

The best natural wonders to find in Bendigo, Castlemaine and surrounds

Less than two hours from Melbourne, Victoria's beautiful goldfields region has stunning landscapes as well as a wealth of history, culture and great eats.

By Matthew Kennedy in association with Visit Victoria and Bendigo Regional Tourism Friday 5 May 2023



Northern Arts Hotel | Photograph: Carmen Zammit

STAY

Experience high art on the hilltop at Northern Arts Hotel

Castlemaine has long been celebrated for its commitment to the arts, and the Northern Arts Hotel is no exception. While rooms here are warm, charming and steeped in history, it's the atmosphere that made us fall in love with this hotel – owned and operated by Maggie Fooke, whose now-closed Brooklyn Arts Hotel was a Fitzroy institution. Arriving on a Saturday afternoon, we catch the tail end of a poetry reading & workshop (sorry for the interruption, guys!). After ducking out for dinner, we join the locals in the main room for some slow jazz and wine by the fire. It's great to see Maggie's dedication to the arts is as strong as ever with such a diverse roster of salons, screenings, talks & performances.