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GOLF ROAD TRIP · 9 DAYS FROM MELBOURNE

Campervan Golfing Road Trip Victoria, Australia

By Shelley Richardson

Victoria might be Australia's smallest mainland state, but it's not short on golf — the trick is picking a region and committing to it rather than trying to cover the whole state in one trip. This itinerary sticks to Gippsland and the High Country and gives you five genuinely different courses over nine days, with a proper scenic drive between each one. Most days are either a golf day or a driving day, so you're never rushing a round to reach the next town.

Take in the sights along the way, eat well at the regional restaurants that make these towns worth visiting in their own right, and enjoy the hospitality of the country clubhouses. As they say around these parts — golf is life.

DISTANCE	DAYS	ROUTE	DRIVING TIME
About 945 km	9 days, 6 drives	Loop from Melbourne	About 16 h 30 min by campervan

LONGEST DRIVE	VEHICLE	BEST TIME
280 km, Melbourne to Bairnsdale	Campervan	Late spring to early autumn

This trip crosses the Country of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, Bunurong, Gunaikurnai, Taungurung, Dhudhuroa and other First Nations peoples. Traditional Custodians



Outing from a base

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

> Green fees below are current as at **November 2026** but golf clubs adjust pricing regularly — always check the club's website or call ahead, and book well in advance over long weekends.

BEFORE YOU BOOK

Hiring a campervan for this trip

Snow season

This loop crosses Mount Hotham, so it's a late spring to early autumn trip: plan it for about November to April. Apollo, Britz, Maui and Mighty ban their 2WD vans from all ski access roads from 1 June to 30 September, and Let's Go keeps its vans below the snow line from 1 May to 31 October. Planning it between May and October? Ask us before you book, and we'll check the route with the rental company. More on alpine resort roads in snow season.

Heating

Nights inland and in the High Country are cold for much of the year, so a van with heating in the living area is worth having. More on heating and cooling.

Your route

All rental vendors in Australia have restrictions on where their vehicles can be taken, so discuss your planned route with the rental

Where you stay

We book vans, not campsites. You can book holiday parks and campgrounds directly, or find

company when you pick up. A 2WD van suits the sealed highways on this loop. See road restrictions.

them with an app. More on camping and overnight stays in Victoria.

Picking up in Melbourne

Several branches are in Tullamarine, 5–7 km from Melbourne Airport, and Apollo, Britz, Maui, Maui Elite, Mighty and Mighty Lite share one branch at Somerton, about 18 km away (Melbourne branches). Most branches hand over vans until about 3pm. Day 1 is the longest drive of the trip, so book the earliest pick-up you can, or pick up the afternoon before and stay near the branch so you can leave first thing (pick-up times and late flights).

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.

DAYS 1–3

Days 1–3: Bairnsdale & Lakes Entrance

DRIVE

280 km from Melbourne | **about 4 h 30 min** by campervan | Via **Princes Highway**

DAY 1

Melbourne to Bairnsdale

PICK-UP LONGEST DRIVE

Morning

Collect your campervan in Melbourne and head east along the Princes Freeway and Princes Highway into Gippsland.

Evening

Stay

NRMA Bairnsdale Riverside Holiday Park (https://www.nrmaparksandresorts.com.au/bairnsdale/), 2 Main Street, on the Mitchell River near the town centre and about 15 minutes' drive by campervan from Bairnsdale Golf Club. Reception closes at 7pm from October to March (6pm from April to September); arriving later, let the park know and they'll send you key collection details.

DRIVE

64 km from Bairnsdale | **about 1 h 10 min** by campervan

Via **Princes Highway**

DAY 2

Bairnsdale Golf Club, then on to Lakes Entrance · Eagle Point



Morning

Bairnsdale Golf Club (https://www.bairnsdalegolf.com.au/): nestled between Eagle Point Bay and Lake King with lovely views over the hinterland mountains, this mostly flat, scenic course is a local favourite — so don't try to play on a Saturday, and Sunday can be tricky too. Lakes Entrance isn't far, so you have the option of swapping the courses around and saving Bairnsdale for a Monday: the club is about a 50-minute drive by campervan from Waters Edge. Also a terrific spot for wildlife sightings.

Green fees $57 (18 holes), $41 (9 holes) for visitors, effective 1 July 2026 (East Gippsland residents pay $52 and $36). Contact the pro shop for cart hire.

Afternoon

Drive on to Lakes Entrance, about an hour by campervan, for the first of two nights.

Stay Waters Edge Holiday Park (https://www.big4.com.au/caravan-parks/vic/gippsland/waters-edge-holiday-park), on the Esplanade in Lakes Entrance itself, about a 50-minute drive by campervan to Bairnsdale Golf Club. Stay two nights and use it as your base for Lakes Entrance and Paynesville.

LAKES ENTRANCE GOLF CLUB IS IN TOWN One outing from Lakes Entrance

DAY 3

Lakes Entrance Golf Club, then Paynesville

2 NIGHTS · TOP 100 PUBLIC-ACCESS



Morning

Lakes Entrance Golf Club (http://www.lakesentrancegolf.com/): a fairly easy course (if there is such a thing) to start you off — if it's windy, you won't agree with that assessment. But the wildlife, natural beauty and surrounding scenery are the full package, and it's ranked in the top 100 public-access courses in Australia: No. 88 in Golf Australia magazine's 2025 Top-100 Public Access ranking.

Green fees	$50 (18 holes), $40 seniors; motorised carts available, ask the pro shop for the price.
Stay	Same base at Waters Edge — it's right in Lakes Entrance, so this is your closest course of the whole trip.

Afternoon and evening: Paynesville

After your round, head over to Paynesville for the afternoon. Lovely walks around the Paynesville foreshore, docks and esplanade — a perfect foil to 18 holes. The Paynesville Hotel on the esplanade is a good spot for a drink while you explore the town.

Eat

All worth the drive over to Paynesville for dinner:

- the Paynesville Motor Cruiser Club (https://paynesvillecruiserclub.com.au/)'s restaurant, with water views (book ahead)
- pizza and pasta at Three Double8 Zero Pizza Bar & Grill on the Esplanade (dine-in on Friday and Saturday evenings)
- seasonal local produce at Pier 70 (https://www.pier70.com.au/) on the waterfront (book ahead and check opening days)

DAYS 4–6

Days 4–6: Tambo Valley & Bright

DRIVE

115 km from Lakes Entrance | **about 2 h 10 min** by campervan | Via **Great Alpine Road**

DAY 4

Lakes Entrance to Tambo Valley Golf Club · near Swifts Creek

☆ CAMP AT THE COURSE



Morning

The drive itself, between the coast and the highlands, is the whole point of this leg. Take it slow.

Book ahead:
Camping at the course is first in, first served, and it fills up for the March and October tournaments. Contact the club secretary before you leave Lakes Entrance, and pick up supplies for your evening meal before you go, since Swifts Creek is genuinely remote.

Afternoon

Tambo Valley Golf Club (https://www.tambovalleygc.com/): this little 9-hole gem — locals call it "Little Augusta" — is country golf at its very best. Set among towering pines with Junction Creek running through it, it's entirely volunteer-run and an honest hidden gem of Victoria's high country. The extra-special feature at Tambo Valley is camping right at the course itself. Arrive in time for an afternoon round of the 9 holes.

Green fees About $20 for all-day play, no carts (it's a walking course; push buggies are free). Contact the club to confirm before you arrive, as this one's run entirely by volunteers and pricing/booking is informal.

Evening

Stay
At the course — about $25 per person per day with golf included ($10 for a non-golfing partner), paid before you set up. Travelling with a dog? Check with the club first.

DRIVE

130 km from Tambo Valley | **about 2 h 30 min** by campervan | Via **Great Alpine Road**

DAY 5

Tambo Valley to Bright, over Mount Hotham

OVER MOUNT HOTHAM

Morning

Follow the Great Alpine Road through Omeo and over Mount Hotham, then down through Harrietville to Bright.

Season Drive this leg from late spring to early autumn (about November to April). In the declared snow season, every vehicle going to Mount Hotham must carry chains, and Apollo, Britz, Maui and Mighty ban their 2WD vans from all ski access roads from 1 June to 30 September. For a May to October trip, ask us before you book: we'll check whether your brand allows the Great Alpine Road, and which way round to go.

Evening

Stay

BIG4 Tasman Holiday Parks – Bright (https://tasmanholidayparks.com/au/bright/), 1 Mountbatten Avenue (recently rebranded, same great riverfront spot). There are a few good holiday parks in Bright, but we still rate this one for its Ovens River location. Stay two nights.

Eat

Three of the best places to eat in the region:

- Elm Dining (https://elmdining.com.au/) for fine dining (note — it closes over winter, about May to October, so check before you plan around it)
- The Riverdeck Kitchen for breakfast and lunch with river views
- Bright Brewery for pub food, its own beers and regular events

A GOLF DAY IN BRIGHT

DAY 6

Bright Country Golf Club

2 NIGHTS



All day

Bright Country Golf Club (https://www.brightgolf.org.au/): a sophisticated country classic — a Goldilocks course, not too easy, not too hard. Allowing for drought, these will be some of the best greens and fairways you'll see on a country course. Bright is one of the jewels in the high country crown — enjoy the town, the restaurants and the golf in equal measure.

Green fees

About $50 (18 holes), $30 (9 holes); carts for hire, ask the pro shop for the price.

DAYS 7–9

Days 7–9: Mansfield & home

DRIVE

180 km from Bright | **about 2 h 50 min** by campervan

Via **Great Alpine Road**

DAY 7

Bright to Mansfield

All day

Head back down the Great Alpine Road and across through Benalla to Mansfield.

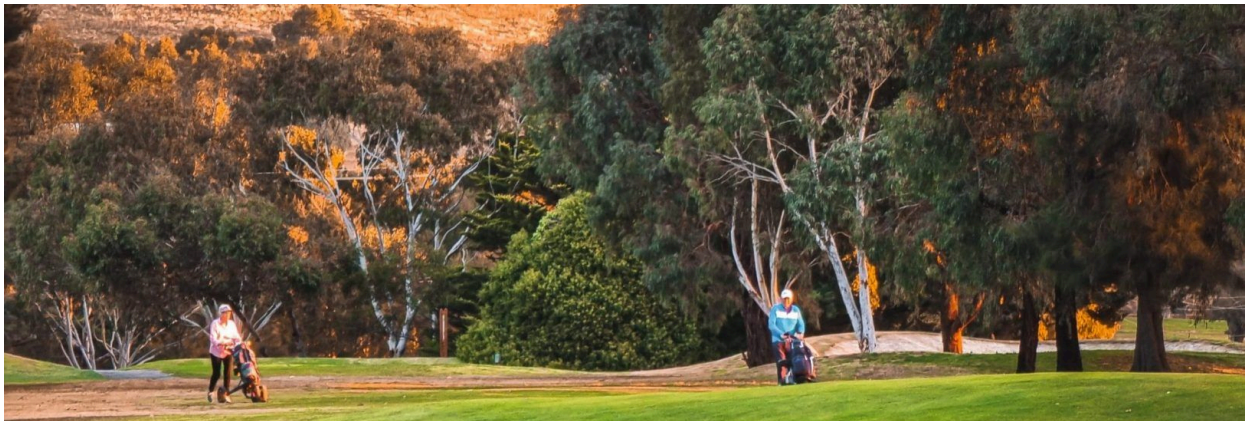
Stay — High Country Holiday Park (https://highcountryholidaypark.com.au/), for two nights — not as scenic as some Mansfield options, but it's a few minutes' walk to the shops, and about a 30-minute walk to the course if you fancy stretching your legs after a few days behind the wheel.

A GOLF DAY IN MANSFIELD

DAY 8

Mansfield Golf Club

2 NIGHTS



All day

Mansfield Golf Club (https://mansfieldgolfclub.com.au/): after a few years in the doldrums, Mansfield has pulled up its socks and now offers a genuinely fine alpine golfing experience. The clubhouse is a touch fancier than the other two high country courses on this trip, so enjoy the offerings — the on-site dining and function space is now known as The Ranges, with views over the course to the Victorian Alps.

Green fees	About $62 (18 holes), $42 (9 holes); motorised cart about $60 (18 holes).
Eat	The Ranges, right at the course.

DRIVE

175 km from Mansfield | **about 3 h 15 min** by campervan

Via **Maroondah Highway**

DAY 9

Mansfield to Melbourne

RETURN

Returning in Melbourne

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

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.

So many courses, so little time — don't waste any, get planning.

About this itinerary

WRITTEN BY

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Shelley has been working in the travel industry for over 30 years, in aviation, for tour operators and since 2016 for DriveNow. Having travelled extensively worldwide, alone, as a couple and with her family, Shelley has experience to share about how to make the most of your holiday, especially road-trips to amazing destinations.

Traditional Custodians

Melbourne: Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong / Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin (City of Melbourne (https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-melbourne))
Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance and Swifts Creek: Gunaikurnai (Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council (https://www.aboriginalheritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/gunaikurnai-land-and-waters-aboriginal-corporation))
Bright and the Alpine Shire: Dhudhuroa, Gunaikurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang (Alpine Shire Council (https://hdp-au-prod-app-asc-engagealpine-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/2216/9923/1754/20200591_Alpine_LDS_Strategy_-_Draft_for_Endorsement_231106.pdf))
Mansfield: Taungurung (Mansfield Shire Council (https://www.mansfield.vic.gov.au/council/our-shire))

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.

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