

SCENIC SELF DRIVES

Using Warrnambool as your base, you are only a short drive away from some of Australia's most unique natural attractions and historical villages.

For full scenic drive descriptions, please see page 62.



THE ICONIC GREAT OCEAN ROAD AND TWELVE APOSTLES

Warrnambool, Wangoom, Cudjee, Allansford, Peterborough, Port Campbell – Twelve Apostles, Timboon, Curdie Vale, Allansford, Warrnambool (via Hopkins Point Road). (190 km)

Travel north on the Hopkins Highway, turn east at Wangoom Road and follow signs to Hopkins Falls. Turn right when leaving the Hopkins Falls carpark, then turn right down Dwarroon Road to Cudjee, see Cudjee Creek Wildlife Park in Trotters Lane featuring deer, wallabies, kangaroos, emus and monkeys.

From wildlife park follow Dwarroon Road to the Princes Highway – turn right at the Great Ocean Road turnoff at Allansford – sample some local cheeses at Cheeseworld and browse through the interesting Museum.

Continue along the Great Ocean Road to Port Campbell National Park – Bay of Islands (spectacular island group); Peterborough (small township at the mouth of Curdies River); The Grotto (path leads to a beautiful rock pool); London Bridge (the arch linking the ‘bridge’ to the mainland collapsed in January 1990); The Arch (superb views of Two Mile Bay and Moonlight Head); Port Campbell Discovery Walk (4km return walk offering views east towards the Sentinel Rock and the distant Apostles); Loch Ard Gorge (iron clipper “Loch Ard” foundered in 1878, 49 lives lost. Two survivors, Eva Carmichael and Tom Pearce were washed into the gorge. See their story “Shipwrecked” screened nightly at Flagstaff Hill on the 9 metre high aquascreen); Twelve Apostles (world famous off-shore rock stacks – some so eroded they can only be viewed at low tide).

From here, if time permits, you can choose to extend your tour – see dotted line. Turn left from Great Ocean Road into Princetown Road to include G.O.R.G.E Chocolates, Melrose Road, Princetown; Apostles Whey, Gallum Road, Cooriemungle and Heytesbury Ridge Vineyard, Cooriemungle Road (Additional 42km)

OR return to Port Campbell then travel north to Timboon – Mouse Trap Café and L’artisan Cheese; Berry World (Nov–Mar) and the Timboon Railway Shed Distillery. Travel west to Curdie Vale and the Boggy Creek Pub, then return to the Great Ocean Road. At Allansford turn onto the Scenic Tourist Route at Ziegler Parade, turn left into Tooram Road, continue to Hopkins Point Road turn right.

Follow Hopkins Point Road through to Warrnambool. See the Robert Ulmann Studio Gallery – a beautiful studio overlooking ocean and whales, with wildlife and botanical paintings. Continue along Hopkins Point Road to Logans Beach for a spot of whale watching (June–September).

A COASTAL VILLAGE DISCOVERY TOUR

Tower Hill, Killarney, Port Fairy, Yambuk, Codrington, Macarthur, Koroit. (192 km)

Drive along Princes Highway to Tower Hill Reserve, a dormant volcano, a haven for wildlife – koalas, emus, kangaroos and birdlife. Visit the Worn Gundidj Visitor Centre featuring local Aboriginal art and craft, and enjoy a number of walks which start from the Visitor Centre.

As you leave the Reserve turn left and drive around the rim of the crater, stop at Von Guerard’s Lookout for a view over the crater and ocean, past Lavender Farm (Nov–Apr), to Killarney (beach) and back onto the Princes Highway to Port Fairy.

Port Fairy highlights – Historic buildings, walks, wharf, galleries & studios, in a quaint village atmosphere. Call into the Port Fairy Visitor Information Centre in Bank Street for more information.

Back onto the Princes Highway heading west make a stop at the Craggs with views of Lady Julia Percy Island – Australia’s only submarine volcano, from there to Yambuk Lake, a great spot to fish. Continue along Princes Highway to Codrington where you can see the wind farm.

Travel north along Bessie Belle–Codrington Road to Mt Eccles National Park featuring a crater lake, a lava cave and abundant wildlife, then on to the town of Macarthur.

Drive south–east to Koroit, follow the Heritage Trail highlighting many of Koroit’s beautiful old buildings.

Drive through Koroit to Southern Cross turn right to the Princes Highway and turn left to head back to Warrnambool.

See Rowans Lane Wines, Farnham Road, Dennington on your way.

A GREEN ESCAPE – HEAD NORTH TO THE GRAMPIANS

Mailors Flat, Winslow, Woolthorpe, Hawkesdale, Penshurst, Dunkeld, Halls Gap. (326 km)

Drive north to Mailors Flat – see Mailors Flat Demolition & Antiques – huge antique and collectables warehouse. Continue through Winslow and Woolthorpe, across to Hawkesdale – see Australia’s funkiest loo designed by the creative kids of Hawkesdale. Travel north to Penshurst, features include Mount Rouse Lookout, Lake Linlithgow and Volcanic Centre, then further north to Dunkeld. Dunkeld is located at the southern gateway to the Grampians National Park with excellent views of Mt Sturgeon and Mt Abrupt, the highest mountain in the southern Grampians.

Drive north to Halls Gap – spectacular, scenery, colourful displays of wildflowers, walks and a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities. Call into the Halls Gap Visitor Information Centre for more information.

Return to Warrnambool along the same route.