

# Melbourne Ballarat Sovereign Hill Entry Ticket with Guided Mine Tour

• Duration Flexible •

Instant Confirm

## • KEY FACTS •



1. Entry to Sovereign Hill
2. Entry to Gold Museum
3. Guided mine tour - The Secret Chamber



1. Transport from/to hotels
2. Food & beverages not listed as Inclusions
3. Souvenirs
4. Travel Insurance

## How to get there

By Car -

Sovereign Hill is a comfortable 90-minute drive from Melbourne along the Western Highway (or only an hour from Melbourne Airport). Once in Ballarat, just follow the brown and white tourist signs to Sovereign Hill. Free parking available.

## Operating hours

|   |                  |                                       |
|---|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Daylight Saving Season Daily*<br>(October - March)      | 10:00 -<br>17:30 | Christmas Day (25<br>December) closed |
| Non-Daylight Saving Season<br>Daily (April - September) | 10:00 -<br>17:00 |                                       |

## • OVER VIEW •

### Melbourne Ballarat Sovereign Hill Entry Ticket with Guided Mine Tour

Sovereign Hill is an outdoor museum presenting the story of Australia's fabulous goldrush history. Its particular focus is the impact of the great 19th century gold discoveries on the growth of Ballarat, which was a small pastoral settlement when gold was discovered in 1851. By 1861, Ballarat had grown into a fine provincial city built on the wealth derived from its gold.

Since opening in November 1970, Sovereign Hill has become an Australian tourism icon, winning many major tourism awards. Today, Sovereign Hill attracts some 450,000 visitors each year and is known world wide as a living museum with a strong emphasis on working machinery and exhibits, costumed interpreters and visitor participation.



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### Sovereign Hill

Australia's foremost outdoor museum, Sovereign Hill re-creates Ballarat's first ten years after the discovery of gold in 1851 when thousands of international adventurers rushed to the Australian goldfields in search of fortune.

By day, Sovereign Hill is where Australia's history comes to life! It's just like stepping back in time - from the hustle and bustle of Main Street where costumed ladies and gents parade their new-found wealth, to the excitement of the Red Hill Gully Diggings where you can pan for real gold and it's yours to keep!

At Sovereign Hill, you can see a spectacular \$160,000 gold pour, venture underground on a fully-guided gold mine tour or catch a horse-drawn coach and tour the town. Go shopping 1850s-style and visit hotels, schools and a theatre with goldfields entertainers. See steam-driven machinery in action and chat with the wheelwrights, candlemakers and confectioners as they ply their trades. On the streets and in the theatre, you will be entertained by costumed goldfields characters who are happy to pose for a great photo.

Sovereign Hill never stands still! There is always something new to see and do. Their commitment to product improvement, authenticity and value-for-money family entertainment has established Sovereign Hill as an internationally renowned cultural tourism attraction and a regular winner of tourism and museum industry awards.

### Gold Museum

The Gold Museum extends Sovereign Hill's story of Ballarat - a majestic provincial city built on the wealth derived from the great Australian gold rushes of the 1850s. An impressive glass-fronted building with commanding views, the Gold Museum offers an award-winning gift shop specialising in the sale of gold nuggets and Australian-made gold jewellery and fine giftware. Discover the beauty and power of gold as you view an impressive and valuable collection of gold nuggets, alluvial deposits, priceless gold artefacts and gold coins. 'Ballarat: Inspired by Gold' is a major exhibition presenting the story of Ballarat from its earliest days through to European settlement and the amazing impact of the gold rushes.

### Guided Mine Tour - The Secret Chamber

The Secret Chamber has undergone a spectacular creative transformation!

Board a mine tram and hold on tightly as it meanders through a dark tunnel and descends into the depths of a gold mine. Walk through a maze of tunnels with only flickering candlelight to guide you past dig sites, shafts and forbidden places, until you reach The Secret Chamber. The sound of traditional Chinese music draws you in - and the rock walls reveal their secret! Watch in wonder as the story unfolds around you - the story of Chin Tem and his brother is a tale based on the adventures of the young Chinese diggers who flocked to Ballarat in the 1850s in search of gold. The new Secret Chamber, which is presented in English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean and Indonesian, is also available as an OpenAccess Tour using for visitors who are Deaf or have hearing impairments.

### Free Self-guided Mine Tour - The Red Hill Mine

Visit the Red Hill Mine on the diggings to discover the dark and dangerous world of deep lead mining and witness the discovery of the famous "Welcome" Nugget. Weighing around 69 kilograms, it remains the second largest gold nugget ever found!

This is a free underground experience. Unlike the paid guided mine tou, this experience does not require pre-booking, travellers are welcome to visit any time during their stay. Only availabe in English, and visitors need to be able to climb down and out of the

mine un-aided.

• **POLICY** •

### **Cancellation Policy**

If you cancel at least 7 day(s) in advance of the scheduled departure, there is no cancellation fee. If you cancel between 0 and 6 day(s) in advance of the scheduled departure, there is a 100 percent cancellation fee. If no show, no refund.

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