DriveNow

Helping travellers since 2003 find the best deals on campervan and car rental

COUNTRY ROAD TRIP · 7 DAYS ONE WAY

7 days Sydney down to Melbourne

Take a 7-day tour between Australia's two largest cities and explore country New South Wales and Victoria and the nation's capital, Canberra.

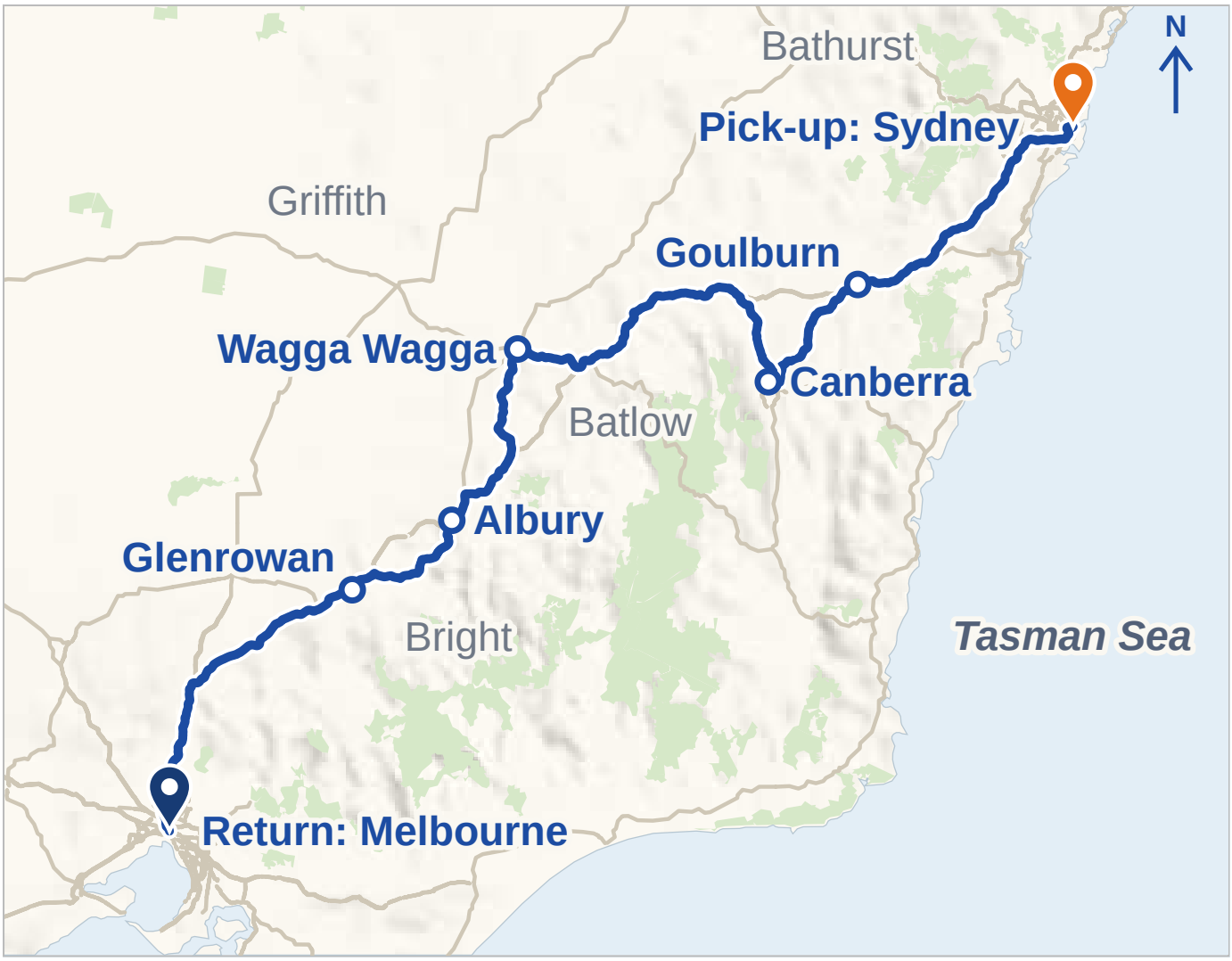
DISTANCE	DAYS	ROUTE	DRIVING TIME
About 1,000 km	7 days, 6 drives	One way, Sydney to Melbourne	About 15 h 30 min by campervan

LONGEST DRIVE	VEHICLE
245 km, Canberra to Wagga Wagga	Campervan

This trip crosses the Country of the Gadigal, Gundungurra, Ngunnawal, Wiradjuri, Yorta Yorta, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and other First Nations peoples. Traditional Custodians



Beechworth, day 6 · Illustrative image



Planning overview, not navigation. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors · coastline Natural Earth · relief Terrain Tiles (Geoscience Australia, SRTM).

BEFORE YOU BOOK

Hiring a campervan for this trip

One way to Melbourne
Most brands charge a one-way fee and set a minimum hire. The fee is in the total we quote: compare totals, not daily rates. More on one-way fees.

Your route
All rental vendors in Australia have restrictions on where their vehicles can be taken, so discuss your planned route with the rental company when you pick up. Get the rental company's permission before taking the vehicle somewhere it restricts. If you take it there without permission, you may lose your excess reduction and be fully responsible for any damage. You may also have to pay for towing and recovery, and for damage to other people's property. See road restrictions and when you are fully responsible.

Picking up in Sydney

More on campervan hire in Sydney: the brands with Sydney branches, and how pick-up works.

Bring every driver's full licence and a card in the main driver's name (documents for pick-up), and if your rental company offers online check-in, do it beforehand to save time at the branch. Our guide to picking up your campervan also covers the vehicle inspection and van demo. Check your branch's address and hours in our list of Sydney branches.

PICK-UP DAY IN SYDNEY

DAY 1

Sydney

PICK-UP

Pick up your campervan or car in Sydney. If you're travelling in a hired camper, allow plenty of time at the branch so the rental company can show you how it works before you leave.

If this is a first visit to Australia's first city, make sure to take in all the famous locations including the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House. The Sydney Harbour is the best place to view all of these stunning attractions in one go! For the adventurous the Sydney Bridge climb is a must do, book ahead though. For a more leisurely view, take the ferry to Manly from Circular Quay and sip a latte on the waterfront.

Stay BIG4 Sydney Lakeside Holiday Park, North Narrabeen

DRIVE

195 km from Sydney | **about 2 h 50 min** by campervan

Via **Hume Motorway**

DAY 2

Sydney to Goulburn

Depart this morning and take the M31 to Sydney Road in Towrang. Take the exit for Goulburn.

When you visit Goulburn, you simply must see The Big Merino. It is a statue that is 15.2 metres high, 18 metres long and weighing 100 tonnes, making it the 'World's Biggest Merino'. It was built in 1985 as a tribute to Goulburn's wool industry and the 200-year history of wool in Australia, and makes for a pretty great photo.

Another highlight of the town is the Rocky Hill War Memorial and Museum. It showcases the interesting history of Goulburn's war past, as well as some breathtaking views of Goulburn from the top of the memorial. Goulburn has a strong war history that is a must to explore for any history buffs out there. The museum is closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays outside school holidays, so plan your visit for another day.

Stay South Goulburn Caravan Park

DRIVE

100 km from Goulburn | **about 1 h 30 min** by campervan | Via **Federal Highway**

DAY 3

Goulburn to Canberra

Take the Remembrance Highway to Watson. From there, take the A23 to Canberra.

Canberra is home to Australia's Parliament House, so explore some of Australia's political history and you might even spot the Prime Minister! Take a guided tour through the Senate and House of Representatives, and see Australia's democracy in action. View important historical documents along the way, as you see how politics in Australia formed and how it has changed throughout the years.

The Australian War Memorial is another one not-to-miss in Canberra. The Shrine is dedicated to remembering Australians who have died in war. With a world-class museum attached, you can see Australia's involvement in wars internationally. Australia's involvement in wars is essential to development of the Australian culture today, and is an important learning curve in events of the past.

Stay Alivio Tourist Park Canberra

DRIVE

245 km from Canberra | **about 4 h** by campervan | Via **Hume Highway**

DAY 4

Canberra to Wagga Wagga

Depart this morning and take the A25 to Yass. Get on the M31 and follow to the A20 in Tarcutta. Continue along the A20 until you reach Wagga Wagga.

Visit the National Art Glass Gallery for an afternoon of examining contemporary glass art in a reflective pool of natural light. With two levels, the gallery showcases some of Australia's most talented glass artists. The modern designs and clever use of glass will impress even the most sceptical art critic.

For an afternoon picnic, explore the Wagga Wagga Botanic Gardens. The gardens are full of attractions from a mini-zoo, to a Chinese garden and a miniature railway. It's a relaxing place to soak up the sun in the greenery, or discover the local animals that live here. The miniature railway runs on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Stay BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Wagga Wagga

DRIVE

140 km from Wagga Wagga | **about 2 h 20 min** by campervan

Via **Hume Highway**

DAY 5

Wagga Wagga to Albury-Wodonga

Depart this morning and take the Wagga Wagga – Holbrook Road, through to Brownrigg Street, Coach Street, the A41 and the M31 to Albury.

Albury-Wodonga is two towns divided between the Murray River, with Albury being in New South Wales and Wodonga in Victoria. However, these two towns are very closely linked, and if visiting one, you tend to visit the other.

See the Hume Dam and witness one of Australia's largest dams in action. The dam provides water to the River Murray system, which is vitally important for Australia's agricultural and environmental systems. Lake Hume is also the perfect place to try out some water sports such as jet skiing and kayaking, as it is such a large body of water.

Stay BIG4 Albury Tourist Park

DRIVE

96 km from Albury | **about 1 h 40 min** by campervan

Via **Beechworth-Wodonga Road**

DAY 6

Albury to Glenrowan via Beechworth

Depart this morning and take the C315 to Beechworth.

Take a tour of the Beechworth Gaol, and see where Australia's most infamous criminal, Ned Kelly, was imprisoned. Ned Kelly and his gang were some of the most notorious criminals held here, and are a vital part of Australia's criminal history. The Gaol is very haunting, and the history is not for the faint hearted, but a fascinating insight into criminals of the past.

Follow the C315 and turn right onto the B500. Merge onto the M31 and take the exit for Glenrowan.

To continue with the theme of Ned Kelly, Glenrowan was the town where Ned Kelly and members of his gang were finally captured, after two years of being outlaws in Victoria. The Heritage Site has been preserved in order to keep the details of the past. Maps of the siege walk are available from the Ned Kelly Discovery Hub, so you can walk around and discover the history and crimes of the Kelly Gang for yourself.

Stay Glenrowan Tourist Park

DRIVE

225 km from Glenrowan | **about 3 h 30 min** by campervan

Via **Hume Freeway**

DAY 7

Glenrowan to Melbourne

RETURN

Depart this morning and take the M31 to West Melbourne. Follow through to the M2 and then take the Dynon Road exit. Follow until you reach Melbourne.

Visit the Melbourne Cricket Ground, one of Melbourne's grandest and proudest attractions. Hosting events from Australian Rules football, cricket, concerts and the Olympics, the MCG has a proud history of great sporting and cultural moments. Experience the stadium from a player's perspective, and visit the rooms from where they would prepare and watch the sport, and a chance to walk on the grounds. Tours don't run on event days, so check the MCG's calendar before you go.

Melbourne is also the cultural capital of Australia, so go and see a play at the Melbourne Theatre Company, or one of the many musicals in our theatre district. Likewise, there are many galleries and museums to keep everyone entertained, including the National Gallery of Victoria and the Melbourne Museum.

Returning in Melbourne

Continue exploring more of the area or return your campervan. Allow time for the return inspection. Return it by the time on your booking. Rental companies charge for late returns. Fill up near your branch on the way. If you have an early flight, returning the van the day before can take the pressure off (returning the van).

Plan to reach the branch 30 minutes to an hour before it closes (drop-off times), and if you're running late on the day, call the branch (late returns). More in our guide to returning your campervan and our list of Melbourne branches.

Enjoy the drive, from the harbour city to Melbourne.

Traditional Custodians

Sydney: Gadigal of the Eora Nation (City of Sydney (https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/guides/organising-welcome-to-country))

Goulburn: Gundungurra and Ngunnawal people (Goulburn Mulwaree Welcome Kit (https://www.rdasna.org.au/s/Welcome_Kit_Goulburn-Mulwaree.pdf))

Canberra: Ngunnawal people, and other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region (ACT Government (https://www.act.gov.au/community/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples/indigenous-protocols-in-the-act))

Wagga Wagga: Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri people (Wagga Wagga City Council (https://wagga.nsw.gov.au/services/support-services/aboriginal-services))

Albury: Wiradjuri people (AlburyCity (https://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/community/support/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-communities))

Beechworth: Dhudhuroa-Waywurru, Bangerang, Yaitmathang, Dhudhuroa Dargal and Yorta Yorta people (Australian Government heritage listing (https://www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/heritage/places/national/beechworth-administrative-precinct))

Glenrowan: Yorta Yorta, Taungurung and Bpangerang people (Wangaratta electoral structure review, Local Government Victoria (https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/205362/Wangaratta-Rural-City-Council-electoral-structure-review-Final-report-September-2023.pdf))

Melbourne: Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong / Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin (City of Melbourne (https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-melbourne))

Country boundaries are approximate, and some are shared or contested. These names follow local councils and park managers. The AIATSIS map of Indigenous Australia (https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia) shows the wider picture.

Pay your respects to the Traditional Custodians of the land on which you are travelling, and to their Elders past, present and emerging. The Australian environment is fragile, so tread lightly: take only photos and leave only footprints.

DriveNow Disclaimer

DriveNow receives no money or commission for any holiday park, campground, hotel, restaurant, cafe, pub, tour or attraction named on this page. We include them because they suit a campervan trip, and we check them from time to time.

DriveNow's suggested itineraries help you plan your own trip. Distances and times are from mapped routes and are a guide only; campervan driving times are car times plus about 20%. Road conditions, closures, opening hours and prices change, so check them before you travel. Any reliance on this itinerary is at your own discretion.

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