



Explore Heathcote

A three day tree change escape for couples...

heathcote.org.au





Self-Drive Itinerary

3 Days 2 Nights

Based in the heart of Central Victoria and nestled between the stunning McHarg and McIvor Ranges, you'll find the charming township of Heathcote. Where a perfect combination of relaxed and intimate, boutique and artisan are taking pride of place, offering those village vibes that visitors and locals alike have come to know and love.

Curated for couples, this three-day, two-night itinerary targets Lifestyle Leaders seeking out new experiences and a desire to escape city life and embrace a weekend of wine and food, nature and the outdoors.



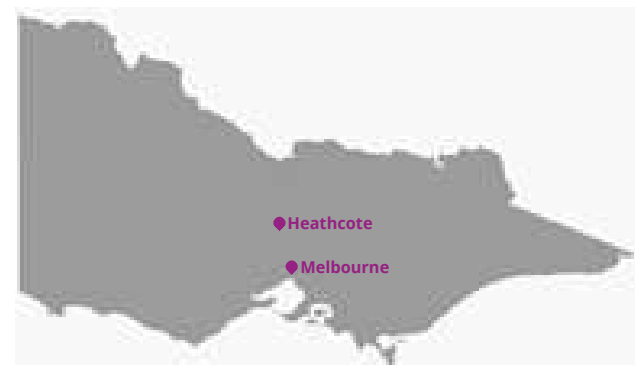
Welcome to Heathcote

Getting To Know Heathcote

- The township of Heathcote developed as a result of the gold rush along McIvor Creek in 1852. At its height, the population was estimated to be 40,000.
- Today Heathcote is home to more than 30+ cellar doors and even more vineyards. In fact, Heathcote is known to have some of the oldest Shiraz producing vines in Australia.
- Heathcote is a major contributor to Australia's first UNESCO Creative City and Region of Gastronomy.
- Heathcote boasts the longest main street in Victoria.
- Heathcote is on Taungurung Country and extends its appreciation to the Traditional Owners of the land.
- Heathcote is connected to Bendigo via the O'Keefe Rail Trail, an historic journey travellers have been taking since 1888 when the railway line first linked the townships during the gold rush.

Getting Here

Take a 90-minute (125km) drive north from Melbourne via the Northern Highway (B75) to arrive at Heathcote.





Travel Safely

Take A TAC Pause Stop

The TAC Pause Stop initiative aims to reduce driver fatigue on long journeys by encouraging road users to plan ahead, pull over, and recharge.

Here are some important tips and hints to ensure you travel safely and arrive alive.

- Plan your journey ahead of time.
- Aim to get enough quality sleep before driving – regardless of whether the trip is a long or short.
- Avoid driving at times when you would usually be sleeping.
- Don't travel for more than 8 - 10 hours a day.
- Plan to pause from the road at least every two hours.
- Consider swapping drivers where possible.
- Don't drink alcohol before your trip - even a small amount can significantly contribute to driver fatigue.
- Take a 15 minute power nap if you feel drowsy.

For more information and to view the interactive map, visit tac.vic.gov.au/road-safety/pausestop



Day One – Friday

Early Morning

Kick start your day with a caffeine hit at **Rutherford & Maine**, a contemporary boutique store complete with coffee, homewares and a courtyard overlooking the passing thoroughfare.

Set off on foot for the short stroll to **Heathcote Visitor Centre** where you will be welcomed by friendly local volunteers. Here you'll find an insider's guide to the region with sound local knowledge and advice, maps and brochures, ensuring you're armed and ready to get amongst it.

✚ *Rutherford & Maine > Heathcote Visitor Centre: 2-minute walk*

Mid Morning

Established in the 1850s after gold was discovered in the area, Heathcote is full of hidden gems. Continue along Victoria's longest main street following the **Historical Walk**. View the craftsmanship and architecture from a gold rush era gone by, where a beautiful blend of modern and quaint little cafes, boutique retailers and cellar doors proudly take their place.

Lunch

Indulge in a French-inspired long lunch at two-hatted restaurant, **Chauncy**. Located in a beautifully renovated sandstone building dating circa 1853, husband and wife team, Louis and Tess, have lovingly created and finessed an impeccable dining experience. Their signature four-course menu is personally sourced from regional and seasonal produce showcasing their love for artisan food and exceptional wine.

Cost: \$\$\$\$



Day One

Mid Afternoon

Take the short stroll to **Heathcote Wine Hub**, formerly the Wooden Church. Be spoilt for choice with more than 200 local wines on offer. It's the perfect introduction to our beautiful and diverse wine region. Enjoy a tasting and cheese platter whilst learning about the region.

🚶 Chauncy > Heathcote Wine Hub: 5-minute walk

Cost: \$\$

Late Afternoon

Head back to your car and take the short drive to check in to your first night's accommodation at **Mt Ida Eco Cabin**, an off-grid cabin made with recycled materials, a touch of style and luxury, and where you'll leave no carbon footprint. It offers peace and quiet with picturesque views over the local farmland and Mt Ida.

🚗 Heathcote CBD > Mt Ida Eco Cabin: 6-minute drive

Cost: \$\$\$



Day One

Dinner

Enjoy an evening of alfresco dining at **Heathcote Inn**. Choose from seasonally inspired dishes created by chef Andy, previously hailing from a Michelin Star restaurant in London. If you're feeling a little indulgent, why not sample a local wine, craft beer or signature cocktail from their extensive drink's menu.

🚗 *Mt Ida Eco Cabin > Heathcote Inn: 4-minute drive*
Cost: \$\$\$

Evening

Before calling it a night, be sure to take the short detour to Barrack Reserve on High Street to view the **Acknowledgement of Country shadow sculpture**. Taungurung artist, Isobel Morphy-Walsh, was inspired by the crow's view of Mount Camel and the mountain range in the area when creating this beautiful sculpture.

Insider tip: the sculpture is a must see at night and is lit up every evening from 6pm.

🚗 Heathcote Inn > Barrack Reserve: 3-minute drive
🚗 Barrack Reserve > Mt Ida Eco Cabin: 6-minute drive



Day Two – Saturday

Early Morning

Start your morning right with a visit to **Fetching Treasures** in the heart of Heathcote for a delicious home-style cooked breakfast. Be sure to wander through the treasure trove of antiques and collectables before embarking on today's adventure.

🚗 *Mt Ida Eco Cabin > Fetching Treasures: 6-minute drive*
Cost: \$\$

Mid Morning

Take the picturesque route walking across the swing bridge into the **Valley of Liquidambers**, for a spectacular plantation of trees, changing from season to season.

Insider tip: visit in mid-autumn when the leaves change colours and it's a sea of rich golden hues.

🚶 *Fetching Treasures > Valley of Liquidambers: 7-minute walk*

Venture a little further and take the hike up **McIvor Range Reserve** walking track (2.6km loop) passing by the historic **Powder Magazine** once used to house gold mining explosives, up to **Viewing Rock Lookout** for views across the township, and down to **Devil's Cave** on the way back down.

Insider tip: visit in spring for native wildflowers.

🚶 *Valley of Liquidambers > McIvor Range Reserve: 1-minute walk*



Day Two

Lunch

After all that walking it's time to feed your appetite with a visit to **Palling Bros. Brewery**. Named after the infamous local, Rood Palling, the team specialise in handcrafted artisan beer and dining, sourcing local produce where they can.

Owners, Peter and Colleen, are passionate about supporting the local community and grassroots artists, hosting regular poetry and open mic nights, comedy shows, live music, and art exhibitions.

Enjoy a tour of the brewery, a beer paddle, and a delicious lunch.

 *McIvor Range Reserve > Palling Bros Brewery: 3-minute drive*
Cost: \$\$\$



Day Two

Afternoon

It's wine time! With more than **30+ cellar doors** in the region, the options are endless. This afternoon we'll take the northern route visiting three uniquely Heathcote cellar doors showcasing a diverse range of offerings.

First cellar door stop, **Munari Wines**. Father and daughter duo, Adrian and India, will welcome you to their family owned and run winery along with resident wine dog Panther. The cellar door has a rustic charm and was once the original stables on the property. Enjoy a wine tasting and learn about how each wine got its personalised name.

 *Palling Bros. Brewery > Munari Wines: 10-minute drive*

Second cellar door stop, **Silver Spoon Estate**. Running completely off-grid and championing sustainable vineyard practices, visit this newly renovated cellar door and enjoy a tasting with passionate husband and wife team, Peter and Tracie.

 *Munari Wines > Silver Spoon Estate: 5-minute drive*

Third cellar door stop, **Peregrine Ridge**. With elevated views 250+ metres above sea level on the Mt Camel Range and floor to ceiling views as far as the eye can see, this is a cellar door with the most epic views. Sample one of their award-winning reds and a charcuterie board. Yum!

 *Silver Spoon Estate > Peregrine Ridge: 9-minute drive*



Day Two

Late Afternoon


Check in to your luxury self-contained villa, **The Cellars at Heathcote II**. Each villa features contemporary design features, a fireplace, kitchenette, your very own walk-in wine cellar and large deck overlooking the olive groves and vineyard below.

 *Peregrine Ridge > The Cellars at Heathcote II: 2-minute drive*

Cost: \$\$\$\$

Dinner

A short 2-minute drive down the road, you'll be treated to a true country pub fare at **Toolleen Hotel**. Think country hospitality, a friendly face and a great range of modern and traditional pub fare. Enjoy a delicious meal by an open fire in the cooler months or go alfresco in the beer garden in the warmer months.

 *The Cellars at Heathcote II > Toolleen Hotel: 2-minute drive*

Cost: \$\$\$

Evening

Step outside and take a seat on your balcony at The Cellars and enjoy astronomer's favourite Victorian night sky for the **best stargazing**. Heathcote's clear and dark night skies make for the best uninterrupted views.



Day Three – Sunday

Early Morning

Relax and soak up the morning sun with a gourmet breakfast hamper at **The Cellars** with fresh local artisan bread, milk, freshly squeezed juice, condiments made on site from the orchard, farm fresh eggs and bacon, and more. Yum!

Late Morning

On your way back into Heathcote, be sure to drop into **The Shiraz Republic** and **Cornella Brewery**. This rustic family-run vineyard and micro-brewery offer a diverse range of experiences from wine and craft beer tastings, tours, food and live music every weekend in a relaxed atmosphere.

Insider tip: if you're here during autumn, rent-a-row and make your own wine or join a stomping party. If you're here at the end of winter you can walk amongst the canola fields and be surrounded by a sea of yellow.

🚗 *The Cellars at Heathcote II > The Shiraz Republic: 6-minute drive*

Lunch

No visit is complete to the Heathcote region without a visit to **Gaffney's Bakery**. Take your time to wander around and appreciate the incredible range of locally inspired pies and pastries, cakes and sweet treats, and much more. You're guaranteed to pick up something to eat now and a little something to take home for later.

🚗 *The Shiraz Republic > Gaffney's Bakery: 22-minute drive*
Cost: \$\$



Day Three

Early Afternoon

It's time to explore Heathcote's most popular natural attraction, the colourful **Pink Cliffs**. Discover a landscape legacy of early gold mining activity, everchanging colours at different times of the day and the perfect location for finding a magical selfie spot.

🚗 Gaffney's Bakery > Pink Cliffs: 3-minute drive

Mid Afternoon

If you're heading south on your way home, you'll travel past rolling hills and volcanic boulders to the oldest National Trust-listed country pub in Victoria, **Tooborac Hotel & Brewery**.

Renowned for its bluestone building, charm, pub fare and for having their own brewery onsite. Take a brewery tour, try a beer paddle, kick back and relax in the beer garden and enjoy the remainder of your day.

Insider tip: try their **Woodcutters Ale** alongside one of their famous **Lamb & Shiraz pies**.

🚗 *Pink Cliffs > Tooborac Hotel & Brewery: 12-minute drive*
Cost: \$\$\$

Itinerary Overview

Day One Highlights

- Exploring Victoria's longest main street along the Historical Walk.
- Dining at two-hatted restaurant, Chauncy, for a French-inspired long lunch.
- 200+ Heathcote wines at your finger tips for tasting and purchase at Heathcote Wine Hub.
- A nights' stay in off-grid cabin, Mt Ida Eco Cabin, with all the luxuries.
- Viewing the glowing Acknowledgement of Country shadow sculpture.

Day Two Highlights

- Exploring McIvor Range Reserve. Learn about Heathcote's history at the Powder Magazine & Devil's Cave, plus epic views at Viewing Rock Lookout.
- A brewery tour, crafty ale and lunch at Palling Bros. Brewery.
- Visiting some of Heathcote's most unique cellar doors at Munari Wines, Silver Spoon Estate and Peregrine Ridge.
- Soaking up a nights' luxury accommodation in a private villa at The Cellars.

Day Three Highlights

- Meeting the winemakers and brewers behind The Shiraz Republic & Cornella Brewery, a family owned and run property.
- Checking out Central Victoria's most impressive bakery selection and display at Gaffney's Bakery.
- Exploring one of Heathcote's most photographed locations, Pink Cliffs.
- Enjoying an afternoon session at the oldest National Trust listed country pub in Victoria, Tooborac Hotel & Brewery.

For more information, to start planning or book your stay, visit heathcote.org.au

