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ROAD TRIP · 10 DAYS FROM ADELAIDE AND BACK

Loop South-East South Australia in 10 days

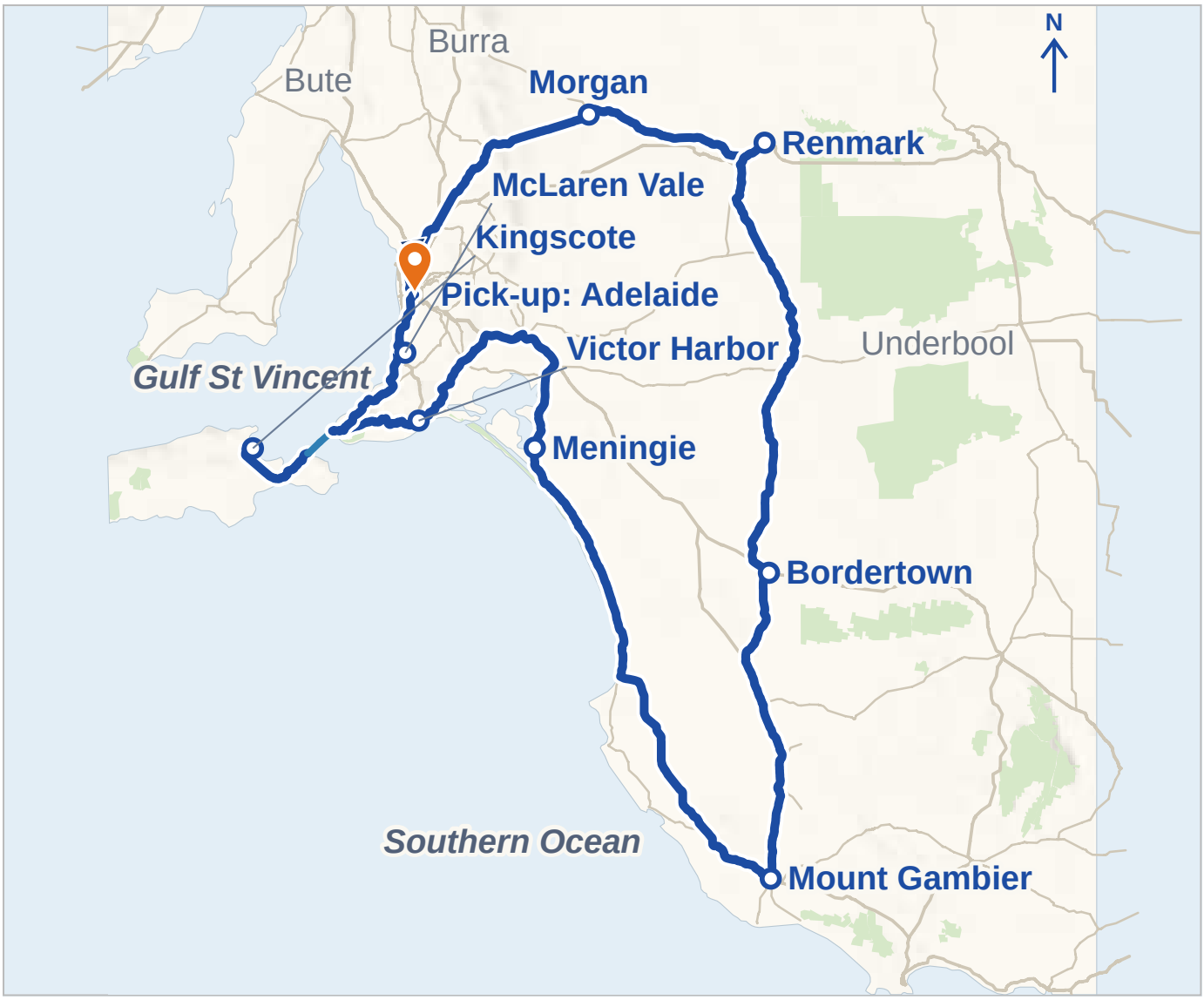
Head out from Adelaide and explore the south-east of South Australia on this 10 day journey through wineries, down the Victorian border and along the south coast to Kangaroo Island.

DISTANCE **About 1,510 km**	DAYS **10 days, 9 drives**	ROUTE **Round trip from Adelaide**	DRIVING TIME **About 24 h by campervan**
LONGEST DRIVE **300 km, Mount Gambier to Meningie**	VEHICLE **Campervan**		

This trip crosses the Country of the Kaurna, Boandik, Ngarrindjeri, Ngarkat and other First Nations peoples. Traditional Custodians



The Coorong, day 6 · Illustrative image



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

> Special caution and planning should be taken when travelling in remote areas to ensure sufficient provisions, fuel and prescribed medicines are carried. Weather conditions can make sealed roads impassable particularly during the northern Wet season.

BEFORE YOU BOOK

Hiring a campervan for this trip

Kangaroo Island

Not every brand lets its vans on the island. Apollo, Britz, Maui, Maui Elite, Mighty and Mighty Lite 2WD vans need permission at pick-up and must keep to sealed roads. Let's Go allows it. JUCY's and Star RV's help pages allow it, on sealed roads and campground access roads. Awesome Campers needs notice before pick-up and charges a $50 island travel fee, and its Sun Chaser can't go.

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

Campervan Village doesn't allow it. Spaceships' terms don't mention it, so ask first. Planning Kangaroo Island? Choose the brand with that in mind (Kangaroo Island).

and recovery, and for damage to other people's property. See road restrictions and when you are fully responsible.

Picking up in Adelaide

Most Adelaide branches hand over vans until about 3pm, and fewer are open at weekends. Apollo, Britz, Maui, Maui Elite, Mighty and Mighty Lite ask you to arrive by 3pm, and their branch closes on Sundays from May to August: pick up on the Saturday or Monday instead (pick-up times and late flights). If your flight lands after early afternoon, it's often easier to stay the night and collect next morning. More on campervan hire in Adelaide: branches, hours and each brand's rules.

Allow plenty of time at the branch for the paperwork, the vehicle inspection and the van demonstration, and bring every driver's licence. See what to expect when you pick up your campervan: choosing a pick-up time, the inspection and demonstration, the documents to bring and online check-in, and the Adelaide branches. Flying in? See airport pick-ups and what to do about late pick-ups.

PICK-UP DAY IN ADELAIDE

DAY 1

Adelaide

PICK-UP

Pick up your car or campervan in Adelaide today. If you are renting a campervan, allow plenty of time at the depot so the rental company can show you how it works before you leave.

Adelaide is the capital city of South Australia, and is particularly well known for its world-class wines and cultural events. Visit the Art Gallery of South Australia and see their collection of roughly 38,000 works, dating as far back as ancient Rome until the present day.

If you're a sporting fan, take a tour of Adelaide Oval. The tour will take you around the stadium, as well as the museum, which highlights cricket sporting legend Donald Bradman's career. If you are a little more adventurous, you can take a tour to climb the roof of the stadium and see Adelaide from new heights.

Stay Adelaide Caravan Park

DRIVE

170 km from Adelaide | **about 2 h 30 min** by campervan

Via **Thiele Highway**

DAY 2

Adelaide to Morgan

Depart this morning and follow the National Highway A1, National Highway M20 and National Highway A20 to Eudunda Road. From here, take the B81 to Railway Terrace in Morgan.

Morgan is a town set against the Murray River, so be sure to check out the Riverfront Reserve. Here you can walk along the famous Murray and enjoy its serenity, whilst also discovering some of the history of the town and visiting the wharf.

Check out the Morgan River and Rail History Museum to learn about Morgan when it was a crucial port in the early days of river trading. The museum is housed in one of the old railway buildings along the riverfront and captures the essence of the old days. Check its opening times before you go.

Stay Morgan Riverside Caravan Park

DRIVE

115 km from Morgan | **about 1 h 40 min** by campervan

Via **Goyder Highway**

DAY 3

Morgan to Renmark

Depart this morning and follow the Goyder Highway and National Highway A20 to Renmark.

Visit Ruston's Roses for afternoon tea and enjoy the romantic scenery provided by more than 50,000 rose bushes in over 4,000 varieties, making it one of the largest collections in the world. The farm utilises the dry climate of the South Australian Riverland, and they have managed to maintain the distinctive scent of the roses, as opposed to growing them indoors. Also check out the accompanying car museum, where they have an eclectic range of vintage and historic racing cars. The roses are in season from about October to June; check opening times before you go.

Stay Discovery Parks – Renmark Riverfront (formerly BIG4 Renmark Riverfront Holiday Park)

DRIVE

280 km from Renmark | **about 4 h 30 min** by campervan

Via **Browns Well Highway**

DAY 4

Renmark to Bordertown

Depart this morning and head south on the Browns Well Highway to Pinnaroo. Turn left onto Bordertown Pinnaroo Road and then follow the National Highway A8 to Bordertown.

Visit Bob Hawke's Family Home and learn about Labor's longest serving Prime Minister. Bob Hawke was born in Bordertown, and is their most famous past resident. The home, Hawke House on Farquhar Street, has been restored and now takes overnight guests; the memorabilia, including family photos, is in the Bob Hawke Gallery at the Tatiara Civic Centre, and serves as an interesting insight into how the man grew up. Check the gallery's opening times before you go.

Stay Bordertown Caravan Park

DRIVE

185 km from Bordertown | **about 2 h 50 min** by campervan

Via **Riddoch Highway**

DAY 5

Bordertown to Mount Gambier

Depart this morning and head south along the Bordertown–Naracoorte road to the Riddoch Highway. Follow the Riddoch Highway to the Jubilee Highway in Mount Gambier.

Visit the Umpherston Sinkhole, also known as the sunken gardens. View the gardens from the top of the platform, and then walk down into the sinkhole to see the vibrant green gardens for yourself. It feels like you are in a fairyland. The infamous colony of possums appears at dusk, and they love being fed fresh fruit as well.

Also, don't forget to visit the Blue Lake, one of Mount Gambier's most popular attractions. The lake is on one of the extinct volcanic craters of Mount Gambier, and is a vibrant cobalt blue between December through to March, and a darker steel grey throughout the rest of the year. The Blue Lake has a walking trail, which is roughly 3.6 km long and takes you around to each of the viewing platforms around the lake. You can also discover more of the craters, tunnels and valleys of the area.

Stay Mount Gambier Central Caravan Park

DRIVE

300 km from Mount Gambier | **about 4 h 30 min** by campervan

Via **Princes Highway**

DAY 6

Mount Gambier to Meningie

LONGEST DRIVE

Depart this morning and follow the Princes Highway to Meningie.

Check out the Meningie Cheese Factory Museum. The museum opened on the centenary of Federation and showcases the history of cheese making in Meningie, as well as other industries that have made an impact on the town, such as fishing. The accompanying restaurant is themed in the past, and is the perfect way to unwind after the day. Check opening times before you go.

Stay Lake Albert Caravan Park

DRIVE

170 km from Meningie | **about 2 h 50 min** by campervan

Via **Princes Highway**

DAY 7

Meningie to Victor Harbor

Depart this morning and take the Princes Highway, National Highway A1, National Highway M1, Callington Road and B37 to Victor Harbor.

Take a ride on the Victor Harbor Horse Drawn Tram to reach Granite Island. The tram is horse-drawn along the causeway over the ocean. It receives over 100,000 visitors annually and is the only experience of its kind in Australia.

Once at Granite Island, you must see the Little Penguins. The tours commence at dusk when the penguins come in. This is the best way to see the penguins up close in their natural habitat. The colony is small, so sightings vary; book ahead. While waiting for the penguins to come in, enjoy exploring the rest of the island. As it is a recreation park, there are plenty of trails and bushwalks to keep you entertained and informed.

Stay NRMA Victor Harbor Beachfront Holiday Park (formerly Victor Harbour Beachfront Holiday Park)

DRIVE

120 km from Victor Harbor | **about 2 h** by campervan

Via **the SeaLink ferry from Cape Jervis**

DAY 8

Victor Harbor to Kangaroo Island

Depart this morning and follow the B37 and B23 to Kangaroo Island Sealink in Cape Jervis. From here, you will have to book tickets to take the ferry over to Kangaroo Island. For campervan bookings, see their website.

On the island, visit the Flinders Chase National Park. The park features natural rock formations such as the Remarkable Rocks and the Admirals Arch, which provide truly breathtaking views. Don't forget to see the colony of long nosed fur seals in their natural habitat at Cape du Couedic.

Check out the Raptor Domain that houses some of Kangaroo Island's birds of prey. The centre is used to educate and protect birds of prey that are endangered or have been injured and are unable to return to the wild. They put on shows to educate visitors about the birds and other animals found in Australia, including venomous spiders and dangerous reptiles.

Book ahead:
Book the SeaLink ferry for your campervan before you go, and check that your rental company lets its vans on the island (see Kangaroo Island above).

The crossing	SeaLink ferry, Cape Jervis to Penneshaw, about 45 minutes. Campervans and motorhomes up to 5.9 m long and under 2.3 m high can be booked online; for a longer or taller van, call SeaLink on 13 13 01. When you book a hire vehicle, tick "This is a hire car", then call SeaLink with its make and model once you've collected it.
A full day	The ferry, Flinders Chase (about 100 km west of Kingscote) and the Raptor Domain make a long day. To take it slower, spend a second night on the island and add a day to your hire.
Stay	Kingscote Tourist Park & Family Units

DRIVE

135 km from Kingscote | **about 2 h 20 min** by campervan

Via **the SeaLink ferry to Cape Jervis**

DAY 9

Kangaroo Island to McLaren Vale

Depart this morning and take the ferry back to the mainland. Follow the B23 to Maslin Beach until you reach McLaren Vale.

The crossing SeaLink ferry, Penneshaw to Cape Jervis, about 45 minutes.

In McLaren Vale, it is paramount that you visit one of the many wineries that the area is famous for. d'Arenberg Wines is a winery that has been running for just over one hundred years, producing over 60 wines from 25 different grape varieties. The restaurant overlooks the rolling hills of McLaren Vale, providing the perfect arena to try locally produced food matched with the wines. You can also book in for a wine tasting at the cellar door.

Stay McLaren Vale Cabin Caravan Park (formerly McLaren Vale Lakeside Caravan Park)

DRIVE

40 km from McLaren Vale | **about 50 min** by campervan

Via **Southern Expressway**

DAY 10

McLaren Vale to Adelaide

RETURN

Depart this morning and follow the A13 and M2 to Adelaide. You have now completed your 10-day campervan tour of Adelaide. Continue your journey or return your campervan to the depot. Allow time for the return inspection. Return it by the time on your booking. Rental companies charge for late returns.

Returning in Adelaide

Drop-off times are often earlier than people expect, so check yours. Fill up near your branch before you return the van, with the fuel type your rental company specifies (returning the van). If you have an early flight, returning the van the day before can take the pressure off.

Plan your last day around your branch's drop-off time. See returning your campervan: choosing a drop-off time, late returns and early returns, and the Adelaide branches.

Enjoy the trip.

Traditional Custodians

Adelaide: Kaurna People of the Adelaide Plains (City of Adelaide (https://www.cityofadelaide.com.au/about-adelaide/our-city/reconciliation/))
Mount Gambier (Berrin): Boandik Peoples (City of Mount Gambier (https://www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au/))
The Coorong and Meningie: Ngarrindjeri and Ngarkat peoples (Coorong District Council, Annual Report 2024/25 (https://www.coorong.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0030/1905582/2024-25-Annual-Report-adopted-18-November-2025.pdf))

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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