



Melbourne & Victoria



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KOALA IN GREAT OTWAY
NATIONAL PARK P184



MORNINGTON PENINSULA
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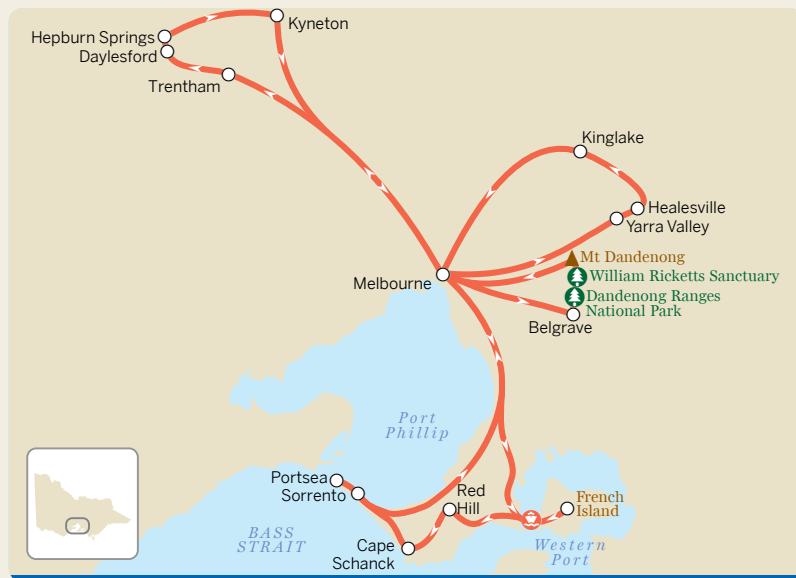
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**WILLIAM RICKETTS
SANCTUARY P140**

Plan Your Trip

Itineraries



Melbourne & Around

Melbourne is the centrepiece of this itinerary, which combines day trips with some overnight stays. Dedicate at least two full days to Melbourne and then hit the road around the region, returning to Melbourne for the night between excursions.

After a couple of days in Melbourne, begin day three by heading southeast across the Mornington Peninsula and make for Stony Point, from where the ferry leaves for **French Island**. Stay overnight to really appreciate this special place where koalas

abound and the clamour of modernity seems a world away. The next morning, return to the mainland and journey inland to check out a couple of **Red Hill** wineries. Turn back to the coast and continue to the **Cape Schanck** lighthouse. Next stop is the seaside playgrounds of the wealthy, **Sorrento** and **Portsea**, on your way back to Melbourne.

Early next morning, head to the Dandenongs, which offer a cool and leafy respite from the noise of the city. From the Burwood Hwy, drive east to Belgrave and climb aboard Puffing Billy for a steam-train journey through the mountains to





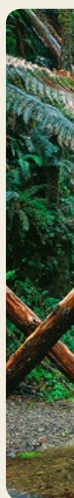
View of Sorrento (p240), Mornington Peninsula

Gembrook. Back at Belgrave, take Monbulk Rd through **Dandenong Ranges National Park** and head to Sassafras for its village atmosphere, then grab something to eat at Piggery Cafe in Olinda and continue on to explore **William Ricketts Sanctuary**. Round off the day by taking in the view from nearby **Mt Dandenong**, before returning to Melbourne for the night.

Start day six by heading from Melbourne along the Maroondah Hwy to indulge in some wine tasting in the **Yarra Valley** before reaching **Healesville**, a lovely town with a fine animal sanctuary on the edge

of the Yarra Ranges National Park. Enjoy a pub lunch at the Healsville hotel and drop into the gin distillery. In the afternoon, head directly west via Yarra Glen and Dixons Creek to the Melba Hwy. Return to Melbourne via St Andrews.

With one day left, spend it touring the charming towns of **Daylesford**, **Trentham** and **Kyneton** via Woodend. Favourite weekend escapes for Melburnians, they are full of fine restaurants, cafes and shops to browse. Make time for a spa and massage at the bathhouse and spa at Hepburn Springs, and head back to Melbourne in a state of bliss.



10
DAYSGreat Ocean Road,
Grampians & Goldfields

The Great Ocean Road is one of the most popular touring routes in the country. Take around 10 days to get the best from this region, starting in the Bellarine Peninsula. Then spend the second half of your trip winding down through the Grampians and Goldfields.

From Melbourne, take the Princes Hwy southwest to **Geelong** to stroll the waterfront and spend the evening at breweries and the latest restaurant. The next day, drop by the Bellarine Peninsula's excellent wineries before visiting the coastal towns of **Barwon Heads** and **Point Lonsdale**, then on to **Queenscliff**, one of the state's most appealing seaside towns. The Great Ocean Road begins in earnest at **Torquay**, one of the surf capitals of the world, and gateway to the legendary swells of **Bells Beach**. Further down the coast, drop in to Anglesea then tour the lighthouse at **Aireys Inlet** before stopping for a night or two in **Lorne**, with its fine beach, stunning waterfalls and tasty eating options. Head further down the coast to **Wye River** for a beer at the pub, with spectacular ocean views, then to **Kennett River** for koala spotting. Chances are that it's close to sunset by the time you return to the coast and **Apollo Bay** for a night or two. Next up, explore **Cape Otway**, then it's on to Port Campbell National Park and its famed **Twelve Apostles** before spending the night in nearby **Port Campbell**. Look for whales off the coast of **Warrnambool** then continue west to quaint **Port Fairy**.

On the way to the otherworldly Grampians, stop for a meal at Dunkeld's acclaimed **Royal Mail**. Make **Halls Gap** your three-night base for your time among the sandstone and granite rock formations in the **Grampians National Park**. A loop through the gold-mining towns of **Castlemaine** and **Maldon** is a rewarding journey through the terrain that formed the basis for Victoria's prosperity – evident in the grand old buildings that dominate streetscapes across the region. Count on at least a night or two in Castlemaine. Detour north to overnight in **Bendigo**, one of Victoria's rural towns to watch, before sweeping back down through **Ballarat**, with its art gallery, stunning streetscapes and world-class Sovereign Hill historic park, for the final night of your tour.



Top: The Twelve Apostles (p187) Port Campbell National Park

Bottom: Waterfall, Great Otway National Park (p184)

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The East

Eastern Victoria combines the state's thrilling coast with a mountainous and deeply forested interior – the unifying theme wherever you go is wilderness.

From Melbourne, it's a two-hour drive down to **Phillip Island** to check out the cute little penguins, seals and surf beaches. On your way southeast, sleepy seaside **Inverloch** and foodie-heaven **Koonwarra** warrant a visit before spending the night in the art-deco pub in bohemian **Fish Creek**. Next stop is the breathtaking **Wilson's Promontory National Park**. The Prom is utterly spectacular, as good for pristine beaches and wandering wildlife as for the remote lighthouse and fine walking trails. A couple of nights in the area is essential.

If you can tear yourself away, follow the coast to the quiet fishing village of **Port Albert** for the freshest seafood, then rush for the north, passing through Traralgon en route to the timeworn gold-mining town of **Walhalla**. If you're after some time out, this is the place to do it thanks to there being no TV reception, or mobile phone or internet coverage. On your way back to the coast, pass through Sale on your way to stunning **Ninety Mile Beach**, either at Golden Beach or Seaspray. Further east, **Paynesville** (reached via Bairnsdale) is a fine little detour, as well as a gateway for the koala colonies of Raymond Island. Overnight in **Metung**, another lovely little seaside town then head on to **Lakes Entrance** for boat tours, long walks and fine seafood at day's end.

The next morning, head north to the caves at **Buchan**, then loop up through the gravel tracks of **Snowy River National Park** via McKillops Bridge, before detouring into the exceptional forests of **Errinundra National Park**. Camp overnight in one of the parks, then pass through Orbost on your way to **Cape Conran Coastal Park**, where the Wilderness Coast really earns its name – soak it up over a couple of days. As far east as you can go in Victoria, **Mallacoota** has a wonderful end-of-the-road feel to it, which is true up to a point – if you travel from here out into **Croajingolong National Park**, you'll really feel like you've fallen off the map. Stay three days; you'll never want to leave this wildly beautiful place.

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Top: Wilson's Promontory National Park (p258)
Bottom: Koala on Phillip Island (p247)





10
DAYS

High Country

Victoria's High Country is a fabulous place for car and motorcycle touring, especially outside the winter months, when even the highest roads are clear of snow. With historic towns, stirring mountain scenery and renowned gourmet regions to serve as focal points for your explorations, even 10 days may not prove sufficient.

Start your journey from Melbourne by heading up through the Yarra Valley, over the scenic Black Spur and up to **Eildon**, the base for fishing and houseboat holidays on Lake Eildon. From here, take the southern road around the lake to **Jamieson**, a quaint little former gold-mining town with an excellent brewery. Then it's on to the all-seasons adventure town of **Mansfield**, gateway to **Mt Buller** and a base for horse riding and mountain biking; stay a couple of nights. The utterly scenic Mansfield-Whitfield Rd winds up and over the ranges before plunging down to the King Valley – don't miss **Power's Lookout** about halfway along. Spend a few hours in the **King Valley** – an increasingly important wine region – before hitting the gourmet trail in earnest at **Milawa**, where wines, cheeses and mustards are all on offer.

As the sun nears the horizon on day five, head for gorgeous **Beechworth**, a stone-built village that glows golden close to sunset and which has wonderful restaurants, local honey and a brewery. Three nights is ideal here, with visits to the postcard-perfect town of **Chiltern**, and on to **Rutherglen** for a night or two to tour the historic wineries renowned for fortified wines and big brash reds. Next up, make your way back through Chiltern to **Yackandandah**, a great place to nurture your love of antiques. Returning down the Great Alpine Road, detour up spectacular **Mt Buffalo** and drop your bags off for a couple of nights in **Bright**, famous for its autumn colours and spring blossoms. From here, branch out to **Harrietville** and the hair-pin ascent of **Mt Hotham**. Enjoy the expansive alpine views from the summit before continuing through alpine meadows to the historic town of **Omeo**.



Top: View of Mt Buller (286) near Mansfield (p284)
Bottom: Rutherglen winery (p294)

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Murray River

Victoria's Murray River is utterly unlike anywhere else in the state, with soulful riverbank towns, drowned forests of eucalypts and the semidesert Mallee region not far away. It's hard to lose your way on this route – although roads in these parts don't always follow the river, it's never far away, and sticking close to it means you can't go wrong.

Begin by flying from **Melbourne** to **Mildura**, a lovely town to get acquainted with – we recommend at least two nights; its food and wine are worth the trip alone. Out here, you feel like you're on the cusp of the outback. To get a taste of what we mean, pick up a rental car and head out for an overnight camping trip at **Hattah-Kulkyne National Park**, where you can pitch alongside one of the Murray River's beaches. Or you could take to the water by renting a houseboat for a few nights.

Follow the river's path through the landscape southeast to overnight in **Swan Hill**, another important provincial centre by the river. There's an attractive riverside park and other important landmarks; Swan Hill's Pioneer Settlement is a wonderfully evocative place to learn about the town's past. On your way to Echuca, **Gunbower National Park** boasts some of the most beautiful river-red-gum forests in the state and is well worth a detour.

Echuca is arguably the pick of the Murray River towns and deserves at least two nights. Apart from being a picturesque town in its own right – its main street is quintessential rural Australia – its paddle steamers and historic port are where the Murray's historic role as lifeblood of Victoria's north really comes alive. Consider sleeping on a houseboat.

Sticking to the river, check out the drowned river red gums of **Barmah National Park** and continue on to **Yarrawonga**. Check out Lake Mulwala and hop on a lunch cruise around this dammed section of the river to get among the sculpturelike remains of long-dead trees.

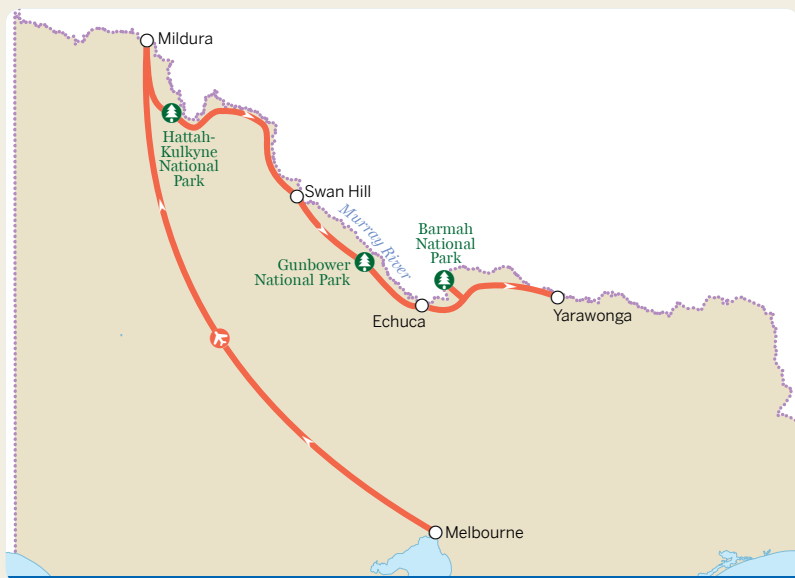
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Top: Paddle steamers on the Murray, Echuca (p317)
Bottom: Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement (p315), Swan Hill



Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Kate Morgan

Having worked for Lonely Planet for over a decade now, Kate has been fortunate enough to cover plenty of ground working as a travel writer on destinations such as Shanghai, Japan, India, Zimbabwe, the Philippines and Phuket. She has done stints living in London, Paris and Osaka but these days is based in one of her favourite regions in the world – Victoria, Australia.



Kate Armstrong

Kate Armstrong has spent much of her adult life travelling and living around the world. A full-time freelance travel journalist, she has contributed to around 40 Lonely Planet guides and trade publications and is regularly published in Australian and worldwide publications. Kate has worked in Mozambique, picked grapes in France and danced in a Bolivian folkloric troupe. A keen photographer, greedy gourmand and festival goer, she enjoys exploring off-the-beaten track locations.



Cristian Bonetto

Cristian has contributed to over 30 Lonely Planet guides to date, including New York City, Italy, Venice & the Veneto, Naples & the Amalfi Coast, Denmark, Copenhagen, Sweden and Singapore. Lonely Planet work aside, his musings on travel, food, culture and design appear in numerous publications around the world. When not on the road, you'll find the reformed playwright and TV script-writer slurping espresso in his beloved hometown, Melbourne.



Peter Dragicevich

After a successful career in niche newspaper and magazine publishing, both in his native New Zealand and in Australia, Peter finally gave into Kiwi wanderlust, giving up staff jobs to chase his diverse roots around much of Europe. Over the last decade he's written literally dozens of guidebooks for Lonely Planet on a disparate collection of countries, all of which he's come to love. He calls Auckland, New Zealand his home – although his nomadic existence means he's often elsewhere.



Trent Holden

A Geelong-based writer, Trent has worked for Lonely Planet since 2005. He's covered 30 plus guidebooks across Asia, Africa and Australia. With a penchant for megacities, Trent's in his element when assigned to cover a nation's capital – the more chaotic the better – to unearth cool bars, art, street food and underground subculture. He also writes books to tropical islands across Asia, in between going on safari to national parks in Africa and the subcontinent.

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