

Avalanche Homestead & Tours



A quality all its own

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Avalanche Exclusive Tours

For more than a decade, Avalanche Homestead has operated as a high quality rural retreat for domestic and international guests wanting to experience life on an Australian working sheep and cattle property. Avalanche Homestead also offers an unparalleled opportunity for visitors to observe many of Australia's unique native birds and animals in their natural habitat. Guests at Avalanche Homestead are treated as VIPs; they are able to meet with Australians, to experience their lifestyles as well as to exchange views and ideas - and become friends.

Following Avalanche Homestead's success (it is a winner of many regional and national tourism awards), we now have pleasure in introducing **Avalanche Exclusive Tours** - an extension of the Avalanche Homestead experience. Avalanche Exclusive Tours is a concept that arose from many requests from guests that they be able to experience more of the spectacular countryside of south-eastern Australia. Avalanche Exclusive Tours is a combination of the talents of brothers Frank and Tony Biddle (Frank and his wife Faye operate Avalanche Homestead while Tony operates a highly respected and successful tour and travel program throughout Victoria.

Avalanche Exclusive Tours offers personal-service tours that explore the countryside of New South Wales and Victoria. Tours depart from either Sydney or Melbourne and are designed to show travellers the best of south-eastern Australia. From Sydney, for example, the tours take the visitor through Australia's specially built national capital, Canberra (created by Chicago architect Walter Burley Griffin). It's on then to Avalanche Homestead, only 45km south of Canberra, but in the midst of the Australian bush. The tours take in several of Australia's national parks, spectacular limestone caves, a Mountain Lodge and the world-famous Fairy Penguin Parade and Koala Sanctuary on Phillip Island. Avalanche Exclusive Tours include areas of Australia that few visitors experience; from the mountains to the sea, from rainforests to the open plains - this is Australia.

INCLUSIVE

All tours include transport, meals, luxury accommodation and entrance fees to attractions and national parks (excluding the evening meal on Phillip Island).

OUR REPUTATION - YOUR GUARANTEE

Your guarantee of quality of service and reliability is based on Avalanche Homestead's reputation as a consistent winner of Australian Tourism Awards of Distinction and Specialist Accommodation, backed by the reputation and quality of a specialist tour operator with more than 10 years experience serving the travel industry.

LUXURY OVERLAND VEHICLES

The 4WD vehicles used to transport guests are modern, luxurious, air-conditioned and feature all the extras required to provide maximum comfort and safety to passengers across all terrain and weather conditions.

PERSONALISED TOUR GROUPS

While on the road, tour groups are limited to a maximum of six persons per vehicle. Seating is on a rotational basis and smoking is restricted to stops enroute. Tours operate with a minimum of two adult passengers. Private charters and sole use of vehicle are available at additional cost.

DEPARTURES

Departs daily from Sydney or Melbourne, subject to demand and availability.

LUGGAGE

Each passenger is allowed 45kg of luggage, plus one piece of hand luggage.

Tour A: Sydney to Melbourne via Canberra SM1 (3 days/2 nights)

Route: Via Canberra, Avalanche Homestead, the Snowy Mountains, Mountain Lodge, Phillip Island.

Day 1: Sydney to Avalanche Homestead via Canberra. (L,D)

You are collected from your city hotel at 8.00 a.m. in your luxury 4WD vehicle. You travel south through Sydney to the beautiful Illawarra coast and on to the port city of Wollongong. Turning inland, your drive takes you through the rolling hills and rich grazing country of the Southern Tablelands to Canberra, Australia's national capital. Canberra was designed in the early 1900s by Chicago architect Walter Burly Griffin and today retains much of the unique layout he created.

After lunch, a tour of Canberra includes visits to the world renowned Australian War Memorial, the architecturally striking national Parliament House, the internationally acclaimed Australian National Gallery and a tour of foreign embassies, many of which are designed in the traditional architecture of their home countries.

A 45 km drive south brings you to Avalanche Homestead where you stay overnight. Avalanche Homestead has been designed especially to enable visitors to experience life on a working Australian sheep and cattle property. Set high in the ranges, Avalanche Homestead offers VIP accommodation and dining. At dusk a 4WD safari takes you spotlighting deep in the Australian bush where you will see some unique Australian animals and birds in their native habitat, including kangaroos and owls. On your return to Avalanche Homestead join your hosts for a convivial candlelight dinner with quality Australian wines.

Day 2: Avalanche Homestead via mountain National Parks and Buchan Caves to Mountain Lodge. (B,L,D)

Your personal tour operator takes you by 4WD luxury vehicle to Cooma, gateway to the Snowy Mountain Hydroelectric Scheme, one of the world's great engineering feats. Travelling over the high country into Victoria, you reach the Buchan Caves, renowned for their limestone formations. You explore the beauty of the Royal or Fairy Caves before reaching your overnight accommodation at Mountain Lodge. Tonight you will experience a genuine Aussie BBQ dinner, after which you may choose to join your guide on a short walk to view one of Australia's most endearing animals, the wombat, in its native setting.

Day 3: Mountain Lodge to Melbourne via the Penguin Parade and Koala Sanctuary. (B,L)

This morning you wake up to the sounds of the Australian bush. Before breakfast you can take a bush walk along the trail, try your hand at trout fishing in Icy Creek or one of the well stocked dams, or perhaps warm up with a game of tennis. After breakfast, you travel through the Victorian alpine country which includes temperate zone rainforests. Here you will see the Giant Mountain Ash, one of Australia's largest trees.

The landscape changes as you move northeast towards the sea, travelling the gourmet trail through the rich dairy country of south-eastern Australia. You visit a cheese factory where you can taste the prize winning local cheeses, inspect a working dairy and a wood-fired bakery with its irresistible aroma of freshly braked country bread; all this an appetiser to lunch at the Tarago Restaurant or a traditional Australian country pub.

After lunch, you travel to Phillip Island, southwest of Melbourne and visit the Koala Sanctuary where you can see Australia's most lovable animal at close quarters. At dusk, another unique experience is in store when you view the world famous Fairy Penguin parade. Every evening hundreds of these beautiful birds form ranks and march up the beach from the sea to their burrows among the sand dunes. Over dinner on Phillip island there is plenty of time to reflect on your unforgettable experience before being driven to your Melbourne hotel.



Tour B: Sydney to Melbourne via Canberra SM2 (4 days/2 nights)

Route: Via Canberra, Avalanche Homestead, the Snowy Mountains, Mountain Lodge, Phillip Island.

Day 1: Sydney to Avalanche Homestead via Canberra. (L,D)

You are collected from your city hotel at 8.00 am in your luxury 4WD vehicle and travel south through Sydney along the beautiful Illawarra coast to Wollongong. Your tour then takes you through the rolling hills and rich grazing country of the Southern Tablelands to Canberra, Australia's national capital, designed by Chicago architect Walter Burly Griffin. After lunch, a tour of Canberra includes visits to the world renowned Australian War Memorial, Parliament House, the internationally acclaimed Australian National Gallery and a tour of foreign embassies, many of which are designed in the traditional architecture of their home countries.

A 45 km drive south brings you to Avalanche Homestead where you stay overnight. While by day it is a working Australian sheep and cattle property, Avalanche Homestead offers VIP accommodation and dining. At dusk a 4WD safari takes you spotlighting deep in the Australian bush where you will see some unique Australian animals and birds in their native habitat, including kangaroos and owls. In the evening, join your hosts for a convivial candlelight dinner complemented by quality Australian wines.

Day 2: Avalanche Homestead (B,L,D)

After breakfast you have the opportunity to join in the daily life of a working sheep and cattle ranch, or 'stations' as they're called in Australia. Depending on the season, you can help with activities such as mustering, hand-feeding, sheep-shearing, lambing and calving. You can see the wonderful Australian sheep dog at work, take a horse ride or choose one or more of the many bush walking trails on the property. In the bush surrounding Avalanche Homestead there is a vast array of native animals and birds including kangaroos, kookaburras, cockatoos, mountain parrots, eagles wild duck and many smaller birds. You may even be lucky enough to spot the extremely shy and beautiful lyrebird. Take a break from bird watching and experience the down to earth flavour of real Australian damper, washed down with steaming billy tea brewed over an open fire. If you prefer to spend your time in total relaxation, a perfect spot is by the swimming pool with a book from the extensive library.

Day 3: Avalanche Homestead via mountain National Parks and Buchan Caves to Mountain Lodge. (B,L,D)

Your personal tour operator takes you by 4WD luxury vehicle to Cooma, gateway to the Snowy Mountain Hydroelectric Scheme, one of the world's great engineering feats. Travelling over the Australian high country into Victoria, you reach the Buchan Caves, where you explore the beauty of the Royal or Fairy Caves before reaching your overnight accommodation, Mountain Lodge. Tonight you will experience a genuine Aussie BBQ dinner, after which take a short walk to view one of Australia's most endearing animals, the wombat, in its native setting.

Day 4: Mountain Lodge to Melbourne via the Penguin Parade and Koala Sanctuary. (B,L)

Before breakfast you can take a walk along the trail, try your hand at trout fishing in Icy Creek or one of the well stocked dams, or perhaps enjoy a game of tennis. After breakfast, you travel through alpine country which contains the Giant Mountain Ash, one of Australia's largest trees.

The landscape changes as you move northeast towards the sea, taking you through the rich dairy country of south-eastern Australia. You visit a cheese factory where you can taste the prize winning local cheeses, inspect a working dairy and a wood-fired bakery. Lunch is at the Tarago Restaurant or a traditional Australian country pub.

After lunch, you travel to Phillip Island and visit the Koala Sanctuary where you can see one of the world's most lovable animals at close quarters. At dusk, another unique experience is in store when you view the world famous Fairy Penguin parade. Every evening hundreds of these beautiful birds march up the beach to their burrows among the sand dunes. Over dinner on Phillip island there is plenty of time to reflect on your unforgettable experience before being driven to your Melbourne hotel.

Tour C: Melbourne to Sydney via Canberra MS1 (3 days/2 nights)

Route: Gippsland, the Snowy Mountains, Avalanche Homestead, Canberra, Sydney

Day 1: Melbourne to Mountain Lodge. (L,D)

Departing Melbourne at 9.00 a.m. in your luxury 4WD vehicle you travel east along the gourmet trail into the rich dairying and cattle region of Gippsland. You visit a country bakery (just imagine the aroma of that freshly baked country bread) and inspect a cheese factory where you can sample the delights of the local cheeses. All this is simply an appetiser to lunch at the Tarago Restaurant or a traditional Aussie pub.

After lunch the road rises through the Victorian alpine country. Here you will see the Giant Mountain Ash, one of Australia's largest trees.

In the late afternoon you arrive at Mountain Lodge where you will stop overnight. You have a chance to go for a bush walk, try trout fishing in Icy Creek or one of the well stocked dams, or perhaps a set or two of tennis is your preferred choice. Tonight you will experience a genuine Aussie BBQ dinner, after which you may choose to join your guide on a short walk to view one of Australia's most endearing animals, the wombat, in its native setting.

Day 2: Mountain Lodge to Avalanche Homestead via Buchan Caves and Mountain National Parks. (B,L,D)

Travelling towards the Victorian high country, you reach the Buchan Caves, renowned for their limestone formations where you explore the beauty of the Royal or Fairy Caves. Your journey then takes you up into the Snowy Mountains; immortalised in verse, song and film. No other place more typifies the grandeur of the Australian bush than does this magnificent Australian landscape, much of which is now listed as national parks. It was here that the legend of the rugged Australian bushman was created - not from fiction, but from real life.

After lunch, you travel to Cooma, gateway to the Snowy Mountain Hydroelectric Scheme, one of the world's great engineering feats, before driving on to Avalanche Homestead where you will stay overnight..

Avalanche Homestead has been designed especially to enable visitors to experience life on a working Australian sheep and cattle property. Set high in the southeastern ranges, Avalanche Homestead offers VIP accommodation and dining. At dusk a 4WD safari takes you spotlighting deep in the Australian bush where you will see some unique Australian animals and birds in their native habitat, including kangaroos and owls. On your return to Avalanche Homestead join your hosts for a convivial candlelight dinner with quality Australian wines.

Day 3: Avalanche Homestead to Sydney via Canberra, Wollongong and the Illawarra coast. (B,L)

After breakfast it's a 45 km drive north to Canberra, the national capital of Australia. Canberra was designed in the early 1900s by Chicago architect Walter Burly Griffin and today retains much of the unique layout he created. Your personal tour of Canberra includes world renowned Australian War Memorial, the architecturally striking national Parliament House, the internationally acclaimed Australian National Gallery and a tour of foreign embassies, many of which are designed in the traditional architecture of their home countries.

Your late morning journey through the Southern Tablelands with its rolling hills and rich grazing land brings you to the port city of Wollongong, the centre of the scenic Illawarra coast. You travel north along this magnificent Pacific coastline before being set down at your Sydney hotel in the late afternoon.

TourD: Sydney to Melbourne via Canberra SM3 (3 days/2 nights - Fly from Canberra to Melbourne)

Route: Via Canberra, Avalanche Homestead, Melbourne, Mountain Lodge, Phillip Island.& Healesville.

Day 1: Sydney to Avalanche Homestead via Canberra. (L,D)

You are collected from your city hotel at 8.00 am in your luxury 4WD vehicle and travel south through Sydney along the beautiful Illawarra coast to Wollongong. Your tour then takes you through the rolling hills and rich grazing country of the Southern Tablelands to Canberra, Australia's national capital, designed by Chicago architect Walter Burly Griffin. After lunch, a tour of Canberra includes visits to the world renowned Australian War Memorial, Parliament House, the internationally acclaimed Australian National Gallery and a tour of foreign embassies, many of which are designed in the traditional architecture of their home countries.

A 45 km drive south brings you to Avalanche Homestead where you stay overnight. While by day it is a working Australian sheep and cattle property, Avalanche Homestead offers VIP accommodation and dining. At dusk a 4WD safari takes you spotlighting deep in the Australian bush where you will see some unique Australian animals and birds in their native habitat, including kangaroos and owls. In the evening, join your hosts for a convivial candlelight dinner complemented by quality Australian wines.

Day 2: Avalanche Homestead via Melbourne, Penguin parade, Koala Sanctuary to Mountain Lodge. (B,L)

After breakfast your personal tour operator takes you by 4WD luxury vehicle to Canberra airport for your flight to Melbourne where you will be met by your new guide who will show you the sights of Melbourne in a luxury 4WD vehicle before travelling to Phillip Island, southwest of Melbourne and visit the Koala Sanctuary where you can see Australia's most lovable animal at close quarters. At dusk, another unique experience is in store when you view the world famous Fairy Penguin parade. Every evening hundreds of these beautiful birds form ranks and march up the beach from the sea to their burrows among the sand dunes.

After the parade you will travel north to stay overnight at your own mountain lodge.

Day 3: Mountain Lodge to Melbourne via the gourmet trail. (B,L)

Before breakfast you can take a walk along the trail, try your hand at trout fishing in Icy Creek or one of the well stocked dams, or perhaps enjoy a game of tennis. After breakfast, you travel through alpine country which contains the Giant Mountain Ash, one of Australia's largest trees.

The landscape changes as you move northeast towards the sea, taking you through the rich dairy country of south-eastern Australia. You visit a cheese factory where you can taste the prize winning local cheeses, inspect a working dairy and a wood-fired bakery. After lunch we travel over the Great Dividing Range to Healesville Sanctuary where you will see the best collection of native animals anywhere in Australia. You will arrive at your Melbourne hotel late afternoon.

Tour E: Sydney to Melbourne via Canberra and North East Victoria SM4 (3days/2nights)

Route: Via Canberra, Avalanche Homestead, the Snowy Mountains, Bright area.

Day 1: Sydney to Avalanche Homestead via Canberra. (L,D)

You are collected from your city hotel at 8.00 am in your luxury 4WD vehicle and travel south through Sydney along the beautiful Illawarra coast to Wollongong. Your tour then takes you through the rolling hills and rich grazing country of the Southern Tablelands to Canberra, Australia's national capital, designed by Chicago architect Walter Burly Griffin. After lunch, a tour of Canberra includes visits to the world renowned Australian War Memorial, Parliament House, the internationally acclaimed Australian National Gallery and a tour of foreign embassies, many of which are designed in the traditional architecture of their home countries.

A 45 km drive south brings you to Avalanche Homestead where you stay overnight. While by day it is a working Australian sheep and cattle property, Avalanche Homestead offers VIP accommodation and dining. At dusk a 4WD safari takes you spotlighting deep in the Australian bush where you will see some unique Australian animals and birds in their native habitat, including kangaroos and owls. In the evening, join your hosts for a convivial candlelight dinner complemented by quality Australian wines.

Day 2: Avalanche Homestead via Snowy Mountains to Beechworth (B,L,D)

Today you travel through the Monaro district to Cooma, gateway to the largest hydro electricity operation in Australia.. The countryside you travel through is truly spectacular and the little country towns like Jindabyne where the Snowy River starts and Thredbo an alpine ski resort which is 10km from Australia's highest mountain, Mt Kosciusko are very unique. Overnight Bright/Beechworth.

Day 3: Beechworth to Melbourne (B,L)

After breakfast we travel through the rich gold mining country and vineyards where you can sample some of the best wine in Australia. We will travel through Glenrowan the site of Ned Kelly's last stand. (Ned was a famous bush ranger who wore a suit of armour over his head and upper body) However, he was shot in the leg and captured by police at Glenrowan. The tour now travels through rich agricultural land towards Melbourne where we arrive late afternoon.

Variations Available

We can vary the itinerary for Melbourne by offering alternative trips to; **The Great Ocean Road, Sovereign Hill** or **The Yarra Valley Wine Areas**. As well as the 4WD vehicles we have deluxe 21 seater airconditioned coaches available for small groups and we can arrange itineraries to suit the clients.