



The Great Ocean Walk

Bespoke Tours for Private Groups

We specialise in tailor-made fully escorted tours for private groups (minimum 8 people) along the Great Ocean Walk, Australia's world-famous coastal trail located a three-hour drive west of Melbourne. Our luxury guided tour along the iconic Great Ocean Walk combines stunning hiking with fabulous meals showcasing delicious local produce: freshly caught fish and seafood, locally reared meat, hand-crafted cheeses, and fresh fruit and vegetables all matched with fine wines and traditional beers. We stay in boutique accommodation close to the trail and aim to take care of our guests' every need on this unforgettable hike.

Dates

The walk is available any time from November to April. The school holidays (Christmas till late January) are very busy. We recommend early December or March/early April as the ideal times for the hike.

What's Included?

- **Two experienced and knowledgeable guides** who will look after your every need and bring this stunning area to life.
- **Luxury accommodation** close to the trail. We select accommodation based on the size and make-up of the group.
- All meals including wine and local boutique beers.
- **Gourmet picnic lunches** each day freshly prepared using delicious local produce
- **Delicious dinners** each evening - either in local restaurants or in the comfort of your accommodation.
- **Support vehicle** enabling you to walk a half-day if preferred. All you need to carry is a small backpack
- Comprehensive pre-trip information
- Transport to/from Melbourne, Victoria



Itinerary

Our Great Ocean Walk tours start and end in Melbourne, Victoria. It is possible to self-drive to the region if preferred but we do offer airport and city centre pick-ups. It is a 3.5 hour drive from Melbourne to Apollo Bay - the official start for the Great Ocean Walk.

We use a selection of delightful boutique accommodation close to the trail. We select places to stay according to the requirements of the group. The majority of the accommodation does not have en-suite facilities but two to four people will share a bathroom.

On several evenings we cook ourselves (Mick is a fully trained chef) producing a three-course dinner matched to local wines.

Hiking on the Great Ocean Walk

Hikes vary from 5.5km to 19.2km in length. On most days there is a short drive to the start and end of each walk. The different sections of the walk are described below. We recommend allowing at least 6 full days to complete the entire 100 km trail end-to-end. For those with less time we can suggest the most scenic and interesting sections to do a four day Great Ocean Walk, which will give the walker most of the highlights of the walk. More information and a short film can be found on Visit Victoria - The Great Ocean Walk.



Shelly Beach to Cape Otway

Walk through beautiful, unspoilt mountain ash forest, home to black wallabies. We stop for a picnic near Blanket Bay and then continue, past picturesque Parker Inlet, to Cape Otway Lightstation. This is the oldest lighthouse on the Australian mainland and it provided a beacon of light, and hope, to the early settlers after their long voyage. Private guided tour.

Cape Otway to Castle Cove

Today we hike along remote Station Beach and marvel at the ancient geology of this region which has created fascinating rock formations along the coastline. Descend through the dunes to peaceful Aire River inlet for a delicious picnic lunch before continuing to Castle Cove.

Castle Cove to Johanna Beach, continuing to Milanesia Beach

Hike through heathland and keep an eye out for the shy echidna. We cross Johanna beach which is a haven for hooded plovers at nesting time and is also a popular spot for peregrine falcons. After a picnic lunch one can either return to the accommodation for a relaxing afternoon, lazing in the spa

and maybe indulging in an in-house massage, or the more energetic can explore one of the bushwalks departing from the cottages or continue on the Great Ocean Walk to Milanesia Beach.

Milanesia Beach to Moonlight Head

This hike, with spectacular views, is one of our favourites. Explore the hidden gem of Milanesia beach, only accessible by foot. Follow the path along high sea cliffs to our picnic spot at remote Ryan's Den from where we have sensational views back to Cape Otway. Continue to romantic Moonlight Head or further to The Gables before returning to your accommodation.

Moonlight Head to the Twelve Apostles

Start the day with a visit to evocative Wreck Beach and hear the stories of some of the most infamous shipwrecks on this treacherous coast. Walk through blue gum forest, casuarinas trees and lush farmland to emerge at the small village of Princetown overlooking the Gellibrand River. In the afternoon we continue over the clifftops to emerge at the majestic limestone stacks of the Twelve Apostles.

Loch Ard Gorge

Loch Ard gorge was the scene of a tragic shipwreck in 1878. There are several hikes which let us explore the story in depth.

Walking

Hilly terrain with some steep ascents/descents.

Shortest day 5.5km/Longest day 19.2km

Paths vary from wide farm and forestry tracks to narrow paths through coastal scrub and along cliff tops. Hilly in places. Some beach walking, depending on tides.

Pricing

Prices will depend on the number in the group, the number of days and the type of accommodation selected. Please contact us for more details.



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