

A photograph of two women walking through a lush garden. The woman on the left has grey hair and is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and pants, with a long necklace. The woman on the right has long brown hair, is wearing a brown leather jacket over a white top and blue jeans, and is pointing towards the right. They are both smiling. The background is filled with various plants, including a large palm-like tree on the left and a bush with pink flowers on the right.

*Time well spent in*  
**Camperdown**

A slow-travel itinerary grounded in place,  
community and connection

# Introduction

A weekend that encourages you to slow down, reconnect, and savour shared experiences. Escape to Camperdown for a weekend shaped by connection, heritage, and relaxed regional indulgence.

This carefully paced itinerary weaves together heritage streets, vintage shopping, local food, and time spent outdoors. It encourages you to slow down and savour the joy of unhurried exploration. From coffee-fuelled catchups and historic streets to leisurely afternoons browsing op shops and antique stores brimming with rediscovered treasures. Rising volcanic peaks frame early mornings and golden hour walks, while calm, glassy lakes invite reflection and pause.

Balanced with generous meals, warm hospitality, and views across ancient plains, the weekend encourages you to slow down, reconnect, and savour shared experiences.

# Location

An easy road trip destination at the heart of the Volcanic Lakes and Plains region.

Camperdown is a relaxed regional town in south-west Victoria, located 190 km south west of Melbourne on the Princes Highway and 110 km south-west of Ballarat. Camperdown is both an easy road trip destination and conveniently accessible by train, with regular V/Line services from Melbourne via Geelong. Camperdown connects to Port Campbell on the Great Ocean Road via the [Poorpa Yanyeen Meerreeng](#) Timboon-Port Campbell Trail and the [Camperdown-Timboon Rail Trail](#).

Its location makes it an ideal base for exploring the Volcanic Lakes and Plains.



# Why visit?

From crater lakes, sweeping plains, and volcanic peaks, Camperdown is a place where landscape, history, and community come together.

[Camperdown](#) is set within the dramatic Western District volcanic plains and at the base of [Mt Leura](#) and [Mt Sugarloaf](#). Surrounded by ancient crater lakes such as [Bullen Merri](#), [Gnotuk](#), and [Purrumbete](#), it feels distinctly shaped by the landscape that rises and falls around it. It's a place to slow down, reconnect, and notice things again, all while being warmly welcomed by a town that knows exactly what it is and doesn't try to be anything else. It's quietly beautiful and refreshingly unhurried.

Camperdown invites easy wandering along elm-lined avenues, between [vintage and op shops](#), [welcoming cafés](#), and classic [country pubs](#) where warm hospitality and great local food come naturally.



BOTANIC GARDENS & ARBORETUM



CLOCKTOWER



LAKE BULLEN MERRI

## quick stats

**Population:** 3,351

**190 km south west from Melbourne**

Approx. 2 hr 30 min drive

**63 km north from the Twelve Apostles**

Approx. 50 min drive

### Key industries:

- Agriculture
- Health Care
- Manufacturing
- Retail
- Tourism

### Op-shoppers delight

The heart of the [Vintage Road Trip](#) – a trail created for those who love vintage finds, op shops and all things retro. A total of 21 businesses are featured on the map, with 10 calling Camperdown home.

### Nearby towns:

Cobden, Terang, Timboon, Colac, Warrnambool

# Diary dates



## FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

The Camperdown Rotary Market offers a relaxed atmosphere with stalls selling fresh produce, handmade goods, plants, and local crafts, supporting community projects through Rotary. Complementing the market, guided tours of the historic Camperdown Clock Tower give visitors a chance to learn about the town's history while enjoying panoramic views from the top.

## EASTER

Four days of racing on Lake Bullen Merri starting Good Friday and ending on Easter Monday. The Yachting Western Victoria Annual Easter Regatta is the largest sailing event held in Western Regional Victoria.

## MARCH

Camperdown hosts the Mt Leura Hillclimb, delivering two full days of competition and more than 85 entries. Spectators are treated to nonstop high speed sprints as competitors battle the clock on this iconic course along Mt Leura.

## APRIL

The 4 Peaks Challenge is a community endurance event that challenges participants to climb four local peaks; Mt Leura & Sugarloaf, Mt Elephant and Mt Noorat, testing their physical and mental resilience.

## JUNE

The Robert Burns Celtic Festival is a vibrant annual celebration of Celtic culture inspired by the legacy of Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns. Building on strong Scottish roots while embracing wider Celtic traditions, the festival showcases live folk and Celtic music, poetry, storytelling, dancing, pipe bands, and cultural workshops.

## DECEMBER

Held in the evening, the Light Up Camperdown festival features illuminated street displays, live music, performances, food stalls, and family-friendly activities that encourage people to gather and enjoy the town after dark.



# Seasonal changes

Long summer evenings make room for dinner before golden hour, when the light turns soft and the pace naturally slows. There's time for dessert with a view or take an easy post-dinner stroll - the kind that justifies the extra serving you didn't plan on but absolutely don't regret.

# Time well spent

Three days and two nights of unhurried discovery in Camperdown

## Day One – Friday

## A thoughtful arrival

### Morning

#### SETTLING IN: COFFEE & STORIES OF PLACE

Friday unfolds at an easy pace, beginning just before 10 am as you arrive in Camperdown. The day starts at [DJ's Café](#), where coffee stretches into unhurried conversation and the gentle rhythm of catching up. By late morning, you're drawn into the town's past at [The Courthouse Camperdown](#), a beautifully restored 1886 building that now serves as the visitor information centre. Inside, local volunteers share regional stories, rotating exhibitions highlight local art, and shelves of locally made goods deepen the sense of place.

From there, the [Camperdown Heritage Signs Trail](#) guides you along elm-lined avenues and historic streets, layering Aboriginal history, settlement stories and local industry into the walk. You finish by climbing the iconic 1897 Gothic-style [Clocktower](#), with panoramic views accross Camperdown and Mt Leura rising gently in the distance.

### Afternoon

#### FLAVOUR, FAIRWAYS & SOFT LIGHT

Lunch at [Excuse Me Katie's](#) invites you to slow down and properly settle in. Vibrant and nourishing, the menu is built around organic, biodynamic and chemical-free ingredients, delivering a meal that feels both indulgent and restorative.

From here, you check into [The Camperdown Mill](#), where beautifully restored 1868 mill buildings encircle an elegant central courtyard. Each apartment offers generous living spaces and polished timber floors. Mezzanine or attic bedrooms overlook oak-lined streets or the quiet courtyard below, just moments from the main street yet pleasantly tucked away.

The afternoon lifts at the [Camperdown Golf Club](#), wandering rolling fairways before transitioning into golden hour at Camperdown's [Botanic Gardens](#), where soft light settles over volcanic craters, curved paths and hushed lawns.

### Evening

#### WARM TABLES & DEEP REST

Dinner at [Farmhouse 153](#) brings the day to a warm and grounding close. Set within the beautifully restored Stansmore's Livery Stables (circa 1907), the space is rich with character. The menu leans into generous, comforting fare made with locally sourced ingredients.

With satisfied appetites and tired legs, you return to [The Camperdown Mill](#), where the building's quiet character settles around you. The day ends simply, with a deep, well-earned sleep in the heart of Camperdown.



THE CAMPERDOWN MILL

## Day Two – Saturday

## On the road, into the landscape

### Morning

#### MOVEMENT, VIEWS AND VINTAGE FINDS

Saturday starts early, with cool air still clinging to [Mount Leura and Sugarloaf](#) as you head out before breakfast. A energising run, brisk walk or a short drive to the summit – the reward is immediate, with wide views stretching across volcanic plains as the day slowly wakes.

Breakfast at [Loaf & Lounge](#) follows, greeted by the comforting smell of bread and pastries baked fresh on site. Cabinets brim with golden croissants, flaky Danishes, hot pies and classic cakes, while house-made sourdoughs line the shelves.

Refuel with pastries still warm before mid-morning brings the [Vintage Road Trip](#). Browse [Vintage Gnotuk](#), [Oakbrook Collectables](#) and [local op shops](#). Time slipping by as you uncover unexpected finds, detour into [Cobden's Op Shops](#), before heading out west for lunch.



MOUNT LEURA

### Afternoon

#### LONG LUNCHES AND VOLCANIC STORIES

Lunch at [Keayang Maar Vineyard](#) stretches comfortably into the early afternoon. Pizzas arrive crisp and generous, paired with a cheese board that encourages sharing and lingering. Sweeping views frame the table, quietly reminding you why regional lunches are never rushed.

If time allows, you weave in a stop through Terang to explore its [street art](#) – bursts of colour and character that add an unexpected layer to the drive.

By mid-afternoon, you arrive at [Mount Noorat](#). A 2.4 km hike traces the rim of this ancient volcano, opening views down into its dramatic crater. Nearby, rows of lush vines signal what's on the horizon – a new winery taking shape, not yet open but full of promise. It's a brief stop, but a memorable one, grounding the day in the region's volcanic story before you head on.

### Evening

#### GOLDEN LIGHT & COUNTRY COMFORTS

The late afternoon draws you back to [Mount Leura](#), where golden hour settles slowly over the landscape. From 4 – 5 pm, you take in familiar paths from a new light; the volcanic plains glowing, views stretching endlessly, and the day gently exhaling as the sun lowers.

By 6 pm, you're seated inside the [Commercial Hotel](#), a local landmark that has been carefully renovated to preserve its classic country pub character while refreshing it for modern comfort. The bistro delivers exactly what the setting promises: hearty, classic country fare served confidently and without fuss. The kind of food that feels especially right after a full day on the road.

The night ends back at [The Camperdown Mill](#), where the quiet of the building and the weight of the day invite deep rest. You fall asleep content, already replaying the highlights of a day well spent.



OAKBROOK COLLECTABLES

## Day Three – Sunday

## Reflection, water & the way home

### Morning

#### MOVEMENT, VIEWS AND VINTAGE FINDS

Sunday begins quietly. You pick up takeaway coffee and ease into the morning before setting off on foot toward [Wombeetch Puyuun Reconciliation Park](#). The walk invites stillness and attention, with plaques, pathways and carefully held stories of the Traditional Owners grounding the day with depth and respect.

A short drive follows to the nearby [Camperdown Cemetery](#) to view the Wombeetch Puyuun Monument, adding another reflective layer that feels solemn, important and unhurried. From here, you head to South Beach at [Lake Bullen Merri](#), where still water meets dark volcanic sand and the pace naturally slows.

Brunch at [Lake Edge Café](#) eases you gently toward midday, the windows opening out to uninterrupted lake views where birds skim low across the lake as anglers cast a line. The menu leans comforting and generous; flavourful dishes and homemade cakes, often impossible to ignore.

### Afternoon

#### LONG LUNCHES AND VOLCANIC STORIES

A final stop at [Pombo Mart](#) offers one last opportunity to browse. Eclectic finds and “just one more thing” moments creep in as you uncover something perfectly impractical or strangely essential.

Set off along the [Dry Stone Walls Trail East](#). The drive is quietly striking, winding past the enduring craftsmanship of early settlers and wide, open paddocks that seem to slow time. It’s a fitting final chapter; reflective, grounding, and unmistakably regional, before the journey home begins.



WOMBEETCH PUYUUN RECONCILIATION PARK

### Good to know

**Clocktower Tours** are available by appointment. To book, contact local historian & caretaker John Hulm on 0418 349 220. Allow 45 minutes to learn about the mechanism, history and get some great shots.

#### TAC

If you are bringing your car to travel far and wide you will discover Camperdown is a perfect driving base with free parking for all and no traffic lights.

- Travel responsibly – travel safe – take a TAC Pause Stop
- Take a break every two hours
- Get enough sleep before driving
- Avoid driving late at night
- Don't travel for more than 8 – 10 hours a day
- Share the driving wherever possible
- Don't drink alcohol before your trip
- Take a 15-minute power nap if you feel drowsy
- Grab a coffee to recharge
- [Plan your trip and view the interactive map here](#)

# Where to stay

## SELF CONTAINED

- [The Camperdown Mill](#) - Guesthouses suites and self-contained accommodation | Couples and group accommodation | Sleep 2 - 6 | From \$170
- [Lakes and Craters Holiday Park](#) - Self-contained cabins powered and unpowered sites on the edge of the Camperdown Botanic Gardens overlooking Lake Bullen Merri.  
Sleep 2 - 6 | Camping from \$35 - Cabins from \$128

# Bonus activities

## FISH

Book a morning or afternoon lake fishing charter with [Victorian Inland Fishing Charters](#) for up to three people. All equipment is supplied, and with expert local knowledge and well-stocked volcanic lakes, your chances of a catch are high. Prefer to stay on land? Excellent bank and jetty fishing can be found below the [Lakes and Craters Holiday Park](#), along the trail east around Lake Bullen Merri, as well as at South Beach and nearby Lake Purrumbete. Benallacks Sports in Camperdown stocks rods, tackle, bait and gear, including satchels ideal for walking or cycling with your rod.

[www.visitcamperdown.com.au](http://www.visitcamperdown.com.au)

[www.volcaniclakesandplains.com.au](http://www.volcaniclakesandplains.com.au)

## MOTELS

- [Camperdown Cascade Motel](#) - Tea, coffee and BBQ facilities in landscaped gardens. Single, double, twin and family rooms | Sleep 4 - 6 | From \$150
- [Manifold Motor Inn](#) - Short walk to shops and cafés. Microwave, tea & coffee. Single, double, twin and family rooms | Sleep 2 - 4 | From \$164

## HOTELS

- [Commercial Hotel](#) - Single and double rooms with shared facilities | From \$60
- [Leura Hotel](#) - Single and double rooms with shared facilities | From \$90

## RIDE

Like to bike? Camperdown and the surrounding area has plenty to offer. Off-road trails, rolling road routes and gravel gems past breathtaking landscapes including [mounts & lakes](#), [botanic gardens](#), [monuments](#), and along the Camperdown-Timboon Rail Trail.

No bike, no problem: you can hire Mountain and E-bikes with [Ride With Us](#).



CORANGAMITE  
SHIRE



Great  
Ocean  
Road