



Great Ocean Road

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Brae (p540)
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- ➔ Merrijig Kitchen (p542)
- ➔ Chris's Beacon Point Restaurant (p542)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Bimbi Park (p542)
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- ➔ Cimarron B&B (p538)

Why Go?

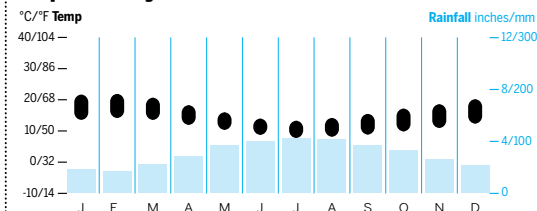
The Great Ocean Road (B100) is one of Australia's most famous road-touring routes. It takes travellers past world-class surfing breaks, through pockets of rainforest, calm seaside towns and under koala-filled tree canopies. It shows off sheer limestone cliffs, dairy farms and heathlands, and gets you up close and personal with the crashing waves of the Southern Ocean.

Hunt out the isolated beaches and lighthouses in between the towns, and the thick eucalypt forests in the Otway hinterlands to really escape the crowds. Rather than heading straight to the Great Ocean Road, a fork in the road in Geelong can take you the long, leisurely way there through the Bellarine Peninsula, which allows you to visit charming Queenscliff and wineries en route.

Day-tripping tourists from Melbourne rush in and out of the area in less than 12 hours but, in a perfect world, you'd spend at least a week here.

When to Go

Cape Otway



Mar Chill out to folk and roots tunes at the hugely popular Port Fairy Folk Festival.

Easter Head to Bells Beach during the Rip Curl Pro to witness spectacular surfing action.

Jul Visit coastal towns mid-winter for bright seascapes, cosy cafes and whale watching.



Great Ocean Road Highlights

1 Counting the upstanding **Twelve Apostles** (p543) near Port Campbell.

2 Camping by beaches abutting the lighthouse and

watching for koalas at **Cape Otway** (p542).

3 Lapping up the resort-style living in tree-lined **Lorne** (p539).

4 Soaking up the best in coastal village life with a few nights in **Port Fairy** (p546).

5 Shopping for surf gear and then taking a surf lesson at **Torquay** (p536).