

Victoria (U9C)

Victoria is the smallest state on the mainland and is located in the south-east corner of Australia. The metropolitan city Melbourne, the Great Ocean Road and the penguin parade on Philip Island are the best known attractions of the state. A pleasant climate, combined with many national parks with untouched nature and unusual rock formations add to the attractiveness of this state. Victoria offers furthermore the second opportunity, besides New South Wales, to go skiing during the Australian winter (June to October).



Victoria – Overview an Highlights –

- **Melbourne – excellent shopping, international restaurants and many national and international sport events**
- **Philip Island – famous penguins, seals, koalas, beaches and bush walks**
- **Great Ocean Road – spectacular coastal scenery**
- **Wilson’s Promontory and the Grampians – wonderful national parks**
- **Murray River – the longest river in Australia**
- **Vineyards – Yarra Valley, Rutherglen, Swan Hill and Mildura**
- **Victorian Alps – skiing in winter and hiking in summer**
- **Ballarat – Sovereign Hill – Gold mining town**
- **Gippsland – beautifully spread out lakes system**
- **Mornington Peninsula – recreation area for Melbournians**
- **Climate Tables – Melbourne, Gippsland, Grampians**

You will find more details, about the above mentioned attractions and activities in the following section. Additionally, we have provided some climate tables.



Melbourne is famous for its variety of designer shops and excellent international restaurants. The **tram** is used as a mode of transport as well as a restaurant and belongs to Melbourne as well as the **Yarra River**, the **Casino** and the **Royal Botanical Gardens**. Melbourne is also home for big international sporting events like the **Australian**

Open, a Grand Slam Tennis Tournament, the first **Formula One Race** of the season and many popular domestic sport events like cricket, Australian Rules Football, Rugby and the famous **Melbourne Cup** Horserace. **The Australian Centre for Contemporary Art** and the **Melbourne Museum** as well as many galleries, museums and theatres offer outstanding exhibitions. A special memory of your holiday will be a visit to the popular Christmas Concert Carols by Candlelight in the **Sidney Myer Music Bowl** at the Botanical Gardens in Melbourne.



Activities: Biking, Canoeing, Swimming, Golfing, Horse Back Riding, Roller Skating, Fishing, Boat Tours, Rock Climbing, Sailing, Surfing, Ice-Skating

Philip Island is about 120 kilometres (75 miles) south east of Melbourne and is the second most visited place in Australia due to the regular Penguin parade at sunset on **Summerland Beach**. You can also watch seals at **Seals Rock** on a boat tour or visit the **Koala Conservation Centre** and learn about the popular Koalas or watch them from close proximity.



Activities: Biking, Hiking, Swimming, Surfing

The **Great Ocean Road** is famous for 400 kilometres (250 miles) of magnificent coastal scenery, including coastal cliffs, beaches, caves, coves and small romantic coastal villages.

Anglesea, Lorne, Apollo Bay or Port Campbell all invite you for a longer stay in this



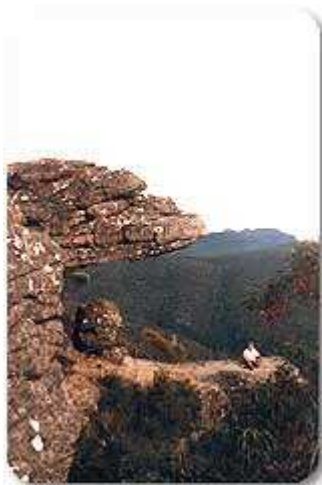
spectacular & unique region. You can see some of the impressive places on this pictures.



Activities: Surfing, Swimming, Hiking, Biking, Golf, Boat tours and Whale Watching (May – October)

Wilson's Promontory National Park covers the southerly tip of the Australian mainland and is a paradise for people who want to get off the beaten track to enjoy nature. You will find hikes graded from easy to difficult, for one or several days long, ending with a picnic at one of the many idyllic beaches.





The **Grampians National Park** is a spectacular lime stone area with distinctive rock formations, awesome scenic views, roaring waterfalls, clear streams, rivers and the opportunity to see local wildlife. Mainly in springtime, (September – November) but also at other times of the year, the beautiful wildflowers are a colourful contrast to the rest of the environment.

Activities: Hiking, Climbing, Horse Back Riding, Swimming

The **Murray River** is the longest and most important river in Australia and stretches over 2500 kilometres (1560 miles) from the north east of Victoria to South Australia. All along the river are small villages like **Echuca, Swan Hill, Mildura, Murrumbidgee, Goulbourn** and **Darling Rivers** with interesting museums and heritage buildings. Restored Paddle Wheelers, invite you for a cruise along the river.



Another relaxing way of exploring the mighty Murray is by Houseboat.

Activities: Canoeing, Kayaking.

Victoria's vineyards in the **Yarra Valley, Rutherglen, Swan Hill** and **Mildura** are much



smaller than the Barossa Valley in South Australia or the Hunter Valley in New South Wales. However, the quality of the wines is excellent. The pleasant hospitality of these smaller, often family owned vineyards, is something of an extra personal touch that you won't usually find with the larger operations.

The centres of the **Victorian Alps** are at **Mt. Buller**, **Falls Creek**, **Mt. Hotham** and **Mt. Stirling**. Although this region is not comparable with European or North American ski fields, it still offers an excellent variety of slopes for every skier, snowboarder or cross country skier. In the time without snow (November till May) you can go hiking, swimming, sailing, fishing, playing Golf or Tennis, canoeing, rock-climbing, water-skiing or horse back riding.

Victoria experienced a huge gold rush from 1837 till 1918 near **Ballarat**. You will find a rebuilt town of the gold rush time with interesting guided tours at **Sovereign Hill**. If you want to try your luck yourself, you can hire equipment and start digging for gold!



The **Gippsland** region is an extended lake system surrounded by the cities of **Sale**, **Bairnsdale** and **Lakes Entrance**. This area is perfect for all sorts of water activities or alternatively a romantic or energetic walk along the beach. The **Buchan Caves** (lime stone caves) not far from Lakes Entrance add

to the diversity of this region.

Activities: Surfing, Swimming, Fishing, Sailing, Boat Tours, Watching Birds and other Wildlife

Mornington Peninsula is located about an hours drive south of Melbourne and is a popular recreation area for Melbournians. You will find beaches with good surf, safe beaches to swim and a wide variety of water activities. There are also little coastal villages, vineyards, galleries, museums and good hiking trails spread over this pleasant peninsula.

Climate Tables

Please note, that the following charts show average temperatures.

<u>Melbourne</u>	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Maximum °C	26	26	24	20	17	14	13	15	17	20	22	24
Minimum °C	14	14	13	11	8	7	6	7	8	9	11	13
Maximum °F	78.8	78.8	75.2	68	62.6	57.2	55.4	59	62.6	68	71.6	75.2
Minimum °F	57.2	57.2	55.4	51.8	46.4	44.6	42.8	44.6	46.4	48.2	51.8	55.4
Rainfall mm	48	47	52	57	58	49	49	50	59	67	60	59
Raindays	8	7	9	12	14	14	15	16	15	14	12	11

<u>Gippsland</u>	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Maximum °C	24	24	22	20	17	15	15	16	17	19	20	22
Minimum °C	14	15	13	11	8	6	5	6	7	9	11	13
Maximum °F	75.2	75.2	71.6	68	62.6	59	59	60.8	62.6	66.2	68	71.6
Minimum °F	57.2	59	55.4	51.8	46.4	42.8	41	42.8	44.6	48.2	51.8	55.4
Rainfall mm	57	35	55	61	79	65	55	57	57	61	73	74
Raindays	8	7	10	10	12	13	12	14	13	13	13	11

<u>Grampians</u> <u>Ballarat</u>	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Maximum °C	29	29	25	21	16	13	12	14	16	20	24	26
Minimum °C	14	15	13	9	7	4	3	5	6	8	11	13
Maximum °F	84.2	84.2	77	69.8	60.8	55.4	53.6	57.2	60.8	68	75.2	78.8
Minimum °F	57.2	59	55.4	48.2	44.6	39.2	37.4	41	42.8	46.4	51.8	55.4
Rainfall mm	34	32	36	41	55	60	56	58	54	53	38	33
Raindays	5	4	5	7	10	12	13	13	11	10	7	6