



SPARK TRAVEL



| 5 Day

# BALLARAT & BEGONIA FESTIVAL

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Suite 1, Ground Floor  
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Adelaide, SA 5000

| **Friday 7 March 2025**

Fully Escorted From Adelaide  
Return Home Transfers  
Sovereign Hill  
'Aura' Sounds & Light Show

## HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Hughes Home Pick Up Service (zoned area only).
- Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre, Ararat.
- Fascinating full day tour to the Old Gold Towns of Central Victoria including historic Maryborough Station, Castlemaine, Daylesford, the Amazing Mill Markets and Creswick Woollen Mills.
- The colourful Ballarat Begonia Festival Parade including a visit to the beautiful Ballarat Botanic Gardens and Robert Clark Conservatory with its spectacular annual display of tuberous Begonias.
- Visit the Art Gallery of Ballarat, Australia's oldest regional gallery.
- During the day explore Sovereign Hill and take in the new evening spectacle - Sovereign Hill 'Aura' Sound and Light Show.



## **NOTES:**

**\*\*Health and Fitness:** To assist us when booking, please advise your Spark Travel consultant if you have any special needs such as mobility, dietary etc. A minimum level of fitness is required in order to be able to participate. You will need to be able to walk up a flight of stairs and manage coach steps unaided and you must inform us before the commencement of the tour of any medical condition which may affect your ability to participate in the tour. If you are unable to manage on your own, it will be necessary to be accompanied by another person who is fit and able to assist you in day to day tasks and capable of providing the assistance required.

Dietary requests must be accompanied by the appropriate dietary information in writing.

**\*\*Tour extensions subject to availability and extension booking criteria.**

**\*\*It should be noted that to be fair to all passengers, specific coach seats cannot be reserved.**

**\*\*Please note that on tours where flights/rail are involved, the seating within the confines of the group is computer allocated alphabetically by the airlines/rail company and beyond the control of Spark Travel.**

## **HUGHES TRANSFERS TO AND FROM YOUR HOME:**

Hughes transfers apply in the zoned area. These transfers may be available at additional cost to passengers who live outside the zoned area - please ask your Spark Travel consultant.

**'HUGHES HOME PICK UP SERVICE'** will call you **two (2) days** before the commencement of the tour to confirm the time they will be arriving at your home. **If you have missed the call, please contact Spark Travel (08) 8876 5121 a day prior to departure** for your pickup time. **If you reside at a retirement village, please ensure Hughes have clear instructions from you as to means of entry and directions to find your home. Also, if you are out of zone there will be an additional payment due and this should be made at the time of booking.** For safety reasons, suitcases should weigh no more than 20kgs. The Hughes home pick up service only applies to scheduled tour departure and return tour dates. Those passengers wishing to extend their tours will be responsible for their own transfers.

## **ITINERARY:**

### **DAY 01 - FRIDAY, 07 MARCH - ADELAIDE/BALLARAT - GUM SAN CHINESE HERITAGE CENTRE**

Depart at **07.30am** from **Adelaide Central Bus Station**, 85 Franklin Street, Adelaide, on board our touring coach, travelling via the Heysen Tunnels and S.E. Freeway to Taillem Bend where we stop for a morning tea break (own cost). Continue via Keith and Bordertown, to the Grampians area and the historic gold mining town of **Ararat**. Here we will visit the world-class attraction of the **Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre** for an in-depth look at the Chinese mining heritage of the Central Goldfields. Designed in the traditional style of Southern Chinese architecture, the Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre incorporates the principles of Feng Shui and offers history, artifacts, culture and education.

From Ararat, we continue on to **Ballarat** via the beautiful tree-lined **Avenue of Honour** and the 17.5m **Arch of Victory**, to the well-known **Belltower Inn**, our home for the next four nights.

**OVERNIGHT: BELLTOWER INN, BALLARAT. (D)**

### **DAY 02 - SATURDAY, 08 MARCH - FULL DAY TOUR TO THE OLD GOLD TOWNS OF VICTORIA**

After breakfast, our local guide will join us for a tour to visit some of the smaller **historic gold towns** of **Central Victoria**. We begin with the township of **Learmonth**, then visit the magnificent old buildings of **Clunes and Talbot**. Later, explore the beautiful **Maryborough Railway Station** which impressed the author Mark Twain. Visit the lovely **Castlemaine Botanic Gardens** and take a fascinating drive around the town. At **Daylesford** we visit the **Amazing Mill Markets** with everything from vintage clothing, collectables, fine art to home décor and fine china. We return to Ballarat via the delightful little town of **Creswick** where there will be time to explore the retail shop at the **Creswick Woollen Mills**. Lunch will be supplied today.

**OVERNIGHT: BELLTOWER INN, BALLARAT. (B,L,D)**

**DAY 03 - SUNDAY, 09 MARCH - IN BALLARAT - BALLARAT SIGHTS, DAY VISIT TO SOVEREIGN HILL, ART GALLERY OF BALLARAT**

This morning we begin the day with a visit to **Sovereign Hill**, Australia's foremost outdoor museum, a re-creation of Ballarat's first 10 years after the discovery of gold. Explore the **Gold Museum** and view an impressive valuable collection of gold nuggets. See goldfields entertainers, steam-driven machinery in action and chat with wheelwrights, candlemakers and confectioners as they ply their trade. Later there will be a chance to explore the **Art Gallery of Ballarat**, established in 1884, not only Australia's oldest regional gallery, but one of its most exciting. Located in the heart of Ballarat's central heritage precinct, the Gallery boasts a stunning collection of Australian Art.

**Dinner** at the hotel this evening.

**OVERNIGHT: BELLTOWER INN, BALLARAT. (B,D)**

**DAY 04 - MONDAY, 10 MARCH - IN BALLARAT - BALLARAT BEGONIA FESTIVAL & BOTANICAL GARDENS, EVENING DINNER AND SPECTACULAR 'AURA' SOUND & LIGHT SHOW**

This morning enjoy the colourful **Begonia Festival Parade**, after which there will be free time to explore the beautiful Botanical Gardens, view the wonderful multi-coloured display of tuberous Begonias in the **Robert Clark Conservatory** and maybe enjoy a stroll down the famous **Prime Ministers' Walk**. There is something for everyone at the Begonia Festival, from gardening tips and displays, craft and garden markets, food and beverage outlets, floral demonstrations and displays, music and entertainment.

**EVENING SPECTACLE - 'AURA' SOUND & LIGHT SHOW AT SOVEREIGN HILL**

Dinner this evening will be in the **New York Bakery at Sovereign Hill** after which we see history come alive. Be a part of '**Aura**' and relive Australia's most important rebellion at Eureka in 1854 and as you travel under the night sky, learn the story of how gold revolutionised Australia. Over 64 acres of stunning projections create a storytelling experience which transports you back in time

**OVERNIGHT: BELLTOWER INN, BALLARAT. (B,D)**

**Note: Warm clothing recommended this evening as the 'spectacular' takes place outdoors.**

**DAY 05 - TUESDAY, 11 MARCH - BALLARAT/ADELAIDE**

After breakfast we regretfully say farewell to our hospitable hosts at the Belltower Inn and board our coach for the return journey to **Adelaide via Nhill** and **Murray Bridge**, arriving back at **Adelaide Central Bus Station** at 7.00pm. A picnic lunch will be supplied today. **(B,L)**

**AT THE END OF YOUR TOUR A HUGHES CAR WILL DRIVE YOU HOME**

**TOUR COST:** Double/twin share: \$2195.00 per person  
Single supplement: \$395.00 per person

**MEALS:** (B) – Breakfast (L) - Lunch (D) – Dinner

**TOUR INCLUDES:**

- Hughes transfers from/to your home (zoned area only).
- Escorted from Adelaide by an experienced Spark Travel Tour Manager.
- Luxury air-conditioned and restroom equipped touring coach.
- 4 nights' accommodation at the Belltower Inn, Ballarat.
- 4 cooked breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners.
- Specialised tour guide to the Old Gold Towns.
- Entry to the Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre, Robert Clark Conservatory, the Art Gallery of Ballarat, day entry to Sovereign Hill, evening spectacular 'Aura' Sound & Light Show.
- Other sights as per itinerary.
- Goods and Services Tax.

**NOT INCLUDED:**

- Morning and afternoon teas, drinks and meals other than specified in the itinerary.
- Porterage.
- Items of a personal nature.

**COVID-19:**

No responsibility is taken by Spark Travel or the Event Organisers in regard to Covid-19. It is highly recommended that visitors wear a mask on board flights and whilst in enclosed spaces and we also recommend full vaccination against Covid-19.

**IMPORTANT:**

Due to OSH requirements, baggage weighing more than 20kgs will **not** be carried by Hughes or our coach company.

**\*\*Conditions Apply\*\***

## DOMESTIC TOUR BOOKING CONDITIONS

### TRAVEL INSURANCE:

Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Please ask your consultant for details. Please note that the majority of insurance policies do not cover Pandemics such as Covid-19.

### EVENTS BEYOND THE CONTROL OF SPARK TRAVEL:

Should an event occur which is beyond the control of Spark Travel, ie: delays to ship, aircraft, train, coach thereby incurring extra expenses, these additional costs are borne by the passenger at the time of the event. A travel insurance claim for reimbursement should be submitted to the insurance company upon return home. Please keep any receipts. It should be understood that neither Spark Travel nor any subsidiary company or representative shall be liable for any loss, injury or damage arising from our services.

### ITINERARIES:

Itineraries are subject to change and no responsibility can be accepted. Coach operator and size of coach may be changed at the discretion of Spark Travel without notice. Where a tour does not meet minimum numbers travelling together on the outward journey a cost surcharge will apply. If group numbers fall below 15 adult paying passengers no tour leader will be provided. No itemisation of tour arrangements can be given and no refund for any portion of a tour not taken. Flora and fauna as described in an itinerary is nature and as such cannot be guaranteed.

### ACCOMMODATION:

Spark Travel reserves the right to alter hotel/motel accommodation and to substitute a suitable alternative. Where accommodation is booked on a 'will share basis', at the time of finalisation if there is nobody suitable to share with, it may be necessary to pay the appropriate single supplement. Spark Travel does not accept any responsibility for the non-compatibility of 'sharing' clients. If by choice a single room is requested and booked a single room surcharge will apply.

### HEALTH AND FITNESS:

A minimum level of fitness is required in order to be able to participate. As a minimum you will need to be able to walk up a flight of stairs and manage coach steps unaided. You must inform us before the commencement of the tour of any medical condition which may affect your ability to participate in the tour. Dietary requests must be accompanied by the appropriate dietary information. It is recommended masks be worn on flights and in crowded or inside spaces. To protect yourself and fellow travellers, vaccination against Covid-19 is recommended.

### FUEL SURCHARGES AND TAXES:

All bookings may attract additional fuel surcharges and taxes which can be levied up to and including the date of departure even if final payment has been made. Booking is subject to final audit.

### SECURITY DEPOSIT:

A non-refundable security deposit of **\$675.00 per person (inc GST)** is required within five (5) days of booking.

### FINAL PAYMENTS:

The security deposit forms part of the total price, the balance of which is due 30 days prior to departure, or in the case of bookings made within that 30 day period, the final payment is due as soon as the booking is confirmed.

### LATE BOOKINGS AND AMENDMENTS:

Bookings made within 7 days inclusive of departure will incur a **late booking fee of \$75.00 per person**. Late bookings subject to availability. Once a booking has been made a **\$75.00 per person amendment fee** will apply for any alterations on selected departures only, and if applicable, one (1) change only to that booking. Transfers to other tours not permitted.

### CREDIT CARDS:

If paying by credit card, a surcharge applies of 2% for Visa and Mastercard and 3.5% for Amex and Diners cards.

### CANCELLATION CONDITIONS:

- i) We act as an Agent; and
- ii) That our Terms and Conditions are in addition to the Terms and Conditions of each Travel supplier listed on the quote itinerary; and
- iii) That it is the Terms and Conditions of the Travel supplier that determine the terms of cancellation and refunds, if any.

#### **BOOKINGS CANCELLED AFTER THE FINAL PAYMENT HAS BEEN MADE:**

- (a) Bookings cancelled 31 days or earlier, full refund less deposit and booking fee and any other non-refundable services or products.
- (b) Bookings cancelled 30 days or less prior to departure will incur a cancellation fee of 100% of the tour cost.
- (c) No refund can be given for any portion of the tour not taken and no refund after the tour has commenced.



## Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is strongly recommended for all travel including domestic.

Travel insurance is available to cover you for cancellation including COVID-19.

Please ask your consultant for a quote.

Spark Travel Pty Ltd

ABN: 50 661 651 752

ATAS Accreditation No: A18651

## Accreditation

