

GREAT OCEAN ROAD



A U S T R A L I A

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Great Ocean Road Itinerary Planner e-Book.

The Great Ocean road is one of the most visited destinations in Australia. The majority of travellers spend one day touring, not always realising there is so much more to see as well as the 12 Apostles.

This e-book can help you to plan a holiday along the coast and to discover the less famous areas such as the beautiful Great Otway National Park with its miles of walking trails and gorgeous waterfalls.

The Great Ocean Road e-book is designed to be easily printed out if you wish to, so to save your ink, images are not included. Please go to the website, [Explore The Great Ocean Road](http://ExploreTheGreatOceanRoad.com.au), to get more of an idea of what expect along the way. It is said that a 'picture paints a thousand words...' and we have plenty of images to share with you.

Please share this ebook with friends 😊



After travelling the Great Ocean Road over 200 times as an owner/driver tour guide, I want to share the knowledge gained to help other people plan trips and get the most out of their time on the coast.

Hopefully, this guide will do just that for you.

Jane Barnes

The Great Ocean Road, Australia

Winding along the coast line of Victoria for over 200 kms, the world famous Great Ocean Road is one of the most popular destinations in Australia. The star of the show is the 12 Apostles, located within the Port Campbell National Park.

What are the 12 Apostles?

Limestone pillars, once connected to the cliffs of the Port Campbell National Park, rise out of the sea. Carved out over many thousands of years through the natural forces of nature, firstly as caves, then into arches and eventually becoming the limestone stacks we see today.

Further along the coastline, 'The Arch', 'London Bridge', 'The Grotto' and 'Bay of Martyrs' are reminders of the ever changing coastline.

Where are the 12 Apostles?

The 12 Apostles are located within the **Port Campbell National Park**, Victoria. The distance from Melbourne: 227.5 km / 2 hours 50 minutes on the fastest possible route or 277 km / 4 hours 25 minutes on the scenic coastal drive (definitely the best option). These times are **driving only**, without any stops.

What to expect on a road trip?

Most of the Great Ocean Road follows the coast, winding around cliffs, climbing high with distant views along the coast and out to the Bass Strait and the Southern Ocean, other times dipping down to sea level where travelers can feel the thunder of the waves.

The ocean road then goes inland through cool temperate rainforest and farmland before climbing over the top of the Otway Ranges and back down to what is known as the 'Shipwreck Coast' before reaching the famous limestone stacks of the Twelve Apostles.

Driving times & distances

ROUTE	DISTANCE	TRAVEL TIME
Melbourne to Torquay	104.5 kilometres / 65 miles	90 minutes
Torquay to Lorne	46 kilometres / 28.5 miles	50 minutes
Lorne to Apollo Bay	47.3 kilometres / 29 miles	60 minutes
Apollo Bay to Lavers Hill	51.4 kilometres / 32 miles	50 minutes
Lavers Hill to 12 Apostles	40 kilometres / 25 miles	45 minutes
12 Apostles to Port Campbell	11.2 kilometres / 7 miles	10 minutes
Port Campbell to Colac	77.6 kilometres / 48 miles	60 minutes
Colac to Melbourne	152 kilometres / 94.5 miles	2 hours
TOTAL TIME		8 HOURS DRIVING

What to see & do at the 12 Apostles

There is more to see and do in the area than just viewing the famous rocks stacks – follow walking trails, walk along beaches, visit a historic cemetery at Loch Ard Gorge and learn more about the region.

1. Gibson's Beach – This is a must-do!

This is the first stop when arriving at the Port Campbell National Park, from the Melbourne direction, and one of the best beaches to visit for dramatic scenery. Not a safe swimming beach though.

High above Gibson's Beach, at the western end, one of the 12 Apostles viewing platforms can be seen as well as two limestone stacks, known as Gog & Magog. The 88 steps down to the beach were hand-carved into the cliff over a century ago but were concreted for safety in the 1990s.

Parking is very limited at Gibson's Steps, if it is busy, drive 2 km's to the large parking area at the Apostles visitor centre and follow the 2 km coastal path back, it is signposted clearly and an easy hike.

The 12 Apostles viewing area

No need to introduce these icons of the Great Ocean Road! There is plenty of room on the viewing platforms, though it does get crowded, the busiest time is mid to late afternoon.

There is a large, free, car parking area with bus and long vehicle bays.

3. Helicopter Flights

It is amazing to finally see these famous rock stacks from the viewing platform, but how about from above?

- Scenic **helicopter** flights leave from near the 12 Apostles visitor centre behind the car park.
- Or how about **a helicopter tour from Apollo Bay?** These trips follow the coast, passing the Cape Otway Light Station and parts of the coast that you can't see or access from the road. Apollo Bay Aviation provides a variety of trips, [read more on their website](#).

4. Loch Ard Gorge

This area is simply awesome, just a 5-minute drive from the 12 Apostles. The walks to the well known 'Razorback' formation, the 'Shipwreck lookout' and down into Loch Ard Gorge and the beach are the most popular. If you have time, walk further to the small cemetery, Mutton Bird island viewing platform, and down to the Sherbrook River where it meets the Southern Ocean (not a safe swimming beach).

It takes a few hours to do all the walks and covers about 8 km of easy trails, but it is one of the most spectacular places to visit in the area.

Tips:

- No toilets or visitor facilities at Loch Ard Gorge
- Swimming is allowed on the beach at Loch Ard Gorge, though at your own risk. It's not safe to swim at the Sherbrook River beach.
- Watch out for snakes, do not approach if you see any, leave them alone and they'll generally leave you alone too.

SAFETY WARNING

Never underestimate the power of currents and waves and never overestimate your own strength and abilities. It can take a split second to be **swept off rocks or the beach** and out into the ocean.

5. The Arch | London 'Bridge' | The Grotto

A short drive from Port Campbell, on the road to Warrnambool, is even more formations well worth visiting.

The Arch involves a short walk to a viewing platform. London Bridge, now known as London Arch, always attracts crowds and 'The Grotto' is an especially interesting formation to walk down to.

Australia's 'London Bridge' fell down in 1990

A formation that was for decades known as 'London Bridge' had a connecting arch collapse in 1990, leaving two unsuspecting travellers stranded on the newly formed island. A couple of hours later they were rescued by helicopter. It's now known as 'London Arch'. 😊

6. Bay of Islands Coastal Park & Bay of Martyrs

Further along the road, the Bay of Islands Coastal Park is near the end of this incredible coastal drive and less than an hour from the town of Warrnambool, well known for whale watching. Along with the Bay of Martyrs, this area is well worth visiting. Follow the historic trail of the Bay of Martyrs, walk on the beaches...

12 Apostles Accommodation

Most motels and cabins are located in Port Campbell which is a 12 - minute drive from the Port Campbell National Park where the Twelve Apostles, Loch Ard Gorge and Gibson's Steps are located.

Motel and Cabin Accommodation – Port Campbell

We love staying at the [Sea Foam Villas](#) when it is just the two of us and have enjoyed staying in the family cabins at the [Port Campbell Holiday Park](#) with the kids. Port Campbell offers plenty of different options for accommodation. Browse for some of the best deals [here](#).

Air BnB Accommodation near Port Campbell

There is a large choice of amazing places to stay in Port Campbell and near the 12 Apostles. [Click here](#) to browse our favourites.

Do You Want To Self-drive or Join a Bus Tour?

Being independent and driving the Great Ocean Road does mean that you are free to stop and start as you please, to take your time and savour the journey. Bus tours, on the other hand, can take the hassle out of planning.

Car or motorhome/RV Rental companies in Australia offer a wide range of choices with competitive prices.

Drive Now is one of the best options for searching for the best price from all the major car rental companies.

Great Ocean Road Tours From Melbourne

Bus tours along the Ocean Road are very popular, particularly with overseas travellers and students.

One day trips are run by a number of companies. Small buses with up to 22 seats are a fun way to travel, AAT Kings and a few other well-known companies use large coaches and a number of private small group tours are available too.

1 Day Bus Tours from Melbourne

Go West Tours, a well established small bus tour company that has earned themselves an excellent reputation over many years. This one-day tour stops at all the highlights of the Ocean Road as well as a beautiful rain forest walk along the way.

AAT KINGS is a large bus company that have been operating for a long time. They run 1-day tours using full size coaches that carry 50 or more passengers. If you prefer to be in a big bus for the tour, AAT kings might be ideal. An advantage of the companies who use smaller buses does mean that they may make stops that the big guys can't do, such as a really pretty little rain forest walk along the way.

2 Day Great Ocean Road & Grampians Tour

Wildlife Tours have been providing great tours for more than 20 years. They are a really well established company and great value for money. This 2 day tour stays overnight in the Grampians, the first day is spent on the Ocean Road before driving to the accommodation in the mountains.

2 Day Great Ocean Road & Otways

Autopia Tours has been going for well over 20 years. This small bus company was one of the first backpacker style tour operators in Melbourne. I believe they are actually owned by one of the big bus companies now, but they still operate in the same way by offering small bus fun tours to travellers.

This trip is great as they take passengers via Warrnambool then along to the 12 Apostles for sunset with an overnight stay in Port Campbell. The second day is spent cruising back along the Ocean Road to Melbourne. This tour is quite a bit different to most!

2 Day Great Ocean Road & Phillip Island

Bunyip Tours, such a great name! Another long established small bus tour company. This tour is a bit different and a good plan. The Bunyip bus takes you along to the beginning of the Great Ocean Road and does the trip in reverse, travellers then stay overnight on the Bellarine Peninsula before crossing by ferry to Sorrento on the Mornington Peninsula and then travel on down to Phillip Island and the famous Penguin Parade.

3 Day Great Ocean Road & The Grampians

Wild Life Tours also operate a 3 day tour along the Great Ocean Road, staying the first night in Warrnambool before driving on to the Grampian Mountains the next day and spending a night there. This is a good value trip and allows for enough time to really enjoy two beautiful regions of Victoria.

Groovy Grape Tours are loads of fun and have been operating tours for over 20 years.

They initially started out offering tours from Adelaide into the wine producing region of the Barossa Valley and now offer an action packed 3-day tour along the Ocean Road, into the Grampian Mountains and onto Adelaide (or vice versa).

For visitors travelling on from Melbourne, this tour offers a fun way to travel between the two cities.

Groovy Grape still run tours into the Barossa Valley as well as to the Centre of Australia.

Self-drive Itinerary 1 Day

Read the 1-day itinerary on the website if you would like to enjoy the images of the trip.

<https://explorethegreatoceanroad.com.au/great-ocean-road-self-drive-tour/>

This suggested one-day self-drive itinerary is based on years of experience driving the Great Ocean Road as a tour guide.

As there is a lot to see, realistic driving times and recommended stops are included to help you plan the best 1 day road trip along the Ocean Road to the Twelve Apostles.

It starts from, and returns to, Melbourne but can be easily adapted if you are traveling on elsewhere, such as to [Adelaide](#).

We did this drive, to measure driving times between stops, during the autumn when the sunset was at approximately 8 pm. Please make allowances depending on the time of year you travel.

6.30 am ~ Depart Melbourne

Get on the road as early as possible, really, do it. Start early. There is a lot to see and enjoy. From the centre of Melbourne or St Kilda, it is about a 20-minute drive up and over the West Gate Bridge where our timing for the day trip starts. Seriously, start early. 😊

This first section of the drive, following Highway One, is straight forward and not especially interesting. Personally, I dislike this section.

There is a 24 hour BP Petrol Station at Little River which is about 30 mins after crossing the West Gate Bridge. A good place to fill up and grab a snack perhaps.

Keep following Highway One past Geelong and look for the signs to the Great Ocean Road.

Follow the road (C134) towards Anglesea, **we suggest you bypass Torquay on a one day trip.**

GREAT OCEAN ROAD & 12 APOSTLES, AUSTRALIA

Torquay is a pretty little town and home to some lovely [accommodation](#), good beaches as well as surf shop outlets and the [National Surfing Museum](#). Bells Beach is close by where the Rip Curl Classic Surf competition is held annually. There is also ['Narana'](#) an award-winning Aboriginal Cultural Centre offering authentic, immersive, cultural experiences.

Visit Torquay if you feel you have time, though on a day trip it is, sadly, best to bypass this town.

7.50 am ~ Anglesea

This is a sweet little town, a stop here is not recommended on a day trip, too many miles to cover still.

Soon after Anglesea, the road follows close to the ocean and miles of wonderful beaches can be seen, this region is known as The Surf Coast, for good reason. It is such a pleasure to see the blue of the sea and really be on your way along the Great Ocean Road!

8.20 am - 8.40 am ~Great Ocean Road Memorial Arch

Passing through Aireys Inlet, the long golden surf beaches continue. Look out for the amazing 'Pole House' on the right. A concrete structure that has survived bushfires, and is available to [rent](#) on Stayz for about \$600 per night (2-night minimum stay)

Stop by the Memorial Arch to stretch your legs and read the history of the Great Ocean Road construction, take a few minutes to walk down onto the beach.

Parking for long vehicles is a bit limited at the Memorial Arch, drive a little past the arch to park with long vehicles beside the road.

After stopping at the Memorial Arch, keep driving up and over the hills where there are a few lookout points and driveways to homes that seemingly disappear over the cliff. This is the start of the dramatic section of the Great Ocean Road. 👍

9.00 am - 9.30 am ~ Lorne

Lorne is a favorite day trip haunt for Melbourne residents and has been for many years. Art Deco style buildings, loads of [accommodation](#) options, sea baths, safe swimming, a great playground, skate park, bbq's to use as well as loads of cafes and shops.

The Lorne Visitor Centre (on the left as you enter the town and opposite the colorful lady sculptures) is worth a visit to see 'The Great Ocean Road Story' - a stunning display of photos and history.

Parking in peak season for long vehicles is difficult, do not try to find parking up behind Lorne as the streets are really steep. The lower parking area opposite the petrol station is the best option.

We have allowed **30 minutes** to visit this funky town on a one-day drive. Do not dawdle too long... there is still a long way to go to reach the 12 Apostles!

9.35 am - 9.50 am ~ Teddy's Lookout

Drive through Lorne and turn right at the Lorne Hotel to follow the signs up to Teddy's Lookout. The view from here is often seen in promotional tourism images, and our cover page for this e-book..

It is a steep road but vehicles going up have the right of way, so you will not need to stop.

Keep an eye out for koalas in the trees around this area.

Return to the ocean road the same way.

10.30 am - 11.00 am ~ Kennett River Koala Walk

Koalas in the wild! Many Australians have never seen a koala in the wild. Kennett River is a tiny little township and is a great place to see our cute koalas, grab a cuppa maybe and see the colourful Crimson Rosellas and King Parrots. At Kennett River, turn right off the Ocean Road towards the little store and then turn immediately left up **Grey River Road**. Watch out for pedestrians, ducks, and birds on the road.

Very often a koala or two may be in the trees at the beginning of the road, park and have a walk to look for them or drive up the road one or two kilometers and look for them in the trees along the way.

11.05 am - 11.10 am ~ Cape Patton Lookout

The road continues to wind around the mountainside. Cape Patton is a good place to stop briefly, views along the coast stretch towards Apollo Bay and Cape Otway.

11.30 am till 12.30 pm ~ Apollo Bay

Apollo Bay is a lovely, relaxing little town. No high buildings, easy parking, a long golden beach, a good information and gift centre, playground for kids, loads of cafes, a petrol station, a small supermarket and plenty of awesome [accommodation options](#).

It is a great little town to grab some lunch from the many cafes, eat in or take away and sit on the beach or in the park where there is a playground for kids. BBQ's are also available.

12.30 pm Departure - 20-minute drive to the next stop...

12.50 pm - 1.20 pm ~ Maits Rest Rainforest Walk

Maits Rest is about 20 minutes drive from Apollo Bay, on the left. Well signposted and worth stopping here for this short but really pretty rain forest walk. Very old Beech Myrtle trees, tall tree ferns and an easy loop walk (no toilets).

1.20 pm Depart Maits Rest, the road continues through the forest and open farmland before climbing up the Otway Ranges to Lavers Hill.

1.50 pm Lavers Hill

The top of the Otway Ranges. A few shops and a petrol station, the last public toilet stop before the 12 Apostles. Make a really quick 5 minute stop, if you need to.

2.40 pm - 3.10 pm ~ Gibsons Steps

Gibsons Steps. This is one of the best beaches, in my opinion. 88 steps cut into the limestone cliff face with stunning views towards two of the famous rock stacks, known as Gog & Magog. **Not safe to swim, though you may see surfers there.**

During storms or high tides, the steps may be closed off but the lookout platform is still worth stopping for.

Parking is extremely limited at Gibsons Steps. From the nearby 12 Apostles car park it is possible to walk back to Gibsons Steps (about 20 minutes walk each way) if you have been unable to park, but it will impact on your timings for a one day trip.

The Twelve Apostles!

3.15 pm - 3.40 pm ~ 12 Apostles

It is a very short, 2-minute drive to the 12 Apostles car park. Loads of free parking, plenty of space for caravans and motorhomes.

Helicopter scenic flights leave from here and are highly recommended! No booking needed, just rock up.

This is a really busy time of day to be here as day tour buses from Melbourne descend as well as self-driving visitors, still well worth visiting of course. The walk from the car park takes a couple of minutes to reach the viewing platforms which hug the top of the cliffs.

Toilets and a basic cafe for drinks etc. The cafe and info center closes at 5 pm, all-year-round, but the viewing area for the 12 Apostles is open 24 hours a day.

Read more and see images about [what to see and do](#) at the 12 Apostles...

3.45 pm - 4.30 pm ~ Loch Ard Gorge

Named after one of the most famous shipwrecks along the coast, Loch Ard Gorge is... gorgeous. Walk past two rock stacks named 'Tom & Eva' to the 'Razor Back' formation, follow the shipwreck trail and head down onto Loch Ard Gorge beach, I love this little beach.

Leave Loch Ard Gorge by 4.30 pm if you want to visit London Bridge, The Arch & The Grotto too)

4.40 pm ~ Port Campbell

It is a 10 minute drive to Port Campbell, how much time is spent in the little seaside town is dependent on your own schedule, the weather and time of the year. It is a nice little town with some good walks around the coast, plenty of accommodation and even a microbrewery... [Maybe stay overnight and continue the next day?](#) [Booking .com](#) has some great deals.

London Bridge, The Arch, and the Grotto

Just past Port Campbell are three more stopping points before heading home, if you want to see a bit more. It is a 5-minute drive to 'The Arch' then another short distance to see what is left of the famous 'London Bridge'. Another very quick drive and 'The Grotto' is the last of the sights recommended for a day trip, if you can manage!

Return towards Port Campbell and follow the signs to Colac, onto Highway One again and back to Melbourne.

Port Campbell to Melbourne via Colac & Highway 1

2 hours 50 minutes / 230 km This is perhaps the hardest part of the Great Ocean Road self-drive day trip. Use Google to show you the way home to Melbourne!

⚠️ Native animals may cross the road at any time, use caution.

⚠️ In winter, daylight hours are short, it will involve driving in the dark.

Port Campbell to Warrnambool

For travelers continuing on to [Warrnambool](#) (**find accommodation**) and beyond, it is about a 50 minutes / 62 km drive.

Great Ocean Road Itinerary - 2 OR 3 DAYS

<https://explorethegreatoceanroad.com.au/self-drive-3-day-itinerary/>

Suggested Overnight Stops

Apollo Bay or Port Campbell would be fine to stop overnight if doing the Great Ocean Road road trip over two days. It depends entirely on how long you spend along the way. The advantage of stopping in Apollo Bay is being close to a lovely long beach, a stopover in Port Campbell lets you see Twelve Apostles at sunset/sunrise...

1st night – Apollo Bay

A pretty seaside town that has escaped mass development and high-level buildings of any sort. The beach is stunning, plenty of cafes, [caravan parks](#) and [accommodation](#) options as well as local walks.

2nd night – Port Campbell

Port Campbell is a tiny fishing village with a large number of [accommodation options](#), [caravan & camping parks](#), cafes, a microbrewery, and a pretty beach plus coastal walking tracks. It is about 10 minutes drive from the 12 Apostles and is an ideal overnight stop, enabling visitors to see the Apostles at sunset and/or sunrise.

DAY 1 – Melbourne to Apollo Bay

DEPART MELBOURNE AND DRIVE OVER THE WESTGATE BRIDGE

This first section of the drive, following Highway One (Australia's [National Highway](#)), is quite straightforward and not especially interesting.

There is a 24 hour BP Petrol Station at Little River which is about 30 mins after crossing the West Gate Bridge. A good place to fill up and grab a snack perhaps.

Keep following Highway One past Geelong and look for the signs to the Great Ocean Road. Go via Torquay and Bells Beach or directly to Anglesea. It is about 90 minutes from Melbourne to the Ocean Road.

What to see between Torquay and Lorne

- Torquay – [National Surfing Museum](#), Surfing Gear Outlet Shops, Great Beaches, plenty of [places to stay](#)...
- **Bells Beach** is close by to Torquay, home of the [Rip Curl Classic Surf competition](#), held annually since 1961 during Easter time
- Pt Addis beach and the wonderful **Koori Cultural Walk**.
- [Split Point Lighthouse](#), Aireys Inlet
- Great Ocean Road **Memorial Arch** and numerous lookout points.

Lorne

Lorne is the busiest town along the Great Ocean Road drive, **there is a lot to do around Lorne**, if you have time to stay a day or so. The town is situated on Louttit Bay, it has a beautiful beach and the forest of the **Great Otway National Park** comes right down to the back of the town. Lots of great cafes and restaurants, interesting shops and plenty of accommodation choices from campgrounds, to cottages and 4+ star resorts.

Erskine Falls is an **easy drive** or a **good hike**, following the Erskine River from the town (7.5 km each way or drive). Lots of fun can be had for kids on the foreshore with a lovely beach, swimming pool, in-ground trampolines, a skate park, and playground.

Teddy's Lookout is an ideal spot for a few walks and super views down along the Ocean Road. Turn right at the Lorne hotel and drive up the hill, following the signs.

Lorne could be a perfect alternative option for an overnight stay, it's a funky little town with loads of attractions and things to do. Check out the best deals on **Booking.com**

What to see between Lorne and Apollo Bay

From Lorne it is approximately 1 hour to Apollo Bay... but with a number of worthy stops in between. These stops are directly off the main ocean road and signposted

- **Artillery Rocks** – A favourite of ours. Popular for fishing, the rock formations are worth seeing. They are about 12.5 km's/under 20 minutes drive from Lorne on the left (this is not signposted).
- Sheoak and Carisbrook **Waterfalls** are both easy walks from the road.
- A number of **lookout points** and parking areas provide views and beach access, some are suitable for long vehicles.
- Kennett River and **Koalas in the wild!** The tiny community of Kennett River boasts possibly the best koala viewing in the area. Turn right towards the shop and then left up Grey River Road. Koalas can be anywhere here and it is a good spot for seeing the colorful King Parrots and Crimson Rosellas. Drive a couple of km's up the road to escape the crowds perhaps and look for koalas. Further up is the Grey River Reserve, a pretty picnic area and well known for viewing **glow worms** after dark.
- Some good accommodation options are in the area, for anyone wanting to **stop over** and maybe see the nearby glow worms.

Apollo Bay

Such a beautiful town for a holiday. Apollo Bay is not overdeveloped and has a super relaxed feel. A long, safe, golden beach, hills coming down beyond and a pretty foreshore area with a playground, information centre, sculptures, free BBQ's and walking tracks.

Nearby attractions include [Maits Rest Rainforest Walk](#), drives up into [the Otways](#) and Marriners lookout. The 'Great Ocean Walk' starts here, 8 days and 100 km of adventure all the way to the 12 Apostles...

Accommodation in Apollo Bay

Accommodation varies from caravan parks, [youth hostels](#), cottages, whole houses, luxury accommodation, and holiday units. There is [somewhere fabulous to stay](#) suitable for singles, couples, groups, and families.

Apollo Bay Caravan Park

Caravan and camping parks in Apollo Bay offer a range of options from campsites, powered caravan sites, and cabins.

[Big 4 Pisces Holiday Park](#) | [Marengo Holiday Park](#) | [Apollo Bay Holiday Park](#)

DAY 2 – Apollo Bay to Port Campbell

What to see between Apollo Bay & Lavers Hill

- **Maits Rest** This is a [gorgeous rainforest walk](#) and worth taking the time to see. It is about 20 minutes from Apollo Bay and the walk is only about 15-20 minutes.
- **Cape Otway** A stunning area with a dramatic coastline, shipwreck history and historic lighthouse (there is a cost to enter the lighthouse). Koalas live here in the wild and can be easily spotted in the trees. A couple of small campsites as well as fab walks.
- **Johanna Beach** is a popular and well-known surf beach with [camping](#) and [cabins](#).
- **Castle Cove** has a good viewpoint and a fairly steep walk down onto the beach.

What to see beyond Lavers Hill

Lavers Hill is at the top of the Otway Ranges and a crossroads where a couple of options are available, depending on your time constraints.

1. Turn right to visit [Triplet Falls](#) and the [Otway Fly Tree Tops Walk](#) then on to the 12 Apostles and Port Campbell for the night.
2. **Or** turn left and continue from Lavers Hill to Port Campbell and the Twelve Apostles, perhaps return this way on the 3rd day? It all depends on time, weather, and daylight hours available.

If the decision is to visit Triplet Falls first:

- Turn right at the Lavers Hill junction to visit one of the prettiest waterfalls, **Triplet Falls**, a 25 minute / 23.6 km drive away and definitely worth seeing. [Get Driving Directions to the Falls](#)
- The **Otway Fly** is on the same road as Triplet Falls. an elevated treetops walk and zip-lining course. There is a cost involved to enter. [Find out more about the Otway Fly Tree Tops Walk.](#)

What to see between Lavers Hill and Port Campbell

- **Melba Gully** – Another pretty rainforest walk just past Lavers Hill. Ancient Myrtle Beech Trees and a small cascade. At night, this is a popular spot to see glow worms. Maybe stay [nearby](#) if you are keen to see them.
- **Moonlight Head** – about 20 minutes past Lavers Hill is a place many people miss! A steep walk down to the beach at [Moonlight Head](#) rewards visitors with a classic scene of a ship's anchor embedded in the rocks. The result of the shipwrecks Marie Gabrielle (1870) and Fiji (1890). Accessible at low tide only
- **Princetown** – A tiny township, very close to the 12 Apostles, there is a boardwalk to the beach, cafe, and a basic campground.
- **Gibsons Steps** – This is one of the best beaches, in my opinion. 88 steps cut into the limestone cliff face with stunning views towards two of the famous rock stacks of the 12 Apostles.
Parking is extremely limited at Gibson's Steps. From the nearby 12 Apostles car park it is possible to walk back 2 km on a track to Gibson's Steps if you have been unable to park.

- **Twelve Apostles** – It is a very short, 2-minute drive to the 12 Apostles car park. Loads of free parking, plenty of space for caravans and motorhomes. Helicopter scenic flights leave from here and are highly recommended! Mid to late afternoon is the busiest time here. Staying overnight in Port Campbell will enable visitors to return for sunset or sunrise and when it is less busy. The walk from the car park takes a couple of minutes to reach the viewing platforms. Toilets and a basic cafe for drinks etc. Read our complete guide of what to see and do when you [visit the 12 Apostles](#).
- **Helicopter Rides** – [Book ahead](#) to do one of these tours or just show up on the day.
- **Loch Ard Gorge** – Named after one of the most famous shipwrecks along the coast, Loch Ard Gorge is... gorgeous. Walk to the 'Razor Back' formation, follow the shipwreck trail and head down to the beach. Walks continue around the clifftop to the historic cemetery, Mutton Bird Island to the Blow Hole and further on to another beach. It is easy to spend a couple of hours exploring this area.
- **Return on the 3rd day** to see more of the area perhaps.
- The Arch, about 5 minutes past Port Campbell towards Warrnambool.
- The Famous London Bridge, which fell down... (a few minutes past The Arch)
- The Grotto – A sinkhole that is rather spectacular too. (another few minutes from London Bridge)

Port Campbell

A sweet little fishing village with good restaurants, a lovely beach and clifftop walk plus an ideal place to stay overnight. **Lots of accommodation options as well as camping and caravan parks.**

- **GORGE Chocolates** GORGE Chocolates was established in 2004 in the countryside just minutes from the 12 Apostles. A modest beginning soon gave way to a business appreciated by locals and tourists in the area.
- **Apostle Whey Cheese** “Dairy farmers Julian and Dianne Benson launched Apostle Whey Cheese on October 29, 2005. Since that day, Apostle Whey Cheese has taken out a number of major cheese awards and become an important tourism drawcard for the region. Just a short drive from the Twelve Apostles and the Great Ocean Road, Apostle Whey Cheese is a genuine paddock to plate operation”
 - **Timboon Distillery** “The Timboon Railway Shed Distillery offers a distillery experience and daily lunch service in a location with a real ‘sense of place’.
 - Experience **Timboon and the Rail Trail** by hire bike. The Crater to Coast Bicycle Hire service specializes in hiring out mountain bikes. They also have bike trailers available so the whole family including your pets or kids can come along too.

DAY 3 – Port Campbell to Melbourne or onwards

The 3rd day can easily be filled visiting local attractions around Port Campbell or return via Lavers Hill and see Triplet Falls, The Otway Fly, maybe visit some of the other waterfalls in the Otways.

The return to Melbourne via Colac takes 3 hours / 229 km / 142.5 miles.

Heading to Warrnambool, Adelaide... the Grampian Mountains?

Find accommodation in [Warrnambool](#), [Adelaide](#) or the [Grampians](#).

	Warrnambool	Grampians	Adelaide
Port Campbell to	62 km / 50 minutes	209 km / 2.5 hrs	664 km / 7.5 hrs

Great Ocean Road Drive Itinerary- 6 Days

<https://explorethegreatoceanroad.com.au/great-ocean-road-drive/>

Suggested Overnight Stops

Where to stay – These are our suggested overnight stops for a 6-day Great Ocean Road trip, depending on whether you aspire to have luxury accommodation, budget motel or cabin options or to camp, there is something for everyone on their Great Ocean Road holidays.

Lorne x 2 Nights

The area around Lorne has some of the best waterfalls, hikes, and is a terrific little seaside holiday town to explore with a beautiful beach and tonnes of places to stay and eat. 2 nights (at least) in Lorne would be ideal.

Lorne Luxury Accommodation

Lorne Luxury is a stunning home over 3-levels with lots of panoramic windows and three balconies to enjoy the views of the ocean.

Suitable as a romantic escape, a place to relax with a few friends or as a luxury stay with your family. [Read more about this beautiful home](#) and get the best price.

Lorne Holiday House – Historic Victorian Beach house

Springlea at Lorne is a gorgeous period holiday home set right in the main area of Lorne. This beautifully restored historic property has 5 bedrooms and can accommodate up to 17 people. [Read more about Springlea](#) and find prices.

Lorne Bush Cottages

Set in the bush but really close to the town, these little cottages are delightful. With a dorm area as well, the Bush Cottages suit backpackers, budget travelers and small families too. Find out more and [get the best price for your holiday](#).

Lorne Camping

The camping and caravanning sites in Lorne are all council run and in fabulous locations. Holiday cabins can also be rented. [Find out more here](#).

Dog-friendly Accommodation

[Cedarwood Holiday Park](#), about 20 minutes drive from Lorne in the little township of Pennyroyal, has a pet-friendly holiday cottage. An enclosed dog run is available and house trained pets can go indoors.

Apollo Bay x 2 Nights

With plenty of places to stay, Apollo Bay is a perfect place to spend a night or two, or longer. Luxury accommodation, motels, holiday homes plus excellent caravan and camping options.

From your holiday base in Apollo Bay it is easy to do a loop of the local area as a day trip to see [The Otways](#) and [waterfalls](#), the Otway Fly Treetop Walk and historic Cape Otway lighthouse, then return for another night.

Luxury Accommodation in Apollo Bay

The Apollo Bay Guest House is an opulent and beautifully furnished guesthouse that should delight anyone looking for luxury as well as a practical place to stay. Cooking facilities, landscaped garden, sea views and a peaceful location. Find out more about this [luxury accommodation](#).

Apollo Bay Accommodation – Motel

[The Seaview Motel and Apartments](#) is one of our favourite stays in Apollo Bay. Stylish, well located and great for singles, couples and families.

Backpacker Budget Accommodation

The Apollo Bay Eco YHA Retreat is a popular budget choice for singles, couples, friends and families too. Find the [best options and prices to stay at the YHA](#).

Camping and Caravanning

Choose from the local Big 4 Holiday Park or the Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve where you can pitch a tent, stay in an onsite caravan or bring your own camping trailer. [Find caravan and camping parks here](#).

Dog-friendly Accommodation in Apollo Bay

Beeches by the Sea [offer pet-friendly accommodation](#) as well as beautiful accommodation for all travelers.

Beeches have two villas and are just 250 metres from the beach.

The Great Ocean Road has a number of [beaches where dogs can run off-lead, all year round](#).

Port Campbell x 1 Night or longer

Driving from Apollo Bay to Port Campbell is incredible as the famous Twelve Apostles are the biggest attraction. One night (or more) in Port Campbell will give plenty of time to explore and perhaps see the Apostles at sunset/sunrise too.

Port Campbell is a lovely little fishing village and a great base for visiting the 12 Apostles and all the cliffs, gorges, walks and stunning beaches in the area. These are some of our [favourite places to stay in Port Campbell](#).

ITINERARY - MELBOURNE TO LORNE via Torquay

The first main town encountered along the Ocean Road is Torquay. A popular family destination for generations of Victorians and a great little town. Safe swimming beaches as well as the National Surfing Museum, Surfing gear outlet shops and places to eat.

What to see between Torquay and Lorne

- **Bells Beach** is close by to Torquay, home of the , held annually every Easter since 1961 (during the event there is no free public access along the road that leads to the beach or onto the beach).
- A **Chocolaterie** may not be something one imagines when touring the Great Ocean Road – but this place is divinely decadent! Located on the main road between Bellbrae/Bells Beach and Anglesea, it's well worth stopping in at as the regular food on offer is exceptional too.
- Pt Addis beach and the wonderful **Koori Cultural Walk**.
- **Split Point Lighthouse**, Aireys Inlet
- **Horse riding at Blazing Saddles..** in the forest or along the beach.
- Anglesea – hire a paddleboat or **spot kangaroos on the local golf course**.
- Long golden beaches and surf spots, good reasons to take it slowly and relax.
- Great Ocean Road **Memorial Arch** and numerous lookout points.

Lorne – 2 Nights

Things to do in Lorne

- Visitor Information Centre and **Great Ocean Road Story** display, well worth popping in to find out some fascinating history. 15 Mt Joy Parade.
- The Lorne Historical Society, open on Sundays from 10-12
- **Erskine Falls** is an **easy drive** or a **good hike**, following the Erskine River from the town. Lots of other walks and **waterfalls** in the area too.
- Plenty of fun can be had **for kids** on the foreshore which is one of the most popular Lorne attractions with a lovely beach, rock pools, swimming pool, in-ground trampolines, a skate park, and playground.
- **Teddy's Lookout** is an ideal spot for a few walks and super views down along the Ocean Road. Turn right at the Lorne hotel and drive up the hill, following the signs.
- **Live Wire Adventure Park**
- **Surf Lessons**
- **Cinema**

[Browse accommodation in Lorne on Booking.com](#)

WHAT TO SEE BETWEEN LORNE AND APOLLO BAY

From Lorne, it is approximately 1 hour to Apollo Bay... but with a number of scenic stops in between.

- **Artillery Rocks** – A favorite of ours. Popular for fishing, the rock formations are worth seeing. They are about 12.5 km's/under 20 minutes drive from Lorne (this is not signposted, but use the directions from the image below if you want to stop, one of our favorite spots).
- **Sheoak and Carisbrook Waterfalls** are both easy walks that start from car parks along the Ocean Road. Clearly signposted.
- A number of **lookout points** and parking areas provide views and beach access, some are suitable for long vehicles.
- Kennett River and **Koalas in the wild!** The tiny community of Kennett River boasts possibly the best koala viewing in the area. Turn right towards the shop and then left up Grey River Road. Koalas can be anywhere here and it is a good spot for seeing the colorful King Parrots and Crimson Rosellas. Drive a couple of km's up the road to escape the crowds perhaps and look for koalas. Further up is the Grey River Reserve, a pretty picnic area and well known for viewing **glow worms** after dark.
- Some **good accommodation options** are in the area, for anyone wanting to **stop over** and maybe see the glow worms.

APOLLO BAY – 2 Nights

Such a beautiful town for a holiday. Apollo Bay is not overdeveloped and has a super relaxed feel. The long golden beach, pier with fresh seafood for sale, rolling hills and a lovely foreshore area with playground, information center, sculptures, free BBQ's and walking tracks. [Browse some accommodation options in Apollo Bay.](#)

Things to do in Apollo Bay

- Buy fresh seafood from the pier & maybe spot seals at the end of the pier.
- Children's playground, skateboard park & Free BBQ's
- Summertime Fairground and rides on the foreshore
- Mariners lookout - Follow the signs from the beach front, a good walk (or drive).
- Swimming on the beautiful long beach
- BYO bikes and ride along the foreshore trail
- Apollo Bay Cinema
- Do the [Waterfalls of the Otways](#) and [Otway Fly Tree Tops Walk](#) day trip – details below.

The 'Great Ocean Walk' starts here, 8 days and 100 km of adventure all the way to the 12 Apostles... [Sections of the Great Ocean Walk](#) can be done if you do not have time to spend doing the full 100kms.

Day Trip into the Otways – Waterfalls and Otway Fly Tree Tops Walk

Spend a day in the area to experience even more of the Otways and coast. This circuit drive from Apollo Bay and return is a super drive on sealed and unsealed roads. *It does involve a reasonable amount of narrow, winding unsealed sections. It is one of my favourite drives!*

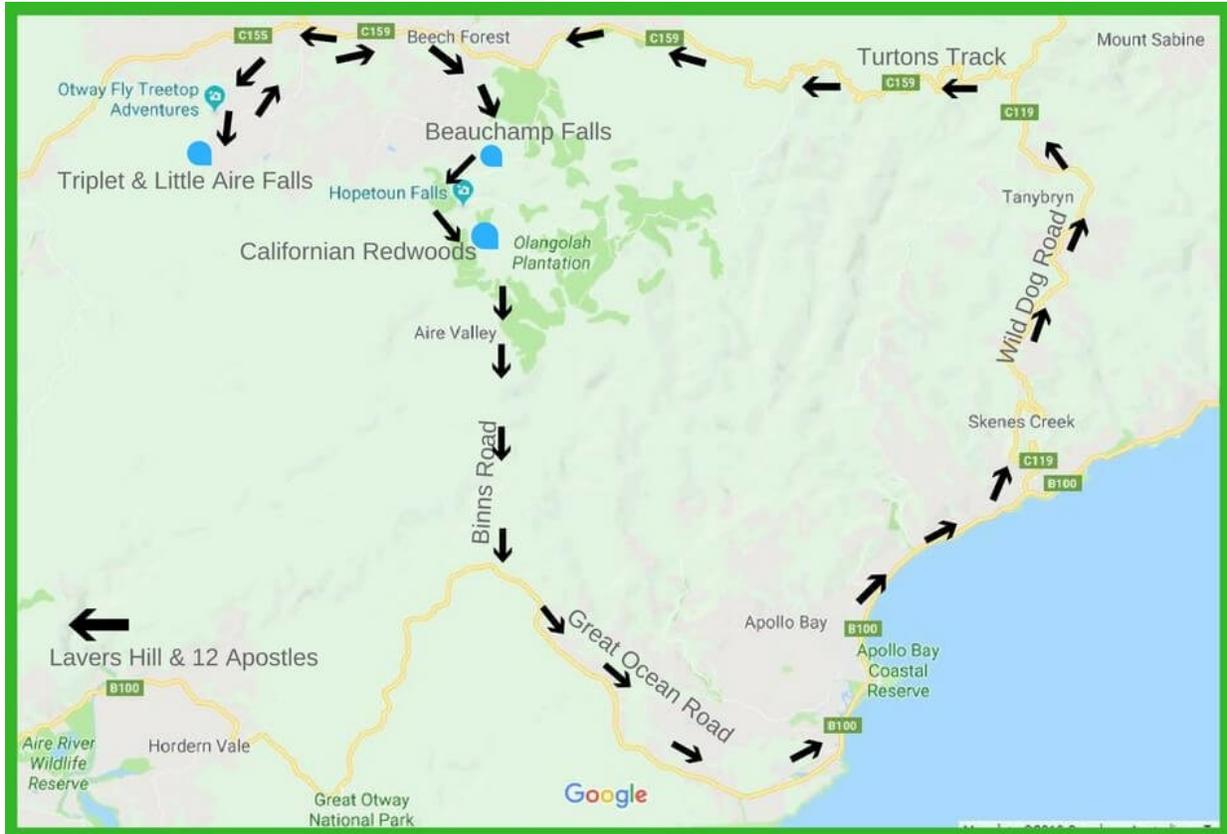
To see every waterfall listed below and visit the **Otway Fly** it will require a very long day of adventuring. Depending on the time of year and whether you can get up and on the road early, decide for yourselves how much to do.

It will require about 11 hours to do everything, including 2 hours at the Otway Fly, driving time and stopping for an hour for lunch. Choosing a couple of the waterfalls to visit and completing the circuit drive will be a great day out.

Another attraction in the Otways that is particularly good for families, is the [Otway Park Trees Adventure](#) course.

GREAT OCEAN ROAD & 12 APOSTLES, AUSTRALIA

Waterfalls of the Otways – Driving Directions for a day trip.



Drive 3km East from Apollo Bay back along the Ocean Road to Wild Dog Road and turn left, follow the road all the way to the Turtons Track junction.

Apollo Bay to Turton's Track Junction – 22km / 30 mins

OPTIONAL - Turton's Track Junction to Sabine Falls – 5.7km or 8.1km
(two route options) /12 mins

Sabine Falls – A side trip if you fancy a good hike.

2-Hours / 3.6 km return. Moderate to a steep walking trail with steps.

These are the highest waterfalls in the Otways at 130m.

RETURN THE SAME WAY TO THE TURTON'S TRACK JUNCTION TO CONTINUE THE DRIVE.

Turton's Track Junction to Otway Fly and then Triplet & Little Aire Falls car park – 28km / 40 mins

- If you plan to do the **Otway Fly Treetops walk**, it takes about 2 hours and there is a good cafe there. We do recommend it.
- **Triplet Falls walk** – 1-hour / 2.1km loop
- **Little Aire Falls** – 2 hr / 5.2 km return

Triplet Falls car park to Beauchamp Falls – (retracing some of the routes) 15.2km / 25 mins

Beauchamp Falls Walk

– 1 hour / 3kms return

Beauchamp Falls to Hopetoun Falls – 7.5km / 15 mins

Hopetoun Falls Walk

– Upper viewing platform – 20-metre walk | 30 mins / 1km – about 200 steps down.

Hopetoun Falls to Californian Redwood Forest – 1.3km / 3 mins

Time here – whatever suits, it is not a big area but pretty and worth having a picnic and relaxing.

Californian Redwoods to Great Ocean Road – via Binns Rd, all

unsealed. 13.8km / 30 mins

Binns Road & Great Ocean Road Junction to Apollo Bay – 15kms / 16

minutes. Turn left at the Ocean Road junction to return to Apollo Bay.

APOLLO BAY TO PORT CAMPBELL

The drive to the 12 Apostles area from Apollo Bay takes about 1hr 40. Passing through forest and farmland before returning to the coast and all the famous sights people come to see.

What to see between Apollo Bay and Port Campbell

- **Maits Rest** – 20 minutes drive from Apollo Bay, this is a beautiful, short walk on a good path through the rainforest. Stunning Myrtle Beech trees are a feature. The walk is about 20 mins.
- **Cape Otway** – A deviation from the Great Ocean Road to Cape Otway is a pretty drive through Manna Gum Forest where koalas live. The historic lighthouse is good to see, there is a charge involved to do the tour. It is also possible to stay out at the lighthouse, find the [best deals on accommodation](#).
- **Melba Gully** – Another pretty rainforest walk just past Lavers Hill. Ancient Myrtle Beech Trees and a small cascade, the walk takes about 30 minutes. At night, this is a popular spot to see glow worms. Maybe stay [nearby](#) if you are keen to see them.
- **Moonlight Head** – about 20 minutes past Lavers Hill is a place many people miss! A steep walk down to the beach at **Moonlight Head** rewards visitors with a classic scene of a ship's anchor embedded in the rocks. The result of the shipwrecks Marie Gabrielle (1870) and Fiji (1890). Accessible at low tide only.
- **Princetown** – A tiny township, very close to the Twelve Apostles. There's a boardwalk to the beach, cafe and a basic campground.

Port Campbell National Park & The Twelve Apostles

- **Gibsons Steps** – This is one of our favorite beaches. 88 steps cut into the limestone cliff face. Stunning views towards two of the famous rock stacks of the 12 Apostles.
During storms or high tides, the steps may be closed off but the lookout platform is still worth stopping for.
Parking is extremely limited at Gibson's Steps.
From the nearby 12 Apostles car park it is possible to walk 2km back to Gibsons Steps if you have been unable to park.
- **Twelve Apostles** – It is a very short, 2-minute drive to the 12 Apostles car park from Gibson's Steps. Loads of free parking, plenty of space for caravans and motor homes.
Staying overnight in Port Campbell will enable travelers to return for sunset or sunrise.
- Toilets and a basic cafe for drinks etc.
- **Helicopter Rides** – [Book ahead](#) to do one of these tours or just show up on the day.
- **Loch Ard Gorge** – Named after one of the most famous shipwrecks along the coast, Loch Ard Gorge is... gorgeous. Walk to the 'Razor Back' formation, follow the shipwreck trail and head down to the beach. Walks continue around the clifftop to the historic cemetery, Mutton Bird Island to the Blow Hole and further on to another beach.
- **Return the next day** to see more of the area perhaps.

Port Campbell – 1 Night (or more)

A sweet little fishing village with good restaurants, a lovely beach and clifftop walk plus an ideal place to stay overnight. [Lots of accommodation options.](#)

Things to do near Port Campbell

- **The Arch** (about 5 minutes from Port Campbell)
- The Famous **London Bridge**, which fell down... (a few minutes past The Arch)
- **The Grotto** – A sinkhole that is rather spectacular too. (another few minutes from London Bridge)

GORGE Chocolates- Established in 2004 in the countryside just minutes from the 12 Apostles. A modest beginning soon gave way to a business appreciated by locals and tourists in the area.

Apostle Whey Cheese “Dairy farmers Julian and Dianne Benson launched Apostle Whey Cheese on October 29, 2005. Since that day, Apostle Whey Cheese has taken out a number of major cheese awards and become an important tourism draw card for the region. Just a short drive from the Twelve Apostles and the Great Ocean Road, Apostle Whey Cheese is a genuine paddock to plate operation”

GREAT OCEAN ROAD & 12 APOSTLES, AUSTRALIA

Timboon Distillery “The Timboon Railway Shed Distillery offers a distillery experience and daily lunch service in a location with a real ‘sense of place’.

Experience **Timboon and the Rail Trail by hire bike**. The Crater to Coast Bicycle Hire service specializes in hiring out mountain bikes for a fun day in the outdoors.

Allensford Cheese World - Anyone who enjoys the delights of cheese will love this place!

PORT CAMPBELL TO MELBOURNE OR ONWARDS

The return to Melbourne via Colac takes 3 hours / 229 km / 142.5 miles.

Or continue on the road trip and stay in Warrnambool, Adelaide or the Grampian Mountains...

Warrnambool	The Grampians	Adelaide	
Port Campbell to	62 km / 50 minutes	209 km / 2.5 hrs	664 km / 7.5 hrs

Melbourne to Adelaide Drive

A Melbourne road trip to Adelaide via the Great Ocean Road can be done over 5 days, easily seeing the best of the Ocean Road.

This guide will help you [plan a holiday between Melbourne and Adelaide](#) over 5 days, but can easily be adapted to spend more time along the way.

The drive times listed below do not include the many viewpoints and stops that can be made along the way but provide a realistic daily travel plan to follow as a guide.

Destination	Drive Time	Km	Miles
Melbourne to Apollo Bay	3 hr 4 min	222 km	138 miles
Apollo Bay to Port Campbell	1 hr 33 mins	98.2 km	61 miles
Port Campbell to Port Fairy	1 hr 17 mins	93.4 km	58 miles
Port Fairy to Robe	3 hr 9 mins	291 km	181 miles
Robe to Adelaide via Victor Harbor	5 hr 6 mins	439 km	273 miles

Great Ocean Road Waterfalls

<https://explorethegreatoceanroad.com.au/erskine-kalimna-sheoak-stevensons-carisbrook-triplet-hopetoun-waterfalls/>

Most of the Otways waterfalls are very easy to reach and others take a little more effort, bushwalking through the spectacular cool temperate Otways rainforest. Erskine Falls near Lorne and Triplet Falls beyond Apollo Bay are the largest and best known out of over 12 waterfalls to visit.

The area **around Lorne** has beautiful waterfalls and over 60 km of walking tracks linking together, providing enough hiking to keep visitors here for days or even weeks.

- Occasionally a walk may be closed due to track upgrades, fallen trees or it may have been permanently closed for whatever reason – please abide by any signage.
- If water levels are high, some tracks can become dangerous, take care and do not continue any walk if river levels are high.

WATERFALLS NEAR LORNE

ERSKINE FALLS

About 10kms drive from Lorne, Erskine Falls is one of the most visited waterfalls in the area. From the car park, over 222 steps lead down to the viewing areas. The first viewing platform, from above the falls, is pretty but following the steps down the steep track provides the best vantage point to see the falls.

Get there by following the Erskine Falls Road out of Lorne, signage is clear.

Lemonade Creek Cottages is the closest accommodation to Erskine Falls and a great walking track to the falls starts nearby (about 4 km each way). The cottages are quite rustic and set on a lovely property.

Get Directions to Erskine Falls

The falls can also be approached by following a beautiful bushwalking track from the township of Lorne. It is 7.5 km each way and passes by two more waterfalls – Straw Falls and Splitter Falls.

WALK TO ERSKINE FALLS FROM LORNE – 7.5 km each way

[Get Directions](#) to the Start of the Walk to Erskine Falls from Lorne, read more about the walk [here](#).

The drive from Melbourne to Lorne can be done as a day trip, an [overnight stay in Lorne](#) (or longer) is recommended if planning to do this beautiful waterfall walk.

No Dogs Allowed

CORA LYNN CASCADES

From the Blanket Leaf Picnic Ground which is off the Erskine Falls Road near Lorne, the walk is 2.2 kms/1.5 hours. It is a reasonably strenuous walk but rewarded with the pretty cascades and surrounding forest.

No Dogs Allowed

[Get Directions to Cora-Lynn Cascades](#)

PHANTOM FALLS

Another pretty waterfall close to Lorne. About half the height of Erskine Falls, but well worth the walk.

Starting from the Allenvale Road car park and following St Georges River, the walk only takes about 1.5 hours return and covers 3.5 km. Signage is clearly marked from the car park.

No Dogs Allowed

[Get Directions to Phantom Falls](#)

KALIMA, WON WANDAH & HENDERSON FALLS

The pretty Kalimna waterfalls have two sections, lower and upper. Won Wondah and Henderson Falls are also popular and they can each be accessed from the Sheoak picnic area (different to the Sheoak Falls car park). It is quite an easy 3km hike on well sign-posted tracks, though can get a bit muddy in winter.

No Dogs Allowed

CUMBERLAND FALLS

A 6 km/2.5 hour walk to the Cumberland Falls is well signposted and very popular. The Cumberland Gorge has a couple of good lookout points that can be hiked to as well as the walk to the falls.

Opposite the holiday park is a good beach, making this one of the most popular camping parks in the area. Cabins at the holiday park are an ideal base for doing many walks in the area.

Access to the falls walk is via the car park at the Cumberland River Holiday Park, 7 km west of Lorne.

No Dogs Allowed

[Get Directions](#) to the start of Cumberland Falls Walk plus other bushwalking tracks and the Cumberland Holiday Park.

SHEOAK FALLS & SWALLOW CAVE

From the car park off the Great Ocean Road (a few km from Lorne), the walk to Sheoak Falls is only 2.2 km return and best viewed after rains and in the winter months. Swallows can often be seen nesting in nearby 'Swallow Cave' during Springtime.

The falls flow down the rocks and may not be the most spectacular in the Otways, but are still worthy of a visit, especially as the car parking is so easily accessible.

Views to the ocean are beautiful and the walk can be extended to 'Castle Rock' – 7km / 2 hours return.

No Dogs Allowed

[Get Directions](#) to Sheoak Falls

CARISBROOK FALLS

Carisbrook Falls tumble down the rock face and it is a good walk to the falls beneath lovely Sheoak trees. It is a 20-minute walk, reasonably steep in parts and accessed from the Great Ocean Road, 12 km east of Apollo Bay.

Nearby Kennett river is the perfect place to spot Koalas in the wild.

No Dogs Allowed

[Get directions](#) to Carisbrook Falls

WATERFALLS NEAR APOLLO BAY

The waterfalls located in the Apollo Bay area are not within an easy walking distance as they are all located well beyond the town, high up in the Otways. A day drive, or even two days, to take in the beautiful waterfalls as well the Redwood Forest is recommended. Two days will be needed if you plan to visit all the waterfalls, and it is worth doing as each waterfall has its own special beauty and the walks in are all stunning.

BEAUCHAMP FALLS

These falls are quite high in the Otway Ranges and definitely worth the drive to see, not massive but very pretty. The roads around this area cross over the Otways and require a bit of driving on unsealed sections. It's one of my favourite waterfalls.

The walk to the falls is reasonably easy, taking about 1.5 hours / 2.5 km return. The track is really pretty with deep moss covering many of the trees. There is a free camping area at the falls car park with space for a number of tents or campervans can stay overnight in the car park.

The area is **Dog-friendly**, even the walk to the falls. It is not recommended to walk dogs all the way, though, as some sections of the track are difficult to navigate with open steps that dogs can't walk on easily.

[Get Directions](#) to Beauchamp Falls & Camping Area

HOPETOUN FALLS

The drive along Binns Road to the Hopetoun Falls is unsealed and feels quite remote. The track to the falls is only 20 metres to a viewing platform and 1 km to the lower viewing area. [Get Directions.](#)

Californian Redwood Forest

This serene spot is definitely well worth visiting too. Planted in 1936 the 'Sequoia Sempervirens' is quite an unexpected sight.

Binns Road runs from the Beech Forest-Lavers Hill Road all the way down to the Great Ocean Road, not far from Apollo Bay. Both Beauchamp and Hopetoun Falls, as well as the Redwood Forest, are on Binns Road. [Get Directions.](#)

No Dogs Allowed

TRIPLET FALLS

Definitely one of the prettiest falls in the Otways with a gorgeous walking track that has been upgraded and is suitable at any time of the year.

The walk, passing through mountain ash and myrtle beech forest is superb, 2kms return / 1 hour.

A few relics from the past logging days can be seen and signage explains the work that went on in this area.

Access is via Phillips Track off the Beech Forest Lavers Hill Road, passing the [Otway Fly Treetops Walk](#) on the way.

No Dogs Allowed

[Get Directions](#) to Triplet Falls

LITTLE AIRE FALLS - Depart from Triplet Falls Car Park

Little Aire Falls walking track passes through Mountain Ash and cool temperate rainforests before coming to a fabulous cantilevered platform with super views over the waterfalls. There is a fairly steep climb back to the carpark.

The walk is 2.5km /2.5 hours return and is reasonably strenuous.

The falls walk starts from the Triplet Falls carpark on Phillips Track, off the Beech Forest – Lavers Hill Road. Excellent signage makes it easy to follow the trails.

No Dogs Allowed

MARRINERS FALLS, APOLLO BAY - Closed.

Such a shame these falls are now closed as it was quite an adventure to get to them years ago. Whether they will re-open, we do not know.

SABINE WATERFALLS – Highest in the Otways

The highest waterfall in the Otways, the Sabine Falls bushwalk takes 2 hours return from a picnic area off Sunnyside Road. They are not the best-known falls and do not get the numbers of visitors that some waterfalls attract, but are worth adding to a 'waterfalls bucket list'.

The walk is quite strenuous with some steep sections.

Access is from Sunnyside Road which leads off the Ocean Road or via Forrest-Apollo Bay Road.

No Dogs Allowed

STEVENSONS FALLS

Stevenson's Falls is a popular hike in the Otways and one of the best waterfalls, especially after heavy rains. From the car park, it is only a 500-meter walk to the falls. or from the nearby campground, the hike is 4.6 kms / 1.5 hours. See more about the Falls & our video.

Dogs are Allowed

[Get Directions](#) to Stevenson's Falls

Stevenson's Falls Free Campground

There is a free campground near the falls with basic facilities and about 50 un-powered campsites – the area can become very muddy after heavy rains. It is on a first-come basis and does get crowded at peak times.

Dogs are permitted in this campground.

Dog friendly beaches

<https://explorethegreatoceanroad.com.au/dog-friendly-beaches/>

Taking a dog on holiday to the coast or National Parks can be difficult in Australia. We have a lot of wildlife to consider and protect. The Great Ocean Road and Otway National Park have a lot of restrictions in place, but it is possible to find some wonderful beaches to let your dog romp on.

We have sought out all the beaches that dog owners can go to without restrictions all year round. Many other beaches do allow dogs during certain months or hours, but this list enables owners to know that they can arrive at any time that suits best (unless rules change, please let us know if they have).

Dogs are not permitted in the Port Campbell National Park, which is where the Twelve Apostles are located.

They can be left in vehicles, common sense and care needs to be used during warm/hot weather.

PET-FRIENDLY BEACHES STARTING IN TORQUAY

The beaches below start in Torquay and are listed in order of towns along the Great Ocean Road. Please let us know if any beaches are missed from the list or are no longer accessible as all year round off-lead beaches.

Lots of other beaches are available at certain times of the year with strict regulations, but the ones below are all day, every day. Please abide by rules and signage though.

TORQUAY / JAN JUC

Famous for nearby Bells Beach and home to the National Surfing Museum, Torquay offers a good beach for pooches to run free.

[Get Directions](#)

ANGLESEA

Anglesea is a lovely little town, great beaches, surf school, boat hire, and fab cafes.

[Get Directions to the beach](#)

AIREYS INLET

Well-known for the Split Point Lighthouse, coastal walks, plenty of places to eat and an awesome beach for dogs (and humans).

[Get Directions](#)

LORNE

One of the [most popular and busiest seaside towns](#) in Victoria. Lorne has fabulous walks, plenty of places to eat and a wonderful beach area that dogs are allowed to romp on.

From the main parking area (toilets are here too) go onto the beach and head to the left, it is quite a long beach so dogs can have a good run. Keep within the signs.

[Get Directions to the beach for dogs](#)

WYE RIVER

Lots of homes in this little town have signs such as 'Wye Not' & 'Wye Worry'! Quite a busy holiday destination in the summer with a great vibe.

Between the foreshore campground and the public toilets, dogs need to be on the lead but all the other surrounding beaches are off lead all year round.

[Get Directions](#)

KENNETT RIVER

Dogs can be off the lead on surrounding beaches but not in the vicinity of the Surf Lifesaving Club.

A pet-friendly beach as well as koalas in the wild. Keep dogs restrained in bush areas where the koalas hang out.

[Get Directions to the beach](#)

APOLLO BAY

Between Marriners Lookout Road and the harbor, dogs must be on the lead at certain times, but the surrounding beaches are off lead all year. Lots of space to enjoy.

From May 1st to December 24th dogs can romp freely on the entire beach at Apollo Bay, it is really long and just gorgeous. Otherwise, stick to the other end during the peak season if you want to let them run at any time of the day without worries.

Enjoy some Craft Beers at the [Great Ocean Road Brewhouse](#) in Apollo Bay where they make you and your dog welcome!

[Get Directions](#) to the beach area on the other side of Marriners Lookout Road

MARENGO

Close to Apollo Bay, this is a gorgeous beach, it does not tend to get as busy as the main beaches. From where Ocean Park Drive meets the Great Ocean Rd, follow the direction sign on the beach for dogs.

[Get Directions](#) to the end of Ocean Park Drive

JOHANNA

A little more remote with no major town, wild surfing beaches and a perfect place for a holiday with dogs. When reaching the main parking area, take note of the dog-friendly beach section, loads of space and wild crashing waves!

[Get Directions](#)

WARNAMBOOL

Famous for whale watching, Warrnambool is about an hour from Port Campbell and offers a super long sandy beach that dogs and owners will just love.

[Get Directions to Point Ritchie](#)

Pet-Friendly Accommodation

A number of holiday cottages and properties offer pet-friendly accommodation, taking your dog on a road trip along the Ocean Road can be done easily. We have found a few excellent places on Booking.com:

[Airey's Ocean View](#), Airey's Inlet

[Loutit Views](#), Lorne

[Big 4 Holiday Park](#), Apollo Bay

[Muxy's Place](#), Johanna

[Highview Family Cottages](#), Warrnambool

[The PC Cottage](#), Port Campbell

Melbourne Dog-Friendly Beaches

Find 14 amazing all year round [dog beaches around Melbourne](#) and the Mornington Peninsula.

Caravan & Camping Parks

<https://explorethegreatoceanroad.com.au/camping-great-ocean-road/>

From Geelong and all the way to Warrnambool, Great Ocean Road camping and caravan parks are plentiful. Popular Big 4 holiday parks, as well as small coastal campgrounds, are open all year round and many offer cabins and onsite caravans to hire for people who prefer not to tow a caravan or pack camping gear.

Starting in Geelong, we have listed caravan parks in order all the way to Warrnambool.

Dog friendly camping parks

A number of camping and caravan parks along the Great Ocean Road are dog-friendly but **may not accept dogs during peak times**, please always ask before booking a caravan or camp-site.

Geelong Caravan & Camping Parks

1. **Geelong Showgrounds:** 79 Breakwater Road, East Geelong | Phone: (03)52211707 | **Dog-friendly**
2. **Discovery Parks:** 59 Barrabool Rd, Belmont | Book Camping-sites on (03) 5243 6225 | [Check Best Prices for Cabins](#)
3. **Eldorado Tourist Park:** 360 Ballarat Rd, Geelong | Phone Bookings: (03) 5276 1386
4. **Riverglen Holiday Park:** 75 Barrabool Rd, Belmont Phone Bookings: (03) 5243 5505 | [Check Best Prices for Cabins](#)
5. **Geelong Surfcoast Hwy Holiday Park:** 621 Surf Coast Hwy, Duneed | Phone Bookings: (03) 5264 1243
6. **Barwon River Holiday Park:** 153 Barrabool Rd, Belmont | Phone Bookings: 1800 657 955 | [Check Best Prices for Cabins.](#)

Torquay Caravan & Camping Parks

1. **Torquay Foreshore Caravan Park:** 35 Bell St, Torquay | Phone Bookings: (03) 5261 2496 | [Check Best Prices for Cabins](#)
2. **Torquay Holiday Park:** 55 Surf Coast Hwy, Torquay | Phone Bookings: (03) 5261 2493 | [Check Best Prices for Cabins](#)
3. **Jan Juc Caravan Park:** 93 Sunset Strip, Jan Juc | Phone Bookings (03) 5261 2932

Anglesea Caravan & Camping Parks

1. **Anglesea Family Caravan Park:** 35 Cameron Rd, Anglesea | Phone Bookings (03) 5295 1990 | [Check Best Prices for Cabins](#)
2. **Aireys Inlet Holiday Park:** 19-25 Great Ocean Rd, Aireys Inlet | Phone Bookings: (03) 5289 6230 | **Dogs allowed during specific times.** | [Check Prices and Book](#)

Lorne Caravan & Camping Parks

Three campgrounds are available in Lorne, all managed by the local council. Two of them are by the river and the third one is opened during peak season. The river campgrounds are close to all the shops and the beaches for swimming. There is so much to do in Lorne and nearby, waterfalls, bushwalks, beaches, etc. Read more about [things to do in Lorne...](#)

- **Lorne Foreshore Caravan Park and Cabins:** Entering Lorne from the Melbourne direction, there is a smaller caravan and camping area on the right and a larger campground with the main booking office, on the left.
- The 3rd campground, Queens Park, is located through Lorne and opens during peak season.
- 2 Great Ocean Rd, Lorne | Phone (03) 5289 1382 | **Dogs allowed during specific dates** | [Check Best Prices for Cabins](#)

Cumberland River Caravan & Camping

Cumberland River Holiday Park: 2680 Great Ocean Rd, Cumberland River | Phone Bookings: (03) 5289 1790 | [Check Best Prices for Cabins & Book](#)

The Cumberland River Holiday Park is not far from Lorne. It is a fantastic camping area with lovely cabins onsite. Walks from here are some of the best in the area and extend for miles up into the Great Otway National Park. The beach opposite is stunning and the river that runs through the campground has some awesome areas to relax in and cool down on hot summer days.

Wye River to Skenes Creek

1. **BIG 4 Wye River Holiday Park & Cabins.** The Big 4 is a very popular campground with many families coming here every year for generations. Koalas can often be seen in the park and the beach opposite is lovely. : 25 Great Ocean Rd, Wye River | Phone Bookings: (03) 5289 0241 | [Check Best Prices for Cabin Accommodation](#)
2. **Kennett River Holiday Park & Cabins: Koala country!** 1-13 Great Ocean Rd, Kennett River | Phone Bookings: (03) 5289 0272 | [Check Best Prices for Cabins](#)
3. **Skenes Creek Beachfront Camping Park:** 2 Great Ocean Rd, Skenes Creek | Phone Bookings: (03) 5237 6132 | **Dog-friendly, check conditions when booking** | [Check Best Prices for Cabins](#)

Apollo Bay Caravan & Camping Parks

Apollo Bay is one of the most popular holiday towns along the Great Ocean Road. The town has a wide, sweeping beach that is safe for families, playgrounds, skate park, bbq's on the foreshore, lots of cafes and shops plus a [huge selection of accommodation](#) and local walks. Apollo Bay is an ideal base for exploring the region.

1. **BIG4 Apollo Bay Pisces Holiday Park:** 311 Great Ocean Rd, Apollo Bay | Phone Bookings: (03) 5237 6749 | [Check Best Prices for Cabins](#)
2. **Apollo Bay Holiday Park:** 27 Cawood St, Apollo Bay | Phone Bookings: (03) 5237 7111 | [Check Best Prices for Cabins](#)
3. **Marengo Holiday Park:** Great Ocean Rd, Apollo Bay | Phone Bookings: (03) 5237 6162 | A lovely park with good access to the beach and fab views as well as awesome facilities. | **Dog-friendly, check rules and regulations when booking.** | [Check Best Prices for Cabins](#)
4. **Apollo Bay Camping & Recreation Reserve:** 70 Great Ocean Rd, Apollo Bay | Phone Bookings (03) 5237 6577 | [Website Bookings](#) | On the outskirts of Apollo Bay, the Rec Reserve has cabins to rent and some lovely campsites along the river and amongst trees. It is an easy walk into town and to the beach. **Dog-friendly, check rules and regulations when booking.**

Cape Otway, Glen Aire, Johanna & Lavers Hill Camping

Cape Otway is a spectacular region with a number of camping areas, and [superb accommodation](#).

1. **Bimbi Park Camping and Caravan Park & Cabins:** 90 Manna Gum Dr, Cape Otway | Phone Bookings: (03) 5237 9246 | Camp with **Koalas**, Bimbi Park has been established for decades and is a fabulous, family-run park with a pretty campground underneath Manna Gum Trees, a favorite with koalas! | Horse Riding | Rock Climbing Wall | [Check Best Prices for Cabins and Book](#)
2. **Parker Hill Camp Ground:** Parker Hill Track, Cape Otway | Basic, beautiful bush camping, no power | [Book with Parks Victoria](#) | Phone 13 19 63
3. **Blanket Bay Camping:** Blanket Bay Road, Cape Otway | Basic, beautiful bush camping, no power | [Book with Parks Victoria](#) | Phone 13 19 63
4. **Aire River East Campground:** Basic bush camping (we love this spot) | Hordenvale | [Book with Parks Victoria](#) | Phone 13 19 63
5. **Johanna Beach Camping:** This is one of the best beach camping sites in Victoria. Great surfing and a quiet area without shops or much in the way of tourist facilities. Red Johanna Rd, Johanna | Phone (03) 8427 2002 | [Book with Parks Victoria](#) | Phone 13 19 63
6. **Lavers Hill Caravan Park & Cabins:** 57 Great Ocean Rd, Lavers Hill (top of the Otway Ranges) | Phone Bookings: (03) 5237 3251

Otways Caravan & Camping Parks

1. **Stevenson's Falls, Beauchamp Falls, Dandos and Aire Crossing –**
Find all the details of these **Dog-friendly, Free Campgrounds in the Free Camping section.**
2. **Lake Elizabeth Campground:** Great Otway National Park, Forrest | Basic camping in the forest. Lake Elizabeth is known for **Platypus** sightings and has mountain bike trails | [More information](#)
3. **Forrest Caravan Park/ The Wonky Stables Holiday Park:** 1 Station St, Forrest | Phone Bookings: (03) 5236 627 | [Bookings and more information](#)
4. **Otways Tourist Park, Gellibrand** On the road down towards Colac, the Tourist Park has cabins as well as camping and caravan sites.

12 Apostles Caravan & Camping Parks

The closest camping to the Apostles is in nearby Princetown or 10 minutes away in Port Campbell.

Camping Near the 12 Apostles

1. **Apostles Camping Park & Cabins:** 32 Post Office Rd, Princetown | Phone (03) 5598 8119 | Operates seasonally | [More information and Bookings](#)
2. **Princetown Recreation Reserve & Camping:** 99 Old Coach Rd, Princetown | Phone 0429 985 176 | Quite basic, but close to fabulous beaches and walks to 12 Apostles | **Dog-Friendly** | [More information and Bookings](#)

Port Campbell Caravan & Camping

1. **Port Campbell Holiday Park & Caravan Park Big4:** 30 Morris St, Port Campbell | Phone Bookings: (03) 5598 6492 | [Find the Best Prices for Cabins](#)
2. **Port Campbell Recreation Reserve:** Desaily Street, Port Campbell | **Dog-Friendly** | Phone Bookings: 0409 666 179
3. **Timboon Recreation Reserve and Camping:** Recreation reserves are often a good place to stay, the Timboon Reserve is about 16 mins drive inland from Port Campbell, camping is by gold coin donation per night. A really excellent deal for travelers. It is basic but a good base for a night or two.

Peterborough to Warrnambool Caravan & Camping

The Ocean Road drive is nearly finished after Port Campbell, but there is still more to see. : The famous London Bridge, The Arch and the Grotto plus the Bay of Martyrs and Bay of Islands.

1. **Great Ocean Road Tourist Park, Peterborough:** Great Ocean Rd, Peterborough | Phone Bookings: (03) 5598 5477 | [Check Best Prices for Cabins](#)
2. Warrnambool Caravan Park – **BIG4 Hopkins River Holiday Park, Warrnambool:** 125 Jubilee Park Rd, Warrnambool | Phone Bookings: (03) 5565 1327 | [Check Best Prices for Cabins and Book](#)
3. **Surfside Holiday Park:** 120 Pertobe Rd, Warrnambool | Phone Bookings: (03) 5559 4700 | [Check Best Prices for Cabins](#)
4. **Warrnambool Holiday Park and Motel:** 100 Simpson St, Warrnambool | Phone Bookings: (03) 5562 5031 | [Check Best Prices and Book](#)
5. **Big 4 Figtree Holiday Village:** 33 Lava St, Warrnambool | Phone Bookings: (03) 5561 1233 | [Check Prices and Book](#)
6. **Discovery Parks:** 25 Pertobe Rd, Warrnambool | Phone Bookings: (03) 5561 1514 | [Check Best Prices and Book](#)

Free Camping Great Ocean Road

These are the best free camping sites along the Great Ocean Road. Conditions and regulations can change, please read any links that are attached to the details below. When visiting the [12 Apostles](#), it is possible to find budget-friendly campsites. The Princetown Recreation reserve is the best option, closest to the Twelve Apostles, it is fairly basic but in a good location.

Some of the campsites are dog-friendly.

FREE CAMPING BETWEEN MELBOURNE & THE OCEAN ROAD

There is a 24 hour BP Petrol Station at Little River which is about 30 mins after crossing the West Gate Bridge when leaving Melbourne on Highway One. This is a popular overnight stop for people coming off the Spirit of Tasmania with caravans or motorhomes and heading towards the Ocean Road as it takes about 1 hour from Port Melbourne.

Near the service station is a large, unsealed, parking area that is generally accepted as a 'free camping' spot. *This is not near the Ocean Road, it's about an hour away.*

No facilities and **beside the noisy highway**, campers need to be **self-contained** or use the toilet facilities (no showers) in the fuel station (which is allowed).

Free Camping near Lorne

ALLENVALE MILL WALK IN CAMPGROUND

The camping area is **about 3 km beyond Lorne** off Allendale Road on the banks of the St George River.

This is a **walk-in camping area**, although it's only a short walk to the campground (around 200 metres). No booking, no fees. Camping is on a first in, first served basis. There are 16 campsites available. All campsites are un-powered and are **suitable for tents only**. Long drop toilets are provided. [Read More on the website...](#)

[Get Directions](#)

This site is not dog-friendly

BIG HILL TRACK CAMPGROUND

This unpowered campground, **11km / 15 mins from Lorne** has some open grassy sites surrounded by bush. It is suitable for school groups, motorhomes, caravans and has a couple of camping sites.

Subject to seasonal closure between 1 June and 31 October inclusive.

12 campsites are available on a first-come basis. Half the sites are set aside for tents only whilst the other half are suitable for tents, caravans, and camper-trailers.

Long-drop loos, BYO water.

Located near the intersection of Big Hill Track and Lorne-Deans Marsh Road, Benwerrin.

[Get Directions](#)

This site is Not dog-friendly

SHARPS CAMPING AREA

Located about 5 km from Lorne, the campground is adjacent to Sharps Road.

No booking, no fees. Camping is on a first-in, first-served basis. There are 6 campsites available accommodating up to six people per site. All campsites are unpowered. Half the sites are set aside for tents only; the other sites are suitable for tents, caravans or camper-trailers.

No toilets, campers need to be self-contained.

[Get Directions](#)

This site is Not dog-friendly

Great Otway National Park Free Camping

AIRE CROSSING CAMPSITE

Aire River Crossing Track, Great Otway National Park | Basic bush camping by the river, very limited spaces | Seasonal closures | [Get](#)

[Directions](#)

This site is dog-friendly though they are required to be on-leash.

BEAUCHAMP FALLS CAMPING GROUND

This little campground has a grassy area with firepits that can be used when camping and for day use. Campervans etc. can stay overnight in the carpark. It has long drop loos and is very close to the really pretty Beauchamp Falls.

This site is dog-friendly though they are required to be on-leash.

[Get Directions](#)

DANDO'S FREE CAMPGROUND

Dando's is quite a large campsite beneath tall, slender trees with quite a few tables and fire pits and by a large open grassy area that is ideal for kids to play (watch out for snakes).

From the main road, it takes about 20 minutes to drive in and feels quite remote.

The site has long-drop toilets and is on a first-come basis. It is deep in the Otways beyond Beech Forest. Popular with 4 wheel drive clubs. Set beside the Gellibrand River, this is such a lovely spot.

This site is dog-friendly though they are required to be on-leash.

Sayers Track, Gillibrand. [Get Directions](#)

STEVENSON'S FALLS FREE CAMPGROUND

There is a free campground with a beautiful walk to the nearby Stevenson's Falls, one of the prettiest waterfalls in the Otways. The campsite is a good size and the drive-in has some wonderful views down the valley. Watch out for kangaroos, we saw some really large mobs of Eastern Grey roos on the last trip into this camping area.

It has basic toilet facilities and about 50 un-powered campsites – the area can become very muddy after heavy rains. It is on a first-come basis and does get crowded at peak times. Access is from the Colac-Skenes Creek Road near Barramunga.

[Get Directions](#)

This site is dog-friendly though they are required to be on-leash.

FREE CAMPING NEAR WARRNAMBOOL

The Panmure overnight camping area is the closest campsite to Warrnambool, it is close to the busy road so can be noisy at night.

[8830 Princes Hwy, Panmure, Victoria Get directions](#)

FINDING FREE CAMPSITES DURING PEAK TIMES

Arrive early in the afternoon. Most people leave in the morning, arriving at a campsite early afternoon will provide the best opportunity to get a site in the more popular parks and during peak times. Not always guaranteed, but it does help.

If you can't find a free campsite, local recreation reserves generally offer low-cost sites. The Wiki Camps Au App is one of the best ways to find campsites, it costs under \$10 to purchase for lifetime use and is available on Android and IOS.

[EXPLORE VICTORIA FACEBOOK GROUP](#) – Join our Facebook

Community to ask questions and share your knowledge about anything to do with travel in Victoria.

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