

Right: Peninsula Hot Springs.

Far right: Sunny Ridge Strawberry Farm.



THE Mornington Peninsula

A GREAT PLAYGROUND

STUNNING BEACHES, wonderful food, interesting art and craft galleries and a fascinating history ensure the Mornington Peninsula is one of Victoria's most popular areas with visitors and locals alike.

Best described as a boot-shaped promontory, the Peninsula is surrounded by the waters of Port Phillip Bay, Bass Strait and Western Port Bay, and a myriad of beaches catering for all aquatic abilities and interests. As an added bonus the Peninsula is around an hour's drive from the central business district.

Visit the Peninsula this month and you'll find surfers happily riding the waves at Point Leo, Gunnamatta, Rye Ocean Beach, Sorrento Back Beach and Portsea Surf Beach, and walkers stepping out along long stretches of clean white sand. While it's a little chilly for most swimmers and sunbathers you'll still find the occasional brave soul having a dip at one

of numerous sheltered beaches scattered along Port Phillip Bay from Frankston to Portsea. Yachties love both Western Port and Port Phillip bays while fishing is another extremely popular pastime.

Attracting the greatest crowds this time of year are the Peninsula's fertile hinterland hills and plains. Arthurs Seat and Red Hill are a tapestry of fantastic gardens, small orchards and farms, many of which open to the public or have roadside stalls. The cheeses, bread, fruit and vegetables produced in the region also appear on the menu of the Peninsula's many stylish restaurants.

Wine tasting is another of the delights of a Peninsula visit. Around 50 wineries are open for tastings and cellar door sales. Many offer views across Port Phillip and Western Port bays, while others are nestled in intimate hinterland valleys. A number can be found around Merricks, Shoreham and Red Hill.

Red Hill has another claim to fame – its market. Established in 1975 it has been described as the 'grand dame of Victoria's craft markets'. Held on the first Saturday of the month, its trademark is 'Home cooked, hand made, home grown – with excellence'.

Another popular market is the Mornington Main Street Market which is held every Wednesday. It's been in operation for 27 years, making it the longest-running street market in Victoria. Here you'll find a great selection of hand-made goods including local crafts.

The Peninsula has always been a favourite with artists and as a result there are also plenty of art and craft galleries to explore. The Artists' Trail from Frankston to Cape Schanck highlights the scenes that inspired some of Australia's best-known painters.

Its history is another major attraction. The Peninsula was originally settled in 1803, around 30 years before Melbourne. It was originally a convict settlement and numerous historical homes and museums fully explain its long and colourful history.

For more information on the Peninsula visit www.visitmorningtonpeninsula.org or telephone 1800 804 009.

EXPLORE VICTORIA'S MORNINGTON PENINSULA AND SAVE UP TO 40% WITH AN ATTRactions PASS

Includes four top attractions plus 10% discount offers at three more.

THIS IS SIMPLY THE BEST way to explore seven of the Mornington Peninsula's top attractions – and make big savings while you're out having fun. The great-value Attractions Pass saves up to 40% on admission and bonuses at four attractions and includes 10% discount offers at three more.

Extras such as a fragrant lavender gift at Ashcombe Maze and Lavender Gardens, a tour of Cape Schanck Lighthouse and entry to its museum, and a 'koala cuddle' at Moonlit Sanctuary are included, along with entry to the following:

Ashcombe Maze and Lavender Gardens: Australia's oldest hedge maze, the world's first circular rose maze, a lavender labyrinth and 10 hectares of magnificent gardens.

Cape Schanck Lighthouse: boasts its original beacon and operates as it did in the 1850s. Guided tours plus a fascinating museum.

Moonlit Sanctuary Wildlife Conservation Park: feed wallabies in the bush, have your photo taken with a koala and see 50 species of Australian wildlife, including rare and threatened creatures.

Peninsula Hot Springs: Victoria's only naturally heated mineral water flows into more than 25 pools, baths and bathing experiences. Choose the nature-based Bathroom or the tranquil Spa Dreaming Centre.

Pass holders receive a special 10% discount offer from:

Sunny Ridge Strawberry Farm: pick your own from November to April at Australia's largest strawberry farm, and enjoy the tantalising café and retail area.

Box Stallion Winery: housed in a spacious former stallion barn, with a stable of award winning wines, relaxed tasting area, restaurant serving lunch daily and live music every Sunday.



Rye Hotel and Best Western One Four Nelson. Best Western One Four Nelson is known for city chic and resort comfort in four-star luxury accommodation with 30 contemporary suites. The motel is owned by the historic Rye Hotel next door, where meals are available in the café bistro all day.

The pass costs only \$49 for adults (full retail value is more than \$80), \$39 for children, is transferable and valid for three months. It can be purchased online at www.emmp.net.au, or at any participating attraction seven days a week (except Christmas Day).

EXPLORE THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA WITH THESE AMAZING PACKAGES



BLISSFUL SPRING BREAK

Accommodation package for two includes:

- One night's accommodation midweek at One Four Nelson in Rye.
- Complimentary cooked breakfast.
- Access to the thermal mineral springs at Peninsula Hot Springs.

Bookings: 03 5985 2277

\$230*
Conditions apply



WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Bushwalk around Cape Schanck then journey back in time on a behind the scenes Lighthouse tour. Get close to Australian animals at Moonlit Sanctuary on a Private Guided Night Tour. Includes handling, feeding and photography opportunities.

Bookings: 03 5978 7935

\$80*
Per Person



A DELICIOUS DAY OUT

Pick fresh strawberries at Sunny Ridge Strawberry Farm, wander the gardens and indulge in morning/afternoon tea at Ashcombe Maze & Lavender Gardens, taste award winning wines and enjoy a two course lunch in the converted stables at Box Stallion Winery.

Bookings: 03 5987 3078

\$85*
Per Person

THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA. SERIOUSLY, IT'S IN AUSTRALIA.

