

The loved up couple

Spend Three Days in the Koroit Region...



KOROIT

Where a hearty welcome and a genuine Irish community awaits you!

Unique and character filled Koroit is one of Australia's most complete examples of an early Irish settlement.

Nestled on the northern rim of Tower Hill State Game Reserve, Koroit is named for the Koroitch Gundidj people who occupied the area for thousands of years. Rich volcanic soils lured men of the land and by the 1840s and 50s Irish immigrant farmers settled here, many as small grain and potato farmers who 'took their produce down the slope to Warrnambool'. The township grew, naturally taking on the lively character and culture of the settlers' Irish homeland.

Today's Koroit honours its strong Irish catholic heritage. It flavours every aspect of life, from architecture and hospitality to a proudly close-knit community.

Stroll or cycle along the main street, wandering into the side streets, and you'll find Irish charm at every turn treating yourself to a journey through the town's fascinating history, with more than 30 sites of interest including Koroit's beautiful 19th century buildings and streetscapes. Discover tiny workers' cottages, gracious public buildings, and lush gardens, all influenced by that Irish heritage Koroit is renowned for.

Meander pathways amidst trees and shrubberies at the Koroit Botanic Gardens. With its Guilfoyle-inspired plan, the gardens now offer plenty for young and old with more than 100 rare and unusual trees, including six trees registered with the National Trust and the Dragon's Blood Tree currently on the World Rare and Endangered List.

Wander through the winding pathways at Tower Hill State Game Reserve. Sitting inside a dormant volcano it is the ideal place for visitors to experience indigenous culture in the Australian bush, enjoying magnificent scenery and landscapes while getting up close to some of Australia's most iconic native birds and animals including emus, koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, black swans and seasonal reptiles. Take a guided tour to gain a deeper understanding of traditional Aboriginal lifestyles as well as learning how to identify native plants for food and medicinal purposes before throwing a boomerang.

However your day unfolds, you can renourish in heart-warming eateries and watering holes that flaunt superb local produce and whimsical wares. Look for fine restaurants in heritage buildings, cosy cafés in quaint shopping precincts, plus artisan wineries and breweries where you least expect them.

I AM KOROIT

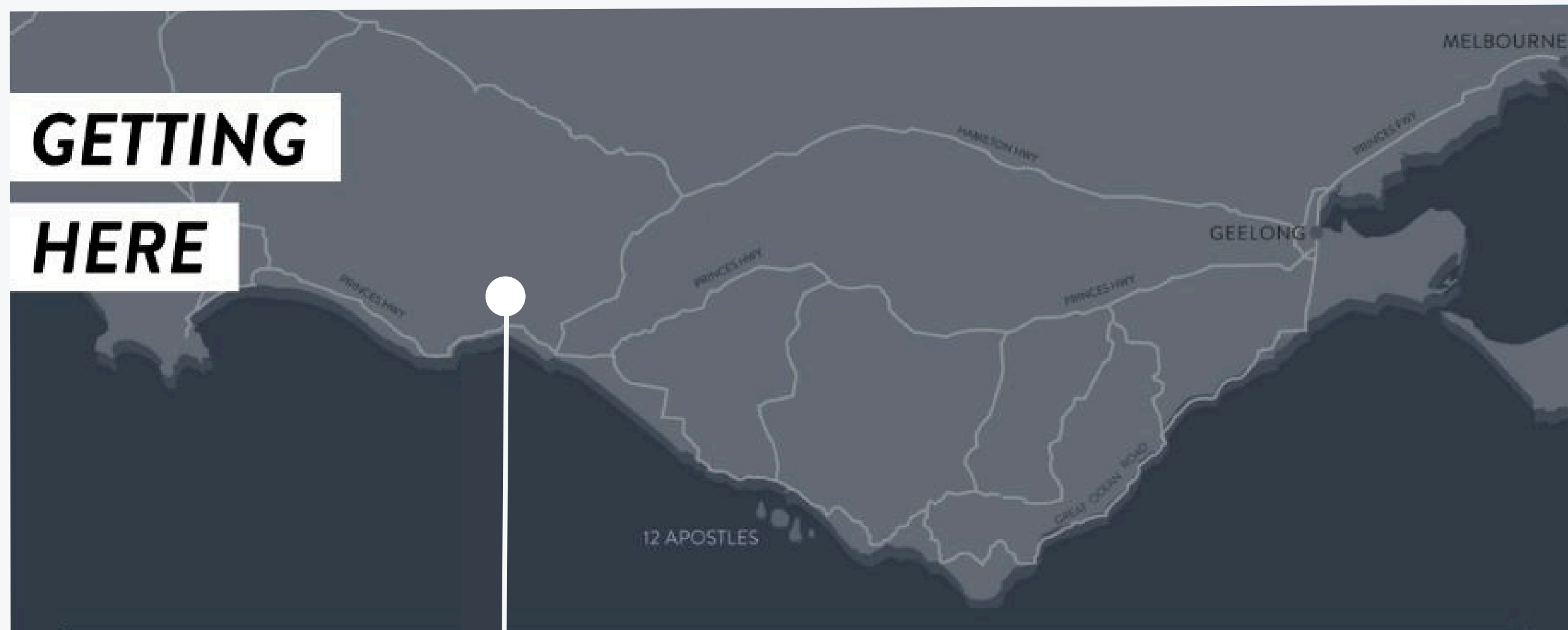
Great Ocean Road

KOROIT

FAST FACTS

- Prior to British colonisation the Koroit area was a rich source of foods for the Koroit gundidj people, whose descendants retain special links with the area today.
- The first European settler came to the Koroit area in 1837. A large number of Irish immigrants made Koroit their home in the 1840s and 1850s. The township of Koroit was surveyed and the first town allotments were sold in 1857.
- The Koroit railway station began operations in 1889, with a brick building replacing an original timber structure in 1907. However, train services to Koroit ceased in September 1977 when the lines west from Dennington and north from Koroit were closed.
- The Koroit and Tower Hill Butter and Cheese Factory Company Ltd was established in Koroit in the 1890s. An expanded facility continues today on the same site as part of the Murray Goulburn Co-operative Co. Limited. The facility is Australia's largest milk processing plant in terms of milk volume with an annual milk processing capacity of 800 million litres.
- Koroit Botanic Gardens were designed by notable landscape architect, William Guilfoyle. The gardens were established in 1862 with an area of approximately three hectares in High Street, Koroit.
- The former Tower Hill Lake National School in High Street near the Koroit Oval is the least altered of three surviving substantially intact examples of schools of the National School era existing in Victoria. Its design is unusual in that it is built to an H-shaped plan with the classrooms flanking the teacher's residence. It is significant to the Koroit community as its oldest building, having been constructed in the same year that the township was surveyed (1857), and was the venue for the first election and the early meetings of the Koroit Borough Council following a break away from the Belfast Shire in 1870.

GETTING HERE



DRIVE

Melbourne

Travel the scenic Hamilton Highway via Geelong & Mortlake. It's approx 288km's and takes around three hours

12 Apostles

Staying on the Great oCean Road, travel west to the A1 at Allansford, before travelling through Warrnambool and on to Koroit. It's approx 100km and will take around one hour.

Adelaide

Leave Adelaide towards Melbourne, before turning south at Keith onto the Riddoch's highway. Travel onto Mt Gambier before turning East along the princes highway through Port Fairy to Koroit. The journey will take you approx six and a half hours and is approx 575km's.

TRAIN & BUS

V-Line coach services from Koroit connect with the Melbourne Rail Network at Warrnambool.



DAY 1

MORNING

HISTORIC IRISH FARMS & LUSH BOTANIC GARDENS

Get under the skin of Koroit and discover why it's touted as the Irish heartland of Australia. Meet a handful of the 1500-people who call Koroit home and you'll soon find it's dominated by Irish bloodlines and Irish names. This is true potato-growing country. On your way into town, pick up a \$10 bag of spuds at a road-side stall with a good old-fashioned honesty box. It was the area's rich volcanic farmland that drew early settlers here. Those who'd fled the famine couldn't believe their (Irish) luck in finding a slice of the homeland in their new country. So they stuck around. Today, growing potatoes, carrots and dairy cows remains a big part of the fabric of life.

Stick to the 'green theme' and take a break in the lush Koroit Botanic Gardens. Meander pathways midst trees and shrubberies, and wonder at the 1857 vision of district surveyor Thomas Watson who allotted 20 acres for public gardens. With its Guilfoyle-inspired plan, the gardens now offer plenty for young and old, including a playground and public toilets. More than 100 rare and unusual trees from around the world will keep you all guessing.

I AM KOROIT

Great Ocean Road

DAY 1

LUNCH

IS IT A NOODLE SHOP? AN OUTDOOR DANCE PARTY?

No, it's a craft brewery, distillery, café and event space tucked away in a refurbished motor garage. It's the brainchild of two mates Noodles and Doof who love creating quality, creative craft beer and spirits, and serving up food with local provenance. The tap list is constantly evolving – with exciting small batch brews and adventurous spirits with unique flavour profiles. The guys collaborate with local Worn Gundidj First Nations people to gain know-how on local botanicals. They're even growing their own hops; keep an eye out for their seasonal fresh hop brew.

Hot Tip: Tuck into a share plate of crab croquettes, a medley of locally farmed carrots followed by a spicy chilli dumpling and noodle soup.



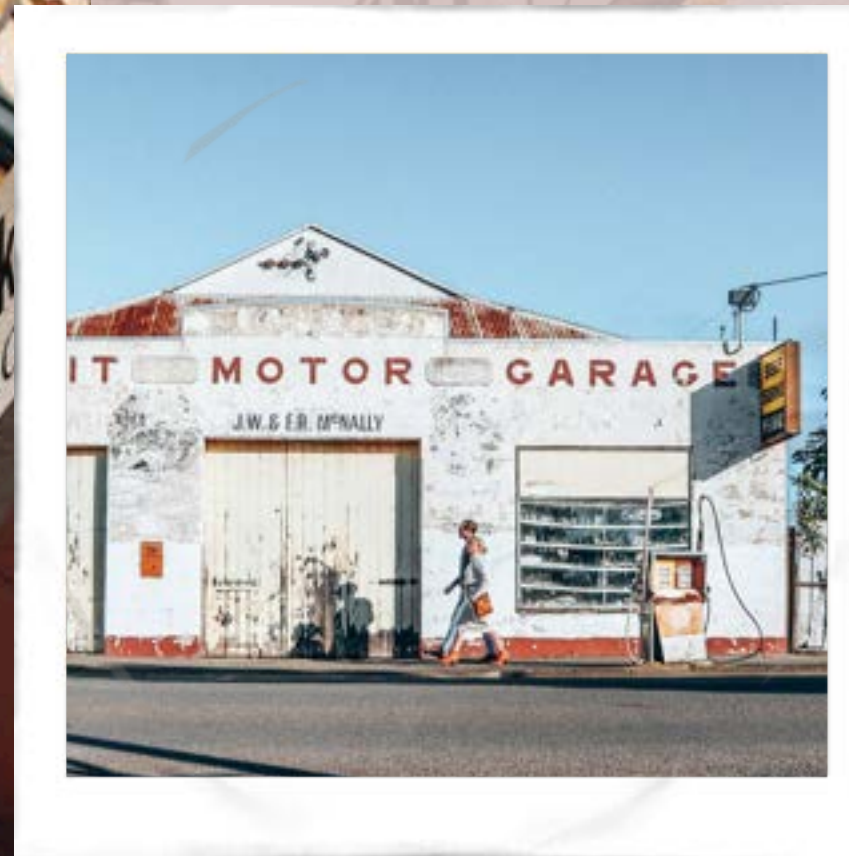
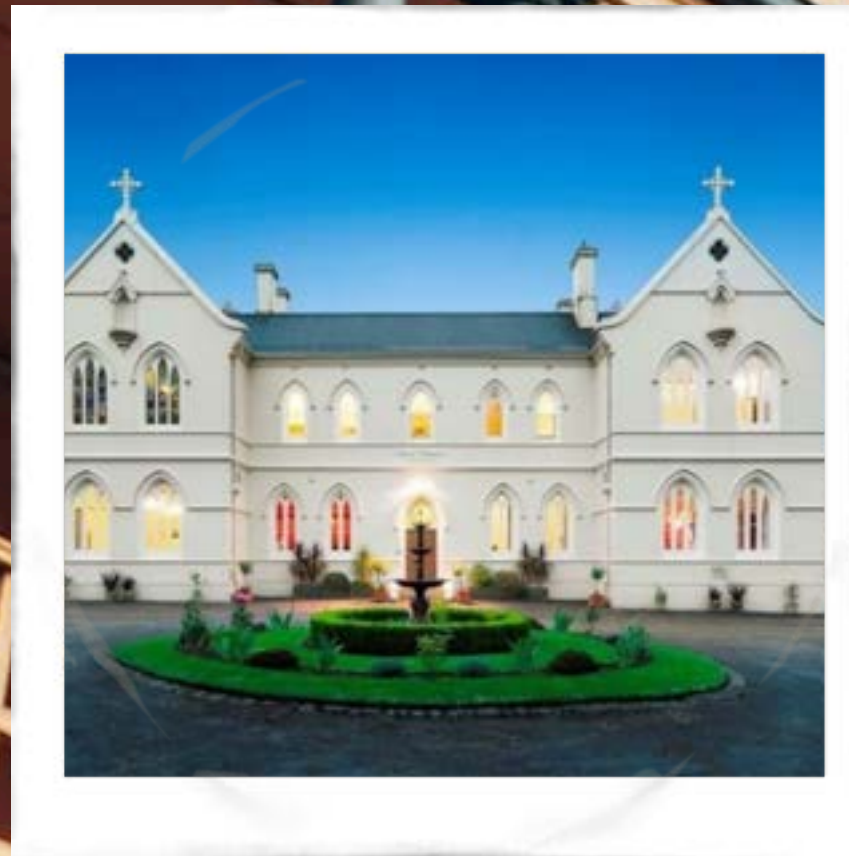
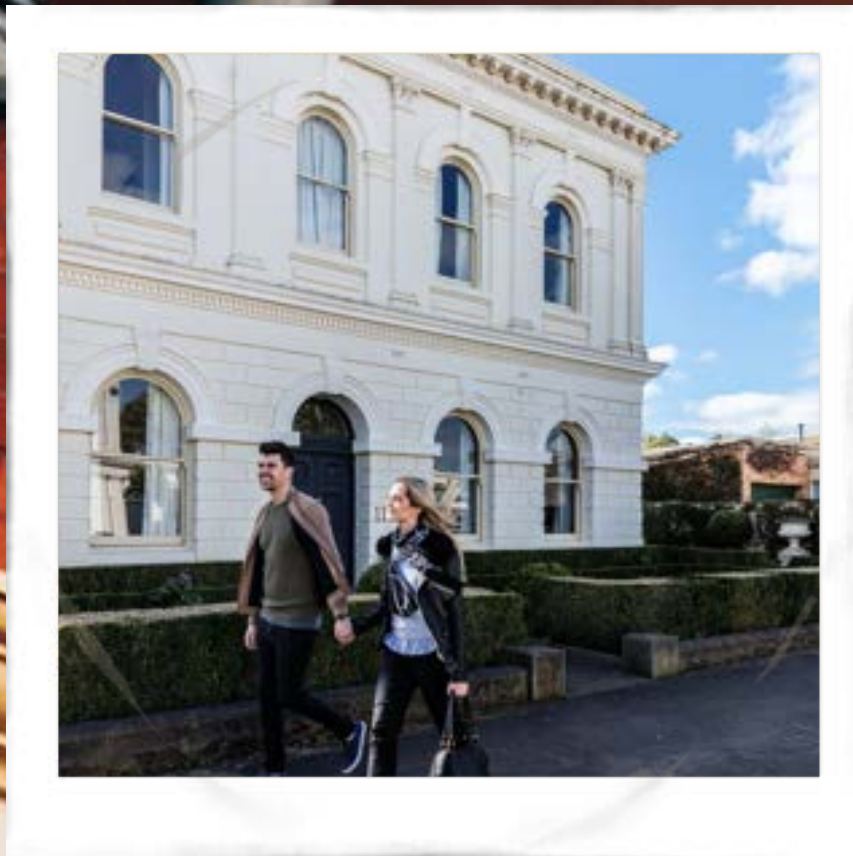
DAY 1

AFTERNOON

KOROIT'S TIME TRAVELLING TRAIL

Pause the pub crawl and take a walk through the town's fascinating history on the Koroit Heritage Trail. Pick up a map at the Koroit Bakehouse, along with a fresh-baked treat to fuel your wanderings.

The trail takes you on a journey to over thirty 19th century buildings and streetscapes. Wander by tiny workers' cottages and grand public buildings, all influenced by Irish heritage.

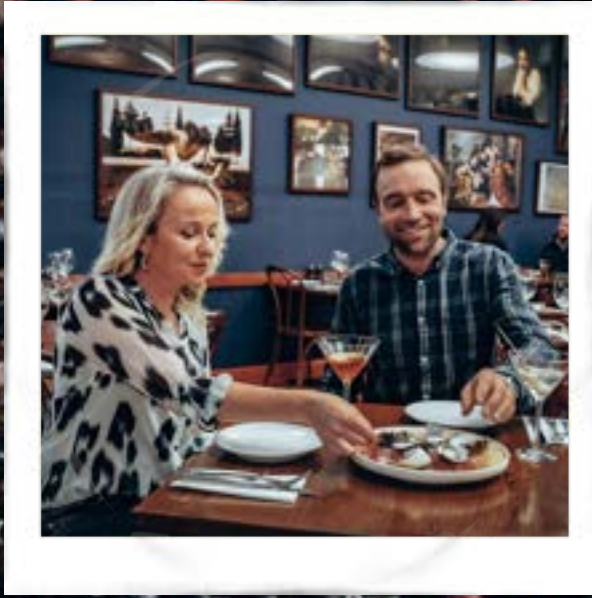


I AM KOROIT

Great Ocean Road

DAY 1

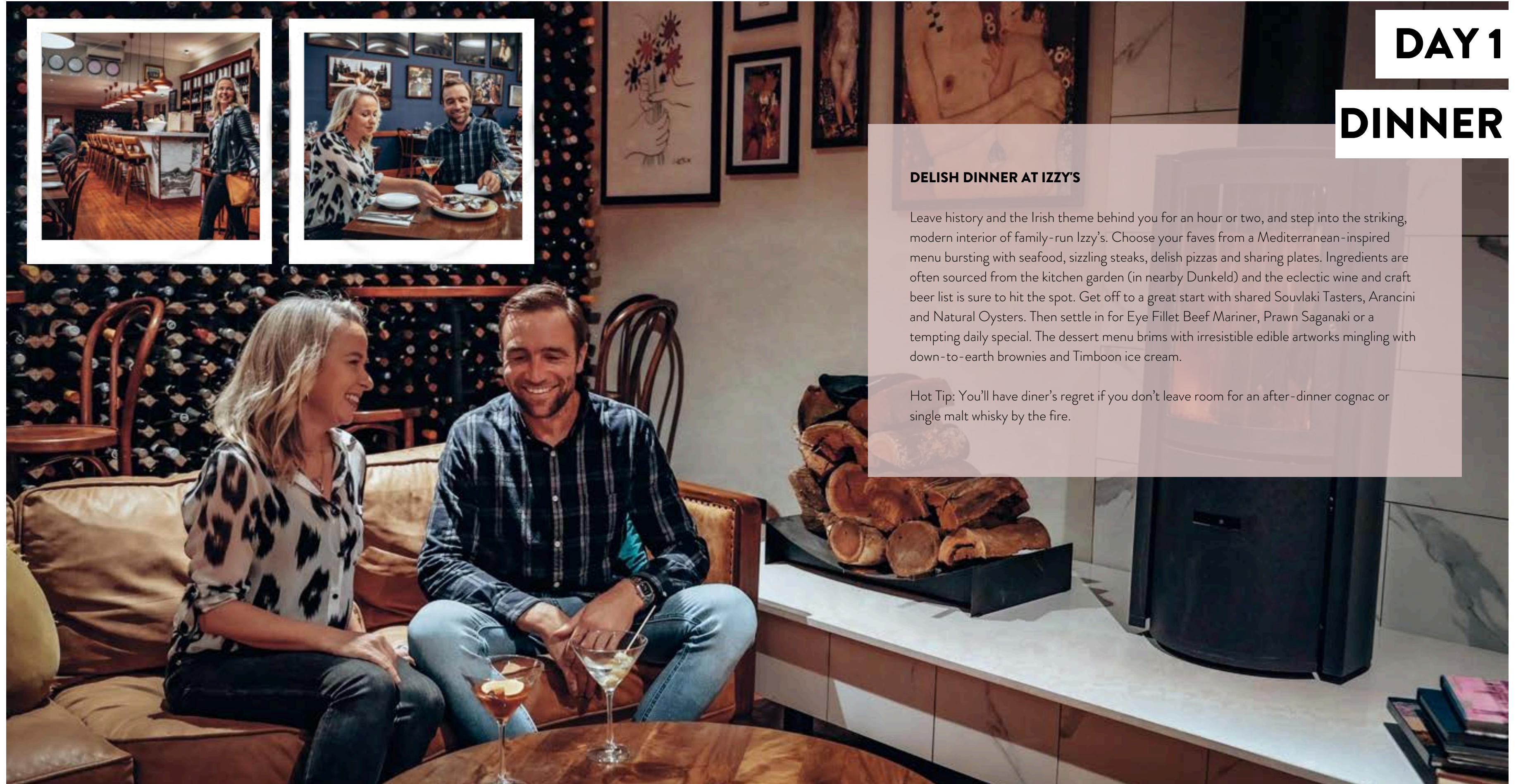
DINNER



DELISH DINNER AT IZZY'S

Leave history and the Irish theme behind you for an hour or two, and step into the striking, modern interior of family-run Izzy's. Choose your faves from a Mediterranean-inspired menu bursting with seafood, sizzling steaks, delish pizzas and sharing plates. Ingredients are often sourced from the kitchen garden (in nearby Dunkeld) and the eclectic wine and craft beer list is sure to hit the spot. Get off to a great start with shared Souvlaki Tasters, Arancini and Natural Oysters. Then settle in for Eye Fillet Beef Mariner, Prawn Saganaki or a tempting daily special. The dessert menu brims with irresistible edible artworks mingling with down-to-earth brownies and Timboon ice cream.

Hot Tip: You'll have diner's regret if you don't leave room for an after-dinner cognac or single malt whisky by the fire.



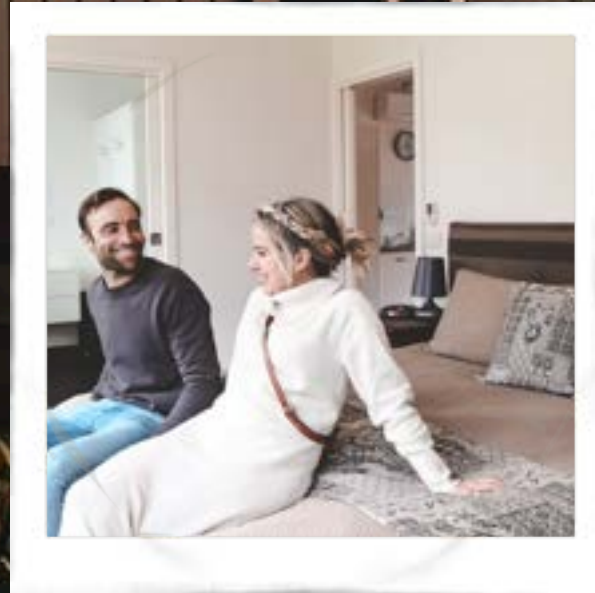
DAY 2

WAKE UP

HARMONY ON TOWER HILL

Wake up to birdsong at your spacious, self-contained suite on the perimeter of the wildlife reserve of Tower Hill. Take your morning coffee onto your private balcony and watch the sunrise reveal views of the local farmland.

Your home for the night is actually a refurbished, mid-century classroom converted into a comfortable one-bedroom bungalow, one of only five on the property.



DAY 2

MORNING

EXPLORE GRIFFITHS ISLAND

Embark on a journey to the captivating Griffiths Island just a short 20-minute drive from Koroit to Port Fairy. Discover the rich history of the iconic Port Fairy Lighthouse, standing proudly since 1859, guiding ships through the ages. Take a leisurely walk or bike ride around the island, soaking in the natural beauty of its rugged coastline and sandy beaches. Keep an eye out for the adorable resident wallabies hopping about among the lush vegetation. Enjoy spectacular views of the Southern Ocean as you explore the island.



I AM KOROIT

Great Ocean Road

A hand holds a golden-brown scone topped with a dollop of white cream and a spread of dark jam. In the foreground, a cup of dark tea sits on a saucer with a floral pattern. The background shows a lace tablecloth and other scones on a plate.

DAY 2

LUNCH

LUNCH AT THE ART OF TEA

Head back to Koroit, just a 20-minute drive from Port Fairy. For lunch, treat yourself to a delightful experience at Art of Tea in Koroit. This cozy café is renowned for its delicious cuisine and tranquil ambiance. Dive into hearty meals and savor the taste of home-cooked goodness, from comforting soups and hearty sandwiches to flavorful pies.

Make sure to leave room for dessert – Art of Tea is famous for its mouthwatering homemade cakes and pastries. Indulge in a slice of rich chocolate cake or a perfectly flaky scone paired with a cup of freshly brewed tea. It's the perfect way to unwind after a morning of exploration.

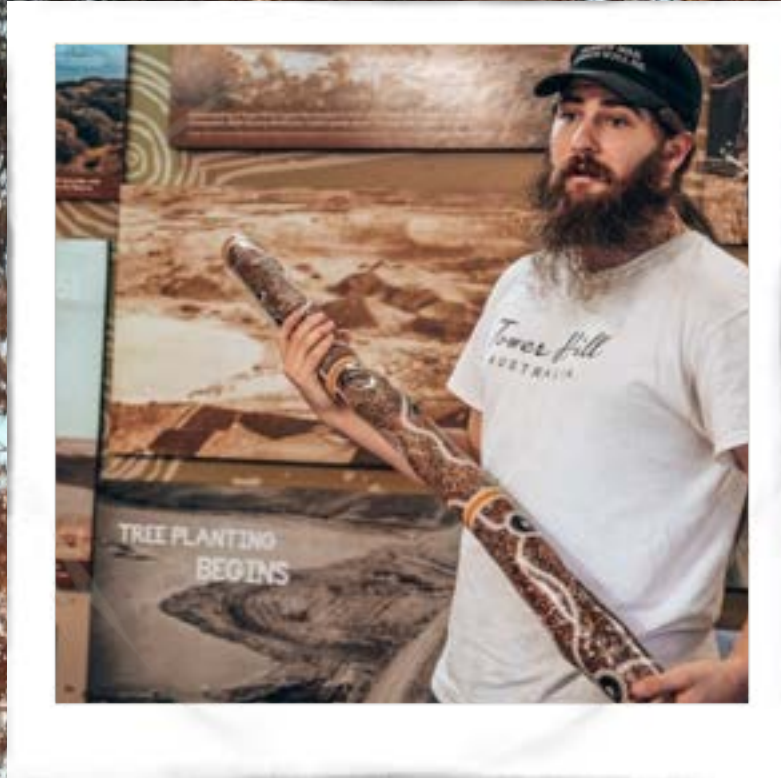
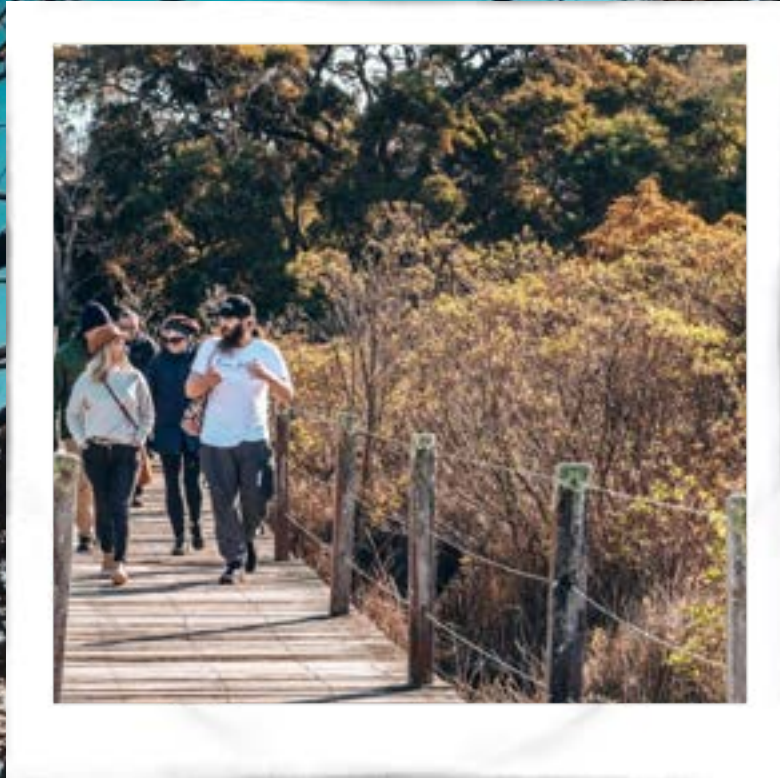
DAY 2

AFTERNOON

TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Tower Hill Wildlife Reserve lies inside a dormant volcano that last erupted over 7,000 years ago. The explosion created the enormous 11km crater rim and was thought to be as forceful as four atomic bombs. Venture inside the crater for a 90-minute walk with an experienced Indigenous Worn Gundidj guide.

You'll explore the majestic landscape, discover its historical importance and meet the wildlife that calls the re-vegetated park home. Some of Australia's most iconic animals live here. If you're lucky you might spy emus, koalas, kangaroos, echidnas and wedge-tail eagles.



DAY 2

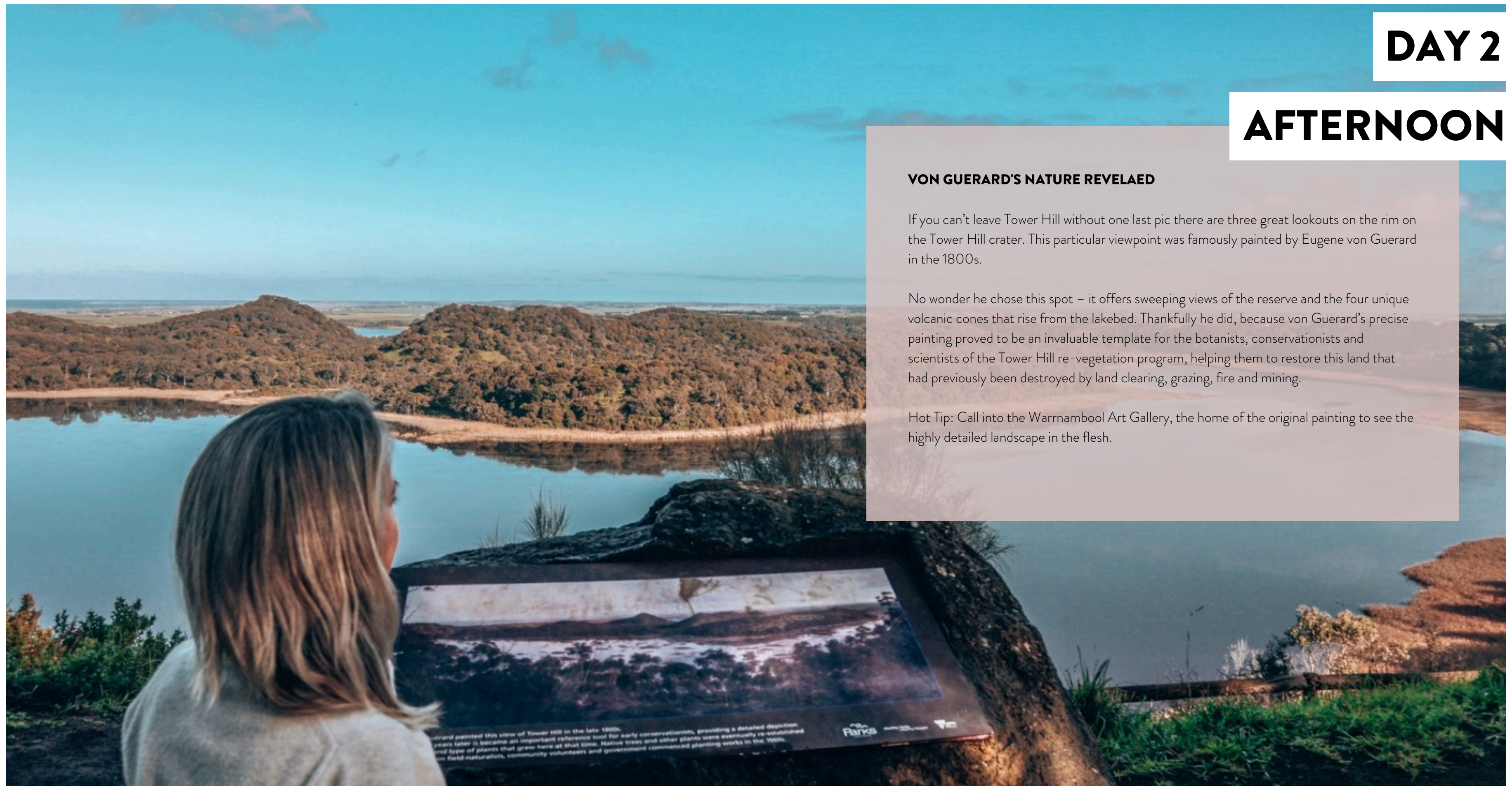
AFTERNOON

VON GUERARD'S NATURE REVEALED

If you can't leave Tower Hill without one last pic there are three great lookouts on the rim on the Tower Hill crater. This particular viewpoint was famously painted by Eugene von Guerard in the 1800s.

No wonder he chose this spot – it offers sweeping views of the reserve and the four unique volcanic cones that rise from the lakebed. Thankfully he did, because von Guerard's precise painting proved to be an invaluable template for the botanists, conservationists and scientists of the Tower Hill re-vegetation program, helping them to restore this land that had previously been destroyed by land clearing, grazing, fire and mining.

Hot Tip: Call into the Warrnambool Art Gallery, the home of the original painting to see the highly detailed landscape in the flesh.



DAY 2

DINNER

EAT AN ICON AT MICKEY BOURKE'S KOROI HOTEL

This iconic pub is the heartbeat of Koroit's Irish heritage. And a freshly poured Guinness is the lifeblood that runs through its veins. Since opening the doors in 1853 Mickey Bourke's has been the locals' favourite meeting place for a good yarn, a pint and a home-style Irish meal. So, grab yourself a beer, pull up a bar stool and drink up the charming character of this renowned hotel.

AND what else would you order other than Beef and Guinness Pie, the locals' go-to staple. Delicious Guinness soaked gravy and a lovely cheese crust top, served with garlic bread. Good food in a relaxed, casual dining atmosphere... what a way to finish the day. Why not check out the Facebook Page for upcoming live artists and join the locals for some cracking good 'craic'?

Hot Tip: Bed and breakfast accommodation is also available to experience the charm of the hotel, complete with four-poster king beds.

Mickey Bourke's Pub
13 EASY STEPS 

VILLARNEY 12km
(DUN TAFALUGHEN ROTE)

KILLK...
(CILL CHA...

CORK 19108km
(CORCAIS)



I AM KOROI

Great Ocean Road

DAY 3

MORNING

GO WILD AT KILLARNEY BEACH

Fringing the coast, Killarney offers surprises at every turn – rocky reefs, sandy beaches, coastal dunes, salt marshes, estuaries and rare creatures such as the Orange-bellied Parrot. Wander and keep watch for wild things thriving here: on the beach, Victoria’s largest population of Hooded Plovers, and in the ocean, southern right whales and dolphins.

Killarney Beach truly is a hidden gem with Victoria’s best whiting fishing, safe snorkeling and paddling in a natural lagoon, pristine surf beaches, amazing birdlife and endless beach walking.



DAY 3

LUNCH

CHEERS TO A WINERY LUNCH

The volcanic soil of south-west Victoria creates some of the greatest wines going around, along with the help of savvy winemakers, of course. Before heading home drop by Basalt Wines' new cellar door to sample their award-winning Riesling and Pinot Noir. You can also enjoy vine-side vino and lunch celebrating local produce at the winery restaurant.

You'll leave Koroit with your heart full, your 'Irish eyes' smiling and a self-promise to come back soon to do it all again.



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