

pottertravel

BENDIGO EASTER FAIR

6 DAY TOUR

Departing: Thursday 14 April 2022

Returning Tuesday 19 April 2022



TOUR COST:

\$1685 per person Twin/Double Share

\$2135 Sole Occupancy

PICK UP TIMES:

7.10am Crawford Street, Queanbeyan
7.30am Bay 1, Woden Bus Interchange

7.50am West Row Bus Stop, City
8.00am Riggall Place, Lyneham

The Bendigo Easter Festival is not to be missed. Over the four-day Easter long weekend, Bendigo's picturesque Rosalind Park and surrounding streets will be transformed into a vibrant precinct bustling with entertainment including live stage shows, hands-on activities, carnival rides, live music, roving performers and more! As the sun sets secure your place along the road to cheer on the convoy of illuminated floats concluding with a spectacular fireworks display over the city.

DAY 1 (LD): CANBERRA TO BENDIGO: Thursday 14 April 2022

Welcome to our 6 Day Easter Festival tour in Bendigo. Sit back, relax and meet your fellow Easter companions as we travel through scenic countryside and charming country towns such as Bowning, Coolac, Gundagai and Holbrook. There will be time for a quick morning tea break along the way before we reach Albury for our lunch stop. `Stepping into The Ettamogah Pub is like stepping into a Ken Maynard cartoon! As a youngster Ken would cycle around a water hole called Ettamogah – an indigenous word meaning 'place of good drink'. This struck Ken as an ideal name for a pub and led to the infamous Ettamogah cartoons which encapsulate the essence of Australian larrikinism. There will be time to explore the pub and its walls of cartoons or wander through the cartoon inspired gardens. Back on the road we continue our journey on to Bendigo our home for the next 5 nights. As we get closer to the city centre we will see that Bendigo has one of the finest collections of Victorian buildings in Australia. The streets are awash with huge granite edifices and, in the centre of the city, there is a fountain dedicated to Queen Victoria's daughter-in-law, Princess Alexandra. After settling in to our contemporary accommodation at the All Seasons Resort Hotel we will unwind from the day over our evening meal at Seasons Bistro where we get to know our fellow travellers better.

All Seasons Resort Hotel, Bendigo (03 5443 8166)

DAY 2: (BLD) BENDIGO EASTER FESTIVAL: Friday 15 April 2022

Ready for the day we board the 'Vintage Talking Tram' for a fascinating journey through central Bendigo where we see historic properties such as the Shamrock Hotel and delve a little into the history of the Goldfields. Step back in time and admire the craftsmanship and love that has gone into restoring each vehicle in the fleet. Bendigo Tramways pride themselves on operating the best working collection of heritage trams in the world. Our journey on board will leave us with a greater appreciation for why Bendigo's trams are such an important part of the city's identity. Alighting at the Central Deborah Gold Mine we have arranged a guided surface tour of an actual working mine - right in the centre of the city. Dominated by a huge 22 metre high poppet head, the surface of the mine is a highlight in itself and contains original buildings and equipment that were essential to the operation of Central Deborah in its mining days. You will be amazed by the Engine Room which contains the Winder that was installed in 1945 and is notable as the only complete working example in Australia. It is still used daily by the mine crew who meticulously maintain the underground workings. The surface also displays buildings and plant equipment from other mines that used to operate in Bendigo, including the Deborah Extended, South Deborah, North Deborah and Monument Hill Mines. We'll indulge in a traditional Miner's Pasty for lunch following our tour. Next up, we experience one of the main events of the festival - The Awakening of the Dragon*, which is a spectacular celebration of dragon and lion dance, presented by the Bendigo Chinese Association. Returning to our accommodation we have time to relax before dinner and reflect on our unique experiences from today.

Note the program for the 2022 Easter Festival has not been finalised and activities mentioned are only an indication of what may be available

DAY 3: (BLD) CASTLEMAINE AND EASTER FESTIVAL: Saturday 16 April 2022

After enjoying breakfast in the Seasons Bistro, we head the short distance to Woop-Woop, a unique sculpture garden and gallery based on Australian colloquialisms and humour located in the small central highlands town of Harcourt. Wander through the extensive garden adorned with over 100 sculptures depicting Australian sayings, unusual native 'plants', and 'Galvo Country', where three-dimensional figures mix with the 'local wildlife'. It will be a unique and interesting visit. It's then on to Castlemaine, a bustling town renowned for its eclectic arts scene, rich gold rush history, and growing reputation as a fine food destination. The centre of town has been virtually

unaltered since the 1860's when the surface gold was exhausted and is now home to on-trend and designer fashion, quirky vintage pieces, galleries overflowing with original art, bookstores galore, an abundance of antiques and collectables and many other boutique shopping experiences. Whilst in Castlemaine we visit the authentic goldfields villa Buda Historic Home and Gardens. The house was originally built by a retired Indian Army officer in 1857, and is a superb example of the Victorian-era colonial architecture. The house and magnificent gardens were extended in the 1890's by a Hungarian gold and silversmith, Ernest Leviny. They are now open for you to enjoy and provide an insight into the town's refined and gracious past. Wandering through the historic home you will be transported to another era. The Buda Giftshop stocks unique homewares and jewellery featuring original Leviny designs as well as craftwork produced locally. We will have time here for lunch before making our way back to Bendigo. For the remainder of the afternoon, we'll be entertained by more of the Easter program.

DAY 4: (BD) BENDIGO EASTER FESTIVAL: Sunday 17 April 2022

Happy Easter everyone! This morning we have a slower start to our day to enjoy our goodies from the Easter Bunny and to relax over breakfast at Seasons Bistro. First up we take a visit to the Chinese Joss House Temple - the oldest Joss House still in use in the Bendigo area. Built in 1860 it fell into disrepair but was restored by the National Trust and reopened in 1972. The Joss House is made up of three buildings - a caretakers residence, temple to Guan Kung and an ancestral hall with alters to several other gods and brilliant banners. Constructed using local handmade bricks and painted red- symbolizing happiness, strength and vitality - the Bendigo Joss House Temple is a unique and significant part of Bendigo's cultural history. We have time to purchase an early lunch, maybe from The Rotary Art and Craft Markets before we position ourselves along the street to enjoy the Easter Gala Parade*. Returning to our accommodation we have time to relax before dinner. This evening we are in for a treat heading out and immersing ourselves in the Torchlight Lantern procession and fireworks* event - a highlight of the festival. Since first being introduced it has continued a long standing tradition of bringing fire brigades from far and wide to contribute to the festivities. The unique parade is made up of three distinct sections; fire brigades and emergency services, lanterns and the contingent from the Bendigo Chinese Association.

DAY 5: (BLD) BENDIGO EASTER FESTIVAL: Monday 18 April 2022

We have a later start to the day after our evening last night spent enjoying the fireworks spectacular. First up today we visit the Golden Dragon Museum. It shares the story of the impact and contribution made by the Chinese people of Bendigo - from the gold rush of the 1850s to the present day. One permanent display is "Sun Loong" the longest Imperial dragon in the world and "Loong" the oldest Imperial dragon in the world. Along with the museum and its wonderful dragons, processional regalia and stunning textiles you can also visit the Yi Yuan Gardens (Garden of Joy). Based on the Imperial Palace in Beijing, the architecture and construction of the gardens is authentic in every way. There will be time to view the Buddhist Temple dedicated to Guan Yin the Goddess of Mercy and look through the Gift Shop for a memento of your visit. We leave the museum with a greater appreciation of how the Bendigo Chinese community has influenced the proud history of Bendigo. We make a short stop for morning tea at Lake Weeroona Park and it's then on to Bendigo Pottery for a self-guided tour of the Interpretative Museum. For over 150 years Bendigo Pottery has been famous for creating high quality ceramics. We'll step back in time and learn about the production processes, machinery, working conditions and traditional skills of Bendigo Pottery from its beginnings in 1858 to the current day. A major tourist attraction, Bendigo pottery offers visitors an extensive retail outlet, demonstrations of hand throwing by potters and hands on clay experiences and has one of the most significant collections of historic wood fired kilns in the world. Why not pick-up a little something from the extensive range of high quality tableware and cookware as we wander through the retail outlet. There will also be time to meander through the Antiques and Collectables Centre - with over 40 individual dealers this will be a trip down memory lane featuring both unique collectables and nostalgic items. This historic business will also be our destination for lunch today. After a delicious meal at Bendigo Pottery we make our way to the quirky and unusual "Confectionary Capers" where we are guaranteed a memorable and stimulating visit. Confectionary Capers is a mechanical extravaganza. Here you will be challenged to think laterally and creatively, celebrate the WHEEL as man's greatest invention or explore the quirky and fascinating nature of the English language - all in one unique location. We make the short drive back to our motel and settle in for our final evening meal sharing our stories of the fun filled time we've had Eggs-ploring Bendigo over the Easter Festival.

DAY 6: (BL) HOME TO CANBERRA: Tuesday 19 April 2022

Sadly, today our tour comes to an end. Our day will be spent on the road. With stops on route, there will be time for morning tea and lunch at the iconic Kinross Woolshed Hotel where the building's origins date back to the early 1890's. We'll arrive home with new friendships made, having enjoyed our Easter break in Bendigo and surrounds.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Detailed Terms and Conditions as they apply to all tours operated by Potter Travel can be viewed at www.pottertravel.com.au/terms-conditions. Additional details as they apply to this tour are listed below and should be read in conjunction with the above reference.

DEPOSIT: is required within 14 days of a verbal or written confirmation of your reservation. If no deposit is received, Potter Travel reserves the right to cancel the booking. The deposit for this tour is \$200.00 per person. Online Direct Debit transactions must include the following reference: **Surname + P13482**

FINAL PAYMENT: FRIDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2022. Online Direct Debit transactions must include the following reference: **Surname + P13482**

CANCELLATION BY YOU: You may cancel your booking by giving written notice to us or calling our reservation team. Cancellation fees and charges will be levied as follows irrespective of when notice of cancellation is received:

1. any amounts we have paid or have contractually committed to pay to third parties to deliver your travel arrangements that we cannot reasonably recover (for example payments made or due to hotels, airlines, cruise companies);
2. where we operate any of the services included in your travel arrangements (for example, coach travel), a reasonable amount attributable to such services which we determine we cannot resell;
3. a fee which is the greater of the deposit and 20% of the booking value to compensate us for work performed up until the time of cancellation;
4. a fee not greater than 5% of the booking value to compensate us for processing the cancellation and any associated refund.

Cancellation fees and charges will not exceed payments received by us at the time of cancellation. If after the application of these fees and charges there is a surplus of payments you have made to us, we will refund this to you within a reasonable time. You agree that these cancellation fees and charges are reasonable and required to protect our legitimate business interests. Any payments we have made to third parties will only be refunded to you once we have deducted the above cancellation fees and charges and once we have actually recovered the amounts from the third parties. We will use reasonable endeavours to recover third party payments, but we make no guarantee that we will be able to make recoveries.

The operation of the tour is subject to minimum numbers. Potter Travel reserves the right to pass on any additional fees or surcharges imposed by the airlines or wholesaler with or without notice. Potter Travel reserves the right to alter itineraries without notice due to weather, road conditions or any other reason which is seen to be in the best interest of passengers travelling. The operation and provision of services from other tour operators and carriers included in the itinerary is the responsibility of these operators and no responsibility is taken by Potter Travel for the failure of such operators to provide the nominated service. No guarantees will be given as to the exact arrival and departure times for carriers and operators used by Potter Travel. Drop offs may be in the opposite direction to the pickups depending on the touring route taken.

Tour Includes: meals and accommodation at the hotels as mentioned in the Itinerary, some lunches and morning or afternoon tea supplied from the coach, entry fees and/or guided tours to attractions as mentioned in the itinerary, tickets to shows (if applicable), luxury coach travel and GST. Meals are stated in the itinerary as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch and D = Dinner. Not Included: Alcoholic beverages or other drinks (except wine tasting), meals not specified, room service, telephone calls, some morning/afternoon teas or any items of a personal nature.

We do not cater for forced singles on our tours. If you wish to twin share you will need to organize your own travelling companion, otherwise the sole occupancy fare applies.

Potter Travel recommends that Travel Insurance be taken to protect against unforeseen circumstances. Travel Insurance is available through Potter Travel.

Daily seat rotation will take place on all extended tours, which all travellers must participate in as a condition of booking. Passengers suffering from motion sickness are advised to take the necessary precautions as seat rotation is compulsory.

Potter Travel accepts no responsibility for damage, loss of personal belongings or liability for delays, accidents, injury, irregularity or damage caused by other transport companies used for connecting tours operated by this company. Potter Travel reserves the right to cancel or postpone the tour due to insufficient numbers or as the result of circumstances outside the company's control.

Participation or inclusion in a photo taken by a Potter Travel staff member whilst on any of our tours, indicates that you are giving us the right to publish any such photos on our website or Facebook page for promotional purposes. You must be able to embark and disembark the coach unaided to travel on a Potter Travel tour. Your deposit and final payment on our tour is acknowledgement that you have read and understood the booking terms and conditions as mentioned above and at www.pottertravel.com.au/terms-conditions

Potter Travel will be charging the *1.03% merchant fee on all credit card transactions, as the banking industry imposes a broad range of fees and merchant charges to businesses. The charges will apply for partial or full payments by credit card. Cash, Cheque, Money Order and Eftpos payments will NOT incur any additional charges. *Subject to change, in accordance with National Australia Bank Flexipay Merchant Fees.

Where tours are fully booked any future enquiries will be put onto a waitlist and as cancellations occur the person at the top of the waitlist will be contacted first and offered the seat. If you are unable to be contacted on a daytime telephone number, the seat will be offered to the next person on the waitlist.

Potter Travel has completed the Covid-19 Safety Plan and we are registered as a Covid Safe Business with the NSW Government to help protect our staff and customers.

RESERVATIONS AND ENQUIRIES

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