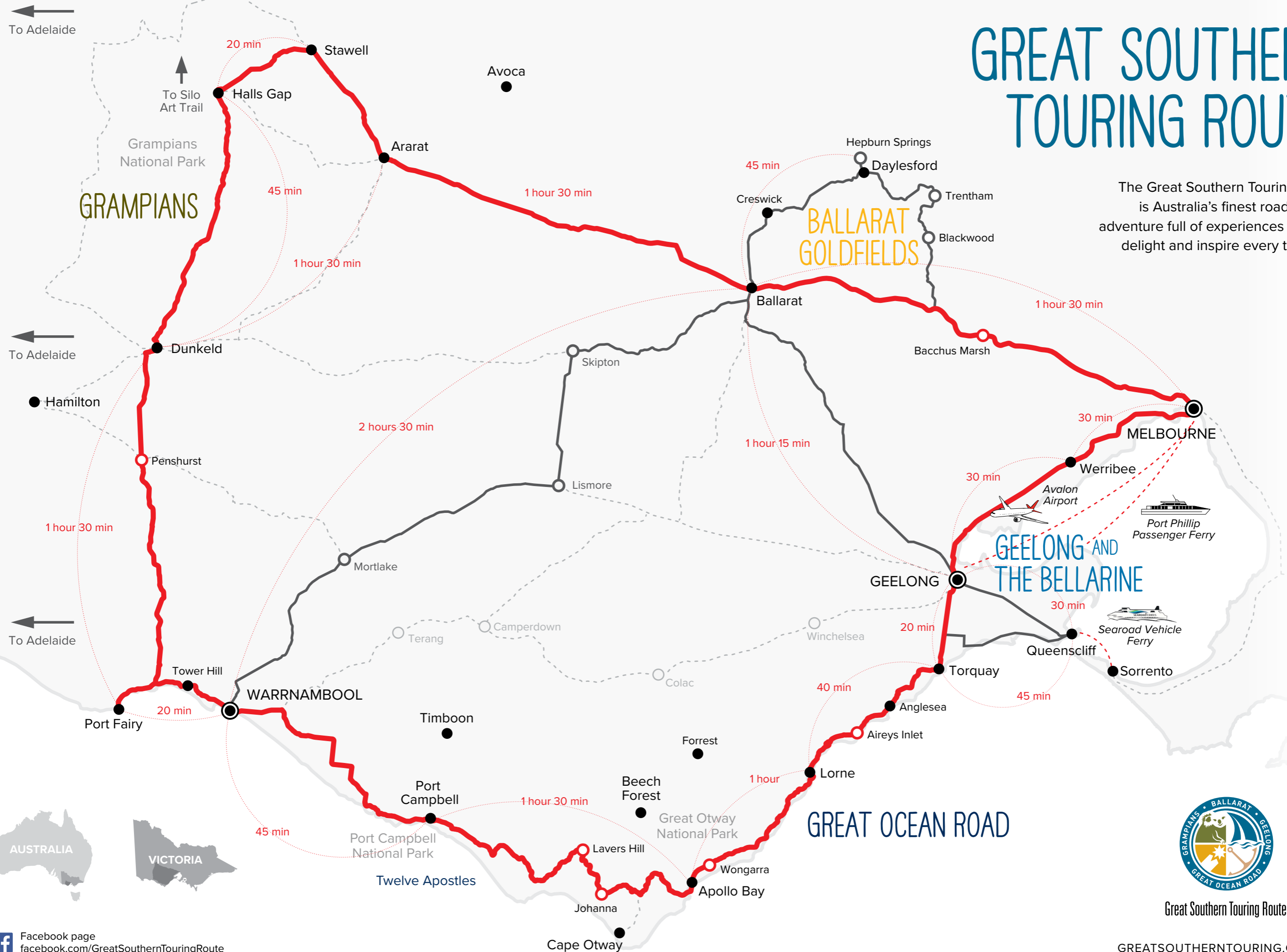


# GREAT SOUTHERN TOURING ROUTE

The Great Southern Touring Route is Australia's finest road trip, an adventure full of experiences that will delight and inspire every traveller.



# GEELONG AND THE BELLARINE



*A region of true contrasts, flowing effortlessly from edgy bayside precincts to earthy rural charm and laid-back coastal vibe beyond.*

## MUST DO EXPERIENCES

**Glorious golf:** Curlewis Golf Club ranks in Australia's Top 100 golf clubs. Lock-in practice time at the state-of-the-art 18-bay driving range. Or tee off while taking in scenic panoramas over Corio Bay – rolling fairways will challenge you throughout the par 72 par course.

**Ferry tales:** Join Port Phillip Ferries, cruising daily between Geelong, Melbourne and Portarlington (foot passengers only). Or board Searoad Ferries' passenger and car vessel at Queenscliff and cross spectacular Port Phillip Bay to Sorrento and back.

**The Q Train:** All aboard The Q Train, Australia's premier rail restaurant on the historic Bellarine Railway. Enjoy a delicious gastronomic journey – an on-the-move degustation of fresh local produce, set against stunning views of Swan Bay and The Bellarine.

**Dyed in the wool:** Geelong was once the wool centre of the world. Step into the National Wool Museum, housed in an 1872 bluestone woolstore to discover a timeless wool story, from the sheep's back to the clothes rack.

**Welcome to country:** Visit Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre and connect to a world of indigenous experiences: boomerang throwing, bush tucker, ancient Dreaming stories, native gardens, art gallery, cultural displays, kids playground, café and resident native wildlife.

**Local tipples:** The Bellarine Peninsula is dotted with family-owned vineyards, boutique wineries, magnificent gardens and breathtaking views. Soak them up at Terindah Estate, Scotchmans Hill, Flying Brick Cider House, Jack Rabbit Vineyard, Oakdene Estate and Leura Park Estate.

**Wild at heart:** Get up close to koalas, kangaroos and native birdlife in natural bushland habitats with Echidna Walkabout tours, on a fully organised and catered field trip led by expert guides.

**Beer heaven:** Queenscliff Brewhouse has something for everyone: microbrewery, distillery, whisky bar, tasting room, cellar door, bistro, beer garden and literally hundreds of craft beers, ciders, spirits and regional wines on the pour.

## HASHTAG

#geelong #bellarine #coriobay #avalonairport #gstr #roadtrip

# GREAT OCEAN ROAD



*Where your road trip comes into its own – a bucket-list of dramatic coastal scenery, big nature and epic adventure.*

## MUST DO EXPERIENCES

**Aboriginal culture:** Take a twilight nature walk with a Worn Gundidj indigenous guide at Tower Hill Nature Reserve, nestled in a dormant volcano crater. Meet Aussie wildlife and discover the ancient living culture of our First Peoples.

**Hot springs:** Warm to a deep sense of relaxation with natural geothermal water bathing at Warrnambool's Deep Blue Hot Springs. Journey through open air pools, delve into caves and bathe in the shallows of the reflection pool.

**Mountain bike central:** At Forrest, deep in the Otways, explore 60km of world-class MTB tracks then chill out, sip on local brews and tuck into fine fare the Forrest Brewing Company.

**Sweet spot:** Indulge your sweet tooth at the Great Ocean Road Chocolaterie and Ice Creamery. Watch chocolate-makers at work, enjoy decadent desserts at the café, then taste and shop your way through a great wall of chocolate.

**Surf city:** Fittingly located at Torquay (Australia's surfing capital), the Australian National Surfing Museum celebrates the story of surfing with the National Surfing Hall of Fame, hands-on displays, intriguing exhibits and an extraordinary collection of surfcraft and surfing memorabilia.

**Beacon of hope:** Amazing views and amazing history await at Cape Otway Lightstation. Explore Australia's oldest surviving mainland lighthouse, meet the lightkeeper and ogle Southern Ocean panoramas.

**Maritime magic:** At Warrnambool's Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum and Village, time-travel into a 19th century seaside community teeming with stories of the hundreds of ships, their crew and passengers lost on the Shipwreck Coast. Don't just learn about history, experience it in a living museum with spectacular sound and light shows.

**Take to the trees:** Get high on nature at one of two treetop adventure parks – Otway Fly Treetop Adventures and Lorne's Live Wire Park. Opt for adrenaline-pumping ziplines, swings, tightropes and bridges, or a mellow meander on an elevated boardwalk.

**Glorious food:** Make dining a discovery experience with a multitude of flavours, cuisines and stunning locations on offer including Chris's Restaurant and Villas at Apollo Bay and Port Fairy's Merrijig Kitchen.

**Timboon treats:** Home of famously fine ice cream and single malt whisky, this timber town is clearly a foodie haven. Schedule a stop at the Timboon Railway Shed Distillery to tap into a menu of gourmet delights.

## HASHTAG

#greatoceanroad #torquay #otways #12apostles #warrnambool #portfairy #gstr #roadtrip

# GRAMPIANS



*Experience life unleashed. Escape to a natural playground perfect for adventure and enlightenment.*

## MUST DO EXPERIENCES

**Fine art:** Hamilton Gallery is a local treasure with an extensive art collection, thought-provoking hangings and inspiring programs. Discover a vast range of touring, temporary and permanent exhibitions each year.

**Feel the serenity:** Retreat to the tranquility of the Grampians at D'Altons Resort – a delightful bush location in the heart of Halls Gap. Take your pick of family cottages, studio cottages and spa studios (perfect for a romantic retreat).

**Glamp it up:** Immerse your senses in the great outdoors with luxury camping in a fully appointed tent with all the bells and whistles. Halls Gap Lakeside Tourist Park offers an inspiring variety of glamping options.

**Walk in the park:** Get to know the dramatic landscape of Grampians National Park with a three-day, two-night trek on the first section of the Grampians Peak Trail. Plan ahead – the 36km loop walk journeys across rugged ranges, over panoramic peaks and into the heart of ancient Aboriginal culture.

**View from beyond:** Look no further than Dunkeld's Royal Mail Hotel for a deluxe, architecturally-designed room, with sweeping vistas of the majestic Grampians National Park. Book a package including dinner at the two-hatted restaurant and enjoy destination dining at its best.

**Cultural centre:** Make a bee-line to Brambuk – The National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap. Find park information, rock art tours, Gariwerd Dreaming Theatre, Bushfoods Café, artifact displays and activities including boomerang painting and didgeridoo workshops.

**Go west:** Take a gastronomic jaunt westward through the Wartook Valley. Wander into quaint Wander Inn for a garden-side lunch. Go in search of fabulous local produce at rustic farmgates. Stock up at Grampians Olive Co and Red Rock Olives, or share a grazing platter and an unforgettable view.

**Wine wonder:** The Grampians, Pyrenees and Henty wine-making regions are known for award-winning reds and vibrant whites. Visit local cellar doors, meet the makers and tuck into tastings at: Grampians Estate, Mt Langhi Ghiran, Seppelts Great Western, Fallen Giants, Pierrepont Wines, Blue Pyrenees Estate and more.

**Australia's largest outdoor gallery:** Celebrate the rich heritage of Victoria's Wimmera/Mallee region with a journey along the 200km Silo Art Trail. The trail recognises and celebrates the region's people through large-scale mural portraits painted onto grain silos, many of which date back to the 1930s.

## HASHTAG

#grampians #nationalpark #hallsgap #dunkeld #hamilton #ararat #gstr #roadtrip

# BALLARAT GOLDFIELDS



*Where old meets new – a heritage backdrop flaunting a miscellany world of art, culture, dining, wining and impressive attractions.*

## MUST DO EXPERIENCES

**Lamplight tour:** See Sovereign Hill in a whole new light with an eerie evening lamplight tour. Delve into the dark side of goldfields life with special access to intriguing places and compelling characters.

**From shearing to shelf:** Follow 'A Very Fine Yarn' – the journey of fibre, from the alpaca's back to balls of luxurious yarn at Creswick Woollen Mills, Gold Winner of the RACV Victorian Tourism Award.

**Wild creatures:** Get up close and personal with native creatures at Ballarat Wildlife Park. Book ahead to meet 'Crunch' – a five-metre-long super croc – and 'Lava Claw', Victoria's only Komodo dragon, along with koalas, kangaroos, dingoes, snakes, wombats and more.

**Stake your claim:** Hunt for gold in the Australian bush with Gold & Relics Gold Prospecting Adventure Tours. They'll teach you what the professionals don't want you to know. Metal detectors and goldpans supplied.

**Big ol' gallery:** Australia's oldest and largest regional gallery, the Art Gallery of Ballarat, boasts a collection built up over 130 years. Works of old masters hang alongside emerging artists in spaces spanning grand and elegant 19th Century rooms through to striking contemporary zones.

**Lake hang-outs:** Lake Wendouree, an oasis at the centre of town, is a popular hang-out spot. Chill out at with a picnic, let the kids hit the playground and watch rowers and sail-boaters ply the shallow lake waters.

**Paddock to plate:** A destination in itself, The Gallery at historic Craig's Royal Hotel, serves up the finest seasonal produce in an extraordinary glass-roofed restaurant, dining under the stars at night or bathed in sunlight by day.

**To market:** From farmers markets to design markets, from swap meets to community markets, this region comes alive come market day – think food and produce, contemporary designers, makers and bakers, art and craft, collectables and second hand treasures. Check local guides and bring along your empty basket.

**Walk it out:** Download an online brochure and step into the past. On Ballarat's Historic Streetscapes Walking Tour, delve into self-guided discovery of grand architecture and heritage. Ready for more? Ballarat's Historic Statues Walking Tours showcases a wealth of stories set in stone along Sturt Street's grand boulevard.

## HASHTAG

#visitballarat #goldfields #goldrush #sovereignhill #gstr #roadtrip