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# HORSHAM

If you're looking for an action-packed long weekend away with the family without the stress, look no further than Horsham.

Located just a few hours from Melbourne, in the heart of the Wimmera region,

Horsham perfectly balances the joys of nature with everything you'd expect (and more) from a vibrant city hub. And, the kids will be happy, come rain or shine.







"Have you ever been to Horsham?"



# 4 days of fun

### DAY 1

### **MORNING**

It's time to pack up the car, get the kids ready, and head out of Melbourne onto the Western Highway for the 3.5-hour drive to the Wimmera. Plan your first break at the *Pause Stop* pop-up site in Beaufort, on the corner of Olinda Street and the Western Highway. This SES Driver Reviver site is staffed by volunteers, a pause here will have you feeling fresh as you continue on your way.

Next pit stop is at Dadswells Bridge for a selfie with the giant koala and a quick snack at the local cafe.

If you want to stretch your legs further, continue down the highway for another stop at Old Dadswell Town. This heritage town is nestled on 280 acres of natural bush on the edge of the Grampians National Park and sure packs a lot in. This quirky spot offers some truly unique accommodation, with a range of cabins, each with a touch of nostalgia, history, and good old Aussie humour. Even if you're not staying, you can still ask for a tour. Be sure to check out the shearing shed-style town hall, and if you're a car enthusiast, you'll absolutely love Mad Max's Garage. There's a Hot Rod, tons of motor memorabilia lining the walls and even a 50s-style diner.

### **AFTFRNOON**

Arrive in Horsham, and make your way to the town centre to indulge in some mouth-watering lunch. One of our favourites? Conways Pies.

Not only is pie-making a family tradition for them, but their pies have won countless awards at Australia's top pie competitions. In fact, their pies are so delicious that customers travel from all over just to satisfy their cravings at Horsham's bakery café.

Get your pies to takeaway, and make your way to the luscious lawns of May Park where you can eat on the lawn or picnic tables while the kids unwind in the playground.

You're also just over the road from your accommodation for the night. May Park Executive Apartments is the ideal place for a young family with plenty of space and a touch of luxury. This fully serviced 4.5 star, open plan and studio accommodation offers the perfect 'home-away-from-home' alternative to hotel or motel accommodation.

After settling into your apartment, grab the kids (and you, of course) an ice cream from the apartment's onsite café <u>Una Sosta</u> and take a short stroll through the town to the <u>Horsham Town Hall and Visitor Information Centre</u> to pick up a map from the friendly staff.



Start with the self-guided public art walking tour, which is sure to entertain adults and kids alike. There are 20 artworks to find on this fun treasure hunt, including murals, poetry, laneways and sculptures. Artists have even transformed NBN boxes into art. The question is, can you find them all?

#### **EVENING**

After a long but busy day, you'll be happy to know that your apartment is surrounded by plenty of pubs, restaurants and cafes for dinner. At Bonnie and Clyde's Pizza Bar, you can treat yourself to a fresh pizza with a difference.

Dan, Emily and the crew behind this pizza place believe it's the little things that count. And it shows! They use filtered water in their pizza dough, with locally-sourced Toscana olive oil and Mount Zero Olives from the Grampians for toppings.

The wine list also contains the best wine Horsham has to offer from Norton Estate Winery. Prefer craft beer? Refresh with a cold glass of local Rightbank Brewing Co.





# 4 days of fun

### DAY 2

### MORNING

Wakey, wakey, rise and shine! Get the family up nice and early and take a short stroll to Farmhouse Providore and Café for a delicious breakfast and well-deserved coffee. After breakfast, browse their amazing showcase of the best local produce our region has to offer, including olive oils, honey, preserves, snacks, chickpea brownies and handcrafted chocolates,to name just a few. You can even ask the friendly staff to help curate the perfect hamper to take home.

After brekkie, jump in the car and head to Yangga Dyata Walking on Country, one of the newest additions to the Silo Art trail and Horsham's first silo art mural to feature a story of reconciliation and resilience. It's one of the 12 silos located on the 700-kilometre Silo Art Trail, which starts in Horsham.

Next up, it's the Horsham Regional Art Gallery which always surprises its first time, and repeat, visitors with the quality of its permanent and curated displays. Be sure to check out the works of renowned painters Sidney Nolan and Nicholas Chevalier, who were inspired by this very region.









### AFTERNOON

Are you ready for a swim? Pack your bathers and head down to the beautiful Wimmera Riverfront for an afternoon of water-filled fun.

Swing past Le's Vietnamese food truck and grab some lunch on the way. A local institution, Le's Vietnamese, began as a mobile food truck, but now they've got a permanent home at 4 Clark Street. Both locals and travellers love this spot, and if you're looking for an authentic Vietnamese experience, Le highly recommends their slow-cooked spicy beef pho. If it's hot out, be sure to try the refreshing iced coffee — it's the perfect pick-me-up.

Wander along the riverfront track, and between the caravan park and the rowing club, you'll soon discover Horsham's Water and Nature Play Park. Designed to complement the natural surroundings, the park includes a gently flowing watercourse, manually-operated hand pumps, adjustable dams and weirs, spray heads and pop jets. There are also boulders for climbing, balancing logs and sand pits. It's the perfect place to tire out kids of any age.

### **EVENING**

Capitalising on the deep connections Horsham has with the local farming community, husband and wife team, Melissa and Dorian Doti make all of their handmade pasta from raw, locally-sourced ingredients. Sold with a smile, of course.

You can also stock up on coffee grounds from beans roasted on-site, gourmet pizza crafted from fresh hand-stretched dough, and handmade ice cream from local milk. The perfect night awaits.



# 4 days of fur

### DAY 3

### **MORNING**

Today is all about family fun! Drive by <u>Café Chickpea</u> and grab a takeaway breakfast and coffee. Then, it's time to hit the river for take two.

Start at Horsham Weir, and enjoy your brekkie while the kids enjoy the playground. Afterwards, take a stroll along the Yanga Track, a 2km loop around beautiful bushland and wetlands.

Back in the car, take the short drive back along the river to the Apex Adventure Island and Pump Track.

This is the perfect family-friendly play space, set amongst the banks of the beautiful Wimmera River. The island includes a huge play area with slides, swings, sandpits, and climbing frames. The pump track is designed to be ridden without peddling, with momentum driving riders forward. If you don't have a bike, a scooter is perfect.

While the kids are having hours of fun, relax in the shade where there are seating areas, a drinking fountain, and two barbecues.

### **AFTERNOON**

It's time to head back to the apartment for some well-earned rest before venturing to Señor Mex for lunch. Burritos, tacos, nachos, Mexican bowls, sweet potato fries, ice cream and more — even looking at the menu makes the mouth water.

After lunch, make your way to Horsham Centre Cinema to catch the latest movie. Think comfy seats, multiple cinemas, and the latest blockbusters, all at great prices. And maybe a sneaky box of popcorn as well. You are on holiday, after all.

#### **EVENING**

Just up the road from the cinema is the Exchange Hotel which is a great place to take the family for dinner. Think modern rural pub with friendly locals and a relaxed atmosphere.

In the heart of Horsham, the heritage building features a contemporary wine bar, bistro, sports bar and beer garden, where food is the focus. From pub classics like chicken parma to mouthwatering twice-cooked pork belly, plus plenty of veggie and fish options and a kid's menu, you'll not leave here hungry, that's for sure.









# 4 days of fun

### DAY 4

### MORNING

It's with hearts full that you head home today. Before you hit the road, make sure to stop by <u>Una Sosta</u> for some brekkie. Fun fact: 'Una Sosta' means 'a short break, pit-stop' in Italian. So grab a bite, and get ready for your next adventure. Because, although you're heading home today there's plenty to do on the way.

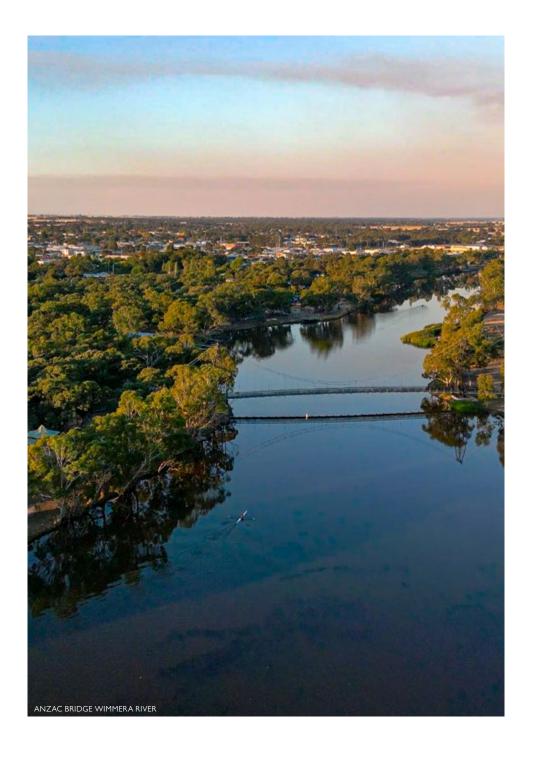
Before you leave Horsham, check out Horsham Lanes and Games which offers a huge range of activities, from tenpin bowling to inflatables and laser tag.

Superfeast Café, is the perfect place to refuel before hitting the road. It's famous for its 'Florrie', a thin piece of steak, crumbed and folded over a slice of cheese and a slice of ham, is a true Horsham classic that was introduced by chef Alfonso Baviello over 60 years ago, when he migrated to Australia from a village near Naples, in Italy, in 1956.

### **AFTFRNOON**

Only a 20-minute drive away from Horsham is the beautiful town of Natimuk, where you can stop and enjoy the breathtaking views of Mount Arapiles. Swing by the café for a takeaway coffee before heading to the base of the mountain to take in the breathtaking scenery. Feeling adventurous? Drive your car up to the lookout close to the peak of the mountain for even more unbelievable views from above. Trust us. it's worth the drive.

Before heading back to Melbourne, take one last look at the beautiful Wimmera River as you cross the bridge. It may only have been four days, but you've made enough memories to last a lifetime.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF A HORSHAM ROAD TRIP

- Make the most of the drive to Horsham and take a selfie with the giant koala at Dadswells Bridge and explore Old Dadswell Town for a touch of nostalgia and history
- Go on a treasure hunt along the self-guided public art walking tour searching for 20 artworks, including murals, poetry, and sculptures
- · Visit 'Yangga Dyata Walking on Country', Horsham's first silo art mural to feature the story of reconciliation and resilience, and explore the Horsham Regional Art Gallery
- Enjoy authentic Vietnamese, Mexican, and Italian food and stock up on the best local produce, including olive oils, honey, snacks, and handcrafted chocolates

- Explore the water-filled fun of the beautiful Wimmera riverfront with swimming, water parks, meandering riverside walks, picnic facilities and more
- Enjoy indoor kids activities including bowling, laser tag, indoor adventure play areas and a modern and comfortable cinema complex

Horsham offers a unique and authentic Australian experience that's the perfect place to create special memories with your family. Book your trip here



















