



Australia Retreat: Yarra Valley

Overview & Itinerary

Start	Healesville, Australia
Finish	Healesville, Australia
Destination	Australia
Style	Comfort
Theme	Intrepid Retreats
Code	PZLY
Validity	01 Jun 2020 to 31 Dec 2021



Is this trip right for you?

- Please ensure you consult your local government's advice regarding domestic travel prior to booking this trip.

Physical rating



Joining point

The Old Mechanics
4 Church St, Healesville
Healesville
Healesville
3777
AUSTRALIA

Joining point description

Located 62kms from Melbourne, The Old Mechanics is a beautifully restored heritage building in the heart of town. It has 4 self contained rooms all with kitchenettes and private bathrooms. The property is a 1-minute walk down the hill to the centre of town with fantastic options for shopping, drinks and food. All kitchenettes come with a microwave, small refrigerator, kettle and toaster. A simple breakfast will be supplied in each room as well as tea and coffee for the duration of your stay. The rooms range from a studio apartment to apartments with a loft style bedrooms. There is free Wifi and parking on site for those who are self driving to the starting point. The rooms have both air conditioning and heating, hairdryer, TV and a small dining table and chairs.

Problems and emergency contact information

Issues on your trip:

While we always endeavour to provide you the best possible holiday experience, due to the nature of travel and the areas we visit sometimes things can and do go wrong. Should any issue occur while you are on your trip, it is imperative that you discuss this with your group leader/specialist guide or our local representative straight away so that they can do their best to rectify the problem and save any potential negative impact on the rest of your trip. We recognize that there may be times when your group leader/local partner may not be able to resolve a situation to your satisfaction - if this is the case, please ask the leader/guide to speak to their direct manager.

You may also choose to provide details in your online feedback, which we ask you to complete within 30 days of the end of your trip. But we do ask you to be aware that it is very difficult for us to provide any practical help after the trip is complete.

Itinerary

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Day 1: Healesville

Welcome to your Yarra Valley getaway. From 3 pm today you can check in to your accommodation, a character-filled, restored heritage building full of history and stories. You'll be staying right in the heart of Healesville, which sits on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri people on the edge of the Yarra Ranges National Park, and is just a few minutes away from the countless wineries that dot the landscape of the Yarra Valley. After you've settled in and unpacked for the next few days, there will be a welcome meeting at 6pm. Your host will outline the upcoming itinerary and will touch on the story of the local area, from its First Nations history, through its time as a goldrush-era miners' settlement. Afterwards you'll get a true taste of the Yarra Valley with a five-course meal for dinner. The chef crafts a menu with the changing seasons, with a strong focus on sustainability and local produce.

Included Activities

- Yarra Valley - 5 course locally sourced meal

Meals Included

- Dinner

Special Information

Your accommodation has four different, self-contained rooms. These rooms range from a studio apartment to apartments with a loft style bedrooms.

Day 2: Healesville

Enjoy breakfast at your accommodation this morning to fuel up for an exploration of your beautiful surrounds from the saddle. Transfer to the nearby beginning of your bike ride, a trail that winds its way past vineyards, farmland and forest along the historic route of the railway that once ran through the area. Station houses and platforms dot its length, hills surround in the distance, and you might spot kangaroos, bird life and spring wildflowers along the way. Stop for morning tea at a cafe along the way, tasting local produce and getting a sense of the railway history of the place. Jump back on the saddle and continue the ride to leafy Mount Evelyn. Hop off the bike and into the van and refresh after your ride with lunch and a drink at a nearby boutique winery. Return to your accommodation in the afternoon for a chance to relax before heading to an award-winning, world-leading gin distillery. In a special space overlooking the distillery floor you'll experience a gin masterclass, with a history and tasting of signature distils led by a gin expert. Afterwards, you're free to explore the town's food options for dinner – maybe try one of the cellar door style restaurants.

Included Activities

- Yarra Valley - Bike Ride
- Yarra Valley - Winery lunch
- Yarra Valley - Gin Masterclass

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch

Special Information

Today's ride length is approximately 15-20 kilometres in distance on a flat trail, on mostly fine gravel with some sections sealed. Bikes and Helmets are supplied.

Day 3: Healesville

The Valley is known as a haven for creatives so, after breakfast this morning, take a wander down the main street, grab a coffee, poke your head into the galleries and creative spaces, and drop into a glass blowing studio to see the experts show off their skills. Afterwards the wine will surely be calling again, so head to a communal urban winery for lunch. Enjoy a tasting while you learn about their program that fosters the next generation of Australian winemakers, a first in Australia. After a fitting local flavour-filled lunch, this Intrepid Retreats experience in the Yarra Valley comes to an end.

Included Activities

- Yarra Valley - Communal urban winery lunch

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch

Finishing point

The Old Mechanics
4 Church St, Healesville
Healesville
Healesville
3777
AUSTRALIA

Feedback

Issues on your trip:

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Essential Trip Information

Important notes

1. Minimum numbers: this trip requires a minimum of 4 clients booked and confirmed in order to depart
2. This trip starts at 6pm in Healesville and finishes after lunch in Healesville
3. Due to many meals being included in this trip dietary requirements are required in advance
4. Bicycle hire is included on day 2 so we require all passengers height at the time of booking.
5. Bike helmets are supplied also but you may wish to bring your own.
6. We recommend you wear closed-toe shoes and suitable clothing for leisurely cycling.

Passport and visas

All travellers, except New Zealand citizens, must obtain a visa or travel authority before travelling to Australia. Failure to do so means you may not be allowed to board your flight to Australia. Most nationalities can obtain an Electronic Travel Authority via the internet before arrival. Please check the following website or with your relevant Australian visa issuing office for your nationalities requirements. <http://www.eta.immi.gov.au/>

Food and dietary requirements

While travelling with us you'll experience the vast array of wonderful food available in the world. Your group leader will be able to suggest restaurants to try during your trip. To give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat, generally not all meals are included in the trip price. This also gives you more budgeting flexibility. As a rule our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There's no obligation to do this though.

Accommodation

Apartments

RETREAT STYLE ACCOMMODATION

We know where you stay is just as important as where you go. That's why we've carefully selected memorable, comfortable, locally run accommodation where you'll connect with and support the local community. They might be a convenient journey from major cities, but Intrepid Retreats feel a world away. And with the ease of unpacking once for your whole trip, you'll get more time to travel slow and properly immerse yourself in the local area.

OCCASIONAL ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION

The style of accommodation indicated in the day-to-day itinerary is a guideline. On rare occasions, alternative arrangements may need to be made due to the lack of availability of rooms in our usual accommodation. A similar standard of accommodation will be used in these instances.

TWIN SHARE BASIS

Accommodation on this trip is on a twin share basis. A single supplement is bookable at an extra cost, subject to availability. Please enquire with your booking agent.

PRE/POST TRIP ACCOMMODATION

In most locations we are able to book additional nights at your request. Please enquire with your booking agent.

Transport

Minivan, bike

Group Leader

All Intrepid Retreats are accompanied by one of our local hosts. The aim of the host is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. After all you're here to kick back and focus on being in the moment, so make the most of being hosted by a local who'll take care of all the important bits and give you unique insights only the locals know about.

Your host takes care of logistics, will provide information on the destination, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends.

While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the places visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects.

Safety

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure and ensure that your travel insurance covers you for all areas your itinerary covers. Please refer to our website's safety page for links to major travel advisories and updates on safety issues affecting our trip.

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe-keeping of your passport, air tickets, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of our hotels have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage.

Your leader will accompany you on all included activities, however during your trip you'll have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy or explore at your leisure. While your leader will assist you with the available options in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we make no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running

them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Please also note that your Leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it's deemed necessary due to safety concerns.

A couple of rules

Everyone has the right to feel safe when they travel. We don't tolerate any form of violence (verbal or physical) or sexual harassment, either between customers or involving our leaders, partners or local people. Sexual relationships between a tour leader and a customer are strictly forbidden.

Use or possession of illegal drugs will not be tolerated on our trips. If you choose to consume alcohol while travelling, we encourage responsible drinking and expect that you'll abide by the local laws regarding alcohol consumption.

The sex tourism industry is known to exploit vulnerable people and have negative consequences on communities, including undermining the development of sustainable tourism. For this reason, patronising sex workers will not be tolerated on our trips.

By travelling with us you are agreeing to adhere to these rules. You must at all times comply with the laws, customs, foreign exchange and drug regulations of all countries visited, and you also agree to travel in accordance with our Responsible Travel Guidelines.

The decision of the group leader is final on all matters likely to affect the safety or well-being of any traveller or staff member participating in the trip. If you fail to comply with a decision made by a group leader, or interfere with the well-being or mobility of the group, the group leader may direct you to leave the trip immediately, with no right of refund. We may also elect not to carry you on any future trips booked.

If you feel that someone is behaving inappropriately while travelling with us, please inform your tour leader or local guide immediately. Alternatively, contact us on the emergency contact number detailed in the Problems and Emergency Contact section of this Essential Trip Information.

Travelling on a group trip

Now more than ever, we know how important our connection with each other is, and how sharing a story and making a new friend can be the highlight of a trip. With 10 travellers on average, our groups are small, safe, and don't leave you feeling like just a face in a crowd.

Travel Insurance

Australians are not required to be covered for hospital care due to being covered by Medicare. However we strongly recommend that Australians have a domestic travel insurance policy which covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. It is also strongly advisable that Australians have current ambulance cover in the case of emergency evacuation or incidents requiring ambulance transportation.

Travel insurance is compulsory for all international travellers and should be taken out at the time of booking. Your travel insurance must provide cover against personal accident, death, medical expenses and emergency repatriation with a recommended minimum coverage of US\$200,000 for each of the categories of cover. We also strongly recommend it covers cancellation, curtailment, personal liability and loss of luggage and personal effects. You must provide proof of your travel insurance on the first day of your trip; you will not be able to join the trip without it. If you obtain travel insurance through us you acknowledge that you are satisfied with the level of insurance we have arranged.

Responsible Travel

Our Responsible Travel Policy outlines our commitment to preserving the environment, supporting local communities, protecting the vulnerable, and giving back to the places we travel. All our trip leaders, suppliers, and staff are trained on these principles and are core to us delivering sustainable, experience-rich travel.

Explore the different parts of our Responsible Travel Policy by visiting:

<https://www.intrepidtravel.com/responsible-travel>

The Intrepid Foundation

Help us change thousands of lives by creating meaningful work and supporting skills training in communities around the world.

The Intrepid Foundation is the not-for-profit for Intrepid Group. We work with local organisations around the world to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable individuals and communities through sustainable travel experiences. With our travellers' help, we've contributed more than AU \$6 million to over 100 community organisations since 2002.

Did you know that tourism is one of the biggest contributors to the global economy, making up 1 out of every 10 jobs? That's why we support local projects that create meaningful jobs and give people the skills they need to work in the destinations we take you to. And it's why we exist – to make it easy for travellers to give back to the communities and places they've been in an effective and meaningful way.

Intrepid Group covers all administration costs, every cent goes directly to the projects. Donating is simple and secure. Please ask your leader for information about the projects we support through The Intrepid Foundation or visit our website:

<http://www.theintrepidfoundation.org/>