

Melbourne – Kangaroo Islands (Drive)

7 Nights/8 Days

Melbourne – Lorne – Port Fairy – Robe – Victor Harbor – Adelaide

Melbourne to Adelaide via Great Ocean Road and Kangaroo Island

Melbourne – Lorne – Port Fairy – Robe – Victor Harbor – Adelaide (5 days / 1,000km)

Travel from Melbourne to Adelaide along the country's breathtaking south-east coastline. Drive the Great Ocean Road past the iconic surf spots of Torquay and Bells Beach, then onto the holiday haven of Lorne and the magnificent Twelve Apostles. Walk through waterfalls and lush forest in Otway National Park and watch whales from historic Warrnambool. Soak up seafaring history in Port Fairy and Portland, near the towering sea cliffs of Cape Bridgewater. Taste wine in Coonawarra and see the fossils of giant marsupials in World heritage-listed Naracoorte Caves. Cruise the Coorong and explore the inviting beaches and wineries of the Fleurieu Peninsula on your way to Adelaide.

Day 1 - Melbourne to Lorne

Drive into Geelong on the Bellarine Peninsula, where you can walk along the waterfront, visit local vineyards or swim in the beaches.

Continue onto Torquay, where the spectacular, cliff-hugging Great Ocean Road begins. Torquay is also the gateway to Victoria's Surf Coast. Visit the huge surfing museum and ride the waves of the popular Jan Juc or the iconic Bells Beach. Surf at Point Addis and Anglesea, where golfers share the scenic golf course with grazing kangaroos.

The great waves continue at Fairhaven and Eastern View, en route to the seaside holiday haven of Lorne. Swim from the golden beach of Loutit Bay and walk to waterfalls such as Erskine Falls tucked into the Otway Ranges.

Trawl the galleries, boutiques and restaurants of the main street and drink coffee at one of Victoria's first cafes.

Stay in a bed and breakfast hotel, camping site or in luxury accommodation spilling into the surrounding forest.

Day 2 - Lorne to Port Fairy

Watch the rugged cliffs drop dramatically into the ocean on one side and national park on the other while driving into Apollo Bay. Explore the ancient rainforests, heathlands, glow worm caves and waterfalls of Great Otway National Park.

Visit the 150-year-old Cape Otway Lighthouse and picnic at Paradise or Shelly Beaches. Curving round the coast, you'll see the craggy limestone towers of the Twelve Apostles rising out of the Southern Ocean. Take photos from the boardwalk or Gibson's steps and wander the paths at London Bridge, Bay of Islands and Loch Ard Gorge.

Continue along Shipwreck Coast, named after the wild seas that sent at least 700 ships crashing on the rocks. Explore Warrnambool, where from May to October Southern Right Whales calve off Logan Beach. Soak up seafaring history in Port Fairy, with its old whitewashed cottages and Georgian-style homes. See Australia's largest fur seal colony and get up close with dolphins, whales and sharks from a boat.

Day 3 - Port Fairy to Coonawarra or Robe

Continue along the coastal road to Portland, Victoria's first European settlement. Check out the hundreds of heritage buildings and watch fishing boats unload their catch on the waterfront. Drive the scenic coastal route to rugged Cape Nelson State Park and the towering sea cliffs of Cape Bridgewater. Look over the deep-blue waters of Bridgewater Bay, explore a sand-petrified forest and walk around the cape to see the large fur seal colony.

Back on the highway; drive through Nelson and across the South Australian border. Visit Mount Gambier, which sits on an ancient extinct volcano and is circled by crater lakes such as Blue Lake, named after the vivid color it turns from November to February. Drive north to Penola and to Coonawarra, where you can sample cabernet sauvignon in some of the 20 cellar doors.

Alternatively, drive through the fishing towns of the Limestone Coast to the picturesque Robe. Dine on local lobster and swim or walk along Long Beach.

Day 4 - Coonawarra or Robe to Victor Harbor

Driving north from Coonawarra, visit the World heritage-listed Naracoorte Caves National Park, where the 26 limestone caves house the fossilized skeletons of giant marsupials. Cross the Murray River at Tailem Bend and head into the antiques hub of Strathalbyn on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

From Robe; drive north through Kingston South East, where you can dine on fresh seafood and visit the historic Cape Jaffa lighthouse. Canoe or kayak along the shallow, salty lagoons of The Coorong, past a rich diversity of wetland birds.

Learn about the area's Aboriginal culture with a local Ngarrindjeri guide. Cross the Murray River at Wellington and head through Strathalbyn to the Langhorne Creek wine region and the historic river port of Goolwa. Surf, fly kites and spot southern right whales between June and September in Middleton. Swim in Horseshoe Bay and surf from Boomer Beach in Port Elliot, before driving into Victor Harbor. Overnight in Victor Harbour

Day 5 - Victor Harbor to Adelaide

An early morning pick up from your hotel for a scenic coach journey to Cape Jervis taking in the picturesque Fleurieu Peninsula with its vineyards, coastal views and rolling hills.

On arrival, board the SeaLink ferry for the 45 minute crossing to Penneshaw on Kangaroo Island. Here you will board your luxury SeaLink coach and your local driver/guide will take you on a tour of South Australia's premier nature-based tourism destination.

Your first official stop will be at Clifford's Honey Farm to enjoy an informative talk by the beekeeper followed by tastings and an opportunity to sample homemade honey ice-cream and honey beauty products.

Then travel onto Vivonne Bay Bistro located on a 260 hectare bush property, for a delicious two course lunch.

After lunch visit Seal Bay Conservation Park and enjoy a guided beach walk with a National Park Ranger amongst a breeding colony of wild and rare Australian Sea- lions. Your tour will then visit another amazing wildlife attraction, the fascinating 'Birds of Prey' free-flight demonstration, an interactive and educational display of native Australian birds and raptors.

From here you will travel to Kingscote to watch the pelican feeding and learn a little about these fascinating and ancient birds, before being transferred to your choice of overnight accommodation.

Day 6 - Kangaroo Island

After your morning hotel pick up, your day of touring begins at Emu Ridge Eucalyptus Distillery, an interesting bush engineered eucalyptus distillery that makes the most of its environmental resources. After testing and tasting the eucalyptus products, travel to the centre of Kangaroo Island to the Kangaroo Island Wildlife Park where you can feed the Kangaroo Island kangaroos, have your photograph taken with a koala and take a guided tour of this wildlife and bird park.

Next, travel to Hanson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary to look for Koalas nestled up in the eucalypts, followed by a scrumptious two course lunch at Kangaroo Island Wilderness Retreat.

After lunch travel to the western most part of the Island, Flinders Chase National Park, one of Australia's largest and earliest conservation parks. After a short stop at the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre, travel through the park and enjoy breath-taking views of its unique trees, plants and coastal scenery. You will be taken to the rugged southern coastline for a walk around Remarkable Rocks and Admirals Arch. Remarkable Rocks provide great photographic opportunities and stunning sea views. Admirals Arch boardwalk takes you down a rugged cliff face to reveal this spectacular arch, a natural nursery and safe haven for playful New Zealand fur seals that can be seen swimming and playing in the waves, or resting on the rocks.

Day 7 – Kangaroo Island to Adelaide

Early this morning you will be picked up from your accommodation and transferred to Penneshaw Ferry Terminal for your return ferry and coach transfer to Adelaide.

Discover the attractions of the Fleurieu Peninsula on your drive into Adelaide. Take a horse-drawn tram to Granite Island to see little penguins or watch for migrating whales between June and October in Encounter Bay. Do the cliff-top walks to Port Elliot, then explore the streets on the Encounter Bikeway. Fish from the Cape Jervis jetty or hike a part of the Heysen Trail along the coastline of Deep Creek Conservation Park.

Drive along the Gulf St. Vincent coast and stop to swim at Sellicks and Aldinga beaches. Or travel through the rolling green hills of Mount Compass and Yankalilla to the McLaren Vale wine region. Visit galleries and taste wine in some of the 45 cellar doors.

Stock up on olives, oils, cheeses, almonds and berries from roadside stalls and orchards before driving into Adelaide. Wander in Adelaide's cultural boulevard of North Terrace, walk or bike ride through the expansive parklands and enjoy the seaside ambience of Glenelg and Henley.

Overnight in Adelaide

Day 8 – Adelaide (departure)

Accommodation with Breakfast.

Transfer from Adelaide CBD Hotel to Adelaide Airport.

