

VA & NZ Experience Australia Famil

# Victoria

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## Houseboating On The Murray River

Houseboating on the Murray River is a favourite with Kiwi travellers to Victoria and 10 agents are spending three nights on the river this week as part of the third Experience Australia famil.

The agents are experiencing some of the highlights of Victoria with Air New Zealand and Virgin Australia, and their first stop was the town of Mildura.

It's the largest town in Victoria on the Murray and easy for Kiwis to access, as they can connect directly in Melbourne for their VA flight to Mildura. Once they land, it's just 15 minutes to

the house-boats, says local Tourism Vic representative Joanna Garrie.

From their two All Seasons house-boats, the agents have been exploring the area which Garrie describes as 'one of those really untouched regions of Victoria'.

They also had a little help from day tour specialists Discover Mildura Tours, who took them to experience attractions like the pink salt mines and the region's famous produce including citrus, nuts, table grapes and avocados.

See [allseasonshouseboats.com.au](http://allseasonshouseboats.com.au) and [discovermildura.com.au](http://discovermildura.com.au)



### Mildura's Famous Pink Salt Mines

**1** Liz Christiansen of Harvey World Travel Browns Bay at Mildura's famous salt mines, where pink salt is harvested. **2** Trees in the Murray River. **3** The mines.

### Cruising The Murray With All Seasons

**1** The group at the Murray River. **2** Not a bad way to spend an evening: Sarah Brittenden, Milford FC; Jamie Shearer, FC Newton; Ruth Manley, FC Blockhouse Bay; Tina Asadi, FC Bush Inn; and Rebecca West, FC Barrington.

**3** Amber-Lea Wilson, Flight Centre Ashburton takes her houseboat to the Gol Gol Pub. **4** Terry Wakefield, Virgin Australia behind the wheel. **5** Ruth Manley, FC Blockhouse Bay and Liz Christiansen of Harvey World Travel Browns Bay enjoy a wine on their boat.

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## Kayaking Kings Billabong



The Murray Mallee Country around Mildura is a big drawcard for tourists, with natural attractions including red gums and sand dunes.

It's also home to King's Billabong Nature Reserve, the heart of Mildura's

### Mildura Brewery

Agents spent the evening being wine'd and dined at Mildura Brewery, located in an art deco building that was once a theatre, in the heart of town. The business features state-of-the-art brewing technology and produces a range of naturally brewed beers. See [mildurabrewery.com.au](http://mildurabrewery.com.au)

irrigation system and a fascinating wetland with some of the best and most easily accessible canoeing, kayaking and mountain bike country in the district.

It was here that agents on the Air New Zealand and Virgin Australia famil headed next on their trip, for a spot of kayaking and jet-skiing with Wild Side Outdoors.

The company offers canoe, kayak and mountain bike hire, and a range of eco tours, allowing clients to experience the area including paddling off the beach at Apex Park or enjoying the sunset at the billabong.

See [wildsideoutdoors.com.au](http://wildsideoutdoors.com.au)



### Wild Things: Adventures On The Water

**1** Liz Christiansen, Harvey World Travel Browns Bay, with Jackie Setz, Travelsmart Napier. **2** Sunshine on the river banks. **3** and **4** Agents take a spin on the river with Wild Side Outdoors.

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## Bowie A Highlight In Cultural Capital

Wander through cobblestone streets. Get lost amid café culture, second to none. And visit art galleries and exhibitions, renowned across the globe.



Melbourne is widely accepted to be Australia's culture capital. And for good reason. Strolling through hipster and bicycle filled alleys; clients could easily imagine themselves in Europe. Melbourne was the final stop on the trip for agents on the Virgin Australia and Air New Zealand Victoria famil.

The David Bowie exhibition was the best part for Tourism Victoria host Louisa McClure, she recommends it to all—even those who aren't die-hard Bowie fans. "Basically, it is a showcase of David Bowie's entire works. Everything from music to dance, and *The Labyrinth*. As well as costumes, scripts and original transcripts,"

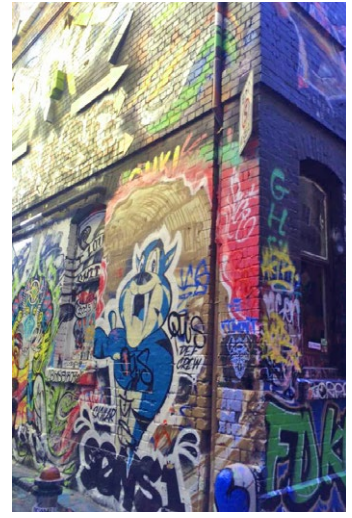
says McClure. McClure enjoyed *The Labyrinth* section most of all, even though the film freaked her out as a child.

The exhibit opened 16 Jul, and will run until 01 Nov, at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image

(ACMI). It has been seen by over one million people worldwide, at sell-out shows in London, Paris, Chicago and Berlin. Tickets can be purchased at [acmi.net.au/exhibitions/bowie/](http://acmi.net.au/exhibitions/bowie/)

### ... Getting Around

Once clients have had their fill of Bowie memorabilia, they'll probably want to take a peek at the city's other attractions. To get to there, recommend clients take one of the city's iconic trams. MEL has the fourth largest tramway network in the world and the largest outside Europe. See [ptv.vic.gov.au](http://ptv.vic.gov.au)



### MEL's Hidden Secrets

Federation Square is a meeting place for Melburnians. Since its opening in 2002, it has become one of the city's the most visited sites, with more than 10 million visits a year.

From there clients can meet a representative from Hidden Secrets Tours, in front of the Time Out Café. The tour guides will take clients on a discovery trail, through some of the quirkiest cafes, independent designers, street art architecture, local designers and specialty retailers. See [hiddensecretstours.com](http://hiddensecretstours.com)

### Culinary Delights

Melbourne is world famous for its culinary scene, and agents were lucky to check out some of the city's highlights on famil.

Chin Chin Thai diner on Flinders Lane has created culinary waves, and clients should expect a menu that brings refinement and delicacy to South-East Asian cooking. See [chinchinrestaurant.com.au](http://chinchinrestaurant.com.au) Or travel further afield, there's Top Paddock Café in Richmond (pictured). It proudly displays on the menu a list of Victoria producers that have helped the café deliver their vision. It's food from the paddock to the plate. See [toppaddockcafe.com](http://toppaddockcafe.com)

Pictured dining out is Liz Christiansen, Harvey World Travel Browns Bay; Christine Olsen, Air New Zealand; and Louisa McClure, Tourism Victoria.



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