

Regional Travel Voucher Scheme launches tomorrow

The first of 120,000 travel vouchers, as part of the Victorian Government's \$28 million *Regional Tourism Voucher Scheme*, will be released tomorrow, Friday 11 December at 10am.

The vouchers will be rolled out in three tranches, as per the below dates:

Rounds	Vouchers	Registrations Open	Eligible Travel Period	Claim Period and Cut-off Date
Round 1	40,000	11 Dec 2020, 10am	12 Dec 2020 to 22 Jan 2021	4 Jan to 5 Feb 2021
Round 2	40,000	20 Jan 2021, 10am	27 Jan to 1 April 2021	11 March to 15 April 2021
Round 3	40,000 + unused vouchers from previous rounds	30 Mar 2021, 10am	6 April to 31 May 2021	10 May to 14 June 2021

The voucher scheme is open to Victorian residents aged 18 or over and is applicable when they spend a minimum \$400 on accommodation, experiences or tours in regional Victoria (including Mornington Peninsula and the Yarra Ranges region) in the above specified periods.

Vouchers will be limited to one per household and travellers will be required to spend at least two nights in paid accommodation in regional Victoria to qualify for the scheme. The program works on a 'first-come-first-served' basis and each round will close once all places have been filled for that particular round.

Below are some FAQs about the scheme:

What can Victorians claim with the voucher?

- **Paid accommodation**, which means serviced apartments, backpacker and hostels, bed and breakfasts, cabins or caravans in holiday parks, caravan and camping site fees, cottages, farm stays, private holiday rentals, houseboats, motels, hotels, resorts, retreats and lodges.
- **Paid tours and experiences**, which means tour operators that offer regularly organised tours with a leisure tourism focus. These may include a personal host and/or commentary. For example, a boat cruise, guided walk, bus tour,

air tour, agri-tourism, food and wine tour, sport tour, outdoor and adventure tour.

- **Entry fees to regional attractions**, which means places/areas of interest that offer a distinct visitor experience to the leisure tourist such as museums, water parks, local attractions, theme parks etc.

What cannot be claimed with the voucher?

- gaming
- alcohol (except if alcohol is included in wine/brewery/distillery tasting or tour but excludes any alcohol purchased and consumed outside of the experience)
- fuel
- food and drinks (except where packaged with an Eligible Expense such as a winery tour)
- groceries
- personal items such as clothing and accessories
- transport costs (rental vehicles, train and bus tickets).

Do tourism businesses need to collect the voucher?

No. The process lies entirely with the applicant.

If they are successful in the application, they will receive confirmation via email.

Once they complete their trip, they will need to lodge their claim and provide the receipts for the eligible expenses to receive the \$200 refund.

Will vouchers be applicable to existing bookings?

Yes, as far as the trip occurs during the specific period detailed in the table above.

Successful applicants will be able to opt in to receive content from Visit Victoria about the destination they are travelling to.