

ROAD TRIP SUGGESTIONS



Great Southern Touring Route
AUSTRALIA

6 DAYS – 5 NIGHTS

MELBOURNE – GREAT OCEAN ROAD – GRAMPPIANS
– BALLARAT

HASHTAG

#geelong #greatoceanroad
#12apostles #grampians #ballarat
#gstr #roadtrip

DAY 1

Melbourne to Great Ocean Road

Depart: Melbourne

O/night: Torquay

Distance: 98 kilometres

Take Highway One west from the city to reach **Werribee Open Range Zoo** for morning safari and wildlife hangouts. Back on the road for 30 minutes and you're lunching on the dazzling Geelong Waterfront, deciding whether to visit **Geelong Gallery** or **National Wool Museum** before taking the Surf Coast Highway to **Torquay**, the spiritual home of Aussie surfing culture.

On the way, call into **Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre** to delve into Dreamtime stories, boomerang throwing, ancient artefacts and bush tucker flavours. In Torquay, dive into surfing heritage at the **Australian National Surfing Museum** then dip your toes in at iconic **Bells Beach**.

DAY 2

Great Ocean Road

Depart: Torquay

O/night: Warrnambool/Port Fairy

Distance: Approx 283 kilometres

You're officially roadtripping west along the Great Ocean Road's remarkable coastline. Today, witness historic **Cape Otway Lightstation**, the mighty **Twelve Apostles** (best seen from a helicopter) and a windswept sunset at the **Bay of Islands**.

Detour into **Great Otway National Park** for rainforest magic at **Otway Fly Treetop Adventures** or whiz along to **Warrnambool's Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village**. Overnight at **Lady Bay Resort** or drive on to picture-perfect **Port Fairy** and a room at historic **Merrijig Inn**.

DAY 3

Great Ocean Road to Grampians

Depart: Warrnambool/Port Fairy

O/night: Halls Gap/Dunkeld

Distance: Approx 158 kilometres

Motor north through fertile farmland, sidetracking to ogle **Hamilton Gallery's** art collection and sample Pinot Noir at **Pierrepont Wines**. Head on to **Halls Gap** and experience a didgeridoo workshop or rock art tour via **Brambuk – The National Park and Cultural Centre**.

The **Grampians National Park** is vast and mysterious. Walk bush trails to spot wildlife, waterfalls and astonishing views from lofty lookouts. Tonight you're "glamping" Aussie outback style in a luxury tent at **Halls Gap Lakeside Tourist Park**.

DAY 4

Grampians to Ballarat

Depart: Halls Gap/Dunkeld

O/night: Ballarat

Distance: Approx 152 kilometres

Tour west through some of Australia's finest vineyard-speckled wine country. Unearth cellar door mastery at **Halls Gap Estate**, **Grampians Estate**, **Mount Langhi Ghiran** or **Blue Pyrenees**.

See and hear Ballarat's gold rush heritage come alive at **Sovereign Hill** as you pan for gold and ride a stagecoach by day. By night, witness the amazing **sound and light show spectacular** telling the Eureka story. Continue the history theme with a Royal Suite stay at **Craig's Royal Hotel**, Ballarat's iconic boutique hotel since 1865.

DAY 5

Ballarat to Spa Country

Depart: Ballarat

O/night: Daylesford

Distance: 43 kilometres

Make a morning vigil to **Ballarat Wildlife Park** to hand-feed roaming kangaroos and meet Victoria's only Komodo Dragon. Road cruise into a day of indulgence in spa country, dropping into **Creswick Woollen Mills** en route to discover fascinating wool history.

Set your dial to pamper: drink in bubbling mineral waters at Hepburn Springs, and relax into a massage or beauty treatment at **Hepburn Bathhouse & Spa** or **Salus Spa**. Enjoy a lazy lunch at **Wombat Hill House Café**, set high amongst lush botanical gardens. Let the luxury last: stay overnight at Daylesford's tranquil **Lake House**.

DAY 6

Spa Country to Melbourne

Depart: Daylesford

O/night: Melbourne

Distance: 112 kilometres

Make the most of your stay with a masterclass experience at **Lake House Cooking School** or a meander along **Daylesford's** main street, a wondrous collection of specialty shops, second-hand bookstores and antiques and collectables. Make your journey back to Melbourne, cruising the highway through lovely undulating bush and farmland.

