

CITY OF GREATER BENDIGO



Please note: Hosted buyers and media wishing to participate in the City of Greater Bendigo tour will arrive in Melbourne on Friday 17 February. Delegates will spend one night in a Melbourne hotel, and will be collected on Saturday 18 February to commence tour.



Arrival:	Melbourne, Friday 17 February, 2012
Tour Departure Date:	Saturday 18 February, 2012
Tour Departure Time:	08:00am
Tour Date:	Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 February, 2012
Tour Duration:	Two Days / One Night
Website:	www.bendigotourism.com

Bendigo is a grand and gracious city. It is a unique destination rich in culture, heritage and quality exhibition and meeting venues. The riches of the gold rush history and contemporary Bendigo come together magnificently, providing an inspiring backdrop for your next conference, business meeting or event.

Today, the Greater Bendigo population is over 100,000 people, living in Victoria's largest inland regional centre, it was the place of one of the world's most dramatic gold rushes. More gold was found here between 1850 and 1900 than anywhere else in the world. The city is literally built on gold, gathered from the rich gold-bearing quartz reefs. With a recent resurgence similar to golden times, Bendigo has many newly built or refurbished spaces that are ideal for conventions and events. It is a city with a myriad of exceptional venues to make your event effective and rewarding – leaving delegates with a lasting impression.

Adding to the appeal of Bendigo as a meeting or event destination is the opportunity for delegates to explore its many treasures. Whether it be the majestic Victorian architecture, artistic pursuits, sporting activities, the mining history, a visit to a world-class attraction or simply relaxing al fresco style at one of the many quality cafés, wineries or restaurants.

*Pre touring is available exclusively to hosted buyers at AIME 2012.

*Bookings can be made directly in the Hosted Buyers zone.

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DAY ONE ITINERARY

MORNING

- ❖ **Depart Melbourne** for Bendigo on board a local Bendigo coach operator.
- ❖ **Central Deborah Gold Mine** tour. Morning tea included.

Don a hardhat and miner's lamp and travel 61 metres underground to a real gold mine and explore the fascinating history of Australia's richest goldfield. See gold still in the tunnels of the mine, operate machinery and pan for gold. With only the light on your cap to light the path you will discover what conditions as a miner were really like during the harsh gold rush era. Afterwards, explore the surface of the mine with its treasure trove of vintage mining machinery, gold panning and interpretive museum. For a fantastic view of Bendigo don't forget to climb the mine's 22.5m poppet head.

Above ground tours will also be made available as an alternative to underground. Please note that closed footwear is required for the underground tour.

Web: www.central-deborah.com

LUNCH

- ❖ Enjoy lunch with the Lion Dancing Team in the Golden Dragon Museum

The world's longest imperial Chinese dragon "Sun Loong" is housed in the Golden Dragon Chinese Museum, along with a living history of the Chinese people that flocked to Bendigo during the 1850's Goldrush. The rich culture of these people will be brought to life through traditional performances from the lion dancing team.

A guided tour of the museum will be provided by a knowledgeable local, followed by the lion dancing team performance and lunch in the tranquil Yi Tuan Classical Chinese Gardens

Web: www.goldendragonmuseum.org

AFTERNOON

- ❖ Visit the **Kiln Some Time Bendigo Pottery**, Australia's oldest working pottery.

Enjoy a team building exercise that you can really throw yourself into. After exploring the history in the interpretive museum, enjoy watching potters working the clay. You will then have the opportunity to create your own masterpiece with a clay wheel throwing lesson. You can then elect to have your work fired, glazed and posted to you as a treasured memento of the trip. Afternoon tea included.

Web: www.bendigopottery.com.au

- ❖ Arrive at your accommodation to relax and refresh for the evening program

DINNER

- ❖ Pre Dinner Drinks at **Wine Bank on View**

Enjoy a glass of wine at Bendigo's thriving social hub operating from the former heritage listed bank building

Web: www.winebankonview.com

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- ❖ Dine aboard Bendigo's restaurant on wheels, **Ninesevensix** and travel the beautiful streets of Bendigo.

Bendigo ninesevensix is a refurbished 1952 Melbourne SW6 tram donated to Bendigo in 1996 for conversion to a restaurant tram, which was completed in 1998. For either years after its conversion, the tram ran dinner services under the name Café Tram, winning a number of prestigious awards for its service. Today, Bendigo ninesevensix offers diners the unique experience of enjoying top quality local produce and beverages while taking in moving views of Bendigo's beautiful streetscapes and heritage buildings.

Web: www.bendigoninesevensix.com.au

DAY TWO ITINERARY

MORNING

- ❖ Relax and enjoy the 19th century sculptures whilst being served a delicious breakfast at **The Bendigo Art Gallery**.

The unique sculpture annex space, along with other spaces in the gallery can be utilised for cocktail functions, dinners and breakout areas. The Bendigo Art Gallery is one of Australia's largest and oldest regional art galleries. The collections of this gallery include Australian Art from the 1850s to the present day, a special collection of art from the Bendigo goldfields and 19th century European paintings, sculptures and decorative arts. Most recently, the Gallery has been awarded a series of exclusive international exhibitions. These included The White Wedding Dress: 200 years of wedding fashions, Made in Hollywood: Photographs from the John Kobal Foundation, and Grace Kelly: Style Icon.

Web: www.bendigoartgallery.com.au

- ❖ Visit **Wycheproof Boomerangs** for an experience of Australian Indigenous Culture.

Wycheproof Boomerangs has been manufacturing and selling genuine boomerangs since 1973, and is a local family owned company. They offer workshops and lessons to groups of all ages and abilities, and there is a large collection of masterpieces on display and a viewing room to the production floor. Whycheproof Boomerangs has something for everyone.

Boomerangs are synonymous with Australian Indigenous culture, and you will have the opportunity to not only learn about the evolution of this icon but also experience the thrill of learning how to throw a returning boomerang. You will make your own take-home work of art on a wooden boomerang to remember your experience.

Web: www.boomerangsales.com

LUNCH

- ❖ Learn about the journey of winemaking, cidermaking and biodynamic farming at **Bress Winery**.

Set on a beautiful and idyllic 66 acre property and features a 25 acre vineyard that is planted to the noble grape varieties, Riesling, Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. What makes this winery unique is their diversity into cidermaking and growing fresh produce, all of which is farmed biodynamically.

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You will learn about the journey of winemaking, cidermaking and biodynamic farming. The Bress team will serve up a delicious lunch made from local product, most of which is grown in their very own kitchen garden.

Bress is James Halliday 2010 Wine Companion Five Star Rated Winery, so you know we'll be visiting the best!

Web: www.bress.com.au

AFTERNOON

- ❖ **Depart Bendigo** for return to **Melbourne**