***Tourism Australia acknowledges the Traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Owners of the land, sea and waters of the Australian continent, and recognises their custodianship of culture and Country for over 65,000 years.***

**Great Ocean Road, Victoria**

***Discover Aboriginal Experiences is a collective of inspiring and transformational experiences***

***guided by Aboriginal peoples who share their country and bring the landscape to***

***life through their stories.***

[***www.discoveraboriginalexperiences.com***](http://www.discoveraboriginalexperiences.com)

***Great Walks of Australia offers superb and quintessentially Australian walking experiences that engage walkers in some of the world’s most spectacular terrain. These walks inspire travellers to explore Australia’s diverse landscape by foot, where guests reconnect with nature in small, intimate groups led by expert guides with a deep understanding and appreciation of the environment.***

[***www.greatwalksofaustralia.com.au***](http://www.greatwalksofaustralia.com.au)

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*As a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic, some experiences may not be operating for certain periods or running to altered schedules. Information is correct at time publication, however, please use this itinerary as a guide and check each businesses’ website for the most up-to-date information.*

**DAY 1 Great Ocean Road**

Depart Melbourne and make your way to Lorne.

Make a stop at **Torquay** and dive into surfing heritage at the [**Australian National Surfing Museum**](https://australiannationalsurfingmuseum.com.au/) before a burger and a beer at the [**Sou’West Brewery**](https://www.souwest.com.au/), located in the former Quicksilver Headquarters.

Continue on to Lorne and check into your hotel.

***Lorne*** is a popular getaway for Melbournians, fronting onto a wide-open beach, with a café and pub culture that is alive and kicking! Positioned between picturesque Loutit Bay and the Otway forests, Lorne is the ideal base for coastal or forest activities.

This afternoon, take a short drive to [**Erskine Falls**](https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/great-otway-national-park/attractions/lorne/things-to-do/erskine-falls).

*The* [***Otway Ranges***](https://visitotways.com/) *are infamous for their high rainfall - but on the plus side all that water means lush green fern gullies carved out by rivers and waterfalls. Erskine Falls is particularly popular among the waterfalls of the Otways, plunging (or trickling, depending on recent rainfall levels) down a 30-metre drop.*  
There's an easy walk to the first lookout or a more strenuous but rewarding climb down 230 steps to the second lookout, where you will see the waterfall in all its glory. The Erskine River Walk to Lorne continues off downstream from here if you are prepared for the 7.5km walk.

On the return to Lorne, if you are keen for a bit of adventure, stop off at the [**Lorne Live Wire Park**](http://www.livewirepark.com.au/about).

Visit Australia's most electrifying adventure park. Unplug, recharge, and set your senses alight with the beauty of the Great Ocean Road whilst zip lining, roller coasting, climbing, exploring and wandering through this world class adventure experience. Home to the Shockwave Zip Coaster, epic ropes courses and the treetop canopy circuit; experience nature supercharged.

This evening, head to the [**Ipsos Restaurant and Bar**](http://www.ipsosrestaurant.com.au/) for a refined, authentic take on Greek food.

**Overnight Mantra Lorne**

**DAY 2**

Take an early morning surf lesson with [**Go Ride a Wave**](http://www.gorideawave.com.au/)**.**

*Go Ride a Wave have been teaching people to surf since 1987. Their experience and large range of beginner equipment will make your surf lesson unforgettable. There is only one way to get started to learn to surf and that’s to get in the water. However, a few helpful tips, the right equipment, and heaps of encouragement from your highly qualified and experienced instructor will get you standing on your surfboard in no time.*

Enjoy brunch at [**The Bottle of Milk**](https://www.thebottleofmilk.com/) before returning to your hotel to freshen up and check out.

Depart Lorne and make your way to [**Teddy’s Lookout**](https://www.lornevictoria.com.au/teddys-lookout/), affording towering views of the Great Ocean Road, ranges, and ocean. The lookout is a short walk through the bush, where the viewing platform feels as if it is hanging in mid-air, way above the road, river mouth and ocean.

Stretch your legs at[**Sheoak Falls**](https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/great-otway-national-park/attractions/lorne/things-to-do/sheoak-falls). Take the short walk from the carpark to the falls, or head on up the trail for a longer walk to Swallow Cave.

Continue south to **Kennett River**. Don’t miss the [**Kennett River Koala Walk**](https://www.greatoceanroadaustralia.org/the-kennett-river-koala-walk/), one of the best places in Australia to see koalas in their natural environment.

Don’t miss a stop at the [**Apollo Bay Bakery**](https://www.apollobaybakery.com.au/), famed for its scallop pie.

Arrive at your accommodation at [**Cape Otway Lightstation**](http://www.lightstation.com/).

*Experience the tranquility of a world-class destination, with stunning views of the Southern Ocean and Australia’s most important lighthouse.*

Dinner is served at the lighthouse.

**Overnight Cape Otway Lightstation**

**DAY 3**

Depart Cape Otway and drive approximately half an hour to the [**Twelve Apostles Lodge Walk**](https://greatwalksofaustralia.com.au/our-walks/twelve-apostles-lodge-walk/) at Johanna for your 4-Day Walk.

**DAY ONE: Castle Cove to Johanna Beach**

**Distance: 7km**

**Walk Time: 3 hours**

**Difficulty: Easy**

Enjoy a lodge welcome and walk briefing over morning tea. Before a short drive out to Castle Cove to begin your walk, with a tasty hiker lunch tucked in your pack.

Today begins in the tea-trees with a few tantalising vistas out to the Southern Ocean. This will be your constant neighbour for the next four days. Enter a flawlessly groomed grass tree forest and hear tales dating back 104 million years at Dinosaur Cove. Bring those boots to a halt and consider a time when dinosaurs occupied your very location.

Next, drop down onto Johanna Beach. This is an opportunity to kick off the boots and walk barefoot, wind-swept waves just metres away. This two-kilometre stretch has a knack of clearing busy minds and washing away city stresses. Take your own pace across sands frequented by hooded plovers.

At the end of the beach awaits your cool water and lemonade greeting, a constant across all four days.

Return to Twelve Apostles Lodge for dinner.

**Overnight** **Twelve Apostles Lodge**

**DAY 4**

**DAY TWO: Milanesia Track to Moonlight Head**

**Distance: 14.5km**

**Walk Time: 6.5 hours**

**Difficulty: Moderate/Hard**

Drive 30 minutes this morning to the most challenging day on the trail. It comes with

great reward – the most visually spectacular and isolated sections of the Great Ocean Walk – known as ‘the wild side.’ Take a winding path that leads from Milanesia Track down through the forest to beautiful Milanesia Beach.

After a gentle beach stroll, turn upwards for a short, but steep climb that sets the tone for the trail ahead. The trail is dissected by gullies before a gradual climb, which delivers fabulous views back over Milanesia. Rough tree ferns and stands of remnant Eucalypts dot the path before an ascent of 138 steps. The trail continues in a westerly direction until a steady climb leads us out of the forest and into Ryans Den campsite.

From here, coastal views stretch to both Cape Volney and Cape Otway, an ideal place to

reflect on your journey so far. The walk from here rises and falls many times as it parallels the coastline before cutting along the ridge behind Cape Volney, providing breathtaking views to the west. A final seated lookout delivers a magnificent vantage point, just metres from the walk’s end.

Return to Twelve Apostles Lodge for dinner.

**Overnight Twelve Apostles Lodge**

**Day 5**

**DAY THREE: Moonlight Head to Princeton**

**Distance: 17km**

**Walk Time: 6.5 hours**

**Difficulty: Moderate**

It’s a 30-minute transfer to Moonlight Head. The first four and half kilometres gently meander through native stringybark forest providing a contrast to the coast, concluding with a rise to the Gables, one of mainland Australia’s highest cliff top lookouts. Tide dependent, you will descend onto Wreck Beach and continue through to a lovely lunch spot past Devil’s Kitchen overlooking the distant Apostles. Wilder days will give an insight into the cauldron-like ocean at this part of the coast. A high tide option combines coastal scrub with forest and walks through Devil’s Kitchen campsite.

Stunning coastal views to the west this afternoon provide the incentive to keep moving

forward. The topography and geology change from sandstone to limestone and its associated coastal flora. This afternoon is gentle walking that finishes at the Gellibrand River, nearby the sleepy hamlet of Princetown, a chance for a swim if weather permits (warmer months). We’ll then transfer you back to the lodge for a well-deserved dinner and relaxing final evening.

**Overnight Twelve Apostles Lodge**

**DAY 6**

**DAY FOUR: Princetown to the Twelve Apostles**

**Distance: 8km**

**Walk Time: 3 hours**

**Difficulty: Easy**

Enjoy your final morning at Twelve Apostles Walking Lodge. After another wholesome

breakfast, there’s a final pack up, check out and lodge farewell before a 45-minute drive back to Princetown. If you’re self-driving, we’ll help you relocate your car to the Twelve Apostles carpark before returning to Princetown to complete your final walk to the grand Apostles. These fabulous natural wonders emerge on slow reveal as the trail rises and falls along the coastline. There is a viewing lookout exclusively for walkers before our final stretch of trail into the Twelve Apostles Visitors Centre. You’ve made it! Now take to the skies with a thrilling Twelve Apostles Scenic Helicopter Flight for an unparalleled view of the coast. Ten minutes of leg resting, aerial wonder!

Move on to the nearby town of Port Campbell for lunch and an opportunity to change (including an optional shower).

*The Twelve Apostles Lodge Walk is a member of* [***Great Walks of Australia***](https://greatwalksofaustralia.com.au/)*.*

Check in at [Southern Ocean Villas](http://www.southernoceanvillas.com/).

This evening, grab a hearty dinner at the [**Port Campbell Hotel**](https://www.facebook.com/portcampbellhotel/).

**Overnight Southern Ocean Villas**

**DAY 7**

Today, you will see some of the Great Ocean Road’s finest scenery on the way to Port Fairy including **The Arch**, **The Grotto**, **The Bay of Islands** and **The Bay of Martyrs**. Stop along the way to take in the sites and some fabulous pics.

[**The Arch**](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/sites/the-arch-day-visitor-area)

Shaped by ferocious Southern Ocean swells, The Arch sits precariously atop a rock platform. Step out onto one of two viewing platforms to enjoy panoramas of the Twelve Apostles. Learn about the unique limestone formation; and how the waves continually shape and erode them.

[**The Grotto**](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/sites/the-grotto-day-visitor-area)

Located within the Port Campbell National Park, The Grotto is perhaps the most enchanting of all the rock formations. Part-blowhole, part archway, part-cave, it offers a peaceful place to enjoy the sea views and soak in the wonders of nature. Enjoy stunning coastal panoramas from the upper platform before descending to The Grotto.

[**Bay of Islands**](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/bay-of-islands-coastal-park)

Located within the Bay of Island Costal Park, stretching out across 32 kilometres along the coast of Victoria between Peterborough and Warrnambool, it offers astounding ocean views and a collection of fascinating geological features. Here, you can soak up a landscape that is packed full of sheer cliffs and unusual rock stacks, as well as sprawling heathland that is peppered with colourful wildflower displays.

[**Bay of Martyrs**](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/bay-of-islands-coastal-park)

Also located within the Bay of islands Costal Park, the Bay of Martyrs is a tourist hotspot. Which provides visitors with a stunning swathe of beach and several viewing areas. There’s a guided walk along the top of the cliffs, and you can spot the Falls of Halladale shipwreck which dates back to 1908. Limestone stacks are visible in the water which is said by some to be the guardians of the land of the lost Aboriginal souls who were murdered by European settlers.

Arrive at **Port Fairy** and check into [**Drift House**](http://www.drifthouse.com.au/)**.**

*Drift House**is a beautiful boutique accommodation located right in the heart of Port Fairy. This architecture is heritage with a modern opulent twist. The perfect place to finish your Great Ocean Road adventure.*

Enjoy an a la carte dinner at [**The Salon**](https://drifthouse.com.au/food/) at Drift House.

**Overnight Drift House**

**DAY 8**

After breakfast at The Drift House, drive to the [**Tower Hill Nature Reserve**](https://towerhill.org.au/)**.**

Enjoy an [**Indigenous Culture and Nature Tour**](https://towerhill.org.au/discover-our-tours/#nature_tour) with **Worn Gundidj @ Tower Hill.**

A two-hour interactive tour conducted by local guides provides an exclusive opportunity to explore the natural habitat of some of Australia’s most iconic animals. Gain an understanding of traditional Aboriginal lifestyles such as identifying native plants for food and medicinal purposes and learn how to throw a boomerang.

*Worn Gundidj**is a member of* [***Discover Aboriginal Experiences***](http://www.discoveraboriginalexperiences.com/)***.***

Return to Port Fairy and enjoy a lunch at [**Bank St & Co**](http://bankstandco.com.au/).

This afternoon, visit the [**Port Fairy Museum and Archives Centre**](https://portfairyaustralia.com.au/explore/experiences/history-heritage/port-fairy-museum-and-archives-centre/'), before a leisurely walk around town, stopping to appreciate Port Fairy’s many historic buildings, cottages and gardens.

Tonight, enjoy a casual dinner at[**Coffin Sallys**](http://coffin-sally.squarespace.com/)**.**

**Overnight Drift House**

**DAY 9**

Enjoy breakfast at the Drift House before returning to Melbourne via the inland route, passing through Colac.