

Great Ocean Walk

Distance: end to end approx. 104km Duration: 7 Days / 6 Nights



One of Victoria's most iconic walks, the Great Ocean Walk meanders through spectacular national parks full of tall forests, coastal heathlands, wild rocky shores, river estuaries and windswept cliff-tops presenting amazing coastal views - nature truly unfolds around every bend. Carry only a day pack as you enjoy the amazing sights of one of Australia's greatest multi-day walks.

By walking the approx. 104 km of the Great Ocean Walk as a series of day walks in graded stages, people with a moderate level of fitness can complete the walk. Excellent home-made food, comfortable lodge style accommodation and knowledgeable guides will complement your trip.

Join us on a Great Ocean Walk end to end tour this year and tick this amazing walk off your bucket list. It's a challenging but achievable walk which you'll look back on with a great sense of satisfaction.

Level: *Moderate*

A guide will accompany you each day as you walk between 8 and 23 km. There are no easy days on the Great Ocean Walk; but, with a moderate level of fitness, they are all enjoyable! There are some steep sections, and a bit of beach walking, which can be challenging, so we recommend training.

Each day we will resume the walk from where we finished the previous day. Please note that on some days there are options to walk half a day; and you are always welcome to take a day off.

What our guests say:

"Fabulous walk over 6 days walking through some of the most beautiful Coast in Australia. Organisation by Inspiration Outdoors was exemplary - felt very comfortable as a single participant with such a friendly group of fellow walkers and great guides. Accommodation, food, company and informative commentary was fantastic. Would definitely recommend and will be doing more walking tours in the future with this great company."

-Trip Advisor, Nov 16

Give us a call if you have any questions! 08 8 6219 5164
or walk@inspirationoutdoors.com.au



Itinerary

Day 1

Apollo Bay to Shelly Beach
Distance: 9km

We depart Melbourne CBD at 8am, heading for the spectacular Great Ocean Road and Apollo Bay – the start of the Great Ocean Walk. Enjoy the first of many fresh picnic lunches for the week, get to know your walking companions and see if you can spot some Australian Fur Seals out on the rocks.

The walk today is relatively easy with some short sections of beach walking and a few hills. Keep an eye out for Koalas near Shelly beach!

Note, as we walk on the first afternoon, please wear your hiking clothes on the bus and bring your day pack ready to go. After our walk the bus will meet us at Shelly Beach carpark and we will drive to the accommodation.

Day 2

Shelly Beach to Parker Hill
Distance: 19km

Today the walk starts off by heading away from the coast and into towering forest of Mountain Ash, a characteristic feature of this part of the Great Otway National Park.

There are a few hills to negotiate before re-joining the coast at Blanket Bay. Blanket Bay is one of the few safe swimming locations along the walk.

After lunch at Blanket Bay the track then meanders along cliff tops and through coastal forests to Parker Inlet. Look out for black wallabies, echidnas, black cockatoos and other wildlife along the way. We end our walk at the top of Parker Hill.



Day 3

Parker Inlet to Castle Cove

Distance: 23km

Our path this morning will take us inland through manna gums towards Cape Otway. The trail then heads back to the coast and we pass Crayfish Bay with its magnificent turquoise water. As we get closer to Cape Otway we begin to see glimpses of the lighthouse in the distance.

From Cape Otway the track winds its way through wind sculpted landscapes of sand dunes, coastal scrubland and magnificent calcified cliffs. As we come closer to Aire River Valley we will get some fantastic views down to the estuary where the Aire River meets the Southern Ocean and Glenaire Beach.

From Aire River we head inland for a bit, climbing up and around the next headland before rejoining the coastal track, with sweeping views of the rugged coastline. We end our day at Castle Cove lookout, surrounded by towering cliffs which have high archaeological significance.

Day 4

Castle Cove to Milanesia Track

Distance: 17km

A very varied day today, as we walk from Castle Cove along cliff tops, through heath-lands and forests, occasionally emerging to breathtaking views along the extensive coast. There are beautiful expanses of grass trees and, in spring, wonderful wildflower displays. You may be lucky to see Peregrine Falcons along this section.

Eventually the path emerges onto Johanna Beach, where we walk along one of Australia's best beaches with superb views and enormous crashing surf. From Johanna Beach the path heads through rolling hills inland, where you can expect to see Eastern Grey Kangaroos, towards Milanesia Track.



Day 5

Milanesia Track to Gables

Distance: 16km

The first highlight today is Milanesia Beach, which is one of those secret beaches not many people get to. The track then cuts through and alternates between farmland and isolated beach and sea cliffs with a roller coaster of ups and downs to reach Ryan's Den. From here you'll have breathtaking views all the way back to Cape Otway and west to Cape Volney.

From Ryan's Den the trail then continues through coastal forests over Cape Volney towards Moonlight Head. After a steep climb up to Moonlight Head the track dips down into a valley which will lead us to The Gables Lookout. The Gables lookout is perched on one of the highest sea cliffs in mainland Australia, where will end today's walk.

Day 6

Gables to Gibson Steps Distance: 18km

Today we will continue our walk from The Gables through a grove of casuarina trees to Wreck Beach. Here, at low tide, you can see the anchors of two of the many shipwrecks that lie submerged along this coast. Due to safety reasons, we will however take the high tide route to Devils Kitchen. From Devils Kitchen the trail hugs and meanders along the wild coastal cliffs, nicely protected by beautiful coastal heath, all the way to Princetown.

The wetlands around Princetown support a wide variety of bird life, where we will cross the Gellibrand River on a trestle bridge to embark on one of our last sections to the 12 Apostles. A pleasant walk through coastal scrub and escarpment will start to reveal stunning views of the looming Apostles. We will end our walk today just before Gibson steps.

This morning we take the short walk from just before Gibson steps to the Twelve Apostles visitor centre – the end of the Great Ocean Walk.

Here you'll have time to wander the boardwalks and viewing platforms before the rush of the crowds early in the morning. Included in your tour is a 15 minute helicopter flight to see the spectacular coastline and the 12 Apostles from the air.

We head to the fabulous Loch Ard Gorge for morning tea, before taking the inland route back to Melbourne. Pick up some take-away lunch (own expense) on the way and we will arrive back in the city by late afternoon.

Day 7 Gibson Steps to 12 Apostles Distance: 2km



GREAT OCEAN WALK, VIC. NEAREST AIRPORT: MELBOURNE



The Fine Details

Cost: \$2,560 per person

(\$3,040 with a single supplement)

What's included:

- All transport: private coach transport to and from Melbourne; as well as transport to and from the track each day
- Helicopter ride over the 12 Apostles Included.
- Professional guiding and support each day
- Emergency support: guides carry satellite phones and a full first aid kit
- 6 night's comfortable accommodation
- 6 healthy breakfasts – cereal, fruit, yogurt, toast
- 7 morning teas, carried by your guide
- 6 lunches – some packed and some delivered picnics
- Pre-dinner nibbles each night
- 6 delicious two course dinners
- Excellent itinerary and planning drawn from 14 yrs experience

Where do we start from?

The tour starts and finishes in the Melbourne CBD. We depart at 8.00am from Southern Cross Station on all departures.

ALL DEPARTURES: We depart at 8.00am from Southern Cross Station. There is a loading zone out front of the Fairfax Media building, which is opposite the south facing side of Southern Cross Station on Collins St. As you walk along Southern Cross Station on Spencer St heading towards Collins Street, cross the road at the lights and turn right up along Collins St towards the Fairfax Media building. You will see a small park on your left, at the end of this little park and at the entrance of the Fairfax Media building there is a Loading Zone, this is where we can park the bus, [click here](#) for a map.

With an early departure, we recommend a night in Melbourne for those coming from interstate or overseas. We recommend to our guests the following hotels. All are within easy walking distance from the pick up location.

- Best Western Melbourne City on Spencer St
- Vibe Savoy Hotel Melbourne on Spencer St
- The Great Southern Hotel Melbourne on Spencer St

* Please note that there may not be any shops or cafes open (especially for weekend departures) and we recommend organising breakfast the night before.

Average Temperature (degrees):

Autumn Departures:

Mar: 13 min - 24 max Apr: 10 min - 21 max

Spring Departures:

Oct: 9 min - 19 max Nov: 10 min - 20 max

Where do we stay?

We stay at multiple different accommodations at various locations along the Great Ocean Walk, to ensure shorter drives to and from the walk as we go along.

At our first nights stay at the Apollo Bay Motel we stay in twin share private rooms with an ensuite.



Images: Johanna Seaside Cottages

At the Johanna Seaside Cottages we spread out over several 2 – 4 bedroom cottages with shared bathrooms. We will come together in one of the houses for breakfast and dinner each day. The cottages are nestled along the coast beside the beach, with stunning sun-set views.

The last night is spent at a motel in Port Campbell in twin share private rooms with an ensuite. We will enjoy a dinner out at a local restaurant.

Accommodation is allocated on a double or twin share basis. A limited number of single supplements are available for an additional \$480. Single supplements are not mandatory for solo travellers, we will room solo travellers with a fellow solo traveller of the same gender.

Dietary requirements?

From vegetarians to pescatarians to meat loving carnivores with an aversion to cucumbers we cater for all dietary

requirements and will make sure you are well fed and looked after on tour.

What's the average age of walkers?

The average age of our guests are between 55-75 years young but we welcome any adult on our tours.

Ready to book?

Your next adventure is two steps away...

- Jump onto our website www.inspirationoutdoors.com.au , find your tour in the menu and click on the orange button in the top right hand corner that states, 'CheckAvailability/Book Now' alternatively call us on **08 6219 5164** (international calls dial +618 62195164) or email us at walk@InspirationOutdoors.com.au.
- Pay a \$350pp deposit to secure your booking (full payment is required six weeks prior to departure or at time of booking if booking within six weeks).

Just in case...

We hope that you do not need to cancel your booking. However, if you do, our cancellation fee, based on the notice given prior to the departure date, is:

- 85 days or more, you will be refunded all monies paid, less a \$50 administration fee.
- 42 to 84 days prior to departure, you will lose your deposit
- 28 to 41 days: 25% of full tour cost
- 14 to 27 days: 50% of full tour cost
- less than 14 days: 100% of full tour cost, no refund

If you have any concerns about cancelling, please take out travel insurance covering this contingency. This policy will be adhered to despite the most compelling and compassionate circumstances.

Stay inspired...

Like us on **Facebook** and follow us on **Instagram** so you can stay up to date with photos from the trail, competitions and tour updates.

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