

Great Ocean Road Walk, Victoria



Tour Date:

Departs 21 February 2011

Departs 23 April 2011

For **SINGLE WALKERS 40 to 59 Years**
5 days / 4 nights

Melbourne • Cape Otway • Apollo Bay • Shelley Beach/ • Blanket Bay • Cape Otway • Johanna • The Gable, Wreck Beach • The 12 Apostles Head • Melbourne

Great Ocean Road Walk, VIC

Walk Victoria's fabulous Great Ocean Walk. It's a new walking trail which complements Victoria's famous Great Ocean Road.

With so much of Victoria's coastline developed, the Great Ocean Walk offers a unique opportunity to explore the largely untouched, rugged and uniquely beautiful coastline of Victoria's Shipwreck Coast. The walk has been thoughtfully constructed, offering great variety, secluded forest tracks, windswept surf beaches and rock pools and high undulating tracks with spectacular coastal views that will have your camera working overtime.

Trip Grade - Fitness Level

It's ideal for the walker of a medium level of fitness. On most days some walkers can walk less if they prefer as long as this is negotiated with the guide. Only one section of the walk is rated as 'Hard' by Parks Victoria. As far as preparation goes a general preparatory program for someone who is not a walker would involve a schedule of regular weekly walking for at least 6-8 weeks prior, with the aim of gradually walking further each week as well as starting to incorporate some hill walking would be appropriate.

Testimonial

'The Great Ocean Road walk was excellent. You see much more on the walk than the road. The scenery from every turn was breath taking, and there was heaps of wildlife to see. The guides were very experienced and accommodating. Our nightly 3 course meals were scrumptious, and so deserved after a full day's walk. I'd recommend this walk to everyone who loves the great outdoors.'

Valda, 51 Nth QLD

Fellow Passengers: Share your journey with other like-minded active single walkers. Persons outside the age range are welcome to join. The advertised age group is offered only as a suggestion, as this trip usually appeals to persons in that age group."



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Small group walking.
Book early for your
place.

TOP 5 REASONS TO BOOK

1. Age-matched holiday groups
2. Travel with like-minded singles
3. Tours provided by leading tour operators
4. Early bird savings with many tours
5. Room-mate matching option

Tour Inclusions

- Four nights 4 star cabin accommodation
- All meals, lunch day 1 to lunch day 5
- Highly experienced professional walking guide/s
- Return bus transfers from Melbourne by private bus with trailer
- All shuttles during the trip
- Guided shipwreck tour, day 1
- All national park permits
- Emergency group first aid kit
- Emergency communications
- Fully escorted

Meals

Meals are a highlight of the tour, being healthy, tasty and enjoyable. They will be varied over the duration of the tour and include snacks to take on the trail.

Tour Date

Monday 21 to Friday 25 February 2011
Saturday 23 to Wednesday 27 April 2011
(bookings close 60 days prior to departure)

**Bookings will close before published date if places sell out.*

Tour Prices

Per Person AUD	Price
Deluxe Cabin: four-share	\$1789
Pre or post tour hotel, Melbourne	\$P.O.A

Deluxe Cabins: Each cabin has 1 bathroom. They are modern style cabins with a lounge area and a kitchen. Cabins are four share and rooms are twin share (2 bedrooms) deluxe cabins with shared bathroom

Pre and/or Post Tour:

If travelling from outside Melbourne we recommend a minimum of 1 night pre-tour and 1 night-post tour to suit the walking tour itinerary. The meeting point for day 1 of the walking tour, will be at 8:30am in the hotel lobby.

Ibis Melbourne, 15 - 21 Therry St Melb (near the Vic market)

Prices correct at time of publishing but are subject to change should circumstances dictate.

About Us

At A Rendezvous for Singles we offer holiday groups for the single travellers, visiting destinations across Australia and around the globe. From short tropical escapes to adventure trips and leisurely touring, all trips are age-matched and enjoyed with a group of like-minded people.

Contact Us

TRAVEL AGENT

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National Seniors Travel
Bringing the world closer for our members



Itinerary for Great Ocean Road Walk, Victoria



DAY ONE MONDAY

Walk: Apollo Bay to Shelley Beach

Distance: 8.0km

Highlights: Fur seals on Marengo reefs, Sheltered sandy coves and rock platforms, Views towards Blanket Bay from Grassy Hill, Forest walk.

08:30 Pickup: A Rendezvous clients are collected from a central Melbourne point to travel to accommodation at Cape Otway. A van is used and it also has a covered trailer for main luggage. The alternate collection point is the Melbourne Arts Centre. Sit back and enjoy the scenery as we drive you from Melbourne to Apollo Bay via Forrest. Along the way we stop in Winchelsea & Apollo Bay for a break and perhaps coffee, then head direct to our accommodation to settle in and enjoy a pre walk lunch. We get a real sense of starting out on an adventure as we return to Apollo Bay & commence our walk from the very start of the Great Ocean Walking track.

As we round Hayley Point at Marengo we try to spy Australian fur seals basking on the rocks of the Marengo seal sanctuary. We continue walking amongst the rock pools and along beautiful small beaches before regaining the track to Grassy Hill, from where we gain stunning views towards Blanket Bay. Immerse yourself in a classic Australian eucalypt forest as we walk from Shelley Beach to our bus at the picnic ground.

Finally we return to Cape Otway where we enjoy settling in for drinks then dinner.

DAY TWO

Walk: Blanket Bay to Accommodation

Distance: 16.0km Walking Time: 5 - 6 hours

Detours: Crayfish Bay, Rainbow Falls, Station Beach

Highlights: Shipwreck Tour - Parker Inlet to Point Franklin, Crayfish Bay, Cape Otway, Rainbow Falls, Station Beach

Today we walk directly into our accommodation. Starting from Blanket Bay you are immediately immersed in an attractive stringybark forest with many stops for stunning coastal views. At Parker Inlet we meet acclaimed local guide Mark Brack who guides us around the rocks from Parker Inlet to Point Franklin, entertaining and educating us with his local & comprehensive knowledge of the history, culture & botanica of the Cape region.

We usually like to detour to secluded Crayfish Bay which makes a perfect spot afternoon tea. Take a secluded dip in the clear cold water if you're game! Our walk passes through the manna gum forest of Parker Hill where we stop to count the koalas and then it's onto historic Cape Otway lighthouse (entry included) for a stunning view over Bass Strait and a stop for tea or coffee in the cafe.

It is a further 4 km walk into Bimbi Park and you can either choose to walk this final leg or travel back in style in our bus.

DAY THREE

Walk: From accommodation to Johanna to Hiders Access

Distance: 19.4km or 13.4km.

Walking Time: 6 - 7 hours maximum

Highlights: Escarpment Lookout over Aire River, Castle Cove, Native vegetation Cliffs and views, Johanna Beach and Hikers Camp views, Shuttle return to Cape Otway accommodation.

Today, any walkers who do not want to walk the last six km from Johanna to Hiders Access (apart from the first 2.0km most of this is on roads and is often skipped) may request a pick up for this section.

Today is such a highlight of our walk. We walk along an ancient cliff top above a rugged and remote beach (Station Beach) which seems to stretch forever. Soak in the atmosphere as you stroll along this rugged beach and around the rock platforms, with the surf crashing in and the cliffs of Lion Headland & Moonlight Head looming in the distance. Be amazed as you witness a waterfall cascading directly onto the rocks beside the beach. You can even drink from a stream which crosses the beach into the ocean! Walking along this ancient escarpment we feel immersed in nature and remote from the rest of the world. Our walk from Castle Cove to Johanna immerses us in diverse native forests with a plethora of Australian wildflowers and heaths. We descend steeply to Johanna Beach where we are greeted with another wild remote beach and a wall of cliffs looming ever closer. Amble along wild Johanna Beach and take your time to soak in the wildness of this unique coastline.

DAY FOUR

Walk: Melanesia Beach to Moonlight Head

Distance: 9.6km Walking Time: 5 - 6 hours

This is the shortest and most challenging day but also the most stunning.

Highlights: Melanesia Beach - remote sandy beach, cannonball rock faces, Ryans Den - views to die for, Stunning coastal views, Moonlight Head

DAY FIVE

Walk: The Gable to Wreck Beach

Princetown to 12 Apostles

Distance: 9.4km Time: around 5 hours

The final day exposes you to yet more brilliant walking. Traverse native coastal heathland from The Gable then descend the famous steps to Wreck Beach, where you can inspect the remains of the shipwrecks Fiji & Marie Gabrielle. Walk around a rocky coastal headland to hidden Devils Kitchen, then stroll the Old Coach Road to sleepy Princetown. Enjoy the final walk from Princetown to the end of the Great Ocean Walk with the 12

Apostles looming ever closer. Walk below ancient cliffs at Gibson's Steps beach where you can see the 12 Apostles up close & personal. Enjoy a final look at the 12 Apostles from the official viewing platform before boarding our air conditioned bus for the return trip to Melbourne. We aim to arrive in central Melbourne around 9:00pm.

WHAT TO PACK:

HYDRATION; water bottles or hydration bladder & tube - need to be able to carry 2 - 3 litres per day. 3 litre capacity is recommended

- * 2 pairs comfortable walking shorts or lightweight trousers (avoid jeans)
- * 3 breathable fast drying walking shirts (collared long sleeves recommended for hot weather)
- * Vest / lightweight jumper or fleece
- * Windproof & waterproof lightweight rain jacket, goretex or similar
- * 1 pair comfortable and broken-in walking boots for walking (sandals unsuitable)
- * Sun protection hat & sunglasses
- * Walking poles (optional)
- * Change of clothes for relaxing in each evening
- * Change of footwear for relaxing in
- * Gaiters are recommended for summer months
- * Toiletries including: SPF 30+ sunscreen, small container anti bacterial hand gel & personal wipes, personal insect repellent, towels, personnel medications.
- * Swimming costume (warmer months)
- * Small rucksack
- * Assortment of small zip lock bags & plastic bags for washing
- * Camera & spare batteries, data cards, film, chargers etc
- * Watch / Head torch or hand torch

NOTES

The tour operator reserves the right to alter or deviate from the tour itinerary should circumstances dictate.

PRE-DEPARTURE CONTACT SERVICE

*With your permission, we share your first name, state and email (or other preferred contact method) to the rest of the travellers on your tour from **A Rendezvous for Singles**, prior to departure. It's a popular choice, especially as most guests usually book solo. It provides the opportunity to get in touch with others in the group prior to travel. This contact list is provided after bookings close.*

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Ask your travel agent for full booking terms and conditions. Information was correct at the time of publishing however some details may change without notice. This holiday is provided to A Rendezvous for Singles by Grand Pacific Tours (Lic No. 32046).