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COASTAL ROAD TRIP · 7 DAYS FROM MELBOURNE AND BACK

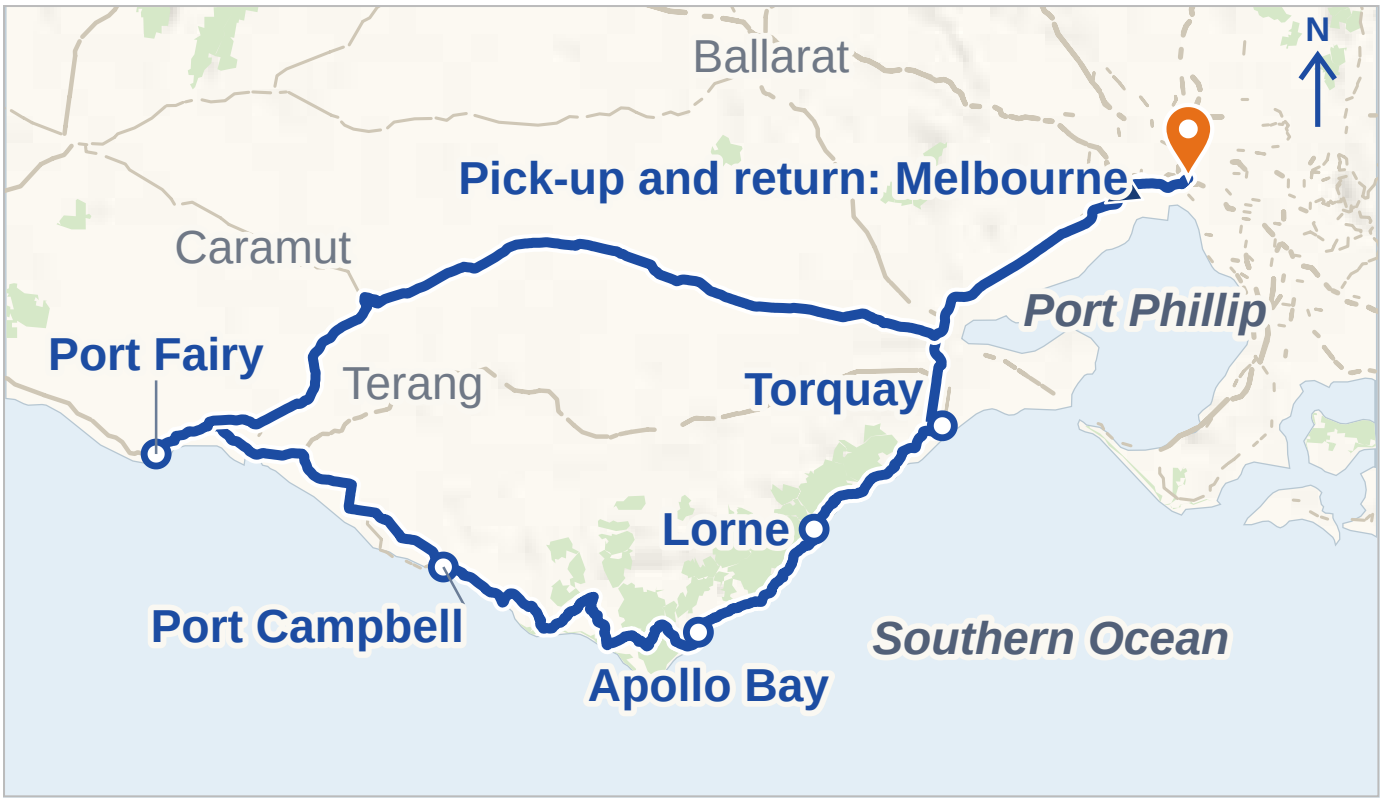
7 Days along Victoria's Great Ocean Road

Carved out of Victoria's southern coast, the Great Ocean Road was built by returned servicemen after the First World War. It is one of the world's most iconic ocean drives, with breathtaking views capped off by the ever-photogenic Twelve Apostles just outside Port Campbell.

DISTANCE	DAYS	ROUTE	DRIVING TIME
About 670 km	7 days, 6 drives	Round trip from Melbourne	About 12 h by campervan

LONGEST DRIVE	VEHICLE
290 km, Port Fairy to Melbourne	Campervan

This trip crosses the Country of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, Bunurong, Wadawurrung, Eastern Maar and other First Nations peoples. Traditional Custodians



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

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 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, so if your flight lands after early afternoon, it's often easier to stay the night and collect next morning (pick-up times and late flights). More on campervan hire in Melbourne: branches, hours and each brand's rules.

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.

PICK-UP DAY IN MELBOURNE

DAY 1

Melbourne

PICK-UP

Pick up your campervan in Melbourne today. Allow plenty of time at the branch so the rental company can show you how your campervan works before you leave.

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.

For those looking for a view, head up to Melbourne Skydeck on level 88 of the Eureka Tower in Southbank, across the river from Flinders Street station, for one of Australia's highest viewing decks.

Melbourne is also known as the "cultural capital" of Australia, so be sure to go and see a musical or play at one of the theatres. The Regent Theatre and the Melbourne Theatre Company always have something for everyone, whether it is a comedy or drama.

Stay BIG4 Melbourne Holiday Park

DRIVE

100 km from Melbourne | **about 1 h 40 min** by campervan |

Via **Princes Freeway**

DAY 2

Melbourne to Torquay

Depart this morning and take the M1. Take the B130 and exit onto the B100. Follow the B100 until you reach Torquay.

Torquay is the start of the Great Ocean Road, and one of the best places in Victoria for beaches and surfing. Bells Beach is home to the world's longest-running surfing competition, the Rip Curl Pro, held during Easter.

Try surfing the same waves professionals do and enjoy the large swells from the Southern Ocean. If surfing is not to your liking, the beach is framed by high cliffs so you can go sightseeing from up above. There are also bushwalking trails to explore more of the local lands.

Stay Torquay Foreshore Caravan Park

DRIVE

47 km from Torquay | **about 1 h** by campervan | Via **Great Ocean Road**

DAY 3

Torquay to Lorne

Depart this morning and take the B100 on the Great Ocean Road to Lorne.

Take a picnic and spend the afternoon at Cumberland Falls. The picnic benches are found at the mouth of the Cumberland River. Hike to the waterfall itself using the trails provided. This walk can be quite difficult, and a return trip is about 6 km. The views are well worth the walk in the fairy-like rainforest and away from civilisation.

Check first:
Past Jebbs Pool the track crosses the river several times and is slippery when wet. Don't attempt the crossings when the river is high; the walk to Jebbs Pool is the easy part.

Stay Lorne Foreshore Caravan Park

DRIVE

45 km from Lorne | **about 1 h** by campervan | Via **Great Ocean Road**

DAY 4

Lorne to Apollo Bay

Depart this morning and follow the Great Ocean Road until you reach Apollo Bay.

Check out the Cape Otway Lightstation, the oldest surviving lighthouse on mainland Australia. Built in 1848, it guided ships between Bass Strait and the Southern Ocean for well over a century, saving countless lives. Check its opening days and times before you go.

On the drive into the Lightstation be sure to keep an eye out on the roadside trees home to plenty of Koalas — this stretch is one of the best spots in Victoria to see them in the wild. Wildlife is common on roads throughout the Otways, so slow down and stay alert, especially at dusk.

The entire park is full of other activities as well, transporting you back in time. See the Radar Station, which was used as a secret base during World War II or the Telegraph Station, which was used during the 1800's to communicate with Melbourne and Tasmania.

The Otway Fly Treetop Adventures allows you to experience nature from up high in the canopy of the trees. Climb 30 metres high and walk where only the birds can fly. The walkway is one of the longest and highest in the world, and can be challenging for those afraid of heights! The Zipline Eco-Tour is for those who thrive being up high. The tour lets you zip through the treetops of the Otway Ranges, flying across the forest floor to each station. Not for the faint-hearted, but once in a lifetime experience.

Stay Apollo Bay Holiday Park

DRIVE

97 km from Apollo Bay | **about 1 h 50 min** by campervan |

Via **Great Ocean Road**

DAY 5

Apollo Bay to Port Campbell

Depart this morning and follow the Great Ocean Road until you reach Port Campbell.

One of the most popular natural attractions along the Great Ocean Road is the Twelve Apostles, found in Port Campbell National Park. These structures are made out of limestone and have eroded from the mainland to produce rock islands up to 45 metres tall. Some have collapsed into the sea over the years, leaving the few isolated apostles still looking stunningly beautiful.

Visit the Keerray Woorroong Visitor Centre, designed with the Eastern Maar, to learn of the history of the Twelve Apostles and the surrounding land. The centre also offers a cultural history, important knowledge to any trip.

Book ahead:
Bookings are essential for the Twelve Apostles lookout and visitor centre, so book a time at twelveapostles.org.au (https://www.twelveapostles.org.au) before you go. Without one, you may have to wait at the gate if the car park is full.

Stay NRMA Port Campbell Holiday Park

DRIVE

89 km from Port Campbell | **about 1 h 40 min** by campervan |

Via **Great Ocean Road**

DAY 6

Port Campbell to Port Fairy

Depart this morning and follow the Great Ocean Road to Curdievale-Port Campbell Road. Continue along until you reach Nullawarre. Take the A1 to Port Fairy.

Visit Griffiths Island and, from late September to April, see the Shearwater birds fly back to their nests at dusk after a day of being at sea fishing. The island has a lot of walking trails that wind around the island, so that you can see everything it has to offer. Trek out to the lighthouse on the most eastern tip of the island, and see how it sustainably uses solar power to efficiently work.

Stay BIG4 Port Fairy Holiday Park

DRIVE

290 km from Port Fairy | **about 4 h 45 min** by campervan

Via **Hamilton Highway**

DAY 7

Port Fairy to Melbourne

RETURN

Depart this morning and take the A1 to Rosebrook. Follow the B120, B140 and the M1 back to Melbourne.

Returning in Melbourne

Returning the van takes a little time, because the rental company inspects it, and rental companies charge for late returns, so it's worth arriving well before the time on your booking. 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, and the views.

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))

Torquay and Lorne: Wadawurrung People, and the Gulidjan and Gadubanud Peoples of the Eastern Maar (Surf Coast Shire (https://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Community/First-Nations-Reconciliation/Councils-Statement-of-Commitment-to-Reconciliation))

Apollo Bay: Gulidjan and Gadubanud peoples of the Eastern Maar Nation (Colac Otway Shire (https://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/document-resources/public-documents/annual-reports/2024-25-annual-report.pdf))

Port Campbell and the Twelve Apostles: Eastern Maar peoples (Visit Great Ocean Road (https://visitgreatoceanroad.org.au/things-to-do/twelve-apostles-visitor-centre/))

Port Fairy: Eastern Maar and Gunditjmara peoples (Moyne Shire Council (https://www.moyne.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/documents/your-council/documents-plans-reports/plans/final-moyne-shire-council-plan-2025-2029.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

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