

# ROAD TRIP SUGGESTIONS



Great Southern Touring Route  
AUSTRALIA

## 5 DAYS – 4 NIGHTS

BELLARINE PENINSULA – GREAT OCEAN ROAD  
– GRAMPPIANS – BALLARAT

### HASHTAG

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

#### DAY 1

##### Melbourne to Queenscliff

*Depart:* Melbourne

*O/night:* Queenscliff

*Distance:* 107 kilometres

Drive the Princes Freeway through Geelong to the beautiful Bellarine Peninsula. Or cruise across the bay: either from **Sorrento** to **Queenscliff** with **Searoad Ferries** or from **Docklands Melbourne** to **Portarlington** or **Geelong** with **Port Phillip Ferries** (passengers only). For wine and cider lovers discover local gems like **Jack Rabbit Vineyard**, **Leura Park Estate**, **Scotchmans Hill**, **Terindah Estate**, **Flying Brick Cider House** and **Oakdene Estate**.

Dine with a difference: a 6-course degustation on **The Q Train**, Australia's premier rail restaurant. Then settle into a villa or cabin at **BIG4 Beacon Resort**, just metres from the beach. If luxury is your thing, a night at **Lon Retreat & Spa** is a must.

#### DAY 2

##### Queenscliff to Great Ocean Road

*Depart:* Queenscliff

*O/night:* Apollo Bay

*Distance:* 133 kilometres

Hit the road westward, calling in to explore Torquay's **Australian National Surfing Museum** and meet Anglesea Golf Club's resident kangaroos. Tour the incredible coast-clinging route from **Lorne** to **Apollo Bay**, stopping for Teddy's Lookout views, or rainforest challenges at **Live Wire Park**.

Dine and stay overlooking mesmerising ocean views at **Chris's Restaurant**, then **Beacon Point Ocean View Villas**.

#### DAY 3

##### Great Ocean Road to Grampians

*Depart:* Apollo Bay

*O/night:* Halls Gap/Dunkeld/Hamilton

*Distance:* Approx 351 kilometres

Choose today's adventure: hike a section of the **Great Ocean Walk** or follow the **Great Ocean Road** through the **Great Otway National Park** to the famous **Twelve Apostles**. Detour inland to sample local produce at **Timboon Railway Shed Distillery**, then back along the coast to **Warrnambool** for whale spotting (June-September).

Head north through fertile farmland to **Dunkeld** on the edge of the **Grampians National Park**. Unwind for the night in one of **Royal Mail Hotel's** refurbished hotel rooms.

#### DAY 4

##### Grampians to Ballarat

*Depart:* Halls Gap/Dunkeld/Hamilton

*O/night:* Ballarat

*Distance:* Approx 152 kilometres

Rise with the sun and explore ultra-scenic **Grampians National Park** by road or walking trail – wildlife, waterfalls and seasonal wildflowers abound. Learn about the ancient wisdom of the land at **Brambuk – The National Park and Cultural Centre**, then head to **Ballarat** via **Stawell**, **Ararat**, stunning Australian bushland and serious wine country. Pause at boutique wineries for tastings and grazing platters, or push onto **Sovereign Hill** for an afternoon immersed in 1850s gold diggings life.

Make your overnight stay a foray into farm life with a **Downunder Farmstays** experience in the Goldfields region. Or splurge on an extraordinary dinner at **The Gallery** restaurant at **Craig's Royal Hotel**.

#### DAY 5

##### Ballarat to Melbourne

*Depart:* Ballarat

*O/night:* Melbourne

*Distance:* 113 kilometres

Before you farewell the Goldfields region, join **Gold & Relics Gold Prospecting Adventures** for a half-day gold prospecting tour in the bush surrounding **Ballarat**. You never know what you might unearth.

Plug in for an iPod tour of the **Art Gallery of Ballarat**, a close-up animal encounter at **Ballarat Wildlife Park** or an encore visit to **Sovereign Hill** for more gold rush fun (and old-style bakery treats for lunch). **Lydiard Street's** opulent architecture, the **Ballarat Botanical Gardens** and **Creswick Woollen Mills** are worth lingering.

Spa Country at **Daylesford** and **Hepburn Springs** will offer a great finale to your road trip, this region is famous for the health-giving mineral spring waters that bubble naturally to the surface. Massages, beauty treatments and pampering are always on the agenda. Why not tap into local wellness with a mineral-based treatment at **Peppers Mineral Springs**? For an authentic stay at one of Victoria's famous regional retreats stay at **Lake House** and make the most of its lake side location and renowned restaurant.



Great Ocean Road

