



SAINT PATRICK'S LUXURY BOUTIQUE HOTEL

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THE LOCATION Koroit is known for its Irish heritage, rolling hills and quaint main strip. The historic township is nestled at the foot of the extinct Tower Hill volcano, just off the Great Ocean Road and a short drive from Warrnambool and Port Fairy.

THE PLACE It's not often you get to relax in a spacious bathtub and crack open a bottle of red in a former nun's room. Such an opportunity can be had at Saint Patrick's Luxury Boutique Hotel, which is housed in a 107-year-

old convent made of Warrnambool sandstone. The five bedrooms are decked out with antique furniture, eclectic items from around the world and boast arched windows that look out onto picturesque countryside. Guests can enjoy the bar with complimentary sherry and port, a delicious cooked breakfast, the airy summerhouse and chapel.

THE EXPERIENCE Mickey Bourke's Koroit Hotel, named after a famous jockey, has been serving beers for more than 150 years and does a good pub meal. Tourists interested in exploring the town's architecture can stroll the heritage trail. For those wanting more action, Port Fairy and Warrnambool are a short drive away. If you're lucky and have 20-20 vision or binoculars,

you might even spot a whale from Warrnambool's Logan Beach lookout.

DON'T MISS The Koroit Irish Festival in April, where thousands of tourists treat their ears to Irish music and poetry, sip Guinness and take part in the spud-picking and peeling competition. Irish families who settled in Koroit after escaping the potato famine found the town's rich, volcanic soil ideal for growing the starchy vegetable. **HENRIETTA COOK**

NEED TO KNOW

COST: From \$200 a night, per room, including breakfast.

DISTANCE: 3 hours' drive (278 kilometres) west of Melbourne.

CHILDREN: No.