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COASTAL ROAD TRIP · 10 DAYS ONE WAY

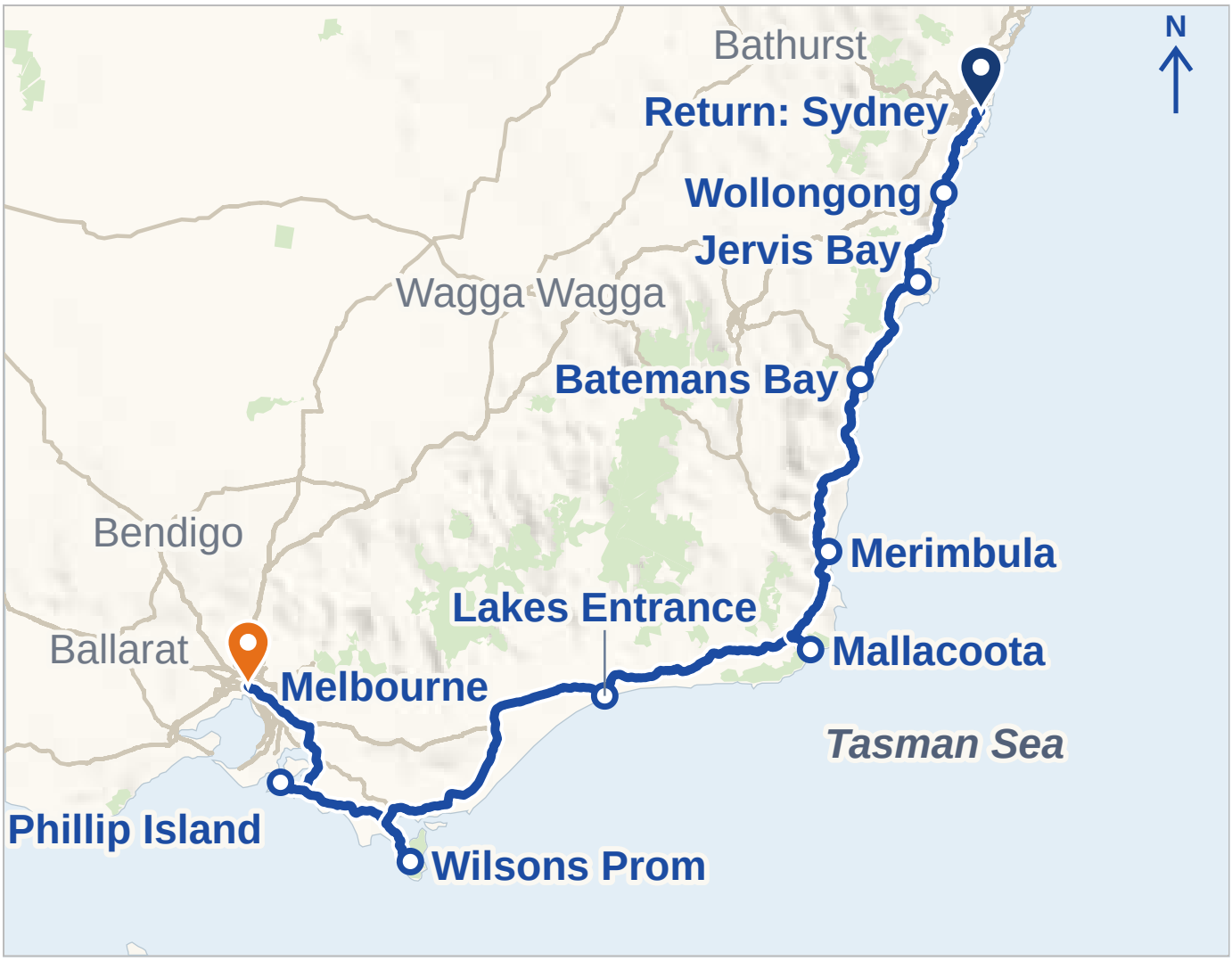
10 days Melbourne to Sydney along the Princes Highway

Travel the scenic route from Melbourne to Sydney via the Princes Highway and take in Phillip Island, the superb Wilsons Prom, Gippsland and the beautiful southern stretch of New South Wales coastline.

DISTANCE	DAYS	ROUTE	DRIVING TIME
About 1,365 km	10 days, 9 drives	One way, Melbourne to Sydney	About 24 h by campervan

LONGEST DRIVE	VEHICLE
290 km, Wilsons Prom to Lakes Entrance	Campervan

This trip crosses the Country of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, Bunurong, Gunaikurnai, Bidawel, Yuin, Dharawal, Gadigal 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

One way to Sydney

Melbourne to Sydney 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. Cruisin and GoCheap charge $165, with a 10-day minimum. Let's Go charges $149, and Spaceships doesn't charge one. This trip is 10 days, so it meets those minimums. 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.

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.

Stay BIG4 Melbourne Holiday Park

DRIVE

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

Via **Monash Freeway**

DAY 2

Melbourne to Phillip Island

Depart this morning and take the M1 to Pakenham. Take the C422 exit and continue onto Koo Wee Rup. Follow the M420 and B420 to Phillip Island.

Phillip Island is full of nature parks with local wildlife to keep everyone entertained. Visit the Penguin Parade, one of Victoria's most popular attractions. Each night at sunset, the Little Penguins return to the beach after a day of fishing and they are a cute sight! Watch from the boardwalks and designated viewing areas, as the penguins waddle back to their burrows.

Check out Churchill Island Heritage Farm for a unique experience discovering Victoria's heritage. Walk through cottages preserved from the 1800s, showcasing the difficulties of living on a farm. Farmers who work on the island also provide many demonstrations including whip cracking, sheep shearing and milking a cow – a true farming experience!

Stay NRMA Phillip Island Beachfront Holiday Park, Cowes

DRIVE

145 km from Phillip Island | **about 2 h 40 min** by campervan

Via **Meeniyan - Promontory Road**

DAY 3

Phillip Island to Wilsons Prom National Park

Depart this morning and take the B460 to Inverloch. Take the C442 to the C444 in Yanakie. From here, you will be able to access Wilsons Promontory.

Wilsons Promontory National Park is one of Victoria's most diverse and beautiful nature parks. On the southernmost tip of Australia, The Prom, as it is affectionately known, is the meeting point of mountains, rainforests and beaches. Try some of the many bushwalking and hiking trails to be one with the natural landscape. Take a picnic and escape civilisation for an afternoon.

Book ahead:
Book your Tidal River site ahead with Parks Victoria. From late December to late January, stays there are 7 to 14 nights, arriving and leaving on a Sunday, so for a one-night stop in that period, stay outside the park and drive in for the day.

Stay Tidal River campground

DRIVE

290 km from Wilsons Prom | **about 4 h 45 min** by campervan

Via **South Gippsland Highway**

DAY 4

Wilsons Promontory to Lakes Entrance

Depart this morning and follow the C444 and C446 to the S Gippsland Highway in Foster. Follow the S Gippsland Highway to the Princes Highway in Lakes Entrance.

The Gippsland Lakes are perfect for trying out new water sports and fishing. Try some water-skiing or tubing with the family, or learn how to stand-up paddle board in the breathtaking surrounds. Hire a boat and take it out on the water for a peaceful self-directed cruise.

Lakes Entrance is surrounded by many natural wonders and features. You must visit the Mitchell River National Park and try some of the walking trails or go canoeing. The canoeing tours take you in the Mitchell River, where the high cliffs tower over you. Several gorges, including the Den of Nargun, are mentioned in Aboriginal legends, and therefore have a long and interesting history behind them as to how they were formed. The Den of Nargun is a Gunaikurnai women's place, and the Gunaikurnai people and Parks Victoria ask visitors not to enter the cave.

Stay BIG4 Whiters Holiday Village

DRIVE

200 km from Lakes Entrance | **about 3 h 15 min** by campervan

Via **Princes Highway**

DAY 5

Lakes Entrance to Mallacoota

Depart this morning and follow the Princes Highway/ A1 to Mallacoota.

Visit the Mallacoota Bunker Museum, which is held in a bunker used during World War II. Put yourself in the shoes of the RAAF and experience their job of keeping the coastlines safe from Japanese submarines. It opens only a few hours a week, so check its opening times before you go.

Also try the Mallacoota Coastal Walk, which takes you along Mallacoota's scenic coast. With trails ranging from half a kilometre, to up to six kilometres, there is something for everyone's level of fitness. Look out for parts of the forest on the coast, where koalas can regularly be seen!

Stay Mallacoota Foreshore Holiday Park

DRIVE

110 km from Mallacoota | **about 1 h 50 min** by campervan

Via **Princes Highway**

DAY 6

Mallacoota (VIC) to Merimbula (NSW)

Depart this morning and follow the Princes Highway to Pambula. Take Arthur Kaine Drive to Merimbula.

Spend the afternoon at Magic Mountain, a locally owned and operated family fun park, set in the surrounds of the bush. Try the Tree Climb Challenge, which gives you the opportunity to fly across the tops of the park on the flying fox. Challenge yourself to complete the high wires and wooden obstacles along the way. Or else, try some of the many rides at the park for an exciting afternoon. It's open seasonally and not every day, so check its opening days before you go.

Get up and close with animals at the Potoroo Palace, a native animal educational sanctuary. The centre aims to improve the natural habitats for local animals. Here, you can see koalas up in trees, wander with

kangaroos, touch a snake and explore the walk-through aviary.

Stay NRMA Merimbula Beach Holiday Park

DRIVE

175 km from Merimbula | **about 3 h** by campervan | Via **Princes Highway**

DAY 7

Merimbula to Batemans Bay

Depart this morning and take the Princes Highway to Beach Road in Batemans Bay.

Explore the Clyde River National Park, and try some of the many activities including fishing, bushwalking, kayaking and snorkelling. The Clyde River is also home to the 'Oyster Coast', where you can find some of the freshest oysters to try in Australia.

Have a picnic with the eastern grey kangaroos and swamp wallabies at the Murramarang National Park. The park's largely undisturbed coastline provides a rich and vibrant area to explore, full of wildlife at every turn.

Stay NRMA Batemans Bay Holiday Resort

DRIVE

105 km from Batemans Bay | **about 2 h** by campervan | Via **Princes Highway**

DAY 8

Batemans Bay to Jervis Bay

Depart this morning and follow the Princes Highway/ A1. Take the Hawken Road and follow through Pine Forest Road and Huskisson Road to Woollamia.

Explore the Booderee National Park and go for a gentle stroll through the botanic gardens and enjoy the natural environment. If you are a more experienced hiker or up for a little challenge, try hiking around Steamers Beach! From the Cape St George lighthouse you may see humpback and southern right whales between June and July as they migrate north, and again from September to November as they head back south.

Book ahead:
You need a park pass to visit Booderee National Park, so buy one online before you go.

Stay Tasman Holiday Parks – Jervis Bay, Woollamia

DRIVE

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

Via **Princes Highway**

DAY 9

Jervis Bay to Wollongong

Depart this morning and follow the A1 until you reach Wollongong.

The Nan Tien Temple, also known as Southern Paradise, is the largest Buddhist Temple in the Southern Hemisphere and a must-visit while in Wollongong. The temple brings together eastern and western cultures, providing an opportunity for visitors to immerse themselves in a different culture. Contrasted with the rest of the town, it is a different experience that you should not miss.

Stay Corrimal Beach Tourist Park

DRIVE

94 km from Wollongong | **about 2 h 10 min** by campervan

Via **Princes Highway**

DAY 10

Wollongong to Sydney via Grand Pacific Drive

RETURN

Depart this morning and head north to Stanwell Park via Lawrence Hargrave Drive. Follow signs to the Royal National Park.

The Royal National Park is the second oldest national park in the world, and boasts some of the most spectacular views as you drive. Stop at one of the many lookouts to enjoy the natural landscape before entering the city.

Follow the A1 to enter Sydney, the capital city of New South Wales. Make sure to visit all the famous postcard locations including the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House.

Stay BIG4 Sydney Lakeside Holiday Park, North Narrabeen

Returning in Sydney

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. More on campervan hire in Sydney.

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 Sydney branches.

Enjoy the coast road, all the way to Sydney.

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))

Phillip Island: Bunurong (Bass Coast Shire (https://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/community-support-services/reconciliation))

Wilsons Promontory: Gunaikurnai, Bunurong and Boonwurrung (Parks Victoria (https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/conservation-and-science/conserving-our-parks/wilsons-prom-sanctuary))

Lakes Entrance and Mallacoota: Gunaikurnai, Monero and Bidawel people (East Gippsland Shire (https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/our-council/councillors))

Merimbula: People of the Yuin nation (Bega Valley Shire (https://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Our-Community/Our-Shire/History-of-the-shire))

Batemans Bay: Walbunja people of the Yuin Nation (Eurobodalla Shire (https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/275708/Annual-Report-2024-25.pdf))

Jervis Bay: Booderee is Aboriginal land, managed with the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community (Booderee National Park (https://booderee.gov.au/))

Wollongong: Aboriginal peoples of Dharawal Country (Wollongong City Council (https://wollongong.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0027/148068/Innovate-Reconciliation-Action-Plan-2026-2028.pdf))

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

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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