

Macedon Ranges

HORSE TRAIL RIDING GUIDE





WELCOME TO THE MACEDON RANGES

The Macedon Ranges is a horse lover's dream destination with scenic natural trails to explore, pony and adult riding clubs to join, a passionate equine community and a landscape full of horses! All of this is an easy hour by car from Melbourne.

Detailed maps of trail rides are available with this guide and are also available to download from mrsc.vic.gov.au/horse-riding. There is something for experienced riders, for whole families and trail riders to enjoy.

If you don't have your own horse, Silver Brumby Trail Rides will take you on authentic trails through our beautiful Wombat Forest or if you have your own horse but limited experience, join one of the experienced and friendly local trail riding clubs.

The Macedon Ranges provides a naturally cool climate with stunning natural scenery to enjoy on horseback. There are options for horse friendly accommodation so you can stay awhile. The region is renowned for fresh produce and a gourmet food and wine culture, so why not eat out in a country pub or visit a winery.

EXPERIENCE THE MACEDON RANGES

Made up of nine distinct villages the Macedon Ranges offers something for horse enthusiasts of all ages, abilities and interests.

Join us for our year-round calendar of festivals, events and happenings that reflect our region's creative personality.

Our region is perfect for visiting with horse riding buddies, family and friends. Enjoy the seasons, from the beautiful autumn and spring colours, to shady summers and snow-dusted, snug-by-the-fire winters.



Gisborne

Tranquility close to Melbourne

Escape to a place with country homesteads, heritage buildings, tree-lined streets and lush parklands. Gisborne is brimming with restaurants and cafes, wine bars, galleries and bakeries, and the famous Olde Time Market is on the first Sunday of each month.

Enjoy the local cafe scene, Baringo Food and Wine in New Gisborne, or relax with a glass of wine and wood fired pizza while taking in the spectacular views at Gisborne Peak Winery.

Gisborne and its surrounds offer great bush riding experiences. Gisborne and Bullengarook also hold regular events and shows, a great day out to watch some horses in action.

Woodend

The jewel of the Macedon Ranges

Set under wide verandas, cosmopolitan cafes, bookstores and shops with an eclectic mix of old and new wares Woodend is a country idyll.

Woodend is home to the famous Holgate Brewery and has a plethora of opportunities to stock up on local gourmet produce. For children, the fabulous Woodend Children's Park is a must.

Just down the road, stop and enjoy modern country cooking with the locals at the Pig and Whistle Hotel, easily accessible to Firth Park in the Wombat State Forest that offer great trail riding.

Visit the hamlets of Tylden, Newham and Cobaw, home to some of the area's most acclaimed vineyards.

Macedon

Indulgence in secluded surrounds

Macedon has streets softened by established trees and a quiet town centre with all the facilities you would expect of a country village.

Macedon's quality eating establishments hum with happy diners. Enjoy a meal at the Railway Hotel or at Ida Red you can eat wood fired pizzas made using ingredients from their sustainable vegetable garden. Seated by their large outdoor fireplace, taste your way through a menu at Olive Jones that reflects the restaurant's seasonal focus. Or for beautiful views and a wine list to die for, stop in at the Macedon Wine Room.

If visiting in autumn, wander down Honour Avenue, a significant avenue of Oak trees that is spectacular.

Mount Macedon

The green heart of the Macedon Ranges

It can be seen from every corner of the region, even Melbourne. Up close it is even more impressive; a place of gardens and wild bush, of natural attractions and adventure. Catch glimpses of magnificent mansions through huge stone gateways, the exotic European plantings that change with every season, as well as wildlife and birds that inhabit the tall native mountain ash forest.

Stand on the summit of Mount Macedon at the Memorial Cross with views that take in the entire southern plain towards Port Philip Bay. Have one with the locals at the horse friendly Mount Macedon Hotel or sip coffee, snack on award-winning pies and stock up on local produce and wines at The Trading Post.

Kyneton

A place of epicurean, artistic and retail discovery

Kyneton is a thriving village of equal parts rural hub, creative hotspot and heritage honeypot, with a vibrant retail scene.

Visit famous Piper Street, see traditional chair makers, stonemasons and milliners all hard at work on this enterprising street. Admire some of the finest bluestone buildings in the region, or meet up with like-minded friends for a trail ride by contacting the Kyneton and District Trail Riders Club.

Kyneton has its own racecourse hosting 12 meetings a year and the Kyneton Cup is a great day out. If you are looking for a riding weekend, Silver Brumby Trails is just nearby and offers hosted trail rides. Stay for the weekend and enjoy fine dining, grand old pubs and inner-city style cafes.

Malmsbury

Where art is a way of life

Malmsbury is a creative and charming town with character reflecting its significance as a key stop off point during the 1850s gold rush. Each November the Malmsbury Village Fayre celebrates the creative heartbeat of this community with art exhibitions, music, fine produce, local wines and kids activities – all with a funky local twist.

The roads surrounding Malmsbury are perfect for Sunday drives with galleries and wineries dotted along the way. For those travellers who have collected local goods from farm gates, the Malmsbury Botanic Gardens makes a perfect spot for a picnic and offers stunning views of the historic viaduct that is a focal point of the town.

Riddells Creek

A slice of history in the Macedon Ranges

It may be one of the villages closest to Melbourne but Riddells Creek offers country vistas, historic architecture and a relaxed country attitude. Take a break in one of the excellent local restaurants or grab a coffee and head to a nearby shady parkland.

Visit Mt Charlie Winery and other local wineries that can be easily accessed from the town. Pass evocations of the area's original indigenous occupants as you cross the Woiwurrung Creek and the Wurundjeri Creek on the road to Romsey. Or just enjoy the space with a drive that takes in the peaceful, historic hamlet of Bolinda.

If you're travelling with kids, the National Trust classified 19th century Dromkeen Homestead should not be missed.

Romsey

Character and country hospitality

Romsey is known for its character-filled streetscape, award-winning wineries and country hospitality. With the battered corrugated iron of the local garage, gothic bluestone churches and turn of the century terraces, the main street of Romsey is lined with classic Australian architecture.

Fill a picnic hamper at the town's vibrant retail shopping strip or just stick around and enjoy the atmosphere of this town over coffee and cake.

After a day of riding settle your horses into the Monegeetta Equestrian Centre, before settling yourself in with a nice bottle of wine! The Monegeetta Equestrian Centre has well grassed, safe, large paddocks, hot wash and stables.

Lancefield

Country charm, city sophistication

Lancefield has the classic air of a pastoral working town with a surprising artistic, and culinary edge. The award-winning farmers' market held the fourth Saturday of every month, is a must visit.

Book a trail riding clinic at El Castillo Equestrian Centre and ride with experienced riders or stay the night with your horse at Lancemore Hill or Curragh Farm and enjoy a full weekend of trail riding.

When you need a break from riding sip wine at Curly Flat, Grange Cleveland and other award-winning wineries in the area. Take a road trip through evocative Australian bushland on The Burke and Wills Track to Benloch, and on to Kyneton via the many cellar doors that dot the back roads.

OUR RIDES

This is just the very start! We are working with Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning to provide trail riding options in the Macedon Ranges.

Horse riding is a great way to explore the Macedon Regional Park. Riders should remain on defined roads and tracks at all times. Horses are not permitted on walking tracks, closed management tracks or in picnic grounds.

If you would like to explore the Wombat State Forest, park your float at Firth Park and ride through the 4WD and old logging tracks throughout the area.

To download detailed trail riding maps visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/horse-riding or ask for printed copies at Visitor Information Centres in the region.



PARKS AND FORESTS

We are fortunate to have beautiful parks and forests in the Macedon Ranges for us all to enjoy. To ensure we can continue to be allowed to share this space with our horses please be aware of some environmental considerations. Do not take feed into the parks as this can cause the spread of weeds. Pick your horse's hooves before you leave home and even consider bare hoof options and hoof boots.

Macedon Regional Park

Beauty and serenity

The Macedon Regional Park covers much of the surrounding mountain range, part of the Great Dividing Range, and includes Mount Macedon. The park boasts diverse flora and fauna, with more than 400 species of native plants and 200 species of birds recorded.

While you're in the park, download the Avenza PDF maps app as this will pinpoint your exact location and will help you navigate your way.

Please be aware that you will be sharing these paths with other users such as mountain bike riders and 4WDs.

Some tracks have seasonal closures so please call Parks Victoria on 131 963 to check on track conditions.

Wombat State Forest

The wild heart of Macedon Ranges

Deep in the Wombat State Forest, you won't be able to stop ogling at this moss-covered wonderland, every sleek rock and fern frond dripping with fresh water.

The Wombat State Forest is located between Woodend and Daylesford and covers approximately 70,000 hectares of virgin bushland. Popular wildlife like grey kangaroos, wombats, wallabies, echidnas and 150 species of birds will invigorate you – that is, if you catch a sighting!

Firth Park is within Wombat State Forest and is an outdoors lover's paradise perfect for trail riding. The huge network of 4WD tracks and old logging tracks provide fantastic opportunity for legal horse riding. Please respect the environment and stay away from single track or off-road riding. Firth Park also has a campground with horse yards to extend your stay.



EQUINE CLUBS AND EXPERIENCES

Why not enjoy trail riding with experienced riders and horses that know the trails like the back of their hand?

We have two registered ATHRA trail riding clubs in the Macedon Ranges and a number of equine experiences for you to enjoy even if you don't have your own horse.

El Castillo Equestrian Centre

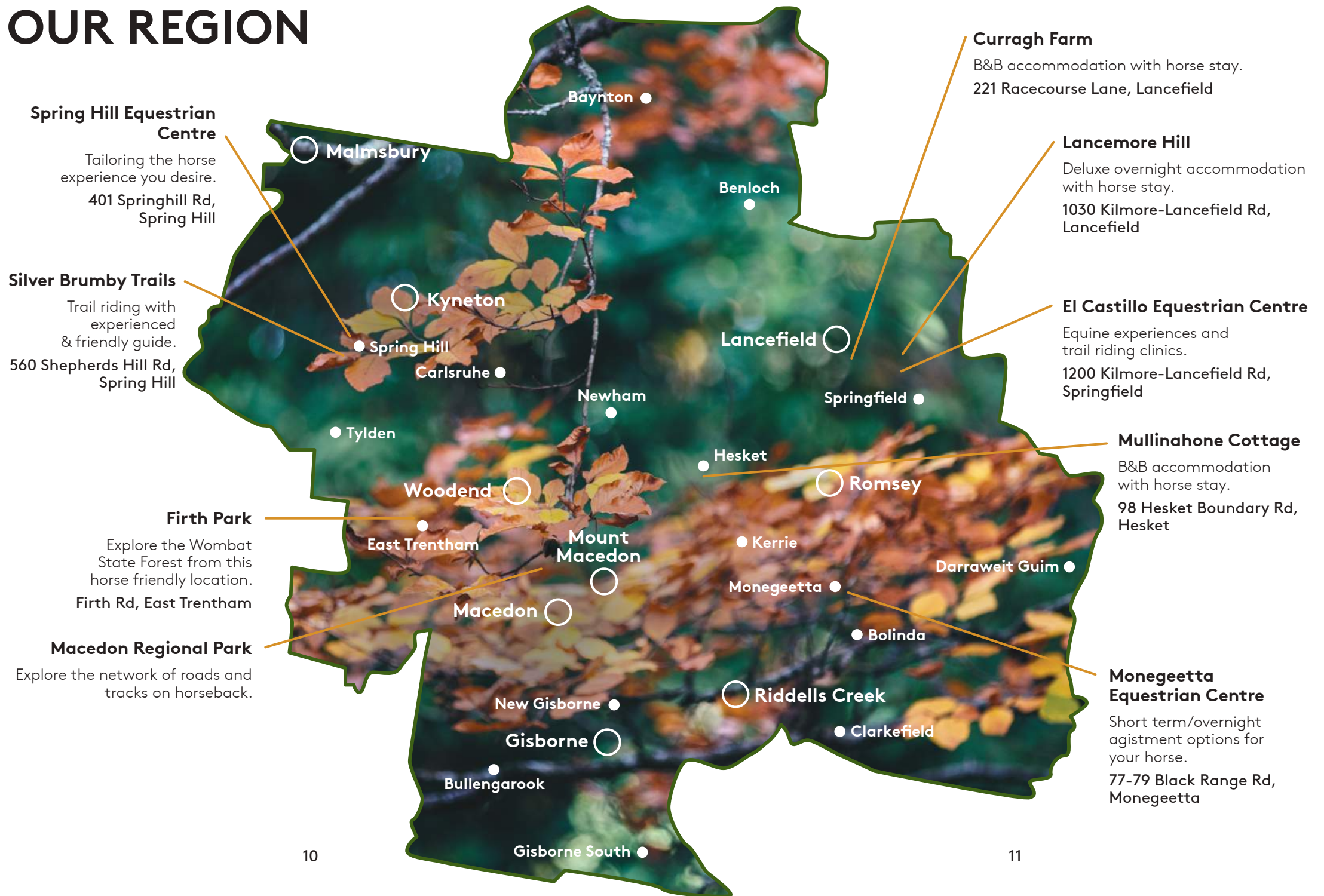
El Castillo Equestrian Centre has indoor and outdoor arenas, shelters and well fenced individual paddocks. There is a great range of equine experiences on offer including trail riding clinics where you can hit the trail with experienced clinicians who will teach you how to be safe with your horse while riding through the bush. El Castillo is close to accommodation options, including Lancemore Hill, just down the road, where you can also stay with your horse.

1200 Kilmore-Lancefield Rd, Springfield

M: +61 437 176 391

elcastilloequestriancentre.com.au

OUR REGION



Spring Hill Equestrian Centre

Tailoring the horse experience you desire.
401 Springhill Rd, Spring Hill

Silver Brumby Trails

Trail riding with experienced & friendly guide.
560 Shepherds Hill Rd, Spring Hill

Firth Park

Explore the Wombat State Forest from this horse friendly location.
Firth Rd, East Trentham

Macedon Regional Park

Explore the network of roads and tracks on horseback.

Curragh Farm

B&B accommodation with horse stay.
221 Racecourse Lane, Lancefield

Lancemore Hill

Deluxe overnight accommodation with horse stay.
1030 Kilmore-Lancefield Rd, Lancefield

El Castillo Equestrian Centre

Equine experiences and trail riding clinics.
1200 Kilmore-Lancefield Rd, Springfield

Mullinahone Cottage

B&B accommodation with horse stay.
98 Heskett Boundary Rd, Heskett

Monegetta Equestrian Centre

Short term/overnight agistment options for your horse.
77-79 Black Range Rd, Monegetta

Kyneton District Trail Riders Club

Riding out on the last Sunday of the month, the club rides in all parts of Central Victoria. The riders provide information and photos through their newsletters, organise fun camps, BBQs and dinners, and enjoy the pleasure and company of other horse enthusiasts to ride with.

M: +61 400 640 433

facebook.com/kynetondistricttrailridersclub

Monegetta Equestrian Centre

Monegetta Equestrian Centre is located 8km south of Romsey township and offers agistment on well grassed, safe, large paddocks. Agistment includes use of the Olympic sized arena, round yard, hot wash, six large stables, a tea room, and a secure tack room. Horses may be ridden over the 160 acre property, including great flat areas, hills and valleys as well as a creek crossing.

77 Black Range Rd, Monegetta

M: +61 409 349 567

facebook.com/MonegettaEquestrianCentre

Riddells Creek Trail Horse Riding Club

Riding on the third Sunday of every month, most rides are in and around Gisborne, Bullengarook, the Wombat State Forest and surrounding areas.

The club is made up of members ranging in age from 8 to 72 who all ride in the beautiful Macedon Ranges and enjoy the company of others who share a passion for their wonderful horses.

M: +61 416 210 717

Silver Brumby Trails

Enjoy the stunning views of the Macedon Ranges and the Wombat Forest on horse back. Rides are set at a nice steady pace to suit all experience levels. They even cater for the mature rider who wants to brush up on riding skills. Following Old China Track, relics of the Gold Mining Era are revealed as you weave through beautiful tree lined trails through the Wombat State Forest and back down the boundary track.

After put your feet up inside the cosy shack by a crackling warm fire, and take in the vista of horses in paddocks near by.

560 Shepherds Hill Rd, Spring Hill

M: +61 417 878 985

silverbrumbytrails.com

Spring Hill Equestrian Centre (SHEC)

SHEC is located in a wonderful bushland setting with an all-weather undercover riding arena that allows you to experience the wonderful rural views as your ride. SHEC tailors lessons to suit the experience you desire including riding, jumping, games, trail riding, horsemanship and confidence building, with the inclusion of bonding sessions for non-riding horse lovers. SHEC supplies horses or you are more than welcome to bring your own.

401 Springhill Rd, Spring Hill

M: +61 407 248 286

shec.net.au



HORSE STAY ACCOMMODATION

We have a great range of accommodation in the Macedon Ranges, quality agistment and equestrian centres as well as horse stay accommodation that can be enjoyed with your equine friend.

Curragh Farm

Curragh Farm B&B is located approximately 4 kms from Lancefield and 5 kms from the Romsey township on a 15-acre property.

Guests are provided with spacious and luxurious accommodation with a queen size bed, ensuite, large lounge room and fully equipped country style kitchen.

The horse paddock can be used overnight or you can build your own yards within. Water is close by for drinking and hosing down after your ride. Please bring your own horse feed.

221 Racecourse Lane, Lancefield
M: +61 409 210 501
curraghfarmbnb.com.au



Firth Park Campground

Firth Park is a pleasant camp located on the forested northern slopes of the Great Dividing Range. This is a free "first in best dressed" camping ground located in the Wombat State Forest, a short drive from Woodend. It has designated horse yards and is suitable as a camping and riding location.

Overlooking a large dam, the campground features BBQs, benches, shelter and wallaby mown lawns. The smaller camping area slopes and is adjacent to the horse yards but is well shaded by Manna Gum, Messmate and Peppermint and is surrounded by extensive forest on rolling hills.

Firth Park is located 5km from the main road, with the turnoff approximately a 1.5km drive from the Pig and Whistle Hotel down O'Connell's Road. The track into the camping ground is well signed and is a very good gravel road that can be accessed with a 2WD and horse float.

Groups of 20 or more people will require an events permit (for more information, please contact Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning on 136 186).

Mullinahone Cottage

Mullinahone Cottage is geared to accommodate you and your horse. Their holding paddock is well fenced and there is a stable that can house two horses if you prefer them undercover in the colder months. Situated on the northern slopes of Mount Macedon, you can meander through the property to Heskett Estate Winery where you can tie up your horse and enjoy a glass of award-winning wine and sample some regional food!

The cottage is spacious with a warm and friendly vibe and can sleep up to six people comfortably. A simple breakfast hamper is supplied, the kitchen is well equipped and you will have use of the BBQ facilities.

98 Heskett Boundary Rd, Heskett
P: +61 3 5427 0914
mullinahonecottage@gmail.com

Lancemore Hill

Lancemore Hill provides deluxe overnight accommodation just one minute's drive from the quality agistment facilities and indoor arena at El Castillo Equestrian Centre. For rider and horse alike, there's simply no better place to unwind.

Lancemore Hill features 71 guest rooms, including private suites, all fitted with flat-screen TVs, crisp linen and beautiful comfy beds.

Well fenced paddocks will accommodate horses. After a memorable day in the saddle, there's no better way to soak up the Australian bush than with a glass of our finest wine and a delicious meal.

1030 Kilmore-Lancefield Rd, Lancefield

P: +61 3 5782 1844

lancemore.com.au



NEED HORSEY HELP?

Horse supplies

Blooming Produce Romsey
M: +61 408 122 731

Fred's Fodder New Gisborne
P: +61 3 5428 3008

Pet Stock Gisborne
P: +61 3 5428 2381

Perry's Stockfeed & Saddlery
Kyneton
P: +61 3 5422 2217

Riddells Creek Mowers &
Stockfeed
P: +61 3 5428 7001

Southern Stars Saddlery
Gisborne
M: +61 421 726 557

Woodend Produce Store
P: +61 3 5427 2753

Woodend Saddlery
P: +61 3 5427 4011

Veterinarians

Gisborne Veterinary Clinic
P: +61 3 5428 2805

Kyneton Veterinary Hospital
P: +61 3 5422 1099

Lancefield Equine Clinic
P: +61 3 5429 1609

Macedon Ranges Equine
Clinic
P: +61 3 5428 1888

Tony's Practice
P: +61 3 5427 9200



TRAIL RIDING TECHNOLOGY



Avenza PDF maps

Allows access to maps for free, tools to enhance and explore maps, find your current location and add place markers to maps such as float parking or ride highlights.



Daylesford and Macedon Ranges Visitor Guide

This official digital visitors' guide is a "must have" app to enhance your experience in the region with its extensive listings, itineraries, maps, information, up-to-date tips, and special offers.



Fire Ready

Fire Ready is the official Victorian Government app for the CFA, MFB and DELWP bushfire warnings and information. Download Fire Ready and set up Watch Zones to ensure you receive official warnings and current bushfire information for your area. Along with the Fire Ready app, always tune in to other information providers such as local radio, social media and TV for weather and emergency news and current fire ratings.



Parks Discovery

Parks Discovery is packed with interesting park stories and a comprehensive listing of Victoria's most popular parks, including the Macedon Regional Park. Download the maps and use the directory to find out where to go and what to do when you're there.



Track My Hack

Designed for riding on the road, trails or around your region. Just hit the 'Start Hacking' button and the app will track your ride using GPS, capturing distance, time and even your average speed! When you have finished hacking, why not share your rides with your friends and family. Save your favourite rides, and upload a scenic picture. Need inspiration for your next rides? See other users' hacks near you!

THE DO'S AND DON'TS

Look, listen and observe. Know and obey the Australian Road Rules, use clear hand signals, cross roads with care.

Be seen and be safe. Horse and rider should wear fluorescent/reflective clothing. Wear an approved safety helmet and riding boots. Back protectors are recommended. Ensure saddle, bridle and halters are in good condition and fitted correctly.

Take a friend. Inexperienced or young horses should always be accompanied by experienced horse and rider combinations.

Tell a friend. Carry contact numbers, a fully charged mobile phone and money. Advise someone of your ride route and expected arrival and return times. There are many mobile black spots so there will be times when internet and mobile phone access will not be available.

First Aid. Learn some basic first aid for horse and rider in case of an emergency.

Drink riding is illegal. Stay under 0.05 as a horse is a vehicle when on the road.

Know the weather conditions and fire risk. Weather conditions can change quickly. During summer be aware of fire ratings and warnings, and carry extra water. Do not ride on Code Red days and download the Fire Ready app for current information. If riding in winter, be aware it can snow and turn cold very quickly. Have a warm coat and be prepared for all possible conditions.

Horse suitability. Before you take a horse into the bush or on the road, make sure you can control it in a broad range of situations. For safety, keep horses' hooves and shoes in good condition.

Consideration and courtesy. Always be courteous and considerate to vehicle drivers and walkers. As riders share the trails with other users e.g. mountain bike riders, dirt bikes, 4WD vehicles and bushwalkers we all need to work together so everyone can have an enjoyable time.

Parking. Park in allocated parking areas, close float doors and keep clear of roads and entrances to trails and tracks.

LOOK AFTER OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

As horse riders we can minimise our impact on the environment.

Stay on established trails and avoid creating new paths or widening existing trails.

Keep your gear and equipment clean to avoid the spread of weeds. Pick out horses hooves before riding in the bush.

Keep group sizes small. Ride in single file to minimise widening trails and erosion.

Never litter. Take your rubbish home with you.

Check seasonal trail closures before you head out on your ride. Trails are often closed for your own safety.

Please pick up manure and take it home from car/float parking locations. Seeds in horses' manure can spread weeds so please go back and collect it at the end of your ride.

Never take hay to car parks and reserves as it often contains seed and weeds. Learn about local native vegetation, weeds and plant diseases so you are well informed.

Don't leave any feed or grains behind for wildlife because it damages their health, alters natural behaviours, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.

Need Further Information?

visitmacedonranges.com
facebook.com/macedonrangesnaturallycool
mrsc.vic.gov.au
dmrexplore.com.au

Join our local equine community on Facebook
Macedon Ranges Equine Industry Network REIN
facebook.com/macedonREIN

Visitor Information Centres

Our Visitor Information Centres and friendly volunteers can help with maps, information on accommodation, places to eat and drink, things to see and do, and other useful information.

Kyneton Visitor Information Centre

High St, Kyneton
Open 7 days, 9am–5pm
P: +61 3 5422 6110 or 1800 244 711
E: vic@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Woodend Visitor Information Centre

High St, Woodend
Open 7 days, 9am–5pm
P: +61 3 5427 2033 or 1800 244 711
E: vic@mrsc.vic.gov.au