

# Great Ocean Road Walk, Victoria

For **SOLO WALKERS 40 Years & Over**

Sunday 15 - Wednesday 18 October 2017

4 days / 3 nights (ex Melbourne)

Melbourne • Great Ocean Road • Melbourne

## Great Ocean Road Walk

Departing Melbourne, we head to the beginning of the Great Ocean Road, at Apollo Bay.

Your walking tour of the Great Ocean Walk will see you exploring beaches, coves, and spectacular cliff top vistas that, for a long time, were locked away. You'll enjoy that uplifting feeling that comes from an experience that is all about the place, the activity and the people with whom you'll share it.

This is a fully guided, accommodated and supported walking trip with a professional guide/s. Our group is exclusively for solo walkers who'd like to join other walkers, ready to experience more of Australia's great outdoors.

You will stay in comfortable accommodation for your Great Ocean Road experience. At the end of your walk you will be transferred back to Melbourne for your journey home or perhaps you may like to enjoy some extra time in Melbourne.

## Trip Pace - Fitness Level

Basically any fit and healthy person can participate. If you can walk upwards of 15 kilometres or more in a day, carrying a lightweight day pack you will find the walking activity totally achievable. The minimum requirements to participate are being able to carry a 5 kilogram backpack (that holds your lunch, water, camera, rain jacket plus a few other personal effects).

You also need to be aware that while we typically walk on well forged walking tracks, the quality and the degree of difficulty on these tracks varies a lot. You may find the tracks rocky and "lumpy" underfoot, soft and sandy or muddy and slippery. The prevailing weather can make a track that is typically dry and firm wet and muddy.

You will also, a times, find there is the need to be able to negotiate obstacles such as fallen trees, or sections of scree, or steep steps. None of these would be enough to preclude a healthy and able-bodied individual but they can challenge. So please come along with not only the right footwear and raingear and clothing, but also the right frame of mind.

## Testimonial

*'The Great Ocean Road walk was excellent. You see much more on the walk than the road. The scenery from every turn was breath taking, and there was heaps of wildlife to see. The guides were very experienced and accommodating. .... I'd recommend this walk to everyone who loves the great outdoors.'*

Valda, 51 Nth QLD





## TOP 5 REASONS TO BOOK

1. Age-matched holiday groups
2. Travel with like-minded solo walkers
3. Tours provided by leading tour operators
4. Early bird savings with many tours
5. Room-mate matching option

### Tour Inclusions

- 3 nights of accommodation
- 3 breakfasts
- 4 lunches
- Snacks while walking
- 3 dinners
- Return transfers ex Melbourne CBD to Great Ocean Road
- All transfers for Great Ocean Road itinerary
- Experienced walking guide/s
- Support vehicle
- Small group
- Great Ocean Road Walking map

#### Fellow Travellers:

You will enjoy this group experience with a maximum group size of 12 walkers. It's more likely to expect a group of 8-10 walkers. This tour is exclusively for single/ solo travellers.

Insurance: It's a mandatory condition that you have travel insurance and insurance that includes cover for medical evacuation.

### Tour Prices

Per Person AUD	Twin Share	Single Room
Package Price	\$1495	\$1755
Pre tour hotel, Saturday Saturday 14 October Melbourne inc. breakfast	\$135	\$240
Post tour hotel, Wednesday Wednesday 18 October Melbourne inc. breakfast	\$135	\$240
Optional Helicopter Ride 12 Apostles	\$145 (15 minute ride)	

#### Pre and/or Post Tour:

If travelling from outside Melbourne we recommend a minimum of 1 night pre tour in Melbourne as day 1 of the itinerary commences first thing in the morning.

Our nominated hotel in Melbourne is:  
Mercure Melbourne Treasury Gardens  
13 Spring St, Melbourne VIC 3000

### About Us

At *Encounter Travel* we offer holiday groups for solo travellers. All trips are age-matched so there's more chance you'll share your journey with likeminded travellers.

Visiting destinations across Australia and around the globe, choose from short escapes to adventure trips and leisurely touring.

### Contact Us

Encounter Travel

Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm  
(Sydney time)

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## Itinerary for Great Ocean Road Autumn Walk, Victoria 15 - 18 October 2017

### PRE WALK ARRANGEMENTS

**Saturday 14 October 2017**

#### Arrive Melbourne

If you are travelling to Melbourne to commence the tour there is the option to book the group hotel with us, as an add-on for your walking trip.

Mercure Melbourne Treasury Gardens is the group hotel. It's also the pickup point on day 1 of the tour Sunday 15 October 2017.

We will coordinate a group meet up at the hotel for 6pm Saturday 14 October 2017. Walkers generally take advantage of this meetup to enjoy a drink or even a meal together in Melbourne this evening. The evening is not hosted, so group members can make these arrangements between themselves once they meet up. As the group hotel is in the CBD there's a lot of options for going out for a meal together.

Breakfast is from 7am – 10am on weekends.

### DAY 1 – SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER

#### Melbourne – Apollo Bay

After breakfast, please meet in the hotel lobby of Mercure Melbourne Treasury Garden at 7.40am for your 7.45am departure.

This morning, we make our way to the coastal village of Anglesea where a 'cuppa' of whatever you fancy, a muffin and a comfort stop gives us a quick break from the vehicle. Afterwards, we'll follow the famous Great Ocean Road all the way to Apollo Bay for lunch and walk briefing.

Begin at the very start of the Great Ocean Walk in Apollo Bay. We walk via Marengo and Elliot River, past exposed headlands, wild beaches and lush rainforest.

Then it's on to Cape Otway and the region's most famous landmark, The Cape Otway Light Station. Here you can wander to the top of the lighthouse. From the top of this highpoint you can see over a vast area and enjoy the most spectacular scenery, where waves crash over reefs and where the notorious Bass Strait meets the great Southern Ocean.

You can walk around the Cape Otway area encompassing Parker River Inlet, Point Franklin and Crayfish Bay. This is a truly spectacular part, with the chance to see Koalas lazily grazing in the eucalypt forest.

Dinner is a two course menu (dietary requirements taken into account) prepared by your guides.

Walking distance: 7 km  
Walking time: 2-3 hours  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### DAY 2 – MONDAY 16 OCTOBER

#### Great Ocean Walk

After breakfast, we take the 10km walk from the lighthouse to Aire River winding its way through wind sculpted landscapes of sand dunes, coastal scrub-land and magnificent calcified cliffs. At the Aire River Lookout there are great views down to the estuary where the Aire River meets the Southern Ocean and Glenaire Beach. The wetlands look quite spectacular from this vantage point and it is a nice steady downhill walk from to the Aire River Bridge which crosses the river to the picnic area and toilets. At this point the Park Trek coach offer support for those who wish to wind up their days' walking.

#### Optional Extra:

From here, we have the option, following on from Aire River, with a six kilometre walk through to Castle Cove.

From Aire River the track heads inland for a while, climbing up and around the next headland through tea-tree forests, and then continues along the coastal path with sweeping views of the rugged coastline. Expect some ups and downs with a little climbing before you get to Castle Cove.

Located on a spectacular bend of the Great Ocean Road at Glenaire, Castle Cove is a beautiful beach surrounded by towering cliffs which have high archaeological significance, as dinosaur fossils have been found here. At this point you will have walked 6 to 16 kms. You do have the option of walking through to Johanna Beach which is an additional 7 kms. From Castle Cove the track winds its way along the cliff tops, through heath-lands and forests, occasionally emerging to give breathtaking and

extensive views along the coast. The forest here is an interesting mixture of manna gums, spring wildflowers and magnificent expanses of grass trees. Make sure you keep an eye out above for Peregrine Falcons. Eventually you will emerge onto the broad expanse of Johanna Beach. This beautiful beach is one of the best in Australia for superb views and enormous crashing surf.

Two-course dinner prepared by guides

Walking distance: 10 kms (plus optional 6km more)  
Walking time: 5-6 hours  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### DAY 3 – TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER

#### Great Ocean Walk

We are off to a healthy start with a continental breakfast. The walk from Johanna Beach to Ryans Den is the wildest and most challenging section of the entire track. From Milanesia Gate we descend to a beautiful and remote beach. Isolated, rugged and hidden, Milanesia Beach receives few visitors and is all the more special for it. Look for the "beachcomber's cottage" when you reach the beach.

From here the trail continues along the high sea cliffs to Ryans Den with breathtaking views all the way back to Cape Otway, and west to Cape Volney. This is our lunch spot and it is arguably the most scenic location along the walk. There are toilets here also. From Ryans Den the track continues through coastal forests that lead over Cape Volney to Moonlight Head (named by Matthew Flinders during a break in showery weather at night in April 1802).

#### Optional Extra:

There is the option of continuing on for another four kilometres through to the Gables.

After Moonlight Head the track dips down into a valley and follows a newly cut section of track which will lead to The Gables Lookout, perched on one of the highest sea cliffs in mainland Australia. We might stop into Lavers Hill for a cup of tea/coffee on the way back home.

Tonight you'll enjoy a two course dinner prepared by your guides.

## Itinerary for Great Ocean Road Walk, Victoria 15 - 18 October 2017

Walking distance: 10kms  
(plus optional 4kms)  
Walking hours: 5-6 hours

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### DAY 4 – WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER Depart

After breakfast, it's a superb final section, as we walk from Princetown to the Twelve Apostles.

Our walk starts above the wetlands around Princetown which support a wide variety of bird life. We'll walk down through the Gellibrand River Estuary and reconnect with the Great Ocean Walk on a new track section. This section replaces 1.5km of road walking with about 2km of pleasant walking through the coastal scrub and escarpment. We are now on the home stretch into Port Campbell National Park and the world famous Twelve Apostles soon come into sight.

At Gibson's Beach Car Park, and we recommend, tides allowing, you descend Gibson's Steps to view Gog and Magog (not strictly counted as two of The Twelve Apostles) up close from sea level. The last kilometre of the Great Ocean Walk takes you through to the Twelve Apostles Visitor Centre where you can view The Apostles up close. We'll have our lunch here and then onto Colac where we stop at a local café for a break before driving back to Melbourne at an estimated arrival time of 5pm.

We recommend not booking any flights that depart prior to 7pm. One central drop off point in the city will be made at the conclusion of the trip.

Walking distance: 8km  
Walking hours: 2-3 hours

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

### FINAL DAY OPTIONAL SCENIC HELI-FLIGHT

**12 Apostles - London Bridge  
A 15 minute scenic flight with 12  
Apostles Helicopters.**

On Day 4, after your walk, there is the opportunity to go on a helicopter ride. This flight includes the 12 Apostles and Loch Ard Gorge, plus along the

majestic coast to London Bridge, which collapsed in 1990 leaving two people stranded on the newly formed island. Along the way take in The Sentinel, Two Mile Bay and Point Hesse.

On this flight you will see:

- 12 Apostles
- Loch Ard Gorge
- The Sentinel
- The Arch
- London Bridge

Distance: 45 km / Cost: \$145 per person / Minimum: 2 people

Final confirmation of heli bookings are required in advance of departure. Payment is direct to your guides. Reservations cancelled after the tour commencing will be assessed with a 50% cancellation fee up until 48 hours prior which and then a 100% cancellation fee applies.

### RETURN TO MELBOURNE, END OF WALK

On the final day of the trip, Wednesday 18 October 2017 you will be transferred from the Great Ocean Road to Melbourne city centre. One central group drop off point will be designated for the group. There is also the option to be dropped off at Avalon Airport on the way back from the Great Ocean Road to Melbourne.

If planning to fly out of Melbourne Tullamarine the same day we recommend not booking a flight departure until after 7:30pm (8pm is safer in case of unexpected delays).

### WHAT TO BRING

Please read this list and prepare well in advance of your departure day.

- Daypack
- Water bladder or drink bottle, minimum 1 litre

- Rain jacket; preferably one with a zipper up the middle and one that is long enough to cover the upper thigh region
- Fleece jacket
- Comfortable thick soled walking boots with good grip and proper ankle support
- Long pants, preferably loose fitting, lightweight and quick drying
- Short pants, preferably lightweight and quick drying
- Long sleeved shirts, loose fitting and quick to dry
- Several pairs of walking socks
- T-shirts or something you can wear casually after the day's activity
- Swimmers
- Casual shoes for wearing in evenings
- Towel
- Personal effects such as medication, bathroom needs and reading material
- A soft bag as your piece of luggage is preferable to a solid sided suitcase
- High Factor Sunscreen
- Blister Pads And / Or Tape For Rubbing And/Or Blisters
- Wide Brimmed Sun Hat
- Antiseptic Hand Gel
- Sun Glasses
- Walking Poles (Optional)
- Gaiters (Optional)
- Camera
- Mobile Phone – Preferably A Telstra Provider (Or Purchase A Telstra Sim)

**\*\* DO NOT BRING JEANS TO WALK IN \*\***

Note: We reserve the right to alter or deviate from the tour itinerary should circumstances dictate.

## ABOUT ACCOMMODATION

### CAPE OTWAY LIGHTSTATION (3 NIGHTS)

Escape to Cape Otway Lightstation and experience the tranquillity of a world-class destination, with stunning views of the Southern Ocean and Australia's most important lighthouse.

Spectacular ocean views, glorious sunsets, close encounters with koalas, and the sound of the ocean will be among the highlights of your stay in our heritage accommodation.

Cape Otway Lightstation has two historic lighthouse cottages located at the scenic Cape Otway Lightstation site.

- The Head Lightkeepers House has four bedrooms with two bathrooms plus three toilets
- The Managers House has four bedrooms, two bathrooms and two toilets

Rooms are on a twin share basis or a limited number of single rooms.

Airport for a fraction of the cost of a taxi. Travelling with SkyBus gives you peace of mind with a fixed price and a frequent, reliable service. Plus you can stay connected with the free onboard WiFi.

Skybus operates 7 days a week. For more information or to book go to: [www.skybus.com.au](http://www.skybus.com.au)

The SkyBus will drop you at Southern Cross station. Skybus offer FREE City Hotel Shuttles from Southern Cross station to participating Hotels. To confirm the drop off point for your accommodation, please speak to the SkyBus Customer Service Officer when booking your Hotel Transfer Service at Southern Cross Station. The Mercure Melbourne Treasury Hotel is a participating hotel for the free drop off and pick up point.

#### TAXI

A taxi to the city would cost around \$55-\$65. This would include the CityLink tollway charges and compulsory airport fee payable by departing taxis.

Prices are correct at time of being published on our website, information comes from [skybus.com.au](http://skybus.com.au) website.

## GETTING THERE PAGE:

Arrive to: Melbourne

Depart from: Melbourne

Melbourne Pick Up Point Day 1  
Sunday 15 October 2017

Mercure Melbourne Treasury Garden  
13 Spring St, Melbourne VIC 3000  
Telephone: +61 3 9205 9969

Please make your own way to the group meeting point at Mercure Melbourne Treasury Garden as this is the departure point on day 1 of the tour.

If staying at the hotel please note the check in and check out times

Check in: from 2pm  
Check out: by 11am

#### AIRPORT SHUTTLE BUS

SkyBus is the main airport shuttle to and from Melbourne Airport and the city. SkyBus Melbourne City Express is great value for money at only \$19 one way, they will get you between the city and the