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FOOD AND WINE ROAD TRIP · 7 DAYS ONE WAY

A Foodies Journey from Melbourne to Adelaide

Take a trip to Adelaide along the Great Ocean Road and forget the normal itinerary visiting the 12 Apostles and Bells Beach. Instead, eat your way from Melbourne to Adelaide. There are many foodie delights to explore along the way. Our thanks to Cassandra – a recent Melbourne Campervanner.

DISTANCE	DAYS	ROUTE	DRIVING TIME
About 1,345 km	7 days, 7 drives	One way, Melbourne to Adelaide	About 23 h 30 min by campervan

LONGEST DRIVE	VEHICLE
355 km, Naracoorte to Victor Harbor	Campervan

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



Barossa Valley, 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 Adelaide

Melbourne to Adelaide one-way fees: Apollo, Britz, Maui and Mighty charge $200, with a 7-day minimum, for pick-ups from 1 Apr 2026 to 31 Mar 2027. Let's Go charges $149. Spaceships has no one-way fee, but charges a $200 remote location fee when you drop off in Adelaide. This trip is 7 days, so it meets the 7-day minimum. 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 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.

Day 1 ends in Lorne, so pick up early in the day if you can (suitable pick-up times). 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.

DRIVE

145 km from Melbourne | **about 3 h** by campervan | Via **Princes Freeway**

DAY 1

Melbourne to Lorne

PICK-UP

Morning

At the start of the day, collect your hire campervan from Melbourne and head off down the freeway towards Geelong. After stopping off to take in the sights around Geelong's Eastern Beach, why not head to the Little Creatures Brewery, where brewery tours run on selected days and are booked ahead. Afterwards, enjoy a great bite at the Creatures Canteen next to the brewery. Check opening times before you go.

Afternoon

Continue towards the Great Ocean Road, stopping in for a bit of surf outlet shopping in Torquay before making your way to Anglesea for afternoon tea.

Evening

Continue on from Anglesea to Lorne, where you overnight. A must-visit in Lorne is the Lorne Hotel Bistro. Enjoy a delicious meal with a glass of wine while overlooking the beach. No better view in town.

Stay Lorne Foreshore Caravan Park

DRIVE

205 km from Lorne | **about 4 h 15 min** by campervan

Via **Great Ocean Road**

DAY 2

Lorne to Port Campbell

Morning

Head 20 minutes out of Lorne to the picturesque town of Pennyroyal.

On the way

From Pennyroyal you have a few different options of where to stop for lunch. Make your way back to the Great Ocean Road via the town of Forrest, where another surprise awaits. The small town of Forrest is home to Forrest Brewing Company, which is a perfect stop for lunch if you can fit it in. Alternatively, from Pennyroyal you can travel to the small town of Barongarook (via Colac) and stop in at the gorgeous Otway Estate. At Otway Estate you can sample handcrafted beers, spirits and ciders, with pizzas and cheese and produce platters. This is a perfect place to sit back and relax while taking in the beautiful surrounds. Opening days change with the seasons, so check opening times before you go. If you prefer to stick to the Great Ocean Road itself, you can make your way from Pennyroyal to Apollo Bay to enjoy a good old-fashioned pub meal at the Apollo Bay Hotel.

Route The map and the distance above follow the drive via Forrest and Apollo Bay. Via Barongarook and Colac is shorter: about 165 km in all, about 3 h 30 min by campervan.

Afternoon

Continue on your way to Gorge Chocolates in Cooriemungle, off the Great Ocean Road near Princetown. This is a must-stop for chocolate lovers. While you're probably still full from lunch, there is always room for chocolate. Sample the finest chocolate in the area while sipping on a latte from locally roasted coffee beans. If you are more of a cheese lover, a stop at Apostle Whey Cheese is sure to please. Apostle Whey Cheese is also in Cooriemungle, so you could even visit both places if you dare. Apostle Whey Cheese offers mouth-watering handmade cheese made right on the premises. You can sample the range of delicious cheese they have on offer before making the tough decision of which ones to buy for later.

From there, make your way back to the Great Ocean Road, heading to Port Campbell where you can stay for the night.

Evening

For dinner, why not cook up a meal in the campervan using some of the fresh local produce from the area. Or if you're not into cooking, why not enjoy some local fish and chips on the foreshore at Port Campbell Beach. That is, of course, if you can bring yourself to eat another bite.

Stay NRMA Port Campbell Holiday Park

DRIVE

97 km from Port Campbell | **about 1 h 50 min** by campervan

Via **Timboon - Nullawarre Road**

DAY 3

Port Campbell to Port Fairy

Morning

Time to set off again and explore some more of this spectacular region. From Port Campbell, make your way inland a bit to the town of Timboon, where you can easily spend half a day exploring. For the cheese lovers out there, you can stop in and sample the handmade cheeses at Schulz Organic Creamery & Cafe (formerly The Timboon Cheesery). Why not also stop into Timboon Fine Ice Cream for an irresistible locally made ice cream. If that doesn't get the taste buds going, then you could always stop into Berry World to pick your own strawberries. For lunch, make your way to the renowned Timboon Railway Shed Distillery for a gourmet lunch while sampling the finest local whisky.

Afternoon

Travelling from Timboon, head along the Great Ocean Road to the bustling seaside town of Warrnambool. Just outside of Warrnambool in Allansford you will find Warrnambool Cheese World and Museum. Definitely worth a stop if you fancy some more cheese. It's open on weekdays only, so plan it for a weekday.

On from Warrnambool is the picturesque seaside town of Port Fairy.

Evening

Port Fairy is a perfect place to stop for the night. For dinner, why not cook up a spectacular meal using some of the lovely fresh local produce you have picked up along your trip.

Stay BIG4 Port Fairy Holiday Park

DRIVE

305 km from Port Fairy | **about 5 h 15 min** by campervan

Via **Riddoch Highway**

DAY 4

Port Fairy to Naracoorte

Morning

Today it's time to leave Victoria behind and head for South Australia. The Great Ocean Road ends near Warrnambool, so from Port Fairy head west along the Princes Highway to the seaside town of Portland, then out to the historic Cape Nelson lighthouse for morning tea. Within the old stables on the lighthouse grounds you will find a local favourite, Isabella's Café. Here you can sit back and enjoy a nice coffee and cake. Check its opening hours before you go.

On the way

Travelling on from Portland, make your way to the enchanting town of Mount Gambier, where its natural wonders will delight. Mount Gambier has many local cafes and restaurants where you can have lunch, or why not enjoy a picnic lunch in the beautiful Cave Gardens. If you have a bit of a sweet tooth, stop into Dickins' Delights in Mount Gambier to try some simply delightful toffee.

Afternoon

Head north from Mount Gambier to the serene town of Penola, where you can explore some of the famous Coonawarra wine region. With around 17 wineries in the area you are spoilt for choice. Katnook Estate, just north of Penola, is a great place to spend the afternoon unwinding with a glass of award-winning Cabernet Sauvignon.

From Penola, head north to Naracoorte, where you can stop for the night.

Stay BIG4 Echo Holiday Parks – Naracoorte

DRIVE

355 km from Naracoorte | **about 5 h 15 min** by campervan | Via **Dukes Highway**

DAY 5

Naracoorte to Victor Harbor

Morning

This morning it's time to make your way back to the coast and to the town of Victor Harbor. Before you leave Naracoorte, make sure to pop into Van Leuven Bakery and Patisserie for a coffee and fresh pastry.

On the way

From Naracoorte, continue along the highway through Padthaway towards Victor Harbor.

Ferry The route crosses the Murray on the Wellington ferry, about 5 minutes.

Afternoon

For dinner, why not stop by one of the many fine restaurants in the heart of Victor Harbor.

Stay Victor Harbor Holiday & Cabin Park

DRIVE

160 km from Victor Harbor | **about 3 h** by campervan

Via **Victor Harbor Road**

DAY 6

Victor Harbor to the Barossa Valley

Morning

Today it's time to leave the stunning Victor Harbor and make your way to the world-renowned Barossa Valley.

Along the way to the Barossa Valley, just outside of McLaren Vale, you'll find Home Grain Bakery. This is the perfect place to stop for a quick pie or pasty before getting back on the road.

On the way

Next stop, Hahndorf, the heart of the Adelaide Hills. If you are a lover of all things food, then Hahndorf is the place for you. Why not spend a few hours exploring what this intriguing little village has to offer. Well worth a look-in are the German Village Shop and Hahndorf Sweets, among others. If you can drag yourself away from this quaint town, it's time to continue on to the Barossa.

Afternoon

There is no better way to spend the day there than driving through the Barossa Valley sampling its finest local food and wine. With so many spots to visit, it may be hard to choose which one to visit. If you're in the mood for some cheese, the Barossa Valley Cheese Company is the place for you. For the inner foodie in you, check out the fabulous Maggie Beer's Farm Shop. If wine takes your fancy, then the Jacob's Creek Visitor Centre might be just the place for you. The Barossa Valley will be the stop for tonight.

Stay Discovery Parks – Barossa Valley

DRIVE

76 km from Barossa Valley (Tanunda) | **about 1 h 10 min** by campervan

Via **Northern Expressway**

DAY 7

Barossa Valley to Adelaide

RETURN

It's time to make your way to Adelaide to return the campervan. Adelaide has many foodie delights to explore. If you are into chocolate, then a must is a visit to Haigh's Chocolates Visitor Centre on Greenhill Road in Parkside. You can also join a 3-hour chocolate and coffee walking tour that starts at Victoria Square and takes in the Central Market. Also worth a visit is the Adelaide Central Market, which has lots on offer for the inner foodie.

Returning in Adelaide

Apollo, Britz, Maui, Maui Elite, Mighty and Mighty Lite share one branch at Parafield Gardens, 23 km north of the airport and already on your side of the city coming in from the Barossa. It closes on Sundays from May to August: if you'd return on a Sunday then, return on the Saturday or Monday instead (pick-up and return times). These brands have no after-hours returns and charge $150 for a late return, so if you need the van longer, ask the rental company for an extension before your return day (after hours in Adelaide).

Return times are often earlier than people expect, so check your branch's in our list of Adelaide branches. Fill up near the branch before you return the van. With an early flight, returning the day before takes the pressure off; otherwise book an afternoon flight (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.

Enjoy the trip, and bring an appetite.

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))
Adelaide: Kaurna People of the Adelaide Plains (City of Adelaide (https://www.cityofadelaide.com.au/about-adelaide/our-city/reconciliation/))

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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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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