

Half Day Tour

Puffing Billy Heritage Steam Train Journey

\$99 adult **\$50** child



Highlights

- The Dandenongs
- Grant's Reserve & Morning Tea
- Handfeeding the Bird Life
- Puffing Billy Steam Train
- Sassafra

Itinerary

En Route

This morning you are going to enjoy some good old fashioned fun amidst some of the most beautiful rainforest in Victoria. The journey will take you through Melbourne's eastern suburbs with views of the Dandenongs in the distance.

The Dandenongs

The Dandenong Ranges, known to the locals as the Dandenongs, are beautiful low mountain ranges just 35kms east of Melbourne. At their peak, they rise to more than 630 metres and are cloaked in lush rainforests of Mountain Ash trees (the tallest flowering plant in the world), waterfalls, rolling hills and steep valleys. The

region is home to the famous Puffing Billy Railway, numerous art and craft stores and cafés offering delicious homemade produce.

Grant's Reserve & Morning Tea

Nestled in the heart of the Dandenong Mountains is Grant's Reserve – a haven in the wilderness. On arrival you'll be charmed by the surrounding mountain hue and crisp clear air. While here you'll enjoy a traditional Devonshire Tea of homemade scones, served warm with jam and cream, and tea, served in china tea cups – just a treat!

Handfeeding the Bird Life

Grant's Reserve is a paradise for bird life and you'll be serenaded by the wonderful bird song that fills the valley. You can also handfeed some of the most striking Australian birds such as the colourful Crimson Rosella, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo and pink-chested Galah. It's a lot of fun and a great opportunity to get a photo.

Puffing Billy Steam Train

Next you head the short distance to Belgrave, home of the famous Puffing Billy Steam Train, where you are in for a real treat! This century-old steam train is maintained in its original glory and runs to this day on its own mountain track from Belgrave to Menzies Creek. Here you'll go back in time as you get on board for a 30 minute ride through the heart of the rainforest. You'll see the locomotive depot that services and maintains the train, head through the gorgeous Sherbrooke Forest and ride over the old Trestle Bridge. Just before Menzies Creek you can see stunning views of Port Phillip Bay. What a great ride!

Sassafras

From Menzies Creek you'll then be on your way to the lovely little village of Sassafras. You'll be travelling through thick rainforest that is home to all sorts of wildlife, so keep an eye out for Lyre Birds and Wallabies. Once in Sassafras you can take your time to explore the delightful antique and craft shops dotted throughout the village. You might even find a little something to take home with you.

Free hotel pick-ups

Hotel pick-ups are available free of charge if you do not wish to meet at the main departure point. Hotel pick up times vary so please advise us if you require the service. Hotel pick-ups must be requested with your booking.

Half Day Tour

Approximately 5 hours

Departs

Daily 8.10am Federation Square, Corner Flinders & Russell Streets or earlier from your hotel

Returns

1.00pm approximately. No hotel drop-offs.

Inclusions

- Morning Tea (1)
- Experienced Driver Guide

- Comprehensive commentary
- Travel in an air-conditioned coach

What to bring

- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sunglasses, sunscreen and hat
- Water bottle
- Camera
- Jacket in the cooler months

Fitness requirement

Low level of fitness required.

Schedule

Times are approximate. Schedule may be rearranged on the day.

8.10am	Depart Melbourne
9.10am	Grant's Reserve Picnic Ground (morning tea)
10.20am	Puffing Billy train ride
11.10am	Sassafras
1.00pm	Melbourne