

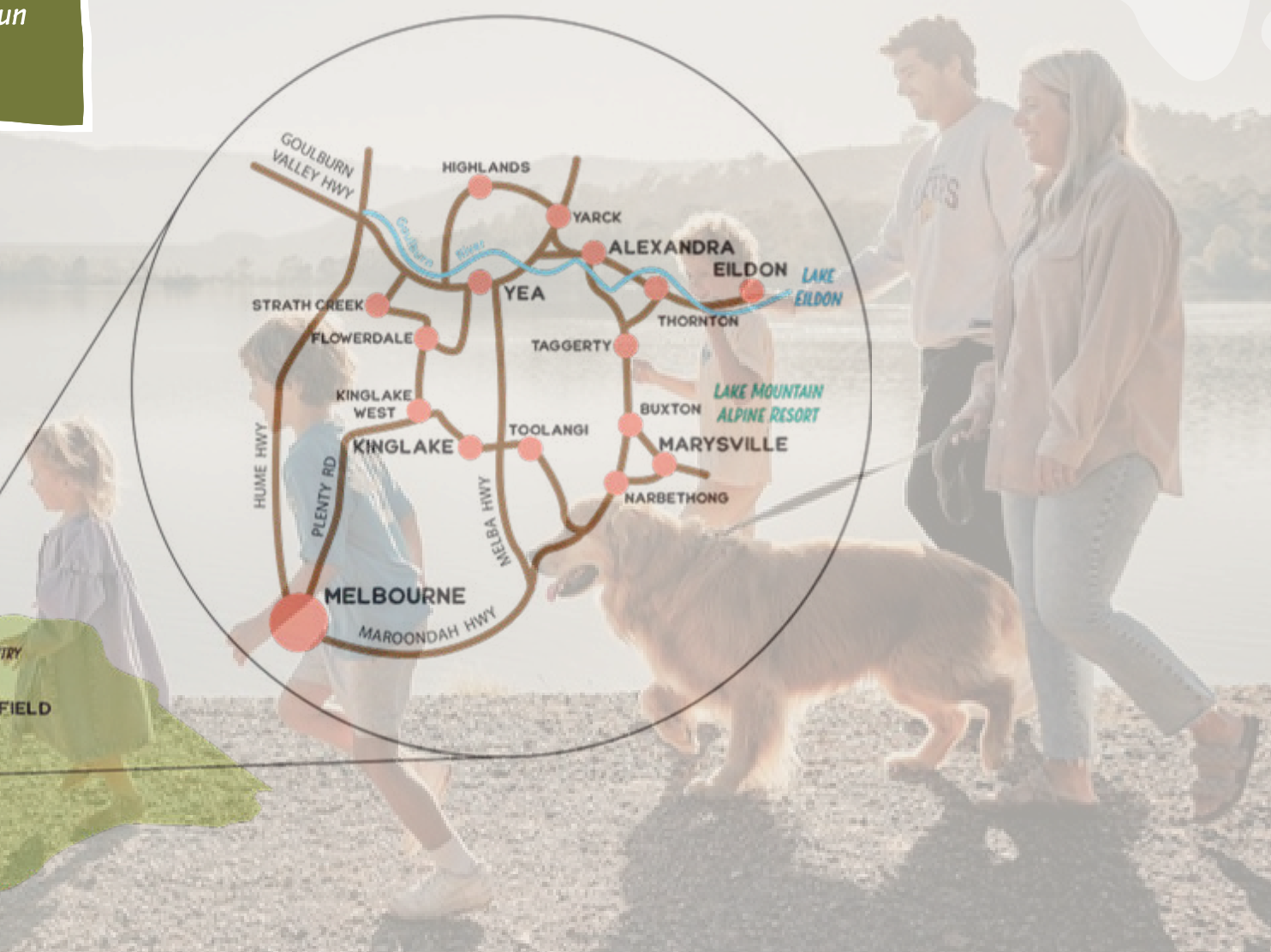


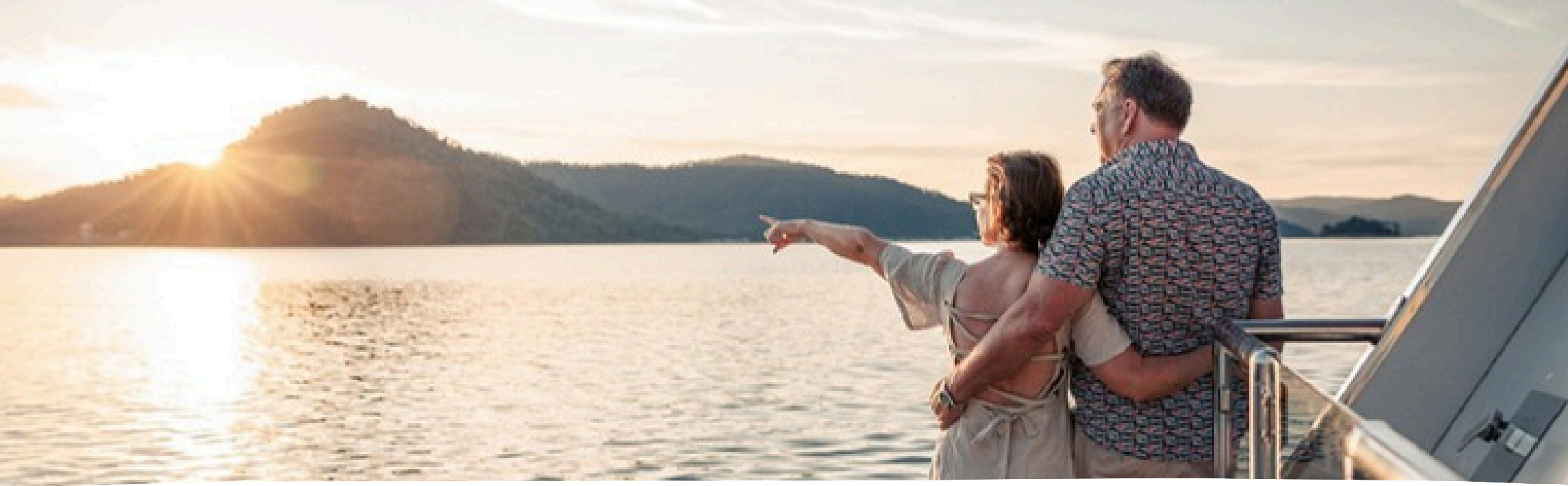
# DISCOVER DINDI

TAKE THE LONG WAY TO ALEXANDRA AND SURROUNDS

*3 Day/2 Night Self-Drive Dog-Friendly Itinerary*

*Take the long way in Murrindindi or 'Dindi' as the locals like to call it. After all the journey to get there can be just as much fun as the destination itself!*





**Looking for a place to escape and unwind? A place to slow down and connect with nature? Just a short 90-minute drive to the northeast of Melbourne you'll discover Alexandra and surrounds, in the Murrindindi region (or 'Dindi' as the locals call it).**

The gateway to Victoria's High Country, situated on Taungurung Country this is an area of stunning natural beauty - from the Goulburn River flats to the rugged peaks and cool temperate rainforests of the Great Dividing Range.

This is Melbourne's closest natural playground rich with national parks, state forests, Lake Eildon, Lake Mountain and the magnificent Goulburn River. So many incredible, awe-inspiring locations right on the city's doorstep.

Scattered throughout these spectacular hills and valleys are the charming towns and villages of [Alexandra](#), [Marysville](#), [Eildon](#), [Yea](#) and the [Kinglake Ranges](#).

If you like to go exploring and take your best mate too, there's plenty of [woof-worthy experiences](#) on offer. From dog-friendly trails to [eating and drinking](#) options and [places to stay](#), there's a myriad of pawsome adventures for you and your four-legged friends to enjoy.

We've put together this pooch friendly itinerary for you and your fur-family to enjoy. Base yourself in the historic township of Alexandra and take the time to slow down, reconnect with nature and explore this very special region

So pack the lead, sort the playlist and get ready to take the long way.....after all the journey to get there, can be just as much fun as the destination itself!



## Day 1: Melbourne → Marysville → Alexandra

### Waterfalls, forest air and your first taste of the High Country

Leave behind the fast pace and noise of the city and suburbs and head up the magnificent Black Spur, one of Victoria's best scenic drives, bordered by immense mountain ash trees and green ferns. Wind through lush rain forest, under towering trees and up and around the mountain's edge. This is a breathtaking drive and a most dramatic entrance point to the remarkable High Country region. It's the kind of drive where you naturally ease off the accelerator, wind the windows down, and breathe in the cool mountain air.



*Did you know?: This is Taungurung Country. Taungurung people are the first people of the rivers, valleys and mountains across Taungurung country. The Taungurung word for Murrindindi is 'Marramdurandi' meaning 'mountainous, misty place'.*





### **First Stop: Marysville**

Beautiful Marysville is a much-loved scenic village surrounded by temperate rainforest at the base of Lake Mountain. Fuel up with a coffee and delicious bakery treat from [Keppel Café](#). Before stretching your legs (both the two legged and four legged kind) with an easy, short stroll along the [Beauty Spot Nature Trail](#).

On the way out head up to Steavenson Falls, one of the region's most spectacular waterfalls. A short walk from the car park along a well-maintained, all-abilities path, brings you to the base viewing platform.

**Good to know:** Pooch will need to stay in the car for this one!

### **Scenic drive to Alexandra**

From here, it's an easy 30-minute drive along the Maroondah Highway through Taggerty and into Alexandra. Watch the landscape transition from dense forest to rolling farmland with the ancient escarpments of the [Cathedral Range State Park](#) providing a spectacular backdrop as you travel past vineyards, orchards and grazing properties.

### Afternoon wander

Leash up and head out for a stroll along the [Great Victorian Rail Trail](#). It's ideal for an afternoon wander or a longer walk if you're feeling energetic. Or take your time exploring Alexandra's historic Grant Street - pop into a shop, chat with a local, or simply wander without a plan.

### Beer o'clock

Head to [On Point Brewery](#), and settle in with a craft beer and wood-fired pizza - this is casual dining done right, with space for your dog and a relaxed local vibe.

### End of day

Chill time. You've traded traffic for tall trees, noise for birdsong, and busy schedules for 'High Country time'. And it's only just begun.



## Day 2: Alexandra → Eildon Loop

**Big skies, water views and the kind of day that unfolds naturally**

Today is about exploring, but not rushing. A loose plan, some outdoor gear, and plenty of room to follow your instincts.

### **Start slow**

Ease into the morning with coffee and breakfast at [Grant Street Grocer](#). This local favourite is all about good produce and relaxed vibes. Grab a table outside, order something delicious and settle in. Your pooch will thank you for not rushing this part.

### **Awesome views**

Saddle the troops and take the Goulburn Valley Highway out to Eildon (a lovely 20 minute drive). Heading out of Alexandra a must do is a quick stop off at the [Acheron Cutting Lookout](#) for that insta-worthy shot!

### **Hit the track**

If you're up for a walk, the [Rubicon Heritage and Dam Walk](#) is a great one to add to your list – turn off at Thornton. The track follows an old aqueduct through forest and across magnificent trestle bridges, offering a mix of history and nature. Walk as little or as much as you like - it's not about the distance, it's about being out there.

**Good to know:** Dogs are welcome but keep them on a lead as there's plenty of wildlife about.





### **Head for the water**

**Next stop:** iconic [Lake Eildon](#). Wide-open views, fresh air and plenty of space to spread out - it's the perfect place to slow things down. Find a quiet spot, throw down a picnic rug or take a wander along the [Eildon Pondage Walk](#). If you're travelling with kids the [Banh ba Djila Splash Park](#), which means Water and Play in Taungurung language, is a great spot to set up for the afternoon during the summer and the Eildon Swimming Pool right next door offers free entry. In the cooler months, the playground is still a great way for the kids to burn off some energy.

**Feeling hungry?** Check out the [Lake Eildon Hotel](#) for a relaxed lunch or early dinner overlooking the water. Think country pub classics, easy café fare and outdoor seating where your dog can join you. No need to rush - this is one of those 'stay a while' kind of stops.

### **Relax and recharge**

Head back to Alexandra for a chill country arvo. Whether it's a quick rest, a wander through the shops or just sitting back with a drink, this is your time to savour the slow. If you're keen to explore more, the [Alexandra Timber Tramway and Museum](#) is open on key weekends through the year

*Hot tip: Grant Street Grocer has a range of ready to heat, delicious take-home meals and a great selection of local wines and brews.*

### Dinner: your night, your way

Stay local or mix it up:

- Head out for a relaxed meal at the [Corner Hotel Alexandra](#) an award-winning historic country pub in the heart of town.
- Or pick up supplies and enjoy a casual night in

### End of day

Open that bottle of local wine, gather your crew and settle in. This is what High Country evenings are all about. No big agenda. No pressure. Just a really good day - shared with good company (and your furbaby, of course).





## Day 3: Alexandra → Yea → Melbourne

### **Ease into the morning**

Start slow - coffee in hand, pastry from a bakery, dog by your side.

Take one last stroll through town and soak up the atmosphere. There's something about that last morning walk - it makes you realise just how much you've settled into the rhythm here.

**Good to know:** Leckie Park and the Jack Shiel Gardens are a beautiful spot for seasonal foliage – particularly resplendent in the autumn months. If you're visiting on the first Sunday of the month the Grant Street Market offers a great range of craft stalls, pet supplies, plants, jewellery, and local wares.

### **Say g'day to Yea**

As you start your drive back home to Melbourne head out on the Goulburn Valley Highway to Yea, an easy 25 minutes down the road. Just before the township take the turn off to the Cheviot Tunnel for a quick detour. This historic landmark was constructed from an estimated 675,000 handmade bricks using local clay and is a key feature on the Great Victorian Rail Trail.

### **Feeling peckish?**

The Yea Country Club Hotel is a local favourite with a long-standing reputation for hearty meals and good old-fashioned hospitality. Dine in the outside garden area under the shade of beautiful old oak trees.

**Tasty tip:** Their range of homemade pies are amazing and they also offer frozen take-home packs!





### **Wetlands wonders**

Walk off that lunch with a gentle stroll through the [Yea Wetlands](#) – just a 2-minute walk from the pub! This is a lovely (pooch friendly) walk along graded paths and boardwalks featuring Taungurung artworks and the [Daabani Biik Butganani Yanath](#), a self guided immersive audio tour. Pop into the [Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre](#) to learn more about wetlands ecology and browse the gift shop to stock up on local goodies to take a little Dindi back home with you – (the Centre also stocks a range of beautiful [Dindi Naturals](#) products).

**Keep an eye out for:** The possums that live on the top of the swing bridge.

### **Heading home**

From Yea, it's an easy run back to Melbourne via Strath Creek - through rolling hills, quiet roads and wide-open views. At the centre of this tiny hamlet is [The General Strath Creek](#). Set within a restored barn this beautifully styled store has great eats and drinks and is a favourite meeting spot for locals, visitors and their furry friends. Pop in for a quick pick-me-up coffee or grab a traveller for the road, and some last-minute local treats to take back with you.

## Murchison Gap Lookout

Wind your way up the Murchison Gap and be sure to stop off at the lookout at the top. The view over the Valley of a Thousand Hills stretches out in every direction - rolling, expansive and utterly spectacular.

**Why not:** Take a moment here. No rushing, no distractions - just you, your travel companions, and that final Dindi view.

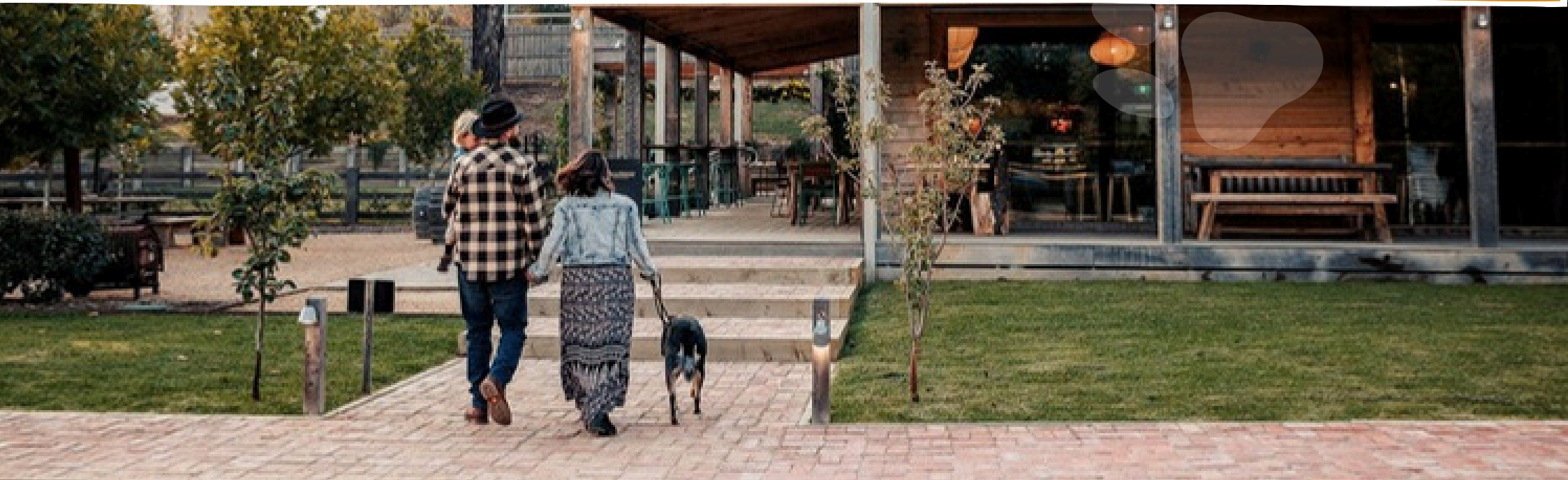
## The road home

10 minutes later you'll be back on the Hume Freeway at Broadford. From here, it's an easy one-hour drive back to Melbourne. But after the last few days, you might find yourself driving a little slower... stretching the trip out just that tiny bit longer.

## Good to know (before you go)

- Dogs are welcome across many walks, trails and outdoor dining spots but always check signage and keep them on a lead
- State forests are generally dog-friendly, making them perfect for exploring together
- Pack the essentials: water, bowl, snacks and doggy bags
- Weekends and school holidays can be popular so book ahead where you can
- Travel safe and remember to stay informed and be prepared. Download the VicEmergency app to keep across latest travel advice
- Check out the range of events and markets on throughout the year at [discoverdindi.com.au/whatson'](https://discoverdindi.com.au/whatson/)

Most importantly: leave room in your plans. Because the best parts of this region? They're often the ones you didn't plan!



*Why you'll love it*

*This trip isn't about ticking boxes. It's about slowing down, taking a different road, and making space for the moments in between.*

*The extra stop.*

*The longer lunch.*

*The walk that turns into something more.*

*In Alexandra and surrounds, travelling with your dog is part of what makes the experience feel complete.*

*Whether you're chasing waterfalls, sharing a long lunch or wandering along a quiet trail, this is a place where you, your family, friends and four-legged mates can explore side by side.*

*There's no need to rush here. In fact, the best way to experience it is to take your time, follow your nose(s) and see where the trail leads as you take the long way home.*

*Plan your Furry Friends escape at [discoverdindi.com.au](http://discoverdindi.com.au)*

