

HEDONISTIC HIKING

Great Ocean Walk - 7 Days



Immerse yourself in nature and experience the dramatic, ever-changing views of the spectacular **Shipwreck Coast** 225km west of Melbourne, Victoria. This **luxury guided hike** along the iconic Great Ocean Walk combines stunning hiking with fabulous meals showcasing the **delicious local produce**: Freshly caught fish and seafood; locally reared meat; hand-crafted cheeses; fresh fruit and vegetables; fine wines and boutique beers. There is time to unwind and **relax with a massage** plus a chance to experience the **Otway Fly Tree Top Walk**.

Our exclusive tour is offered on just 2 occasions each year. However, we offer this and other tailor made versions of the hike for private groups.



What's included?

- ✓ **TWO Experienced and knowledgeable guides** who will look after your every need and bring this stunning area to life.
- ✓ **6 nights' luxury accommodation.**
- ✓ **All meals including wine and local boutique beers.**
- ✓ **Lunch and wine-tasting at local boutique winery**
- ✓ **Gourmet picnic lunches** each day freshly prepared using delicious local produce
- ✓ **Delicious dinners** each evening – either in local restaurants or in the intimacy of your accommodation. There is also the opportunity to watch a talented local chef at work and pick up some tips as he prepares a private dinner for the group.
- ✓ **Guided visit to Cape Otway Light Station**, the oldest lighthouse on the Australian mainland
- ✓ **Relaxing massage** in the comfort of your accommodation
- ✓ Entrance to the **Otway Fly Tree Top Walk**
- ✓ **Support vehicle**, enabling you to walk as little or as much of the trail as you please.
- ✓ **Transport** to/from Melbourne
- ✓ Comprehensive **pre-trip information.**
- ✓ **Luggage transported for you** so all you need to carry is a small backpack with water etc.

Itinerary

Trip starts and ends in Melbourne, Victoria. Melbourne has an International airport and excellent train/coach services.

Day 1: Melbourne to Apollo Bay (3½ hour drive)

Meet 9am in Melbourne CBD (city centre), 9.30am at Melbourne Tullamarine Airport. We drive 3.5hours to Apollo Bay. Ease into your holiday with a short hike from Marengo to Shelly Beach. Stay for two nights at a fully sustainable, purpose-built Ecolodge*. This evening we enjoy an exclusive insight into the fauna and flora of the Otways with a guided dusk walk with our hosts before dinner.

Day 2: Shelly Beach to Cape Otway

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



Day 3: Cape Otway to Castle Cove



Today we hike along remote Station Beach and marvel at the ancient geology of this region which has created fascinating rock formations along the coastline. Descend through the dunes to peaceful Aire River inlet for our delicious picnic lunch before continuing to Castle Cove. We stay for the next 3 nights at cozy Glenaire Cottages** with fabulous ocean views.

Day 4: Castle Cove to Johanna Beach

Hike through heath land and keep an eye out for the shy echidna. We cross Johanna beach which is a haven for hooded plovers at nesting time and is also a popular spot for peregrine falcons. After our picnic lunch we return to our accommodation for a relaxing afternoon. Laze in the spa and indulge with an in-house massage. The more energetic can explore one of the bushwalks which depart from the accommodation. Later in the afternoon there is the opportunity to watch a local chef at work as he prepares our private dinner.



Day 5: Milanesia Beach to Moonlight Head

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

Day 6: Moonlight Head to Princetown

Start the day with a visit to evocative Wreck Beach and hear the stories of some of the most infamous shipwrecks on this treacherous coast. Walk through blue gum forest, casuarinas trees and lush farmland to emerge at the small village of Princetown overlooking the Gellibrand River. An easy hike takes us to the end of the Great Ocean Walk with awe-inspiring views of the majestic limestone stacks of the world famous 12 Apostles. Stay tonight in the heart of Port Campbell and enjoy a fabulous meal in a local restaurant.



Day 7: Loch Ard Gorge and the Otway Fly



This morning we visit Loch Ard gorge and learn the story of this tragic shipwreck before continuing to a local boutique winery for a tasting and our final gourmet picnic. In the afternoon we experience a fabulous rainforest walk on the Otway Fly before returning to Melbourne (for 6pm)

Accommodation

We have selected quality accommodation close to the trail to guarantee your comfort and to minimise driving times at the start and end of each day.

* The Ecolodge has double accommodation only. Single travellers and those requiring twin accommodation will stay at nearby 1 or 2 bedroom luxury cottages with ocean views.

** Glenaire has three 2-bedroom cottages all with spas and ocean views. There is one bathroom per cottage. If required, we will also use nearby high quality B&B accommodation.

Walking



Moderate Walking

Hilly terrain with some steep ascents/descents.

Shortest day 5.5km

Longest day 17.7km

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

Dates

6th-12th December 2009

14th-20th March 2010

We also offer a 5 or 6 day itinerary of this tour for private groups (minimum 6 people)

Cost

\$2895 per person (Single supplement \$190)

Weather

The Otways are one of the wettest areas in Victoria. However, in Spring and late summer it is generally warm to hot and the sea is warm enough for swimming.

Min. 13°

Max. 22°



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