Study tours

Engaging, practical and rewarding learning experiences for primary and secondary school students



VICTORIA
State Government
Australia



Study tours provide a unique opportunity to discover the educational excellence that Victoria, Australia has to offer.

Study tours are for short-term students to learn and discover in classrooms and other educational destinations in Melbourne and Victoria, Australia.

Study tours are engaging, practical and rewarding learning experiences for groups of overseas students in primary and secondary school. They can be from 1 day to 4 weeks in length.

Study themes may include science and technology, environmental sustainability, animal conservation, performing and visual arts, leadership, or sport.

Each study tour is an exciting opportunity to gain new skills and knowledge through tailored lessons and experiences, improve your English language skills. Students can also speak to their study tour operator about visiting tourist and cultural destinations.



Why Melbourne and Victoria?

Melbourne and Victoria, Australia are renowned world-leading education destinations where students learn in new and exciting ways.

Why visit?

Vibrant Melbourne: A global hub

Melbourne consistently ranks among the top ten cities in the World's Most Liveability Index (see: www.eiu.com/n/global-themes/liveability-index), offering a high quality of life and a vibrant atmosphere.

Whether strolling through iconic laneways, savouring coffee at a local café, or experiencing cultural delights like yum cha in Chinatown, Melbourne provides an array of experiences that make living and studying here truly remarkable.

Visiting Victoria's unique tourist destinations and student cities

Victoria's many tourist destinations and student cities provide an excellent alternative to Melbourne. Students have the space to be themselves, a supportive community, and a firsthand experience of living a unique Australian lifestyle.

There is also the opportunity to explore some of our most beautiful locations and communities, including:

- Dandenong Ranges: www.visityarravalley.com.au/discover/dandenong-ranges
- Geelong and the Bellarine: www.visitmelbourne.com/regions/geelong-and-the-bellarine
- Gippsland: www.visitgippsland.com.au
- Grampians: www.visitgrampians.com.au
- Great Ocean Road: https://visitgreatoceanroad.org.au
- Mildura: www.visitmildura.com.au
- Mornington Peninsula: www.visitmorningtonpeninsula.org
- Yarra Valley: www.visityarravalley.com.au

Eat and Drink

Melbourne is a paradise for food lovers with a thriving restaurant and cafe culture and a diverse range of cuisines from around the world. Indulge in amazing food experiences and explore the city's culinary delights. Melbourne's dining scene has something to satisfy every palate, including Modern Australian, international cuisine, or delicious street food.

Culture

Melbourne's rich culture and sports mean there is something for everyone. Discover museums, galleries, laneway art, animal sanctuaries, and iconic sites like Flinders Street Train Station, Melbourne Town Hall, and the Shrine of Remembrance.

Sport

Dive into sports culture with Australian Rules Football (AFL), cricket at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), the Australian Open tennis tournament, and Formula 1 car racing at Albert Park.

Nature and the Outdoors

Explore the iconic Great Ocean Road for breathtaking coastal views, witness the famous penguin parade at Phillip Island, and discover the pristine wilderness of Wilsons Promontory National Park.



Stability and peace

Safe and peaceful cities in Victoria with low crime rates and reliable public safety measures ensure a secure living environment.

Warm, welcoming, and friendly people

Multicultural communities in Victoria create a warm and welcoming environment for students, creating a sense of belonging.

Why study?

World-class education system

The Victorian school system and study tour education partners have a great reputation, with high-quality, qualified teachers, a diverse curriculum and learning spaces that bring out the best in everyone.

Learning environments

Victorian government schools and study tour education partners are equipped with excellent facilities, including purpose-built, state-of-the-art learning centres, sports, and extra-curricular facilities. These environments are designed to enhance collaborative and individual learning through a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces, ensuring that education extends beyond classroom walls.

Learning English

English language programs in Victorian government schools help students gain language skills and confidence. Study tours English language programs help students:

- improve English language skills in a short period of time
- practise speaking, listening, reading and writing in English.

Curriculum and extra-curricular

Experience some of Victoria's wide range of curriculum including science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), arts and humanities.

There are also opportunities to take part in extra-curricular activities in the arts, STEM, sports and more.

Study tour education partners offer unique opportunities to learn about Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories, as well as about our natural environment and animals through hands-on learning.

Study tour programs

Victorian government school study tours

Overseas students can gain English language confidence, experience creative teaching methods and study in state-of-the-art facilities.

Each study tour program is unique and tailored to the group's interests.
Each tour includes:

- school activities, including a welcoming ceremony and classes with Victorian students
- specialised English as an additional language (EAL) classes
- local student buddies who help students feel at ease
- a farewell ceremony celebrating students' successes.

Benefits include:

- improved English language skills
- increased intercultural understanding
- enhanced self-confidence
- experience classroom learning in Australia's best student city and Education State.

Example study tour schedule

Date	Morning	Afternoon	Days
Sunday 1 October	Arrive in Melbourne		
Monday 2 October	Welcome ceremony Orientation at host school – with student buddies	Join local students in class	1
Tuesday 3 October	English language activities	Join local students in class	2
Wednesday 4 October	English language activities	Join local students in class	3
Thursday 5 October	English language activities	Join local students in class	4
Friday 6 October	Join local students in class	Farewell ceremony with Certificate of Participation	5
Saturday 7 October	Depart Melbourne		

Requirements

Students: Primary and secondary school students aged 10 to 18 years old.

Duration: One day to 4 weeks.

Availability: Study tours are hosted during Victorian school terms <https://www.vic.gov.au/school-term-dates-and-holidays-victoria>.

Group sizes: From 10 to 20 participants. Participants must hold a valid visitor (tourist) visa (subclass 600).

Tour leaders: Study tour groups must have 2 accompanying adults who hold a current Working with Children Check <https://www.vic.gov.au/working-with-children-check> or their overseas equivalent. Accompanying tour leaders do not pay study tour fees.

Accommodation and supervision: Study tour operators are responsible for arranging all accommodation and supervision. Homestay accommodation may be included depending on choice of school and local availability. Students seeking homestays should discuss with their study tour operator in advance and request homestay accommodation when applying.

More information about school education

For more general information about primary and secondary schooling, see:

- www.study.vic.gov.au/en/international-student-program/student-experience/primary-school-overview
- www.study.vic.gov.au/en/international-student-program/student-experience/secondary-school-overview

2027 Victorian school term dates

Term	Start date	Finish date
Term 1	Wednesday 27 January (students start Thursday 28 January in government schools)	Thursday 25 March
Term 2	Monday 12 April	Friday 25 June
Term 3	Monday 12 July	Friday 17 September
Term 4	Monday 4 October	Friday 17 December

2028 Victorian school term dates

Term	Start date	Finish date
Term 1	Thursday 27 January (students start Friday 28 January in government schools)	Friday 31 March
Term 2	Tuesday 18 April	Friday 30 June
Term 3	Monday 17 July	Friday 22 September
Term 4	Monday 9 October	Thursday 21 December



Victorian educational tourism study tours

Overseas students can learn real-world knowledge and skills at educational destinations.

Creative Conservation

The Creative Conservation study tour provides overseas students, aged 13 to 16 (Years 7–10), hands-on learning about sustainability, innovation, design thinking, ecological management, conservation and biodiversity. This set 4-day program occurs at the following locations:

- Day 1: Healesville Sanctuary
- Day 2: Melbourne Zoo
- Day 3: Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne
- Day 4: Science Gallery Melbourne.

The education theme gives students science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning opportunities in a fun and engaging real-world environment. For example, students can learn about native Australian animals or solve conservation problems designed to their age and development. This helps build knowledge in science, geography, and sustainability, while also improving cross-cultural understanding and English skills.

Each day is led by qualified experts and provide an opportunity to learn about Australia's native wildlife and global conservation.

Benefits include:

- improved knowledge in science, geography or environmental sustainability
- enhanced English language skills
- increased intercultural understanding
- unique, hands-on experience learning in Australia's best student city and Education State.

Creative Conservation does not include learning onsite at a Victorian government school or with local students, and homestay accommodation. Students may request to add a study tour at a Victorian government school to create a longer study tours program in Victoria. Please discuss this option with your study tour operator.

Example study tour schedule

Study tours take place on 4 consecutive days Tuesday to Friday.

Arrive in Melbourne
Day 1: Healesville Sanctuary
Day 2: Melbourne Zoo
Day 3: Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne
Day 4: Science Gallery Melbourne
Depart Melbourne

Requirements

Students: Secondary school students aged 13 to 16 years old (Years 7–10).

Duration: 4 days.

Availability: Study tours are hosted at specific months in the year. Indicative dates are listed below:

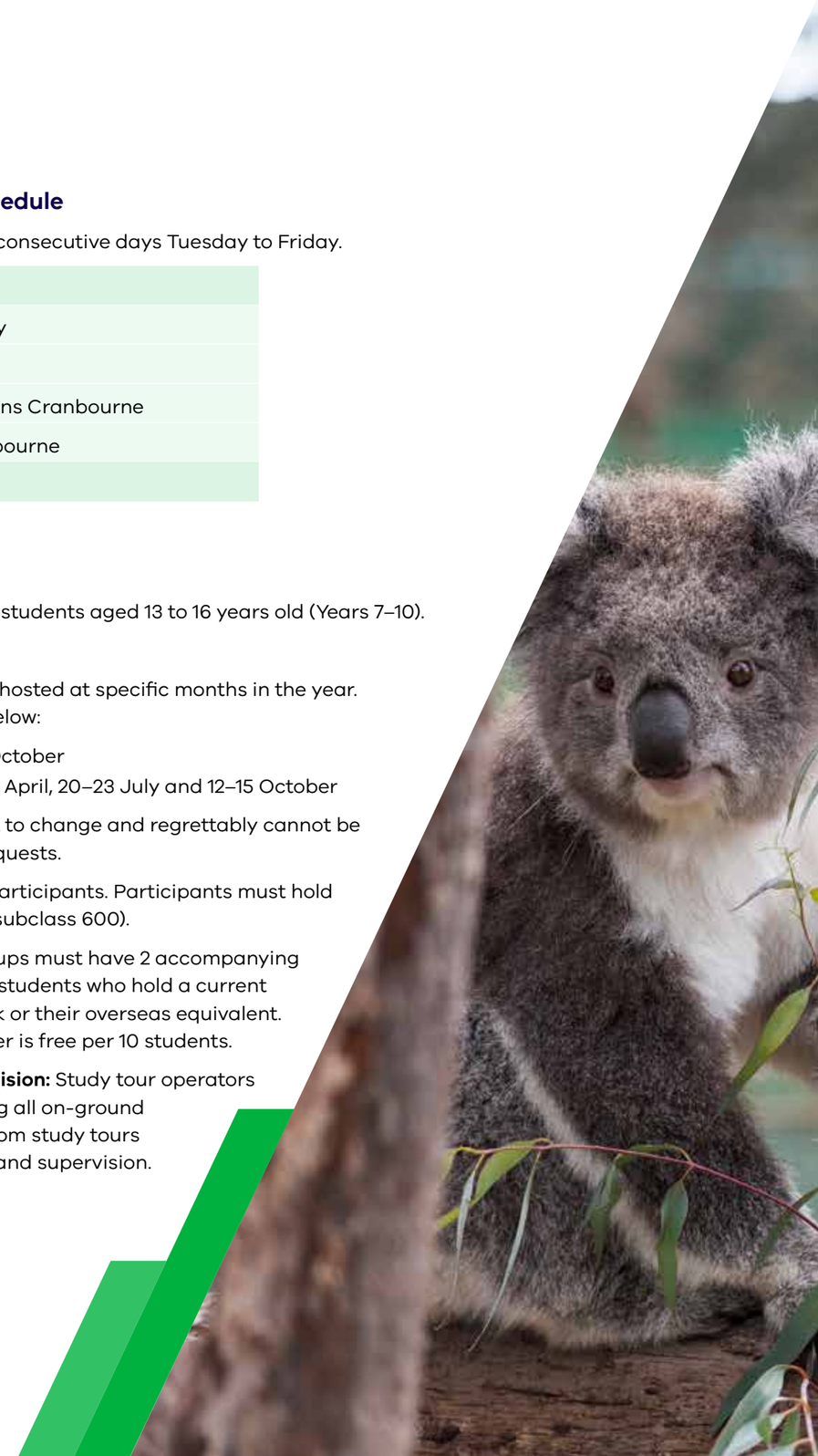
- 2026: 14–17 July and 6–9 October
- 2027: 9–12 February, 20–23 April, 20–23 July and 12–15 October

The above dates are subject to change and regrettably cannot be adjusted based on group requests.

Group sizes: From 20 to 50 participants. Participants must hold a valid visitor (tourist) visa (subclass 600).

Tour leaders: Study tour groups must have 2 accompanying adults per each group of 20 students who hold a current Working with Children Check or their overseas equivalent. An accompanying tour leader is free per 10 students.

Accommodation and supervision: Study tour operators are responsible for arranging all on-ground transport (inluding to and from study tours locations), accommodation and supervision.



Education partner example learning activities

Day 1: Healesville Sanctuary

Focus	• Students will be introduced to the Cultural significance of this Country. They will learn about Indigenous perspectives on conservation and sustainability and how caring for Country is integral to fighting extinction. • They will be introduced to the Sanctuary's onsite captive breeding programs and learn about threatened species, human impacts on the environment and actions for conservation.
Highlights	• Meet emus, dingos and helmeted honeyeater birds whilst moving along Wurundjeri Walk. • Learn about key animals and their breeding programs including Tasmanian devils, Leadbeater's possums, and giant burrowing and spotted tree frogs. • Observe possums while examining the newest nesting box design in its environment.
Learning objectives	• Develop an understanding of Indigenous Australian Cultures and caring for Country. • Develop an understanding of threatened Australian species.
Driving question	**Why are Indigenous perspectives important in conservation?**

Day 2: Melbourne Zoo

Focus	• Students will develop an overall understanding of Zoos Victoria's conservation action campaigns, threats to species and potential actions that can be taken to help reduce these threats. • Link to conservation action campaigns around pollution and habitat loss (palm oil and mobile phones) – Bubbles not Balloons, Seal the Loop, They're Calling on You, Don't Palm us Off, Coffee for Wildlife.
Highlights	• Participate in brainstorming sessions focused on connection to animals through story, different animal species and their threats, and understanding Zoo Victoria's conservation action campaigns. • Join in various talks including gorilla and orangutan keeper talks. • Free time to explore Melbourne Zoo.
Learning objectives	• To build on day 1 at Healesville Sanctuary and extend understanding about different species, their threats and some of Zoos Victoria's conservation action campaigns. • Consider how to help endangered species.
Driving question	**How can we help endangered species?**

Day 3: Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne

Focus	• Students will have hands-on exploration of a natural area and explore how staff at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne put conservation practices into action – looking at locally endangered species of plants and animals.
Highlights	• Participate in a bandicoot walk to learn about how the Australian garden is designed to support bandicoots to thrive in their environment. • View the ponding platform and learn how it supports local birds and aquatic wildlife. • Explore the Trig Track, spot wallabies in the wild and learn how fire is used as a land management tool.
Learning objectives	• Gain hands-on experience in monitoring techniques used at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne to assess plant and animal biodiversity. • Examine land management strategies which help the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne to manage plant and animal biodiversity.
Driving question	**How can landscape management choices impact on locally endangered plants and animals?**

Day 4: Science Gallery Melbourne

Focus	• Inspired by the past 3 days, students will experience the design thinking process and consider preferred futures to develop their own rapid prototype of a conservation solution. Students will consider how each solution might impact conservation through a gallery walk of their prototypes. • Their Creative Conservation experience will end with an exploration of the current Science Gallery exhibition focusing on human-nature interactions and sustainable futures.
Highlights	• Explore the exhibition by interacting with exhibits and talking with peer-to-peer facilitators and gallery mediators. • Team up to build a model that showcases conservation solutions learned from the previous 3 days using craft materials, Lego and the Procreate app. • Be guided on a Gallery Walk to explore each design solution.
Learning objectives	• Apply learnings from previous days' visits to prototype a Creative Conservation solution using a design thinking process. • Experience how interdisciplinary practice can create innovative ideas and solutions to sustainability challenges.
Driving question	**How do we design creative solutions for wildlife challenges?**

How to begin your journey

Prospective study tour participants must follow the below application pathway. Study tour students, parents, overseas teachers or operators must not contact a Victorian government school or other educational provider directly.

Application process for students, parents, overseas teachers, or non-accredited study tour operators

Step 1:

Contact an accredited Study Tour Operator <https://www.study.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/word_doc/0017/3194/Study-Tour-Operator-Register.docx?timestamp=2026-06-05T00%253A21%253A05.219Z>. Only study tour operators accredited by the department can facilitate study tours in Victorian government schools or with our partner educational providers.

Step 2:

Discuss your preferred study tour program, timing and duration.

Step 3:

Choose one or more tour themes you would like to include in a study tour program.

Step 4:

The accredited study tour operator will work with the department to book a study tour with your preferred Victorian government school and/or partner educational provider.

Further information

For further information on study tours please contact:
study.tours@education.vic.gov.au





Victorian Government Schools
Study Tours Program

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