travel down to **Harcourt North** calling into 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 morning tea and tour we travel across to the beautiful **Skydancers Butterfly Sanctuary** which includes **orchids** and native plants set in a wonderful nursery where some of Australia's most **beautiful butterflies** live. After a light lunch we make our way into Castlemaine to visit the authentic **Buda House and Garden** surviving from the gold rush era. It was home to the creative Leviny family for 118 years and houses their significant collection of art works. We then enjoy some free time in Castlemaine or visit the **Restorers Barn**. The historic streetscape, spacious building and seemingly endless range of wall to wall relics from a bygone era create a unique ambience and 'old world' shopping experience. Thousands of interesting collectables displayed in a huge old barn. On our return we stop at **Henry of Harcourt Cindery**. The Henry family run an orchard and cindery specialising in making "Real Ciders & Perry" utilising the best local fruit and traditional cider making methods. Later we arrive back at our motel before dinner.

**Overnight Bendigo: Quality Inn Colonial 03 5447 0122**

## Day 5 Thursday 23 May: Macedon

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

This morning we travel down into the beautiful Mt Macedon region. We arrive at the **magnificent garden of Tieve Tara** which combines majestic old trees, many interesting walks, a superb view to Mt Macedon and vast collection of plants and shrubs for all to appreciate. It has been called "The Jewel of The Mountain" "A Little Piece of Heaven" "Paradise" "Magical" "Relaxing" "Tranquil"...It is all this & more. After leaving Tieve Tara we make our way up to the **summit of Mount Macedon** visiting the **Memorial Cross** which commemorates Australia's war fallen. The view from the cross takes in the entire southern plain towards Port Philip Bay. It is a view that even locals return to, time and time again. We then enjoy **lunch at Top of the Range Café and Gallery** adjacent to the Memorial Cross Reserve for a hearty lunch tea and coffee. Our last stop for the day before heading for home is at the **picturesque Hanging Rock Winery & Cellar Door** situated on Jim Jim a 6 million year old extinct volcano. Later this afternoon we travel back up to Bendigo to our motel before dinner.

**Overnight Bendigo: Quality Inn Colonial 03 5447 0122**

## Day 6 Friday 24 May: Tatura / Albury

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

This morning we depart Bendigo and begin our drive up to Albury as we travel out to Epsom stopping at the **Bendigo Pottery** regarded by many to be Australia's most famous working pottery producing quality traditional ceramic cookware and tableware available at factory prices. We then travel up to Elmore to inspect the **Campaspe Run** in the **H. V. McKay Rural Discovery Centre**. Elmore is also home to Victoria's oldest and largest agricultural exposition with more than 40,000 visitors flooding into the town for the annual 'Field Days'. After lunch we continue up to Shepparton stopping at the **Ardmona Fruit Factory Sales Outlet** to pick up our favourite produce at bargain **prices (Ardmona, Goulburn Valley Gold, SPC, Campbell's Soups, Greenseas, Heinz** and more). We then continue up to Albury to check into our motel before dinner.

**Overnight Albury: Quality Resort Siesta 02 6025 4555**

## Day 7 Saturday 25 May: Albury / Home Port

Breakfast

This morning we bid our hosts farewell as we **depart Albury** and travel back up to Sydney enjoying stops for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea before arriving home late afternoon after enjoying a wonderful time away with Ezi Drive Coaches.