

AUSTRALIA VICTORIA: GREAT OCEAN WALK & TWELVE APOSTLES

4-days / 3-nights centre-based small group guided walking along Victoria's iconic coastline



Easily accessible from Melbourne the Great Ocean Walk walking trail spans 104km of one of Australia's most spectacular coastlines. It follows a route of amazing coastal *and* forest scenery through the Otway Ranges and is an ideal way to see native Australian bird, marine and animal wildlife. The trail itself passes through two national parks, overlooks a marine national park and a marine sanctuary, yet sections of it will show you an isolation that only the Southern Ocean can offer. Breathe fresh air, marvel at the power of the waves crashing on the cliffs, then stand on the edge of Ryan's Den, put your face to the wind and realise there is nothing but ocean between you and the wilds of Antarctica.

With a walking holiday, where you put your feet up in the evening is often as important as the spectacular sights you experience during the day. Our lodge, designed specifically for walkers, is located at the mid point of Victoria's Great Ocean Walk, nestled in a natural rainforest amphitheatre just back from Johanna Beach. This purpose-built haven has been developed to the strictest of sustainable design principles and provides comforts we know you will appreciate at the end of a day of walking.

Price: Low season **\$2250** per person twin share in September, December, January, February, May

High season **\$2550** per person twin share in October, November, March, April

Single travellers are welcome at no additional charge, the lodge is designed with single travellers in mind and all rooms can be divided into two single rooms with dual access to shared bathroom.

Departs: Tuesdays, from 1st September 2020 - 30th May 2021

Private group departures are also available on request between May and August

Included: Return transfers from and back to Melbourne CBD; 3 nights' accommodation at the Eco-lodge; 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners; beverages including house wine & local beer; morning and afternoon tea; use of foot spas; one use of machine for clothes washing; use of quality gear including weather-proof jacket, gaiters, walking poles, water bottle and day packs; the services of our professional guides; national park fees; Twelve Apostles scenic 15-minute helicopter flight (weather dependent).

Not included: Other alcoholic drinks, personal expenses such as souvenirs, extra clothes washing.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Accommodation: The luxury eco-style villas are set amidst the trees and complemented by stunning lounge, dining and outdoor recreational spaces. This fully-licensed premises offers tranquil places to unwind and reflect on your day on the trail. Why not relax with your feet securely tucked in a rejuvenating foot spa, take a post-walk hot shower in your own ensuite or sip a glass of local wine as you read that book.

There are five ensuite villas, which can be configured as a King-size double, twin-share, or partitioned into two single rooms with shared bathroom. There is no single supplement for solo travellers.

The guest lounge and dining area has comfortable seating and a communal dining table. Use the 24-hour tea and coffee-making facilities and be sure to browse the in-house library, with a selection of non-fiction reference books as well as fiction, magazines and daily newspapers.

The design of the lodge utilises a number of best-practice environmentally sustainable features including self-sufficient rainwater supply and low-consumption electric and water fittings. It is comfortably heated throughout, power points are available for re-charging batteries, and high-quality linen and towels are provided.

Other facilities include a dedicated gear storage and drying room, foot spas with complimentary mineral salts, and massage treatment room (30-minute to 1-hour massage treatments can be arranged at extra cost, subject to availability).

Food: We know that walking builds a hearty appetite, so we take our food very seriously. When the details are taken care of and life is stripped back to basics, what you eat can be as important as where you walk each day. Our attentive chef has developed menus that complement the trail experience, showcasing local and regional ingredients. You may want to pack our chef in your bags and take him home. But like all good sustainable walkers, you should leave things where you find them! Our chef can cater for special dietary requirements and allergies, please notify us when booking.

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Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Depart Melbourne – Castle Cove & Johanna Beach walk @ 7km (3 hours)

Meet in Melbourne CBD at 7.45am and we then travel the quicker inland route to our eco-lodge. Those with their own transport please aim to arrive between 10.30am. After morning tea and a briefing from our guide, we transfer by vehicle to Castle Cove where we start our walk. This breathtaking section of the trail features scrubby eucalypts on one side and sheer cliffs dropping down into the sapphire blue Southern Ocean on the other. We walk through grass tree forests and meadows before we reach rugged and beautiful Johanna Beach, renowned as one of Australia's top surfing spots. We have around two kilometres of soft sand walking until we reach Johanna River – we may need to take our boots off to cross. We make our way to the end of the beach and return to the lodge where we can kick back and relax before a delicious three-course meal.

Day 2: Milanesia Beach & Moonlight Head walk @ 14.5km (6.5 hours)

The most challenging, scenic and remote section of the walk. We descend on a winding path from Milanesia Track to Milanesia Beach, then follows a gentle beach stroll before a short but steep climb. On this isolated section we walk through tree fern and eucalypt forest, and dramatic changes in elevation take us to the cliff tops which offer sweeping vistas of the Shipwreck Coast. We finish the day's walk at Moonlight Head, where we are met for the transfer to the lodge in time for a hot shower or complimentary foot spa before dinner.

Day 3: Wreck Beach & Princetown walk @ 17km (6.5 hours)

After breakfast we are dropped back at Moonlight Head and we start with a gentle forest ramble along country lanes to the Gables, the highest ocean cliff lookout on the walk. If the tide is out, take the 366 stairs down to Wreck Beach where the anchors of the wrecks of *Marie Gabrielle* and *Fiji* are embedded in the sea rocks. Otherwise, it's a picturesque walk to Devil's Kitchen for a break with a stunning view. We begin to catch glimpses of the Twelve Apostles as we walk through heathland and coastal scrub to Princetown, at the mouth of the Gellibrand River, where our driver awaits. Dinner is served at the lodge.

Day 4: Twelve Apostles & return to Melbourne walk @ 8km (3 hours)

We leave the eco-lodge after breakfast for our final day of walking with views of the ocean and sculpted sandstone stacks of the Twelve Apostles.

We visit the walkers' photography platform and take time to photograph these formations. Afterwards we offer a 15-minute scenic helicopter flight along the coastline (the helicopter flight is weather dependent).

If you have your own transport, there is a car shuffle from the lodge to the Twelve Apostles Visitor Centre.

For those continuing back to Melbourne, the transfer will stop first at Port Campbell for lunch and then to central Melbourne CBD arriving around 5.30 – 6.00pm. A drop off at Melbourne's Tullamarine Airport can be arranged, ask for details.

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Frequently asked questions:

What do I have to carry? You carry only a daypack containing up to two litres of water, a weatherproof jacket, personal items such as a camera and sunglasses, and your lunch – we provide great lunch containers to make this easy. We can provide a daypack for you to use, if you don't have one.

What gear do I need? We will provide a gear list for you once you have made your booking. However, please note that well broken-in hiking boots with ankle support or solid, waterproof walking shoes are necessary for this walk. Runners, tennis shoes or sneakers are not suitable.

How fit do I need to be? If you walk for fitness, swim, play golf or regularly climb stairs you will manage our walks. The walk is graded moderate, walking with a light day pack (3-5kg) over undulating terrain with some short steep ascents. Footpaths are sometimes uneven underfoot, and there is some beach walking. We walk an average of 10km - 15km per day and you should be prepared to walk at least 40km over 4 days. The walk on Day 2 is more challenging and is rated moderate to hard.

What meals are included: All meals from lunch on the first day to lunch on the final day are included in the tour cost. In addition, our chef prepares morning and afternoon tea each day, as well as snacks that provide that quick burst of energy you need to get you up the next incline. Dinner is a three-course gourmet meal each night, often using recipes created just for our walks. House wines and local beers are available from the bar.

Minimum numbers: All departures are subject to a minimum of 4 people, and a maximum of 10 people. This tour is also available for private groups – contact us for pricing, dates and availability.

Other Australian or New Zealand walks available from **Outdoor Travel** include the Freycinet Peninsula in Tasmania, the **Milford Sound Track**, Abel Tasman walk, Routeburn Track, Grand Traverse, Queen Charlotte Walk, Akaroa and Hollyford Valley Walk or the Ball Pass Trek near Mount Cook.

Contact **Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd** direct for more details, travel brochures and reservations:

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