



Lonsdale Cruises.



BELOW AND BOTTOM:
Wyanga Park.



Aerial view of Gipps Lakes.

Quick guide

RESTAURANTS

- Bamboo Paradise**
Traralgon (03) 5174 1288
- Beaches and Cream Restaurant**
Inverloch (03) 5674 3366
- Bis Cucina**
Sale (03) 5144 3388
- Charnwood Cafe**
Gippsland Lakes (03) 5155 2999
- Clancy's Of Lakes Entrance**
Gippsland Lakes (03) 5155 2933
- Explorer's Restaurant**
Traralgon (03) 5174 6322
- Ferryman's Seafood Cafe**
Gippsland Lakes (03) 5155 3000
- Fisherman's Wharf Pavilion**
Paynesville (03) 5156 0366
- Foster Golf Club**
Foster (03) 5682 2272
- Gippsland Food & Wine**
Yarragon (03) 5634 2451
- Lake Of China Chinese Restaurant**
Bairnsdale (03) 5152 5666
- Lantern Palace**
Bairnsdale (03) 5153 1311
- Mesley's Restaurant**
Omeo (03) 5159 1400
- Miriam's Restaurant**
Gippsland Lakes (03) 5155 3999
- Nibble & Natter**
Yarragon (03) 5634 2779
- Raglan Pizza Restaurant**
Sale (03) 5144 6866
- Reddcatt**
Sale (03) 5143 1911
- Royal Standard Hotel**
Toora (03) 5686 2475
- Russell's Restaurant**
Gippsland Lakes (03) 5155 1411
- The Tide Restaurant**
Mallacoota (03) 5158 0100

TAKE AWAY

- AJ's Pizza Restaurant**
Bairnsdale (03) 5152 4845
- Apron String**
Sale (03) 5143 1088
- Awesome Fish 'n' Chips**
Gippsland Lakes (03) 5155 3166
- Esplanade Seafoods**
Gippsland Lakes (03) 5155 2800
- Foster Street Pizza**
Sale (03) 5144 1919
- George's Hamburgers**
Bairnsdale (03) 5152 2613
- Mr Pizza**
Sale (03) 5144 4744
- Paynesville Seafoods**
Paynesville (03) 5156 6080
- Riviera Ice Cream Parlour**
Gippsland Lakes (03) 5155 2972
- Running Hot**
Paynesville (03) 5156 7722

- Shirley's Chicken Run**
Foster (03) 5682 1333
- Toora Chinese**
Toora (03) 5686 2491

TRANSPORT

- Avis Car Rental**
Sale 136 333
- Dyson's Bus Services Pty Ltd**
Bairnsdale (03) 5480 2139
- Goodall's Bus Service**
Bairnsdale (03) 5152 3484
- Omeo Bus Lines**
Omeo 0427 017 732

VISITOR CENTRES

- East Gippsland Tourism**
Lakes Entrance & Bairnsdale
1800 637 060
- Prom Country Information Centre**
Korumburra 1800 630 704
- Wellington Visitor Information Centre**
Sale 1800 677 520

Gourmet cruises

There's no better way to enjoy East Gippsland's beautiful waterways than sampling the delicious foods from the region.

what's hot

- Skyshow:** This not-to-be-missed New Year's Eve celebration is held on the Lakes Entrance Foreshore.
- Orbost Australian Wood Design Exhibition:** Held during December and January, this exhibition shows some of the country's finest woodwork. Orbost Exhibition Centre, Orbost.
- Paynesville Market:** Held every second Sunday of the month from 8.30am to 1pm at Gilsenan Reserve, Paynesville.
- Sun, Surf & Sand Festival:** Experience the best of the Bass Coast from December 26 to January 31. sunsurfsand.org.au
- Bruthen Blues and Arts Festival:** Come and see music and theatre take over Bruthen at the Blues and Arts Festival from February 15 to 18. bruthenblues.org

A few hours' drive east of Melbourne, East Gippsland's glimmering waterways aren't just a boating playground, they are increasingly a foodie's paradise. Skippers in and around Lakes Entrance are uniting with restaurateurs, winemakers and cheesemakers to offer tastings and meals both onboard and at the pier. There are three ways to combine food with cruising in East Gippsland – take a meandering tour across the water to your lunch or dinner destination; start your meal onboard with a wine tasting, and complete it at a restaurant on solid ground; or eat and drink your way through a couple of hours' nautical exploration.

LONSDALE CRUISES

Lonsdale Cruises' lunch cruise leaves at 12.30pm from Lakes Entrance and takes passengers through the lake system for about an hour before dropping anchor for lunch. Entrees range from prawn cocktail and calamari to bacon and scallop kebabs and Thai turkey balls. For mains, choose from beef and chicken, garlic prawns or fish. For dessert, sink your spoon into a banana, caramel and macadamia nut flan. All the produce used is locally sourced.

Once you're full and satisfied, the cruise continues for a little longer before returning at about 3pm. It costs \$50 per person and includes wine tasting as well as a complimentary glass of beer, wine or soft drink.

If you prefer to see the sun set, the dinner cruise (\$70 per person) is also available. Lonsdale also offers a mid-afternoon cruise (\$40 per person), which includes a cheese platter and wine tasting. For more information contact Tony Lonsdale on 0413 666 638.

WYANGA PARK WINERY

Luke the skipper uncorks a couple of bottles, usually a sweet and a dry white, as an appetiser for the meal awaiting his passengers at Henry's Restaurant during the Wyanga Park lunch cruise. Fish and chips, spaghetti and meatballs, salmon skewers, homemade beef pie, seafood chowder and minestrone soup are just some of the mains on offer for lunch. And for those with room left, chocolate fondue, bread and butter pudding, pinot raspberry trifle or hot chocolate crepes are on offer for dessert. Lunch is available as either a large main course, or a small main course and a dessert (this can be supplemented at an extra cost). Before lunch, wine buffs can get stuck into 10 varieties at Wyanga Park Winery – the tasting is also included in the package. Call Sarah Mahlook, daughter of winemaker Geoff Mahlook, on (03) 5155 1508 to arrange a couple of berths on the Wyanga Park lunch cruise (\$45 per person).

PEEL'S CRUISES

For a different experience again, Bernie Peel runs a two-hour round-trip cruise to the pub at Metung. The package includes a hearty two-course meal as well as the cruise. If you are keen to conduct your own wine and cheese tasting on the way, you're welcome to bring along your finds from the region – both of the Peel Cruises vessels are BYO. The *Thunderbird* is a 190-passenger catamaran catering for everything and can handle a huge 70km round-trip cruise. Peel's smaller craft, the *Stormbird*, makes the trip to Metung daily. The lunch cruise is a 30km hourly round trip. Packages cost just \$44 per person and can be organised by calling Bernie on 0409 946 292.

– Andrew Harris

PHOTOGRAPHS: OPERATORS AND THE EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE



Gipsy Point Lakeside

BOUTIQUE RESORT

Relax in your self-contained luxury apartment, enjoy the finest accommodation and comfort. Step outside your door and you are in a space where the native garden blends seamlessly with the natural landscape. Take a few steps and you are at the water's edge. Gipsy Point is surrounded by Croajingolong National Park, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, renowned for its unspoilt wilderness coastline, rainforest, wildflowers and wildlife. Easy walks, challenging hikes, lakeside picnic places, secluded pristine beaches and great fishing spots are all close by. Gipsy Point Lakeside's luxury apartments provide the only 5 star rated accommodation in Victoria's unique East Gippsland region and are located at the headwaters of Mallacoota Inlet.

Tel: 03 5158 8200
Gipsy Point, VIC 3891
Email: info@gipsy.com.au

www.gipsy.com.au



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