

10 TOP EXPERIENCES



Melbourne

1 Head down the many bluestone-laden laneways in Melbourne (p52) to find hidden, yet outstanding, restaurants and bright, bold street art that encapsulates the alternative vibe Melburnians carry so well. Take your place on a milk crate in Degraves St and let a local barista change the way you think about coffee, then window-shop for quirky craft and clothes. Watch evening's arrival by the Yarra River then, almost blindly, head up some stairs or down the very end of a graffiti-covered lane to find a smooth drinking establishment serving up quality Victorian wine and beer. Centre Place, Melbourne

Great Ocean Road

2 The Twelve Apostles (p174) are one of Victoria's most vivid sights. Take it slow while driving along roads that curl beside spectacular beaches then whip slightly inland through rainforests. Spend a few days making this iconic trip and you won't be disappointed; surf at Bells Beach, stop to see kangaroos in Anglesea, searching for the glow-worms that brighten up Lorne's narrow forest roads, then go koala-spotting at Cape Otway. Further along is maritime treasure Port Fairy and Cape Bridgewater. For the ultimate in slow travel, walk the Great Ocean Walk (p171) . London Bridge, Great Ocean Road



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Grampians

3 Rising up from otherwise pancake-flat countryside, the landscape of the Grampians (p205) is as timeless as it is tempting. The granite outcrops here are simply made for rock climbing, abseiling and bushwalking. Not that adventurous? You can drive to waterfalls, stunning lookouts and bush camps carpeted in wildflowers, sample local wines and learn stories of how the traditional Indigenous owners lived in a place they call Gariwerd. Families or romantic couples will find just as much to do here as adventurers. Cave of Hands, Grampians National Park