

A WEEKEND IN THE

# GRAMPIANS

Your mini winter  
getaway from  
Melbourne.



**GO FAR.**  
**STAY NEAR.**

*This Winter*

 yha™

## DAY 1 | FRIDAY

# ESCAPE MELBOURNE

With crisp hiking weather, misty mornings and cool evenings around an open fire pit, winter is a great time to travel to the Grampians. Get out on the trails, learn about the cultural stories woven across the landscapes, and try local wine and fresh produce. Make the most of YHA member discounts too, with low season pricing and local tour operators offering some great deals on experiences during your stay.

## AFTERNOON & EVENING

Mountains, kangaroos, wallabies and crisp country air welcome you to the Grampians. Get there by a cheap train and coach from Melbourne (return fares are under \$10 until January 2027), or road trip for three hours through regional Victoria with your favourite playlist, its time to relax!

**Best bites:** Cook up a feast in the YHA kitchen and cook your own dinner, or grab one of the region's best woodfired pizzas at **Raccolto** (the pepperoni is elite).

**Halls Gap General Store** stays open until 8pm on weekends, or stock up in nearby Stawell at a larger supermarket if you're driving.

**Best nights:** At night, head to Boroka Lookout for unreal stargazing under some of Victoria's clearest night skies. Grab a local bottle from **Grampians Wine Cellar** and spend the night around the YHA fire pit swapping travel stories or playing board games.

**Can't miss:** Kangaroos often gather on the lawn outside **YHA Grampians Eco**, and it's a special way of seeing native wildlife up close. Admire them from a distance and avoid touching or feeding any wildlife you may see.





## DAY 2 | SATURDAY

### READY, SET EXPLORE

**The vibe:** Wake early and rug up warm to experience a winter sunrise, then dive into a day full of outdoor adventures, before winding down in front of the fire pit (you've earned it).

### MORNING & AFTERNOON

Set the alarm for 6am, jump in the car, and head to one of the many incredible lookouts in town to catch the sunrise. Take those Instagram snaps but remember to also soak it all up IRL.

**Best bites:** Start your day with a coffee and brekkie from **Livefast Cafe** before hitting the trails, then reward yourself later with a cheese board and local wine at **Fallen Giants Vineyard** with mountain views that are simply breathtaking.

**Best sites:** **The Pinnacle** is the hike everyone comes to the Grampians for. Starting from the Sundial Car Park, the trail climbs up through sandstone rock formations before opening onto one of Victoria's most spectacular views. Allow between 1.5 and 2 hours return, and take sturdy shoes and water (fill up your water bottle for free at the YHA before you go). **Mackenzie Falls (Migunang Wirab)** is one of the largest year-round waterfalls in Victoria and winter is when it looks its best. Don't miss it!

**Can't miss:** Hiking the trails will work up an appetite. At YHA, fire up the BBQ, and share dinner with new friends from all around the world. With less screen time and more conversation, you never know who you'll meet.



## DAY 3 | SUNDAY

# SLEEP IN, BUT CONTINUE EXPLORING

**The vibe:** Your alarm clock this morning is the 230 species of native birds calling the Grampians home. Don't rush breakfast, then ease into whatever kind of Sunday you're ready to experience.

## MORNING & AFTERNOON

Check out, leave your bags at YHA for free, then take some time to explore Gariwerd's incredible Aboriginal rock art sites, home to the biggest collection in southern Australia. They're free, self-guided, and add a whole new perspective to the landscapes you've been exploring.

**Best bites:** Grab lunch with a view at **Moco Gallery** by Lake Bellfield, then don't leave town without a scoop (or two) from **Coolas Ice Creamery**. With 33 homemade flavours, it's basically the unofficial Grampians goodbye.

**Best sites:** Visit **Bunjil's Shelter** and **Gulgurn Manja Shelter** for incredible Aboriginal rock art, sip wine at **Seppelt**, or take in the views from **One Tree Hill Lookout**. Finish with a round of **Halls Gap Adventure Golf**, and add **Brambuk Cultural Centre** to your must-do list.

**Can't miss:** Around 80% of Victoria's known Aboriginal rock art sites are found in Gariwerd, making it one of the country's most significant cultural landscapes. Visiting sites like Bunjil's Shelter offers a deeper connection to Country and a chance to learn about the stories and traditions of Australia's Traditional Owners.



# REFLECTIONS

Sit back, slow down & reflect on the moments, memories and favourite spots from your trip.





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