

Great Ocean Road & Beyond

Melbourne to Adelaide

Spend 4 days and 3 nights enjoying one of the most awe-inspiring journeys in the world. Breathtaking views, local Aussie personalities, world class food & wine. Sit back, relax, and enjoy this spectacular tour with us.

Tour Inclusions: (A full Itinerary is listed at the bottom of this document)

- Maximum of 16 passengers, enough to enjoy some company, small enough not to be overwhelmed
- Departs Melbourne every Monday morning
- Guaranteed departures with minimum of two passengers
- Breakfasts on day 2, 3 & 4. Lunches on days 1, 2, 3 & 4
- All touring, informative and witty commentary
- Entry into the World Heritage Naracoorte Caves
- Winery visit with wine tastings day's Three and Four
- Departures every Monday with block out dates from two weeks before Christmas and 3 weeks after

Focus and unique selling points

- Small groups allow for an intimate touring experience (Min 2, max 16)
- A relaxed pace - The only 4-day Melbourne to Adelaide Great Ocean Road experience, allowing ample time for all the 'must-sees' along the iconic Great Ocean Road and Beyond.
- Comfortable reclining seat, air-conditioned vehicle.
- A mix of three and four-star accommodation, and in Port Campbell it allows us to pop back to the iconic 12 Apostles in the morning and check-out these unique rock formations without the crowds.
- We expose our guests to family-run hospitality, locally produced food and wine, and a variety of down-to-earth experiences that can only be enjoyed in small groups.
- We understand the importance of utilising the local community and businesses to create sustainable and long-lasting relationships. We visit best local cafes, restaurants, food producers and wineries every-day.
- We will visit the iconic Great Ocean Road and learn of its history while discovering some of its hidden treasures.
- Our tours are as active as you want them to be. Our tour style provides opportunities for nature walks, swimming, and spotting some of Australia's unique animals in the wild
- Great music playlist, informative, enthusiastic guides & no boring commentary
- Arriving into Adelaide on Thursday night provides perfect timing to link in with the Ghan departure to Alice Springs on Sunday afternoon.

Age Requirements & Tour Style:

Must be 18+ to travel on the tour unless an approved minor (12+ years old) is accompanied by an adult. All guests must be young in spirit & active enough to participate daily in light walks.

Full Itinerary

Day 1: Melbourne – Port Campbell Itinerary

We depart from Southern Cross Coach Terminal on Spencer Street at 8:30am before we commence this amazing 4-day, 3-night guided Great Ocean Road and Beyond tour. Travel through the city of Melbourne and over the West Gate Bridge through the vast volcanic plains en-route to Geelong.

The Great Ocean Road is divided into three distinct sections, the Surf Coast, Otway Ranges, and the Shipwreck Coast.

We allow ample time to explore all three sections. We start the journey along the Great Ocean Road at Torquay (Surf Coast). This stretch of coast presents the first of countless photo opportunities, as we encounter stunning coastal views and lookouts and visit such places as the famous Bells Beach. Turn your gaze inland and see incredible native Australian wildlife including the Eastern Grey Kangaroos as they graze in the wild.

Our journey continues as we travel the impressive and scenic cliff-hugging section of the Great Ocean Road.

The itinerary includes visiting sites such as the 'Memorial Arch' and hear the intriguing story of this incredible road, before arriving in Lorne, the largest of the seaside townships with its abundance of cafes and shops, a perfect place for a stroll.

From Lorne, we continue along this spectacular road, visiting many scenic spots. Lunch is in the Wye River Café overlooking the ocean. We continue towards the Kennett River where we may see koalas and many colourful native birds in the wild. Travel through Apollo Bay and into the Great Otway National Park (Otway Ranges). Here we offer a guided walk through a cool temperate rainforest gully to see the world's tallest flowering plants, prehistoric trees and ferns and many other unique features.

Our next stop on the itinerary is undoubtedly one of the most iconic vistas within Australia and truly representative of Australia's natural beauty, the 12 Apostles.

We arrive as these iconic stack and cliff faces are bathed in the afternoon sun. Wander around the boardwalks before we head off.

Accommodation for the first night is the small fishing village of Port Campbell, nestled in a beautiful natural port which has some wonderful cafés and restaurants for dinner (at own expense) and views.

Accommodation: Parkview Port Campbell Motel (or similar)

Lunch: Wye River Café

Dinner is not included – passengers are spoilt for choice in the beautiful town of Port Campbell

Day 2: Port Campbell – Port Fairy Itinerary

The morning of day 2 is one of the highlights of the 4 days. Rarely do people get to enjoy this section of the Great Ocean Road without the day touring crowds from Melbourne. After breakfast at a local cafe, we head back out to the 12 Apostles and take in the view during the morning sunlight.

We spend time visiting the unique formations of Loch Ard Gorge and immerse ourselves in the harrowing story of the wreck of the Loch Ard. It's onto London Bridge and then The Bay of Islands before saying goodbye to this amazing stretch of coastline.

We head inland through Australia's premier dairy country before we arrive in one of Victoria's largest regional towns of Warrnambool which is also our lunch stop today. We explore **Tower Hill Wildlife Park** where our guide takes the group on an interactive tour learning about the local Aboriginal history, geology, flora, and fauna. This stop is one of the real highlights of the 4 days.

We arrive at the quaint fishing village of Port Fairy, our destination for the night. We arrive early enough to enjoy a stroll around this beautiful township before enjoying dinner (at your expense) at the many local restaurants, cafés or pubs.

Breakfast: Alcove Café

Lunch: Warrnambool RSL

Accommodation: Ashmont Inn and Apartments (or similar)

Meals: Breakfast and lunch

Dinner is not included – Port Fairy is spoilt for choice for wonderful dinner options.

Day 3: Port Fairy – Naracoorte via Penola Itinerary

Today we're bound for South Australia. After a relaxing breakfast in the café next to our accommodation we head towards Portland there's time for panoramic coastal views from the Petrified Forest at Cape Bridgewater before a scenic drive through dense pine plantations and over the picturesque Glenelg River.

We continue onto Mount Gambier which is our lunch stop today. Mount Gambier is also home to the famous Blue Lake which occupies a crater of the ancient volcano which gives this city its name. Early each summer, in a remarkable quirk of nature, the colour of the water in the lake changes from its winter hues to an intense cobalt blue. A photo stop at the Blue Lake is a must and so is a visit to the Umpherston Sinkhole, a collapsed limestone cave that has been transformed into a magical sunken garden. We take a walk along its terraced flower beds and behind the hanging vines deep down to the floor of this extraordinary natural wonder.

Our next stop is Penola, arriving early enough to explore its abundant historical attractions.

Penola played a central part in the life of Mother Mary MacKillop (St Mary of the Cross) Australia's only saint. We pass the schoolhouse where she taught the poorest children of the district and take a walk along Petticoat Lane, a charmingly preserved group of mid eighteenth-century cottages and gardens. We then drive through the Coonawarra vineyards where Australia's most illustrious Cabernet Sauvignon vines thrive on the famed rich red "terra rossa" soils. The highlight of this afternoon is our visit to one of the many Coonawarra Wineries where we will be guided through a tasting of some of Australia's best wines.

Naracoorte is our final destination today famous for its World Heritage listed site, the Naracoorte Caves.

Our accommodation tonight is at the William Macintosh Motor Lodge set on the outskirts of Naracoorte. Those still feeling energised after our full day's touring can take one of the easily accessible country walks, or simply relax in your apartment accommodation. Dinner tonight is in the William Macintosh Restaurant where you can choose off their extensive menu and enjoy their excellent hospitality (dinner at own cost).

Breakfast: Rebecca's Café

Lunch: Limestone Coast Café

Winery visit with tasting

Accommodation: William Macintosh Motor Lodge Naracoorte (or similar)

Dinner is not included

Day 4: Naracoorte – Adelaide Itinerary

Enjoy a hot or continental breakfast at the hotel before another exciting and diverse day of discovery on this Great Ocean Road & Beyond itinerary,

A guided visit to the world heritage listed Naracoorte Caves takes us to one of the world's most important fossil sites. Our tour features a dazzling array of stalactites and stalagmites as well as the bones and skeletons of giant, long extinct animals.

We then begin a picturesque drive through some of South Australia's farming and grazing heartland. With a population of around one person to one square kilometre, this is the real Australian countryside and you can relax and enjoy all the colours and textures of these rural landscapes in the comfort of our comfortable reclining seat, air-conditioned bus.

In Coonalpyn the five towering grain silos that dominate the township have been transformed into a monumental work of public art that is a visual showstopper.

From here, Ki Ki, Yumali and Coomandook disappear almost as quickly as we encounter them and at Wellington, where road meets river, we take time out for a leisurely ferry crossing of the mighty River Murray, the largest inland waterway in Australia.

Our itinerary takes us to lunch at Bremerton Winery in the acclaimed Langhorne Creek wine region. You are welcome to sample their wines in the restored iron stone barn dating from 1866.

The southern Adelaide Hills leads us through Strathalbyn, on the banks of the Angas River.

Originally a farming community of Scottish immigrants, it's now a classified heritage town and a thriving centre of all things antique and collectible. Enjoy the lovely scenery before we continue through the rolling hills and valleys to the historic German village of Hahndorf.

Founded by German settlers fleeing religious persecution in the late 1830s, Hahndorf is Australia's oldest German settlement and one of South Australia's most popular tourist destinations. You can enjoy a stroll along its bustling main street of historic buildings, gift shops, arts and crafts galleries.

Our final stop is both spectacular and surprising.

From Mt Lofty Summit the whole of South Australia's capital city of Adelaide is spread out on the plains below. We will drop you at your accommodation in this wonderful city around 6.00pm on Thursday afternoon fully energised and refreshed after a wonderful 4 days of touring.

Meals:

Breakfast, Hotel

Morning tea- Warm Muffins from the William McIntosh accommodation

Lunch – Bremerton Winery Langhorne Creek

Things to do in Adelaide:

Adelaide is a unique and beautiful Capital City. Adelaide is much more laid back about who she is and what she is about than our larger cousins on the East Coast. Adelaide seems to have the balance right, great little bars, world class food and wine, amazing wildlife watching opportunities, museums, art galleries and endless golden sandy beaches. With great road, rail and air connections (and some of the best seafood) when you arrive in Adelaide the rest of Australia literally is your oyster!

- Adelaide is the perfect place to enjoy a self-drive holiday. Wide open roads, huge panoramic vistas make Adelaide and South Australia a perfect self-drive departure point.
- Check out the amazing Eyre Peninsular with its spectacular scenery, amazing seafood it's a once in a lifetime wildlife experience.
- Visit 100's of cellar doors in Australia's premier wine regions of the Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale, Adelaide Hills, Langhorne Creek and the Clare Valley.
- Take a boat trip on the Coorong
- Swim with wild Dolphins
- Tour the wildlife mecca of Kangaroo Island
- Catch the Ghan Railway up to Alice Springs and Darwin
- Simply enjoy the relaxed lifestyle of this elegant Australian City with its restaurants, café's, Gardens, beaches and wonderful architecture.