



Melbourne & Coastal Victoria

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Best Places to Eat

- Brae (p256)
- Attica (p227)
- IGNI (p247)
- Chris's Beacon Point Restaurant (p258)
- Fen (p264)

Best Places to Sleep

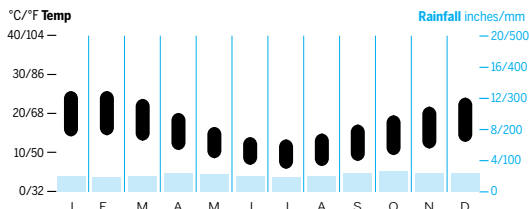
- Treasury on Collins (p217)
- Lighthouse Keepers' Cottages (p271)
- Beacon Point Ocean View Villas (p258)
- Drift House (p264)
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Why Go?

From windswept beaches to cosmopolitan seaside towns and legendary surfing spots, Victoria's coastline has stunning vistas, cool-climate wineries and the culture-packed city of Melbourne. It's a diverse coast: fairy penguins march up and down beaches in the popular tourist destination of Phillip Island, while Victoria's west coast faces on to Bass Strait and attracts surfers and those searching for the iconic Twelve Apostles. Heading up the southeast coast from the hiking paradise of Wilsons Promontory is a long, cruisy expanse of beach that meets up with a popular, activity-filled lakes system around Lakes Entrance (Australia's largest inland waterway system). There are more stunning national parks on the approach to the Victoria–New South Wales border.

When to Go

Melbourne



Dec & Jan

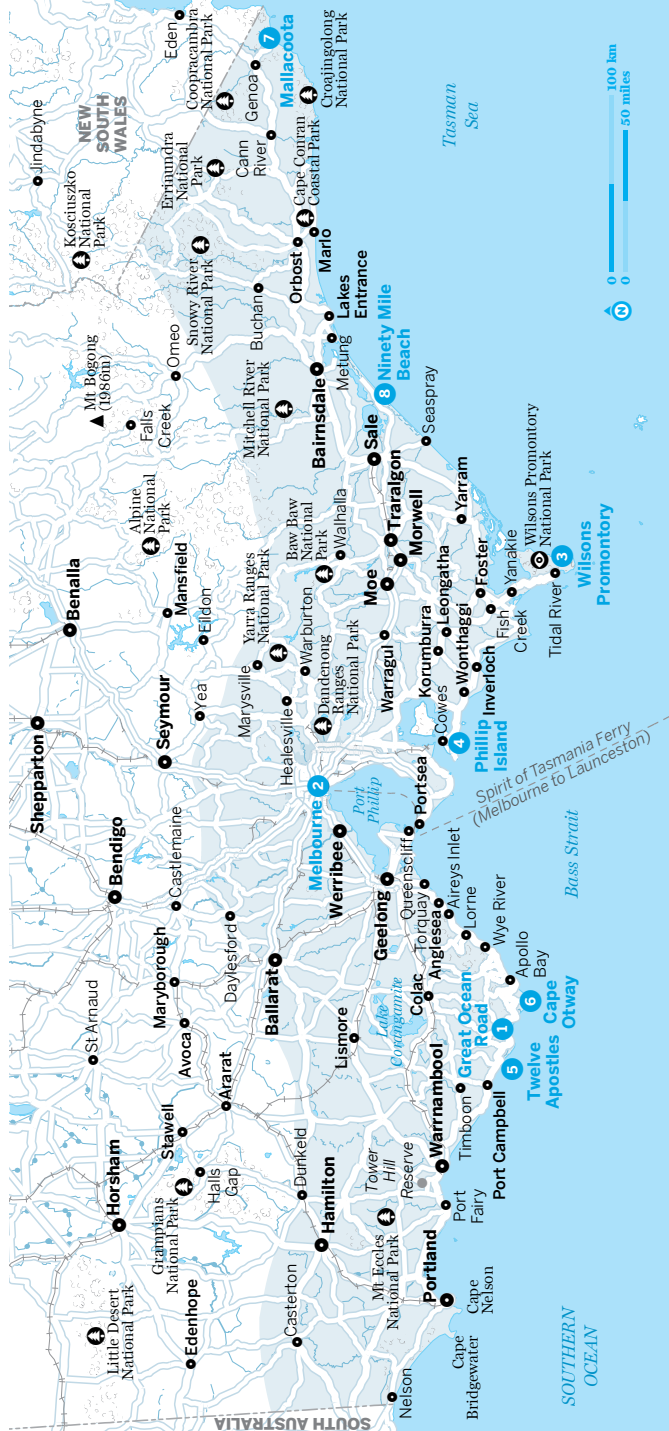
Beaches are packed during summer; book accommodation months ahead.

Feb & Mar

Quieter time; late summer weather can be particularly hot.

Apr–Nov

April has arguably the best weather, leading into cold nights and crisp winter days.



Melbourne & Coastal Victoria Highlights

- 1 Great Ocean Road** (p244) Cruising by spectacular beaches and through inland rainforests.
- 2 Drinking & Dining Around Melbourne** (p222) Seeking cool cafes, bars and restaurants.
- 3 Wilsons Prom Wilderness** (p268) Strapping on your hiking boots to admire the beauty of this national park.
- 4 Penguin Parade, Phillip Island** (p242) Watching the nightly parade of penguins waddling from the ocean to their sandy burrows.
- 5 Twelve Apostles** (p259) Being mesmerised by majestic outlooks over these iconic limestone pillars.
- 6 Cape Otway** (p258) Spying koalas in eucalyptus trees as you drive or hike through the lush rainforest en route to Cape Otway lighthouse
- 7 Mallacoota** (p276) Hiring a boat and exploring the inlet, or visiting Gabo Island.
- 8 Ninety Mile Beach** (p273) Camping in the dunes and fishing from the beach at this legendary stretch of sand.