



CELEBRATE ITALY IN THE HIGH COUNTRY

This is a long weekend exploring the Italian heritage and bountiful produce of the High Country, with some beautiful hikes through the stunning autumn colours for which our home region is famous. We have an exclusive foraging experience with well-known Italian chef Patrizia Simone and she shares with us the secrets of pasta- making in a hands-on class at her home. Private tastings of Italian grape varieties at local boutique wineries are interspersed with hikes in the hills above the pretty country towns of Bright and Wandiligong which, in May, are resplendent with the reds and golds of the changing leaves. High points of the hikes on the stunning granite plateau of nearby Mount Buffalo afford spectacular views of the mountains and fertile valleys and vineyards of north-east Victoria.

What's included?

- Two professional guides to look after your every need
- 4 nights accommodation in a luxury Bright motel
- 3 fully-guided hikes
- Fabulous meals with excellent local and award-winning wines
- Unique foraging experience, pasta class and long lunch with Italian chef Patrizia Simone
- Exceptional picnic lunches on hiking days
- Wine tastings
- Visit to La Fiera Italian festival in Myrtleford
- Comprehensive pre-trip information

Itinerary

Day 1 FRIDAY 14 MAY

We meet you at the Colonial Motel in Bright at 3.30pm. We drive about 45 minutes up to Mount Buffalo where we explore some of the distinctive rock formations on the plateau and enjoy amazing views on a short but spectacular hike. As the sun sets, we relax and enjoy the view with bubbles and a selection of canapés. **(3km)** We return to Bright for dinner in a wonderful local restaurant.



Day 2 SATURDAY 15 MAY



We start the day with a stroll around the delightful monthly market in Bright before we follow a pretty trail along a small creek which climbs gently to arrive in the heritage listed gold mining village of Wandiligong. We explore some of the former diggings and climb above the village, later descending alongside apple orchards to arrive at a local farm for our picnic. **(13km)** Later in the day we head to Myrtleford where we visit a fabulous boutique winery for a private tasting. We visit the annual La Fiera festival, celebrating the Italian heritage and culture of the region, and dine in a local restaurant.

Day 3 SUNDAY 16 MAY

After breakfast we join Patrizia Simone, much-loved local Italian chef, for a walk in the woods. Armed with our baskets, and guided by Patrizia, we forage for wild mushrooms and hear stories of her childhood in Umbria. We have a private visit to a local chestnut orchard before heading to Patrizia's home where we learn how to prepare our bounty. An aperitif and some seasonal snacks inspire us to get to work and have fun making fresh pasta, which we savour over a wonderful leisurely Italian-style lunch. Later in the afternoon there is time to relax – perhaps exploring the shops in Bright or continuing the Italian theme with a siesta! In the evening we enjoy a taste the High Country with a platter of local produce matched to some excellent local wines.



Day 4 MONDAY 17 MAY



After breakfast we drive up to the plateau of Mount Buffalo. Our hike today takes us to beautiful Lake Catani, with a climb up Mount Dunn, before our picnic lunch on the shores of the lake. In the afternoon we continue on foot to the famous Mount Buffalo Chalet, once one of the greatest tourist attractions of the area and the jewel in the crown of the National Park. **(12km)** We return to Bright by road and, en route, we visit another boutique wine maker for a chat amongst the vines before our final dinner in a popular local restaurant.

Day 5 TUESDAY 18 MAY

To finish the tour we enjoy a delicious breakfast in a favourite local café.

Hiking information

Shortest/Longest Day 3km/13km

We walk on well-graded tracks in hilly terrain, so sturdy walking boots, with good ankle support, are recommended. Walking poles would be an advantage, especially on steeper sections.

The weather in May has generally mild days but chilly evenings (max 16, min 5), so be prepared for varied conditions. On Mount Buffalo the weather is cooler and can change suddenly so have suitable warm layers and waterproof clothing. We will send you a full kit list with packing tips before the tour. [Bright weather](#)

Accommodation

The Colonial Motor Inn

Luxury contemporary accommodation in the heart of the bustling country town of Bright.

Cost

\$2375 per person based on two sharing

Single Supplement: \$200

HEDONISTIC HIKING

PO Box 200 Porepunkah 3740 VIC Australia

ABN: 66 121332796

Tel: +61 (0)428 198 918

Email: info@hedonistichiking.com Web: www.hedonistichiking.com