

The Great Ballarat Break

Day 1 – Arrival & Orientation

- **Morning:** Make your own way to Ballarat and check into hotel. Many of us are staying at **Main Lead Ballarat Motel**
- If anyone is wishing to stay in a caravan park, the **NRMA Ballarat Holiday Park** is also close by.
- **Afternoon:**
 - **3pm - Ballarat Botanical Gardens**
 - Meet at the Australian Ex Prisoners of War Memorial
Corner Wendouree Parade and Carlton Street, Lake Wendouree
 - Lakeside stroll and the Prime Ministers Avenue (bronze busts of every Australian PM).
 - Boatshed Restaurant - from 4pm
Happy Hour begins for those interested.
- **Evening:**
 - Group dinner at Boatshed Restaurant
 - Table booked for 6pm
 - Boatshed Restaurant, 27A Lake Wendouree Foreshore, (03) 5333 5533

Day 2 – Sovereign Hill & Goldfields Heritage

- **Morning & Afternoon:**
 - Spend most of the day at **Sovereign Hill** - time TBA
Gold panning, mine tour, costumed guides, and street performances.
 - **Lunch:**
Within Sovereign Hill (lots of options – bakery pies, old-style fare).
 - **Afternoon:**
- Visit the Gold Museum across the road

Evening:

- Optional: Stay on for **“AURA” sound and light show** (the story of gold in Ballarat – spectacular, outdoors, immersive).
- Dinner at a Ballarat Hotel in the area - perhaps Bunch of Grapes Hotel, Golden Point Hotel, nearby to accommodation

Day 3 – Eureka Centre / Eureka Stockade Memorial Park and Ballarat
Tourist and historical centres

- **Morning:** Drive to the Eureka Centre – historic policing and law enforcement

- **Lunch:** TBA

Afternoon:

- Drive through the Arch of Victory and stop and look at various important sites along the way. The site includes information about the Arch of Victory, the garden of the grieving mother, and the Lucas Girls story.
- Then move onto the Ballarat Military Museum

Evening:

- 7pm: Our final evening together to be held at the historic **Craigs Royal Hotel**.

Day 4 – Victoria Police VKG 000 radio centre in Ballarat.

- **Morning:** Visit to **000 radio centre**
- **Lunch:** Many will begin their trek back home at this time

If anyone is interested in a Ghost Tour, please message me for further details.

Interesting links to activities:

- <https://www.visitballarat.com.au/explore/ballarat-botanical-gardens>
- <https://www.visitballarat.com.au/explore/australian-ex-prisoners-of-war-memorial>
- <https://boatshedrestaurant.com.au/>
- <https://www.sovereignhill.com.au/>
- <https://ballaratmilitarymuseum.org.au/>
- <https://eurekacentreballarat.com.au/>
- <https://honouringouranzacs.com.au/>
- <https://craigsroyal.com.au/>