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COAST-TO-COAST ROAD TRIP · 15 DAYS ONE WAY

# Travel 3 Australian Coastlines from Perth to Melbourne

This epic journey of more than 4,000 kilometres takes you across the entire south of Australia, from the wineries of Margaret River across the Bight, through South Australia and on to Victoria's Great Ocean Road and into Melbourne.

| DISTANCE | DAYS | ROUTE | DRIVING TIME |
|---|---|---|---|
| About 4,295 km | 15 days, 12 drives | One way, Perth to Melbourne | About 65 h 30 min by campervan |

| LONGEST DRIVE | VEHICLE |
|---|---|
| 510 km, Balladonia to Border Village | Campervan |

This trip crosses the Country of many First Nations peoples, from the Whadjuk Noongar of Perth to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong of Melbourne. Traditional Custodians



Bunda Cliffs, Nullarbor, day 8 · 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 Melbourne**
Most brands charge a one-way fee and set a minimum hire. 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 Perth

**More on campervan hire in Perth: the Perth branches, their 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 PERTH**

DAY 1

## Perth

PICK-UP

Collect your car or motorhome in Perth today. If you're travelling in a motorhome, allow plenty of time at the branch so the rental company can show you how it works before you leave. Perth is the capital city of Western Australia, and the only place to combine a city lifestyle with the Australian bush. A visit to Kings Park is a must, which is one of the world's biggest inner-city parks – even bigger than Central Park in New York! Here, you can take an Aboriginal cultural tour (book ahead), walk amongst the tree tops and have a picnic.

**Stay** Discovery Parks, Perth

**DRIVE**

**270 km** from Perth | **about 4 h** by campervan | Via **Forrest Highway**

DAY 2

## Perth to Margaret River

2 NIGHTS

Depart this morning and take the Forrest Highway to Bunbury. Then take the Bussell Highway to Margaret River.

Margaret River is particularly famous for its good food and wine, so it is essential to visit some of the local wineries and try the produce. Check out the Farmers Market every Saturday, which is a great opportunity to buy some of the local produce.

**Stay** Big Valley Campsite, Margaret River (two nights)

**A DAY AROUND MARGARET RIVER**

DAY 3

## Margaret River

Explore the ancient Mammoth Cave in the morning. Entering the cave from a bushwalk, you will see fossils from now extinct Australian animals that are up to 50,000 years old. If you visit during winter, you will be able to see the hauntingly beautiful red stream through the cave, stained from the natural tannins.

Discover the National and State forest trails as an after lunch walk. The natural landscape is full of local wildlife and the perfect way to relax in the late afternoon.

**Stay** Big Valley Campsite, Margaret River

***DRIVE***

**340 km** from Margaret River | **about 5 h 30 min** by campervan

Via **Muir Highway**

DAY 4

## *Margaret River to Albany*

Depart this morning and follow Mowen Road to the Vasse Highway.

Journey across the sea and discover a small part of the Southern Ocean. Take a sailing tour and learn about the tales of the water, while indulging in some coffee, tea and local food. You may even get the opportunity to steer the ship!

Check out Middleton Beach and walk along the famous boardwalk. The beach has something for everyone, whether that is relaxing on the white sand, swimming in Ellen Cove or tackling the surf at Emu Point.

**Stay** BIG4 Emu Beach Holiday Park

***DRIVE***

**480 km** from Albany | **about 6 h 45 min** by campervan

Via **South Coast Highway**

DAY 5

## *Albany to Esperance*

Depart this morning and follow the National Route 1 to Harbour Road.

Esperance is full of different activities for the whole family. Hire a bicycle and discover the town through your own eyes. Esperance also has a wealth of activities set in nature, including eco-tours, Helms Arboretum and the National Parks.

**Stay** Esperance Bay Holiday Park

**DRIVE**

**440 km** from Esperance | **about 7 h 30 min** by campervan

Via **Eyre Highway**

DAY 6

## Esperance to Balladonia

Depart this morning and take the National Route 1 towards Norseman.

Balladonia is a tiny roadhouse stop and a popular place for travellers to stop before tackling the 90 Mile Straight, between Balladonia and Caiguna, which is Australia's longest straight road at 146.6 km.

Within the Balladonia complex, there is a small museum, which details the early pioneering days of the town to the crash landing of the Skylab space station. Or enjoy exchanging stories with other passing travellers. Use this time to relax before a big day of driving ahead!

**Check first:**
The Nullarbor crossing is remote. Special caution and planning should be taken when travelling in remote areas to ensure sufficient provisions, fuel and prescribed medicines are carried. Fill up wherever you can, and carry water.

**Stay** Balladonia Hotel Motel

**DRIVE**

**510 km** from Balladonia | **about 8 h 15 min** by campervan

Via **Eyre Highway**

DAY 7

## Balladonia (WA) to Border Village (SA)

Depart this morning and head southeast on National Highway 1.

Take some time to relax from all the driving of the trip, and enjoy the serenity of Border Village. Take photos with the "Big Roo", a giant statue of a kangaroo, which is an icon of the town.

Plan your trip for the next day as the drive between Border Village and the Nullarbor Roadhouse boasts some of the best lookouts to see the cliffs that surround the Great Australian Bight. Some of the cliffs are very high, and are not for the faint-hearted.

**Stay** Border Village Roadhouse

**DRIVE**

**480 km** from Border Village | **about 6 h 45 min** by campervan

Via **Eyre Highway**

DAY 8

## Border Village to Ceduna

Depart this morning and continue along National Highway 1 towards Ceduna.

Maralinga, the former British atomic testing grounds, has a dark history for the people of this area: seven nuclear weapons were tested there in the 1950s, and the site was cleaned up in 2000. Maralinga Tours isn't running in 2026 while works are under way at the site, so check maralingatours.com.au for future tour dates.

Visit the Head of Bight visitor centre and discover the history and geography of the area. If you're lucky enough, you may see some whales swimming in the ocean! The whale season runs from June to October, with June and July the best time to see them. An entry fee applies all year.

**Stay** BIG4 Ceduna Tourist Park

**DRIVE**

**470 km** from Ceduna | **about 6 h 30 min** by campervan

Via **Eyre Highway**

DAY 9

## Ceduna to Port Augusta

Depart this morning and take the National Highway A1 to Port Augusta West.

Visit the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden and discover the plants and animals that are able to survive Australia's toughest conditions. Explore the vivid red sand dunes, woodlands, and vast saltbush plains and even enjoy mountain views from the top of the red cliff tops. After all of this, you can sit back and enjoy the information centre and have afternoon tea.

**Stay** Port Augusta

**DRIVE**

**310 km** from Port Augusta | **about 4 h 30 min** by campervan | Via **Augusta Highway**

DAY 10

## Port Augusta to Adelaide

2 NIGHTS

Depart this morning and follow the National Highway A1 to the Princes Highway.

You have now finally arrived in Adelaide, the capital city of South Australia. Adelaide offers something for everybody, whether that be arts, culture, sport or adventure, you will not be disappointed.

**Stay** Adelaide Caravan Park (two nights)

**A DAY AROUND ADELAIDE**

DAY 11

## Adelaide

Visit Hahndorf, Australia's oldest surviving German settlement. The town retains a strong German heritage, transporting you to an entirely new cultural experience. There are plenty of places to try some food, buy some souvenirs and enjoy the history.

If you have time, visit the Art Gallery of South Australia to top off your cultural day! Founded in 1881, the gallery is found in the cultural precinct of Adelaide, right next to the South Australian Museum and the University of Adelaide. The gallery has a collection of almost 47,000 works of different nationalities and types.

**Stay** Adelaide Caravan Park

**DRIVE**

**335 km** from Adelaide | **about 5 h** by campervan | Via **Princes Highway**

DAY 12

## Adelaide to Robe

Depart this morning and take the Princes Highway to Main Road in Robe.

Visit the ruins of the Old Gaol on Cape Dombey and learn the history of the prisoners who were there during the late 1800s. Why not continue your historical tour and visit the Customs House, located at the Royal Circus. It was used during the Gold rush so the Chinese miners could avoid the arrival tax. It has now been converted into a museum to help illustrate its rich history.

**Stay** Robe Holiday Park

***DRIVE***

**290 km** from Robe | **about 4 h 15 min** by campervan

Via **Princes Highway**

DAY 13

## *Robe (SA) to Port Fairy (VIC)*

Depart this morning and follow the Princes Highway to Mount Clay Road.

While here, check out the local beaches and maybe even try some surfing. If not, take a walk down to Griffiths Island and visit the lighthouse. There are heaps of boards along the way, which tell you the history of the place, as well as the opportunity to take some breathtaking photos of the scenery and ocean.

**Stay** BIG4 Port Fairy Holiday Park

***DRIVE***

**230 km** from Port Fairy | **about 4 h 15 min** by campervan

Via **Great Ocean Road**

DAY 14

## *Port Fairy to Lorne via Great Ocean Road*

Depart this morning and follow the Great Ocean Road to Lorne.

Lorne is known for its crystal clear beaches, so they're a must visit while you're here! Another highlight of Lorne is the multitude of nature trails with stunning waterfalls, where tall eucalypts and bright green ferns make an almost fairy-like setting for a relaxing walk.

**Check first:**
Several walks near Lorne, including the Cora Lynn Cascades walk, have been closed since flood damage in January 2026. Check Parks Victoria for the trails that are open before you set out.

**Stay** Lorne Foreshore Caravan Park

**DRIVE**

**140 km** from Lorne | **about 2 h 30 min** by campervan |

Via **Princes Freeway**

DAY 15

## Lorne to Melbourne

RETURN

Depart this morning and take the M1 to Melbourne.

You have now arrived in Melbourne, the capital city of Victoria. Here you can find plenty of sports, arts and cultural activities to interest everybody.

## 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 journey, coast to coast.

### Traditional Custodians

**Perth:** Whadjuk people of the Nyoongar nation (City of Perth (https://perth.wa.gov.au/-/media/Project/COP/COP/COP/Documents-and-Forms/Council/Documents/Plans/Reconciliation-Plan-2022-2024-241231.pdf))

**Margaret River:** Wadandi and Pibelmen (Shire of Augusta Margaret River (https://www.amrshire.wa.gov.au/residents-community/community-support-and-development/wadandi-boodja-%E2%80%93-saltwater-country/welcome-to-country))

**Albany:** Menang people of the Noongar nation (City of Albany (https://www.albany.wa.gov.au/documents/13451/city-of-albany-arts-culture-and-heritage-plan))

**Esperance:** Kepa Kurl Wudjari people of the Nyungar nation, and Ngadju people (Shire of Esperance (https://www.esperance.wa.gov.au/residents/welcome-to-esperance/about-the-area.aspx))

**Norseman, Balladonia and the Nullarbor in WA:** Ngadju and Mirning (Shire of Dundas (https://www.dundas.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/ordinary-council-meeting/ordinary-council-meeting/201/documents/agenda_21-march-2026.pdf))

**Ceduna and the Far West Coast:** Kokatha, Mirning and Wirangu peoples (South Australian Government preferred statements of acknowledgement (https://www.agd.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/807775/Preferred-Statements-of-Acknowledgement.pdf))

**Port Augusta:** Barngarla and Nukunu people (Port Augusta City Council (https://www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0030/1881750/Council-Meeting-Agenda-and-Attachments-14-10-2025-PUBLIC-COPY.pdf))

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

**Robe:** Boandik people (District Council of Robe (https://www.robe.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0026/1442465/FOUR-YEAR-BUSINESS-PLAN-202324-to-202627-and-ANNUAL-BUDGET-202324-adopted.pdf))

**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))

**Lorne:** 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))

**Melbourne:** Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong / Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin (City of Melbourne (https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-melbourne))

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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