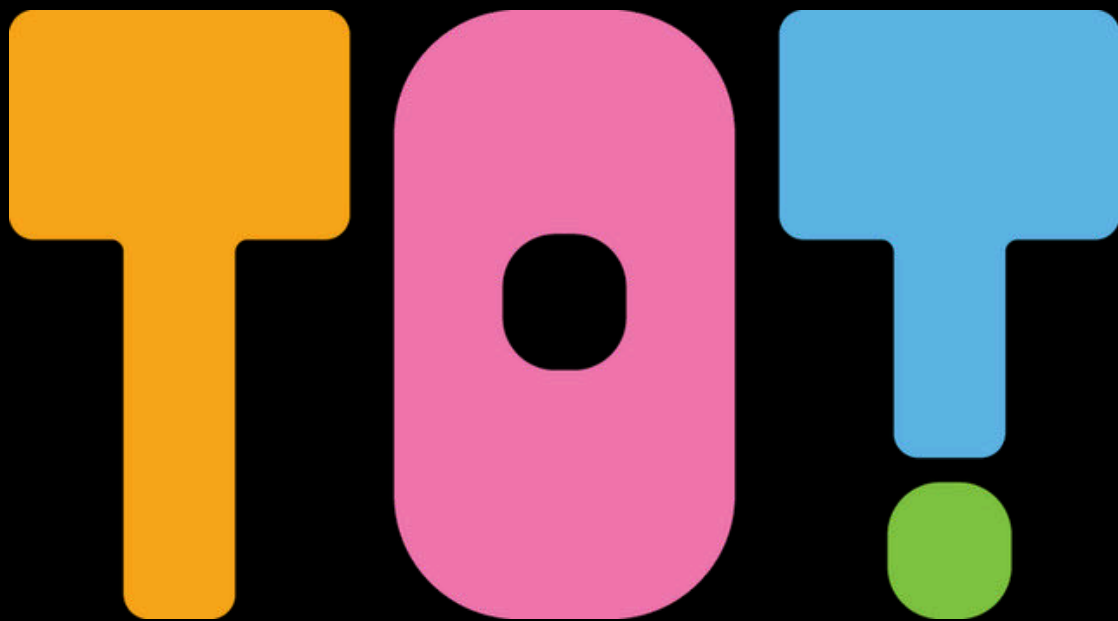




SPRING 2026

Your ultimate guide to Spring family fun in
Melbourne — events, day trips, playgrounds +
more!

September – November 2026

what's on +
things to do

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What's On in CBD:

September 2026

ROME: Empire, Power, People

 17 Until 25 Oct 2026 |  Melbourne Museum | 

Ticketed

A Melbourne-exclusive show with 180+ Roman objects. Statues, mosaics and frescoes covering gladiator spectacle and imperial power.

Children's Play: Ragnar Kjartansson

 17 Until 4 October 2026 |  NGV International |  Free

Interactive exhibition transforms the NGV's children's gallery into a playful theatrical world where kids can perform, draw, create and tell stories.

RESET Festival

 17 Until 17 Oct 2026 |  Federation Square |  Free

A free festival about slowing down, finding joy in the hands-on. Join in family-friendly celebrations, screenings, conversations, workshops and participatory artmaking.

Stellar Nights

 17 Mondays until Nov 2026 |  Melbourne Observatory |

 Ticketed

Go on a journey through time and space with guided tours of the Observatory, and delve into distant nebulae, lunar landscapes and planetary wonders.

Solar Tours – Melbourne Observatory

 17 Sundays until 15 Nov |  Melbourne Observatory | 

Ticketed

View sunspots and solar granulation through a restored 1800s telescope, with guides from the Astronomical Society of Victoria.

Smithsonian Starstruck

 17 Until 31 Oct |  Bourke St |  Ticketed

Smithsonian Starstruck: An Immersive Experience is a 3D interactive, virtual reality experience that begins at Earth's observatories and launches visitors into the universe.

IMAGINATOR

 17 Until 4 October 2026 |  The District Docklands |

 Ticketed

Step inside a future playground of shimmering light sculptures, giant rotating beanbags, AI encounters and high-energy movement games.

Polly Woodside Pirate Day

 17 First Sunday of Every Month |  South Wharf

|  Ticketed

A fun-filled adventure for little pirates, with treasure hunts and storytelling aboard the historic Polly Woodside tall ship.

[CARDCORE] Night Market

 17 2, 9 Sep 2026 |  Queen Victoria Market |  Free

Running alongside the iconic Winter Night Market, [CARDCORE] Night Market brings together collectors, players, traders and pop culture fans for an epic celebration of everything TCG.

Fitzroy Gardens Outdoor Adventure

 17 Until 31 Oct |  Fitzroy Gardens |  Free

Follow a family-friendly trail of clues through the heritage-listed gardens, discovering hidden surprises along the way.

What's On in CBD: Spring School Holidays

Melbourne Royal Show

 24 Sep – 4 Oct 2026 |  Melbourne Showgrounds | 

Ticketed

Meet farm animals, enjoy thrilling rides, tuck into showbags and tasty treats, and explore interactive exhibitions, live performances, and activities.

Ned Kelly's Treasure Escape Room

 19 Sep – 4 Oct 2026 |  Southbank |  Ticketed

Crack the code and solve this Ned Kelly-themed escape room puzzle based on the children's novel *The Phantom of Flinders Street* by Mitchell Toy.

Skyline Melbourne

 19 Sep–4 Oct 2026 |  South Wharf |  Ticketed

Soar above Melbourne on the Ferris wheel, enjoy mini golf, Helter Skelter, Tea Cups, bouncy castle, free arts and crafts, plus Spider-Man meet-and-greets 12–2pm every Sat & Sun.

Nature Play Melbourne

 22 Sep 2026 |  Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne |  Free

Celebrate Nature Play Week and delight your child's senses with free nature play experiences on Oak Lawn and in The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden.

Kids Explorer Bus

 19 Sep– 4 Oct 2026 |  Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne |  Ticketed

Experience amazing sights, sounds and scents as you cruise through the Gardens on this tour designed especially for families.

Melbourne Museum – Spring School Holidays

 19 Sep – 4 Oct 2026 |  Melbourne Museum | 

Ticketed, kids free museum entry

Budding makers can experiment with design, symbolism and storytelling through activities inspired by [Rome: Empire. Power. People.](#)

Melbourne Festival of Puppetry

 22–27 Sep 2026 |  Various |  Free + Ticketed

Ten days of puppet shows, roving performers and film screenings, plus a free Puppet Picnic on the Carlton Highrise Estate lawns.

Lottie, Pog and the Runaway Ghost with Sally

Rippin

 19 Sep 2026 |  Wheeler Centre |  \$10

Join children's author Sally Rippin for interactive storytelling and activities.

Outdoor Cinema: Feathers, Fins and Friendship

 30 Sep – 2 Oct 2026 |  Federation Square | 

Free Catch beloved family adventure films about human and animal friendship on the Big Screen.

Junior Rangers: Wings and Wattles

 22 Sep – 1 Oct |  Royal Park |  Free

Find urban bushland in the heart of the city and connect with nature close to home. An adventure exploring flowering wattles, nectar-feeding birds and bees.

What's On in CBD: Spring School Holidays

Kids' Flicks with Feelings

 20 Sep – 1 Oct |  Federation Square |  Ticketed
Two thoughtful films for kids exploring big feelings, each opening with a short curator-led chat.

The Big Toy Swap

 23 Sep |  Fed Square |  Free
Give your child's toy box a sustainable refresh – bring a toy along and swap it for a "new" one.

Skateboard Deck Art

 24 Sep – 4 Oct |  Artplay |  Ticketed
Paint your own skateboard deck using stencils, spray cans, sharpies and collage, for ages 8–13.

Dryad Drop-In

 27 Sep – 4 Oct |  Hellenic Museum |  Ticketed
Explore the natural world through the eyes of the ancient Greeks, with storytelling and activities.

School Holiday Street Art Workshops

22 Sep – 1 Oct |  Blender Studios |  Ticketed
Learn spray-painting techniques from a renowned street artist these school holidays.

Paper Planet at Fed Square

 28 Sep – 2 Oct |  Federation Square |  Free
Theatre and play merge in this magical indoor world, as paper craftworks and soundscapes spring to life.

Melbourne Kids Book Fest

 2–3 Oct 2026 |  Southbank |  Ticketed
Meet favourite authors and illustrators at a book festival just for kids.

The Festival of Ice and Snow with Angie Cui

 3 Oct 2026 |  Wheeler Centre |  \$5
Bundle up for a wintry adventure and celebrate family, cultural traditions and storytelling. Also Mandarin session.

Castle in the Sky: Holiday Program

 21 Sep |  Story Studio Carlton |  Ticketed
A full-day creative story writing workshop for ages 8–12. What kind of creatures live in such vertiginous villages? How did the castle get up there in the first place? And what do they have to hide?

Monsters of the Deep: Holiday Program

 22 Sep 2026 |  Story Studio Carlton |  Ticketed
A full-day creative writing workshop designed to thwart thalassophobia, for ages 7–10.

Pigments of the Past: For Kids

 26 Sep + 3 Oct |  Hellenic Museum |  Ticketed
Discover how ancient Greeks painted their world in this creative workshop for kids.

Test Garden Open Day: Birds in the Big City

 3 Oct |  Fed Square |  Free
Urban Ecologist Dr Jacinta Humphrey leads a family-friendly workshop exploring design for birds.

What's On in CBD:

October - November 2026

Melbourne International Games Week

 2-11 Oct 2026 |  Melbourne |  Free + Ticketed

A week-long celebration of digital and analogue gaming for all ages, featuring hands-on play zones, game developer showcases, esports tournaments, workshops, and family-friendly events across the city.

Ballet of Lights: Sleeping Beauty in a Sparkling Show

 29 Nov 2026 |  Capitol Theatre |  Ticketed

Watch dancers in illuminated costumes bring Sleeping Beauty to life in this dazzling blend of light, colour and classical dance.

Making Memoir of a Snail

 Until 1 Nov 2026 |  ACMI |  Free

Step inside the handmade world of Adam Elliot's *Memoir of a Snail*, with original sets, props and characters from the acclaimed Australian claymation film.

Free Jazz at Fed Square

 17-18 Oct 2026 |  Fed Square |  Free

Soak up live jazz in the heart of Melbourne with free performances at Fed Square, making an easy family-friendly outing in the city.

Inside Out: Jump, Jive, Jazz

 26 Oct 2026 |  ArtPlay |  Free

Get creative with music and movement in this playful family workshop, experimenting with different materials to make sounds, melodies and jazzy fun.

Saboteurs: Crewmates and Impostors

 Until 31 Dec 2026 |  Docklands |  Ticketed

A real-life Among Us-style game where Crew members complete tasks around a Moon base while Impostors secretly eliminate them one by one.

Melbourne International Jazz Festival

 16-25 Oct 2026 |  Melbourne CBD |  Ticketed

Enjoy ten days of live jazz across Melbourne, with a city-wide program featuring performances, workshops and events for music-loving families.

Victorian Festival of Diwali

 31 Oct 2026 |  Melbourne CBD |  Free

Celebrate Diwali with cultural performances, music, food, activities and community celebrations showcasing the diversity of Victoria's Indian community.

African Music and Cultural Festival

 20-22 Nov 2026 |  Melbourne CBD |  Free

Experience African music, dance, food, culture and community at this colourful celebration showcasing cultures from across the African continent.

Polish Festival

 15 Nov 2026 |  Fed Square |  Free

Celebrate Polish culture with traditional food, music, dancing, performances and family entertainment in the heart of Melbourne.

What's On in Melbourne: September 2026

Bubble Planet

 17 Until 30 Nov 2026 |  Brunswick |  Ticketed Step into a sensory wonderland of themed rooms, VR technology and fantastical bubble-filled landscapes. An immersive experience that delights kids and adults.

Dinos at the Zoo

 17 Until 4 Oct 2026 |  Melbourne Zoo |  Free with zoo admission
Come face to face with over 30 animatronic dinosaurs on Melbourne Zoo's brand-new Dino Trail, complete with a fossil dig zone and roaming dinosaur puppets throughout the grounds.

Edendale Community Environment Farm Activities

 17 5-13 Sep 2026 |  Edendale Community Environment Farm |  Ticketed Get hands-on with sustainable gardening, Indigenous plants, worm farming and environmental activities at this working community farm in Eltham.

Science is a Superpower Festival

 17 12-13 Sep 2026 |  Scienceworks |  Free with museum admission
A weekend of fun STEM for kids and adults alike awaits you at Scienceworks. While the festival was created to appeal to tween girls and non-binary children, this festival welcomes all visitors.

Colour: See the World in a New Light

 17 Until 26 Jan 2027 |  Scienceworks |  Ticketed Test optical illusions, mix coloured light and design creatures in the Colour interactive exhibition.

Darebin FUSE Festival

 17 4-13 Sep 2026 |  Darebin |  Free Celebrate art, culture and community across Darebin with live music, performances, workshops, films, installations and family-friendly activities.

FUSE Family Film Day

 17 6 Sep 2026 |  Preston City Hall |  Free Settle in for an afternoon of family films, including Kangaroo and The Magic Faraway Tree, plus a short film and relaxed cinema atmosphere.

NFL Melbourne Game Kickoff Festival

 17 10-12 Sep 2026 |  Melbourne Park |  Ticketed Get into the NFL spirit with three days of football-themed activities, entertainment and fan experiences ahead of the first NFL regular-season game in Melbourne.

Fawkner Festa

 17 13 Sep 2026 |  Fawkner |  Free Celebrate Fawkner with live music, cultural performances, food, markets, children's activities, workshops and plenty of family-friendly fun.

Melbourne Moon Festival

 17 12 Sep 2026 |  Box Hill |  Free Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival with Asian food, cultural traditions, family activities and a festive community atmosphere at Box Hill Town Hall.

What's On in Melbourne: Spring School Holidays

Scienceworks – Spring School Holidays

 19 Sep – 4 Oct 2026 |  Scienceworks |  Ticketed, kids free museum entry
Catch live science shows, a Solar System Scavenger Hunt and planetarium sessions.

Mario The Maker Magician

 20 Sep 2026 |  The Round Nunawading | 
Ticketed Join Mario for a high-energy mix of magic, robots, slapstick and science in this hilarious all-ages show packed with surprises, laughs and heart.

Kew Traffic School – Spring School Holiday Sessions

 School holidays |  Kew |  Ticketed
Public ride sessions where kids ride bikes and pedal cars through a scaled-down road system, learning road rules in the most fun possible way.

Melbourne Country Show

 25 Sep – 4 Oct |  Caribbean Gardens, Scoresby |  Ticketed
Monster trucks Fri/Sat, nightly fireworks, pony and camel rides, and a dedicated kids' ride zone from \$2.50.

School Holidays @ Moorabbin Air Museum

 19 Sep–4 Oct 2026 |  Moorabbin Airport |  Ticketed
Explore one of Australia's important aviation collections, with aircraft, engines and aviation history to discover during the museum's seven-day school holiday opening.

Adventure Camp – Beaumaris

 21–23 & 28–30 Sep 2026 |  Beaumaris Life Saving Club |  Ticketed
Get kids outdoors these holidays with beach games, bush adventures, team challenges, scavenger hunts and problem-solving activities for ages 6–11.

Melbourne Fringe Festival

 29 Sep–18 Oct 2026 |  Various |  Free + Ticketed
An open-access multi-arts festival featuring theatre, music, dance, comedy, cabaret, digital art, and circus—many free or kid-friendly performances.

School holidays at Bunjil Place

 24 Sep – 4 Oct 2026 |  Narre Warren |  Free + Ticketed
From hands-on creative sessions to performances, exhibitions and free experiences to explore at your own pace, there's plenty to spark curiosity.

Trash Test Dummies

 25 Sep 2026 |  The Round Nunawading |  Ticketed
Meet two cheeky dummies in this hilarious, hands-on theatre show where comedy, chaos and clever puppetry bring everyday objects to life.

Fizz Kidz School Holiday Programs

 21 Sep – 4 Oct 2026 |  Various locations across Melbourne |  Ticketed
A high-energy holiday program packed with fizzing science and creative activities. Kids make awesome take-home creations while making new friends.

What's On in Melbourne: October - November

Coach Mon's Baby Wonderland

 5-13 Oct 2026 |  Clocktower Centre |  Ticketed
Join Coach Mon on a quest to help a lost star return to the night sky! Featuring singalong songs performed live, gentle lighting and puppetry, little ones will move, groove and dream.

Frozen The Musical

 1-11 Oct 2026 |  The Round Nunawading |  Ticketed
Join Elsa, Anna, Olaf and friends in Disney's Frozen, brought to life with show-stopping songs, dazzling costumes, magical effects and plenty of family fun.

Pevan and Sarah in Concert

 9 Oct 2026 |  Clocktower Centre |  Ticketed
In this highly engaging, interactive adventure, your favourite friendly tiger and his spirited bestie will have the whole audience captivated.

Italian Festa

 11 Oct 2026 |  Carlton |  Free
Celebrate Italian culture with live music, delicious food, family entertainment and plenty of colour and fun in Carlton.

Malahang Festival

 29 Nov 2026 |  Heidelberg West |  Free
Celebrate community spirit with a day of diverse entertainment, circus and art workshops, face painting, soccer clinics, sensory-friendly spaces and food trucks serving delicious halal BBQ and local favourites.

Maroondah Festival

 8 Nov 2026 |  Croydon |  Free
Enjoy a full day of live music, free rides, circus workshops, sports activities and more than 70 market stalls serving up food and fun for families across Maroondah.

Victorian State Ballet – The Nutcracker

 16-18 Oct 2026 |  Karralyka Centre |  Ticketed
Follow Clara on a magical Christmas journey with the Nutcracker Prince, Sugar Plum Fairy, breathtaking snow scenes and festive surprises, performed to Tchaikovsky's iconic score.

Drum Theatre 20th Anniversary Celebrations

 7 Nov 2026 |  Drum Theatre |  Free
Celebrate 20 years of the Drum Theatre with live performances, community groups, emerging artists and an after-party featuring local musicians and DJs.

Jazz at the Stables

 24 Oct 2026 |  The Stables |  Free
Enjoy an afternoon of live jazz in the historic Crown Street Stables, with a stellar line-up of musicians bringing swing, rhythm and energy to the stage.

Children's Week

 24 Oct - 1 Nov 2026 |  Various |  Free
Celebrate the talents, skills, achievements and rights of children with free events by local councils, not-for-profit organisations, schools and early childhood services.

What's On Near Melbourne: Sep 2026

Tesselaar Tulip Festival

 12 Sep – 11 Oct 2026 |  Tesselaar Flower Farm, Silvan |  Ticketed

A vibrant festival featuring over a million spring flowers, daily live entertainment, food stalls, and garden-themed activities.

Bloom and Graze

 12–13 Sep 2026 |  Coldstream |  Ticketed
Celebrate spring at CherryHill Orchards with blossom-filled scenery, food, family activities and plenty of opportunities to enjoy the orchard.

Kyneton Daffodil & Arts Festival

 4–13 Sep 2026 |  Kyneton |  Free + Ticketed
A ten-day community-led spring celebration of daffodils, art, concerts, open gardens, a grand parade, and a visual art & photography exhibition.

CherryHill Blossom Festival

 18 Sep – 4 Oct 2026 |  CherryHill Orchards, Wandin East |  Ticketed
An annual spring event where guests can enjoy the cherry blossoms blooming.

Cornella Canola Walk

 Until 27 Sep 2026 |  Cornella |  Ticketed
Walk through a brilliant yellow canola field and enjoy one of Victoria's most colourful spring experiences, with 360-degree views across the flowering crops.

Bloom – Greater Bendigo & Loddon

 Sep – Nov |  Bendigo, Heathcote & Loddon |  Free
Free Illuminated tulip beds, giant interactive blooms along Pall Mall and a hidden gnome trail at Bendigo Botanic Gardens.

CODE Sports NBL Blitz

 2–6 Sep 2026 |  Bendigo |  Ticketed
Watch all 10 NBL teams battle it out across five days, with basketball clinics, fan experiences and community activities adding to the action.

Puffing Billy Running Festival

 12–13 Sep 2026 |  Emerald |  Ticketed
Watch steam trains battle it out with runners, with a 1.5km Kids Dash and 5km Fun Run making this a fun family weekend.

Geelong Wonder Children's Festival

 14–24 Sep 2026 |  Geelong |  Ticketed + Free
Expect captivating live performances, immersive storytelling, acrobatics, interactive workshops, and delightful creative play.

PayPal Australian Fashion Festival – Bendigo Fashion Series

 13–18 Sep 2026 |  Bendigo |  Free & ticketed
Get creative with fashion through hands-on workshops, wearable art, jewellery making and family-friendly activities exploring sustainability and self-expression.

What's On Near Melbourne: Spring School Holidays

Big Wonder Weekend

 19-20 Sep 2026 |  Geelong Arts Centre & Little Malop Street |  Free

Turn Geelong into a giant playground with roving performers, treasure hunts, creative activities, live music, biscuit decorating and family-friendly fun across the city.

Robin Hood at Kryal Castle

 20 Sep – 5 Oct |  Leigh Creek, Ballarat |  Ticketed Meet Robin Hood, Maid Marion and their Merry friends as they celebrate in Nottingham style. Includes Robin Hood craft activities, live performances, jousting, sword training, market stalls, roving characters, maypole dancing, games & much more.

The Creativerse: Children's Festival of Art, Tech and Play

 3 Oct 2026 |  Bendigo |  Ticketed & free Let imaginations run wild with interactive art, technology, performances and hands-on workshops at this creative festival designed for kids aged 3-12.

Day Out With Thomas

 3-4 Oct 2026 |  Queenscliff |  Ticketed Meet Thomas and friends for a family adventure featuring train rides, hands-on activities, games, stories and plenty of railway fun for little fans.

175th Anniversary Open Day

 3 Oct 2026 |  Geelong Botanic Gardens |  Free Celebrate 175 years of the Geelong Botanic Gardens with a day of community activities, history, gardens and family-friendly entertainment.

Bloom After Dark

 18 Sep-3 Oct 2026 |  Bendigo |  Free See Bendigo's tulips transformed after dark, with glowing flower beds, giant illuminated blooms and colourful garden displays creating a magical family outing.

The Village of Gnomes

 19 Sep-4 Oct 2026 |  Bendigo Botanic Gardens |  Free Follow a fun gnome-hunting trail through the gardens and search for 11 cheeky Spring Bloom Gnomes hidden around the Heritage Gardens and Garden for the Future.

Harvest Moon Festival

 25 Sep 2026 |  Bendigo |  Free Celebrate the Harvest Moon with lion dancing, cultural performances, community groups and traditional mooncakes at this free family-friendly celebration.

Goldilocks Rocks

 23 Sep 2026 |  Drysdale |  Ticketed Meet Goldi in this fun musical adventure as she takes on the Big Bad Wolf in a playful show about friendship, kindness and being aware of strangers.

School Holiday Candle Making Workshop

 23 Sep-2 Oct 2026 |  Red Hill |  Ticketed Get creative these holidays with a hands-on candle-making workshop where kids can make their own scented creation to take home.

What's On Near Melbourne: October - November 2026

Wallington Strawberry Fair

 17 15 Nov 2026 |  Wallington |  Gold coin donation
Celebrate over 130 years of strawberry-growing history at this beloved Bellarine community fair. Enjoy local food, kids' activities, live entertainment and all the sweet, juicy strawberry treats your family can enjoy together.

Cherry Picking at CherryHill Orchards

 17 Nov 2026-Jan 2027 |  Coldstream + Wandin East |  Ticketed
Soak up spring sunshine among blooming cherry trees and pick your own fresh, juicy fruit straight from the orchard. Enjoy live music, picnic spots and picture-perfect family moments surrounded by blossoms.

Bendigo Agricultural Show

 17 23-24 Oct 2026 |  Bendigo |  Ticketed
See livestock, animals, carnival rides, showbags, food, entertainment and agricultural displays at this traditional family-friendly country show.

Geekon

 17 7-8 Nov 2026 |  North Geelong |  Ticketed
Dive into comics, cosplay, gaming, fantasy and pop culture with workshops, live entertainment, creators, exhibitors and family-friendly activities.

Queenscliff Music Festival

 17 27-29 Nov 2026 |  Queenscliff |  Ticketed
Enjoy three days of live music, roving performers, art, food and family-friendly entertainment in the historic seaside town of Queenscliff.

Royal Geelong Show

 17 15-18 Oct 2026 |  Geelong Showgrounds |  Ticketed
A beloved agricultural fair with livestock judging, carnival rides, showbags, food stalls, wood-chopping shows, equestrian fun, and talented family entertainers.

Castlemaine Show

 17 31 Oct-1 Nov 2026 |  Castlemaine |  Ticketed
See animals, rural skills, craft, produce, food and entertainment at this traditional country show, just around 90 minutes from Melbourne.

Ballarat Show

 17 13-15 Nov 2026 |  Mount Rowan |  Ticketed
Experience a regional fair packed with livestock competitions, woodchopping, carnival rides, showbags, food stalls and entertainment.

International Rose Garden Festival

 17 6-7 Nov 2026 |  Morwell |  Free
Wander through over 4,000 roses in bloom at this family-friendly festival featuring workshops, market stalls, live music, light installations and a rose competition in Morwell's Centenary Rose Garden.

SpringFest Ballarat

 17 29 Nov 2026 |  Ballarat |  Free
Explore more than 500 market stalls, live entertainment and family activities at this huge spring celebration around Lake Wendouree.

Shows to Book: Spring School Holidays

Ballet of Lights: Peter Pan in a Sparkling Show

 19 Sep 2026 |  Capitol Theatre |  Ticketed
Peter Pan lights up Neverland in this dazzling blend of illuminated costumes, glow-in-the-dark wings and classical dance.

The Magic Pyjama Party

 24 Sep – 4 Oct 2026 |  Melbourne |  Ticketed
A laugh-filled, wonder-packed school holiday comedy show about amazing dreams.

Little Blue Dot

 23-27 Sep 2026 |  Melbourne |  Ticketed
Grounded in a camping star-gazing adventure between a child and their dad, Little Blue Dot tackles the big questions we ask about space, our place in it and why this precious little blue dot floating in space, matters so very much.

The Wobbly Wallaby Show

 22-24 Sep 2026 |  La Mama Carlton |  Ticketed
A musical celebration of neurodiversity by Giggle & Hoot's Jemma Armstrong – puppetry, songs and interactive fun for ages 3-8.

Where is the Green Sheep?

 22-26 Sep |  Arts Centre Melbourne |  Ticketed
A wild and woolly stage adventure to find that elusive green sheep, based on the beloved children's book by Mem Fox and Judy Horacek.

The Wizard of Oz – Youth Edition

 2-3 Oct 2026 |  Drum Theatre |  Ticketed
Follow Dorothy, Toto and their friends down the yellow brick road in this colourful 70-minute musical filled with familiar songs, dazzling costumes and plenty of heart.

Mojo & Jimmy: The Totally Awesome Magic Show

 29 Sep 2026 |  Karralyka Centre |  Ticketed
Join Mojo the Magical Monkey and Jimmy the Tomato on a hilarious adventure through Happyvale, packed with dazzling illusions, cheeky jokes and magical surprises for ages 3+.

Teeny Tiny Stevies

 19 Sep 2026 |  Clocktower Centre |  Ticketed
Playing all their biggest hits, along with new tunes from their brand-new album Brain Fart, get ready for dancing, sing-alongs and joy.

Emma Memma's Jungle Picnic Tour

 23 Sep 2026 |  Clocktower Centre |  Ticketed
Emma Memma's much-anticipated new album brought to life on stage, transforming its playful songs into a joyful, movement-filled live experience for children and their families.

Velveteen Rabbit

 22 Sep 2026 |  Drum Theatre |  Ticketed
Follow a beloved toy rabbit's journey to becoming real in this playful, visual show featuring live music, projections, audience participation and plenty of theatrical magic.

Room on the Broom

 26-27 Sep 2026 |  Athenaeum Theatre |  Ticketed
The beloved Julia Donaldson picture book comes to life on stage with songs, laughs and scary fun. A rollicking 55-minute adventure for children aged 3+.

Best Melbourne Gardens for Spring Flowers

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

📍 South Yarra

Enjoy a leisurely picnic by the lake and explore themed gardens bursting with spring flowers.

Yarra Bend Park

📍 Kew/Fairfield

A natural bushland park along the Yarra River featuring native vegetation, wildflower areas, and remnant river red gum woodlands that come alive with spring blooms.

St Kilda Botanical Gardens

📍 St Kilda

Peaceful gardens established in 1859 featuring seasonal spring flowerbeds, heritage rose garden, and diverse native and exotic plant species.

Dandenong Creek Trail Parks

📍 Various locations

Eastern Melbourne linear parks along Dandenong Creek featuring native grasslands, wetland areas, and remnant vegetation with seasonal wildflower displays throughout spring.

Carlton Gardens

📍 Carlton

A historic garden featuring the Royal Exhibition Building, with beautiful spring floral displays.

Fitzroy Gardens

📍 East Melbourne

Home to over 10,000 plant species, including tulips and other spring blooms.

Westerfolds Park

📍 Templestowe

Metropolitan park conserving riparian habitat with native vegetation along the Yarra River, featuring wildflower areas and indigenous plants in their natural setting.

Werribee Park

📍 Werribee South

Home to the Victoria Rose Garden, admire 5,000 roses across five hectares, featuring award-winning varieties in a Tudor rose-shaped layout.

Williamstown Botanic Gardens

📍 Williamstown

One of Victoria's oldest botanic gardens, featuring palm-lined paths, seasonal flowerbeds, a charming ornamental pond, and picnic-perfect lawns near the waterfront.

Footscray Park

📍 Footscray

Victoria's most intact Edwardian-period public garden, with vibrant spring blooms, heritage gardens, and city skyline views.

Enjoy Flowers in Bloom Near Melbourne

Garden of St Erth

📍 Blackwood

A historic garden carpeted with daffodils each spring, offering stunning floral views.

Alowyn Gardens

📍 Yarra Glen

A seven-acre display garden featuring seasonal spring displays with seven distinct garden areas and an extensive Australian native garden section.

Sherbrooke Forest

📍 Dandenong Ranges National Park

Cool temperate rainforest with native understory plants, ferns, and seasonal spring wildflowers in their natural mountain ash forest habitat.

Macedon Regional Park

📍 Macedon Ranges

Native bushland areas with seasonal wildflower displays including native orchids, heath flowers, and indigenous spring blooms in their natural mountain environment.

Arthurs Seat State Park

📍 Mornington Peninsula

Take in panoramic views from the summit, wander wildflower-filled bush tracks, and spot native orchids and wildlife on scenic spring walks.

Lavandula Farm

📍 Daylesford

Experience fragrant lavender fields and scenic farm gardens in full bloom.

You Yangs Regional Park

📍 Little River

Granite peaks and woodland areas with native grasslands and wildflower displays, including seasonal orchids and indigenous spring blooms.

Cornella Canola Walk

📍 Cornella, Heathcote

Wander a golden sea of blooming canola fields in spring, with stunning photo spots, fresh air, and a cellar door nearby for local food and drinks.

Warratina Lavender Farm

📍 Wandin North

Stroll through fragrant lavender fields, enjoy seasonal gardens in bloom, and relax over lavender-infused treats at the café, with plenty of space for kids to explore.

Geelong Botanic Gardens

📍 Geelong

Heritage gardens featuring seasonal spring flowerbeds, lush lawns, and the modern 21st Century Garden showcasing Australian native plants in full bloom.

Best Spring Day Trips from Melbourne

Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden

 Olinda

Wander winding paths and spot birds among the trees. Nearby, the Olinda Playspace offers a nature-inspired playground perfect for kids.

Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne

 Cranbourne

The Australian Garden features water play, rock sculptures, and landscapes showcasing native plants. Spot lizards and birds, picnic in the Woodland Picnic Area, or scoot along wide open paths.

Hanging Rock Reserve

 South Rock Road, Woodend

Kids will enjoy exploring rock formations and spotting wildlife like wallabies and echidnas. Visit the Hanging Rock Café nearby or picnic on the wide grassy lawns.

Serendip Sanctuary

 Lara

Spot kangaroos, emus, and colourful birdlife on easy walking trails, explore wetlands from bird hides, and enjoy a picnic in this family-friendly wildlife haven.

Warrandyte State Park

 Warrandyte

Follow riverside trails lined with spring wildflowers, try your hand at gold panning, or enjoy a picnic by the Yarra.

Peninsula Hot Springs

 Mornington Peninsula

Soak in natural thermal mineral pools surrounded by bushland – the Bath House has a dedicated family bathing area with shallow pools, barrel baths and a cave pool.

Trentham Falls

 Falls Road, Trentham

Visit one of Victoria's highest single-drop waterfalls after winter rains. The short, easy walk to the viewing platform offers impressive views.

McClelland Sculpture Park + Gallery

 McClelland Drive, Langwarrin

A unique outdoor art experience where kids can roam among giant sculptures, then visit the gallery or grab a treat at the café. Free entry to the parklands.

Organ Pipes National Park

 Keilor North

Short hikes to unique basalt rock columns, birdwatching, and picnic spots in a compact, family-friendly park.

Kinglake National Park

 Kinglake

Discover panoramic lookouts, fern-filled gullies, and forest walks alive with bird calls, then stop by local farm gates for fresh produce and berry picking.

Enchanted Adventure Garden

 Purves Road, Arthurs Seat

Tackle the tube slides, explore hedge mazes, and wander through giant sculptures and gardens.

Puffing Billy Railway

 Belgrave

Victoria's most iconic steam train chugs through misty fern gullies in the Dandenong Ranges. Wrap up, hang your legs over the side, and ride to Emerald Lake where there's a café and playground waiting.

Best Animal Farms in + near Melbourne

Collingwood Children's Farm

 Abbotsford

Meet cows, goats, and chickens, enjoy pony rides, and explore veggie gardens at this working farm just minutes from the city.

Bundoora Park Farm

 Bundoora

Hand-feed friendly animals, take a tractor ride, and explore the historic village in Melbourne's largest parkland.

Myuna Farm

 Doveton

Pat baby animals, ride a pony or tractor, and wander the wetlands boardwalk in this community-run farm.

Animal Land Children's Farm

 Diggers Rest

Join a guided tour to feed, cuddle, and learn about farm animals, plus try your hand at cow milking.

Chesterfield Farm

 Scoresby

See cow milking and sheepdog demonstrations, hop on a tractor ride, and meet the farm's resident animals.

Living Legends

 Greenvale

Meet retired champion racehorses in peaceful country surrounds, stroll through heritage gardens, and enjoy a picnic or Devonshire tea at the historic homestead.

The Big Goose

 Moorooduc

A mix of farm animals, adventure playground, reptile shows, and even mini-golf makes this a full-day family outing.

Warrook Farm

 Monomeith

Step back in time with sheep shearing, whip cracking, and hand-feeding wildlife on this historic working farm.

Edendale Community Environment Farm

 Eltham

Sustainable farm with animals, veggie gardens, and nature play spaces in a leafy bushland setting.

Funky Farm

 Hastings

Book a personal tour to meet native wildlife and farm animals in a hands-on environment.

Rain, Hayne & Shine Farmyard

 Balnarring

Bottle-feed lambs, hand-feed animals, and enjoy pony rides at this friendly family farm.

Mountview Alpaca Farm

 Yarra Valley

Walk and feed an alpaca while taking in the stunning vineyard scenery.

Best Playgrounds for Spring Fun

Casey Fields Regional Playspace

📍 Cranbourne East

A massive playground with slides, climbing nets, and water play areas.

Frontier Park Playground

📍 Aintree

An adventure playground with forts and climbing structures, plus scooter tracks and water play.

Brimbank Park Playscape

📍 Keilor East

Nature-inspired adventure with climbing towers, slides, and shaded picnic areas alongside Maribyrnong River trails.

Ruffey Lake Park Playground

📍 Victoria Street, Doncaster

This park offers multiple playgrounds, including slides, swings, ladders, sandpit, and flying foxes.

Montrose Community Playground

📍 Montrose

Castle-themed play towers, flying foxes, and slides set against stunning Dandenong Ranges views.

Caulfield Park Playground

📍 Caulfield North

Large family playground with separate toddler and older kids' areas, sandpits, and bike paths around the park.

Royal Park Nature Play Playground

📍 Gatehouse Street, Parkville

Huge park next to Royal Children's Hospital, with eco-friendly design that integrates natural elements.

Lincoln Square Playground

📍 Lincoln Square South, Carlton

Nature-based play area located under 150-year old Moreton Bay fig trees.

Wyndham Park Playground

📍 Werribee

Riverside adventure play space with giant slides, climbing towers, water play, and shaded picnic areas, all connected by walking and cycling trails.

Diamond Valley Miniature Railway

📍 Eltham Lower Park, Eltham

Let the little conductors climb aboard this charming, full-scale miniature railway.

Ian Potter Children's Garden

📍 Royal Botanic Gardens, South Yarra

A magical space for kids to dig, splash, climb, and explore, with hidden paths and shaded lawns.

Bundoora Park Playspace

📍 Bundoora VIC

A farm-themed play space adjoining the city farm next door with animals and interactive exhibits.

Ticketed Galleries + Museums for Kids

Pauline Gandel Children's Gallery Melbourne Museum

 Carlton |  Ticketed

A dedicated play and learning space for babies to 5-year-olds, with a dinosaur dig, discovery garden, climbing net and a camouflage disco with mirror walls and light projections.

Scienceworks

 Spotswood |  Ticketed

Over 100 hands-on exhibits, a Planetarium, live Lightning Room demonstrations and the historic Spotswood Pumping Station.

ArtVo Trick Art Gallery

 17 Open Daily |  The District Docklands |  Ticketed

An interactive trick art gallery in Docklands where kids and adults alike can step inside and become part of the artwork.

Old Melbourne Gaol

 17 Open Daily |  Melbourne |  Ticketed

Walk three levels of Australia's oldest surviving prison, see Ned Kelly's death mask and the actual cells and gallows.

SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium

 17 Open Daily |  Flinders St & King St |  Ticketed

Dive into 12 themed zones packed with sharks, rays, jellyfish and King and Gentoo penguins, including internet superstar Pesto. Don't miss the brand new Rocky Shores rockpool zone.

Australian Sports Museum

 East Melbourne |  Ticketed

Inside the MCG, this museum tells the story of Australian sport through over 2,500 pieces of memorabilia. Add a stadium tour for the full experience.

Museum of Play and Art (MoPA)

 Thomastown, Sandringham, Geelong, Nunawading

An interactive museum offering creative play experiences for young children.

National Communication Museum

 Hawthorn |  Ticketed

Australia's national museum of communication. Kids can blast back to the 90s in a fully interactive cyber café, play retro games and explore how we've talked to each other across centuries.

Pentridge Prison Tours

 Coburg |  Ticketed

Australia's most infamous prison – open for guided family tours through B Division and the notorious H Division. Suited to all ages on the family tour.

Fire Services Museum of Victoria

 East Melbourne |  Ticketed

Australia's largest collection of firefighting memorabilia, with vintage engines, helmets, equipment and interactive displays on fire safety. Every Friday at 10:30am there's a Fire Safety Display.

Free Galleries, Libraries + Museums in Melbourne

National Gallery of Victoria (NGV)

📍 Melbourne CBD | 🆓 Permanent collection free
Australia's most visited art gallery, across two venues. The Children's Gallery at NGV International has a dedicated interactive exhibition and kids' activity sheets are available for self-guided exploring.

Children's Quarter – State Library Victoria

📍 Melbourne CBD | 🆓 Free
A light-filled space designed for families, with reading nooks, interactive games, and creative play areas perfect for little learners and book lovers.

The Story of the Moving Image – ACMI

📍 Melbourne | 🆓 Free
permanent interactive exhibition tracing cinema, TV, gaming and digital art from shadow puppets to the present day. Kids can animate shadows, build optical toys, edit film scenes and create soundscapes.

Shrine of Remembrance

📍 Melbourne | 🆓 Free
The Shrine runs dedicated family programs including Shrine Kids, designed to introduce younger visitors to the stories of Australians in wartime through interactive, age-appropriate activities.

Science Gallery Melbourne

📍 Parkville | 🆓 Free
Free gallery at the University of Melbourne running thought-provoking exhibitions aimed at curious minds of all ages. Great for teens especially.

Heide Museum of Modern Art

📍 Bulleen | 🆓 Sculpture park & gardens free
Sixteen acres of gardens and sculpture park with works by Anish Kapoor and Inge King. The indoor galleries showcase Australian modernist and contemporary art in beautiful heritage buildings.

Koorie Heritage Trust

📍 Federation Square | 🆓 Free
Victoria's only public collection dedicated to Koorie art and culture. Guided Walking Tours (ticketed) let kids hold replica artefacts while learning their significance.

Victoria Police Museum

📍 Docklands | 🆓 Free
Australia's largest collection of Kelly Gang armour lives here, alongside 300+ objects covering 150 years of Victoria's crime and policing history – forensic technology, notorious cases and real detective work.

Australian Music Vault – Arts Centre Melbourne

📍 Southbank | 🆓 Free
Exhibition celebrating the full story of Australian music – from pub rock to hip hop, Kylie to Archie Roach. Interactive listening zones, iconic costumes and a 360-degree immersive Amplifier experience.

narrm ngarrgu Library

📍 Melbourne | 🆓 Free
Melbourne's newest library has a dedicated children's library, secure outdoor play terrace overlooking Queen Victoria Market precinct, playgroups for 0–6 year olds, and a creative makerspace.

Galleries + Museums near Melbourne for Kids

Sovereign Hill

📍 Bradshaw St, Ballarat | 🎫 Ticketed

An open-air living museum where Ballarat's 1850s gold rush comes to life through costumed characters, working trades and real gold panning.

Discovery Centre Bendigo

📍 Bendigo | 🎫 Ticketed

A hands-on science and technology centre in a heritage railway goods shed. Over 100 interactive exhibits, a Planetarium, a 7-metre vertical slide and special holiday programs.

Central Deborah Gold Mine

📍 Bendigo | 🎫 Ticketed

Descend 61 metres underground into the tunnels of a real gold mine that operated through the gold rush era. On the surface, explore heritage buildings and do gold panning.

Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery

📍 Mornington | 🆓 Free

Large public gallery with a strong program of Australian art and regular activities for kids and families. Guided tours on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Shepparton Art Museum (SAM)

📍 Shepparton | 🆓 Free

A beautifully purpose-built gallery housing one of Australia's largest ceramic art collections, a growing Indigenous art collection and children's gallery.

Golden Dragon Museum

📍 Bendigo | 🎫 Ticketed

The story of Chinese Australians in the goldfields and home to one of the world's oldest imperial processional dragons, Chinese gardens and a temple.

McClelland Sculpture Park + Gallery

📍 Langwarrin | 🆓 Free entry to parklands

A unique outdoor art experience where kids can roam among giant sculptures, then warm up inside the gallery or grab a treat at the café. Free entry to the parklands.

Pt. Leo Estate Sculpture Park

📍 Merricks | 🎫 Ticketed, kids free

Seventy-plus large-scale works — including pieces by KAWS and Yayoi Kusama — spread across 16.5 acres of vineyard and coastal grounds on the Mornington Peninsula.

Bruno's Art & Sculpture Garden

📍 Marysville | 🎫 Ticketed

Hundreds of life-sized terracotta characters — goblins, goddesses, wizards and more — scattered through a lush rainforest garden near Steavenson Falls. Bruno makes everything on site.

MOVE – Museum of Vehicle Evolution

📍 Kialla | 🎫 Ticketed

Classic cars, motorbikes, trucks, buses, vintage bicycles, a costume collection and a small children's area in a contemporary, interactive space just south of Shepparton.

Best Indoor Play Spaces

Legoland Discovery Centre

📍 Chadstone Shopping Centre

A must-visit for LEGO lovers, with creative build zones, immersive rides, a 4D cinema and MINILAND showcasing iconic Melbourne landmarks in miniature.

Ark Play Cafe

📍 Epping

A calm, less crowded play cafe where kids explore through creative, purposeful play with premium felt toys while families enjoy nutritious food and quality time together.

Diggerland

📍 Braeside

A construction-themed indoor play zone for kids aged 6 months to 7 years, with 50+ tonnes of real sand, mini excavators, cranes, RC vehicles and a dedicated toddler zone.

SuperPark Melbourne

📍 Maribyrnong

A supersized indoor adventure park with 15+ activities including trampolines, ninja courses, pedal cars, and digital sports games.

Landing Playcentre

📍 Bundoora, Ravenhall, Altona North

Offers separate zones for babies, toddlers, and older children, with a focus on soft play and safety.

Eden Play

📍 Mill Park

A clean indoor play centre for children aged 3 and under, with thoughtfully designed play hubs and a café.

Dreamscape Melbourne

📍 The District Docklands

Thrilling game challenge rooms, a 7D visual rollercoaster and 3D movies aimed at families and teens looking for high-energy indoor fun.

Pixieland Kids Play Cafe

📍 M-City Shopping Centre

Combines a magical indoor play space with freshly made snacks, meals and barista coffee, so little ones can adventures in fairyland while grown-ups recharge in comfort.

Imaginationation

📍 Chadstone Shopping Centre

A design-led, architecturally built play centre for kids aged 6 months to 7 years, with immersive zones, a sensory room, CONNETIX builder area and a café serving Le Puree baby food and proper coffee.

We Rock the Spectrum

📍 Various locations

Inclusive indoor gym and play centre designed for all abilities with sensory-safe equipment like swings, crash mats, trampolines, and fine motor activities.

Rainbow Town Play Centre

📍 Glen Waverley

Offers bumper cars, trampoline park, interactive climbing walls, and enclosed toddler areas.

Funtopia

📍 Carrum Downs, Cranbourne

An indoor adventure playground with climbing walls, obstacle courses, and toddler play areas.

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