

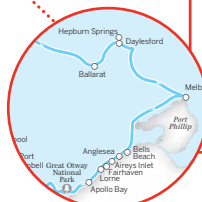
PAGE
1

PLAN YOUR TRIP

YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT

Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions
to help you put together your perfect trip

10 Top Experiences	4
Welcome to Melbourne & Victoria	17
Need to Know	18
If You Like	20
Month by Month	24
Your Weekend Away	27
Victoria Outdoors	33
Itineraries	38
Travel with Children	43
Regions at a Glance	46



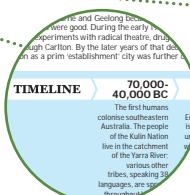
PAGE
307

UNDERSTAND MELBOURNE & VICTORIA

GET MORE FROM YOUR TRIP

Learn about the big picture, so you
can make sense of what you see

Melbourne & Victoria Today	308
History	311
Food & Wine	321
Fashion & Shopping	327
The Arts	330
Sport	337

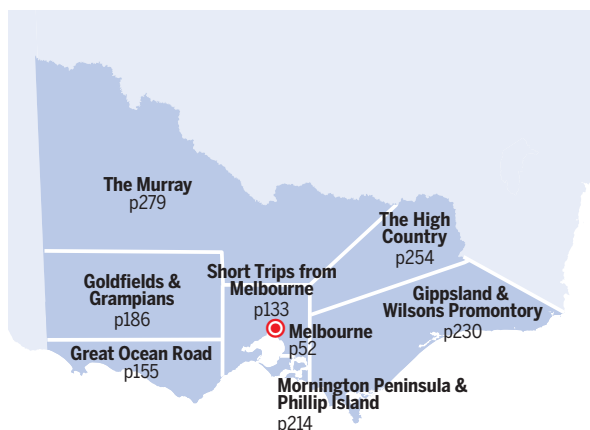


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Directory A–Z	342
Transport	349
Index	360
Map Legend	367

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Entering the Region

All visitors to Australia must have a valid 'special category' visa on arrival. Tourist easiest way to obtain a visa is to apply for can be done online (www.eta.immi.gov.au)

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

What to declare at customs: goods of animal or vegetable origin and weapons are prohibited. No cash limit or pros.

THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

Jayne D'Arcy
Paul Harding, Donna Wheeler



Look out for these icons:



Our author's
recommendation



A green or
sustainable option



No payment
required

MELBOURNE.....52

SHORT TRIPS FROM MELBOURNE.....133

THE DANDENONGS 135

YARRA VALLEY.....137

Healesville & the
Lower Yarra Valley 138

Warburton & the
Upper Yarra Valley 141

Marysville 142

Lake Mountain 143

THE SPA COUNTRY..... 144

Daylesford &
Hepburn Springs 144

QUEENSCLIFF &
THE BELLARINE
PENINSULA 150

Queenscliff 150

Point Lonsdale 153

Ocean Grove 153

Barwon Heads 153

GREAT OCEAN ROAD155

GEELONG157

TORQUAY161

TORQUAY TO
ANGLESEA 163

ANGLESEA 163

AIREYS INLET..... 165

LORNE 166

Cumberland River 169

Wye River..... 169

Kennett River 170

Cape Patton to
Skenes Creek 170

APOLLO BAY.....170

Around Apollo Bay 172

CAPE OTWAY173

CAPE OTWAY TO PORT
CAMPBELL NATIONAL
PARK173

PORT CAMPBELL
NATIONAL PARK174

PORT CAMPBELL174

PORT CAMPBELL TO
WARRNAMBOOL.....176

WARRNAMBOOL.....177

TOWER HILL RESERVE... 180

PORT FAIRY 180

PORTLAND..... 183

PORTLAND TO SOUTH
AUSTRALIA..... 184

Cape Bridgewater 184

Nelson 184

GOLDFIELDS & GRAMPIANS186

BALLARAT.....187

BENDIGO..... 194

GOLDFIELDS TOWNS... 199

Kyneton 199

Castlemaine200

Around Castlemaine203

Maldon.....203

Maryborough204

GRAMPIANS NATIONAL
PARK (GARIWERD)..... 205

Halls Gap208

Dunkeld & the
Southern Grampians.... 210

Wartook Valley & the
Northern Grampians 211

WEST OF THE
GRAMPIANS.....211

Horsham 211

Mt Arapiles State Park ... 211

Little Desert
National Park 212

MORNINGTON PENINSULA & PHILLIP ISLAND... 214

MORNINGTON
PENINSULA 215

Mornington 216

Mornington to
Blairgowrie 218

Sorrento..... 219

Portsea..... 221

Point Nepean
National Park 221

Mornington Peninsula
National Park222

Flinders222

Red Hill & Around 223

FRENCH ISLAND..... 223

PHILLIP ISLAND 225

GIPPSLAND & WILSONS PROMONTORY 230

WEST GIPPSLAND 231

Walhalla 231

SOUTH GIPPSLAND 234

Inverloch234

On the Road

Bunurong Marine & Coastal Park	235
Korumburra	235
Koonwarra	235
Fish Creek	236
WILSONS PROMONTORY NATIONAL PARK	236
EAST OF THE PROM	240
Port Albert	240
LAKES DISTRICT	240
Sale	240
Ninety Mile Beach	241
Bairnsdale	242
Paynesville & Raymond Island	243
Metung	243
Lakes Entrance	244
EAST GIPPSLAND & THE WILDERNESS COAST	247
Buchan	247
Snowy River National Park	248
Errinundra National Park	249
Orbost	250
Marlo	250
Cape Conran Coastal Park	250
Mallacoota	251
Croajingolong National Park	253

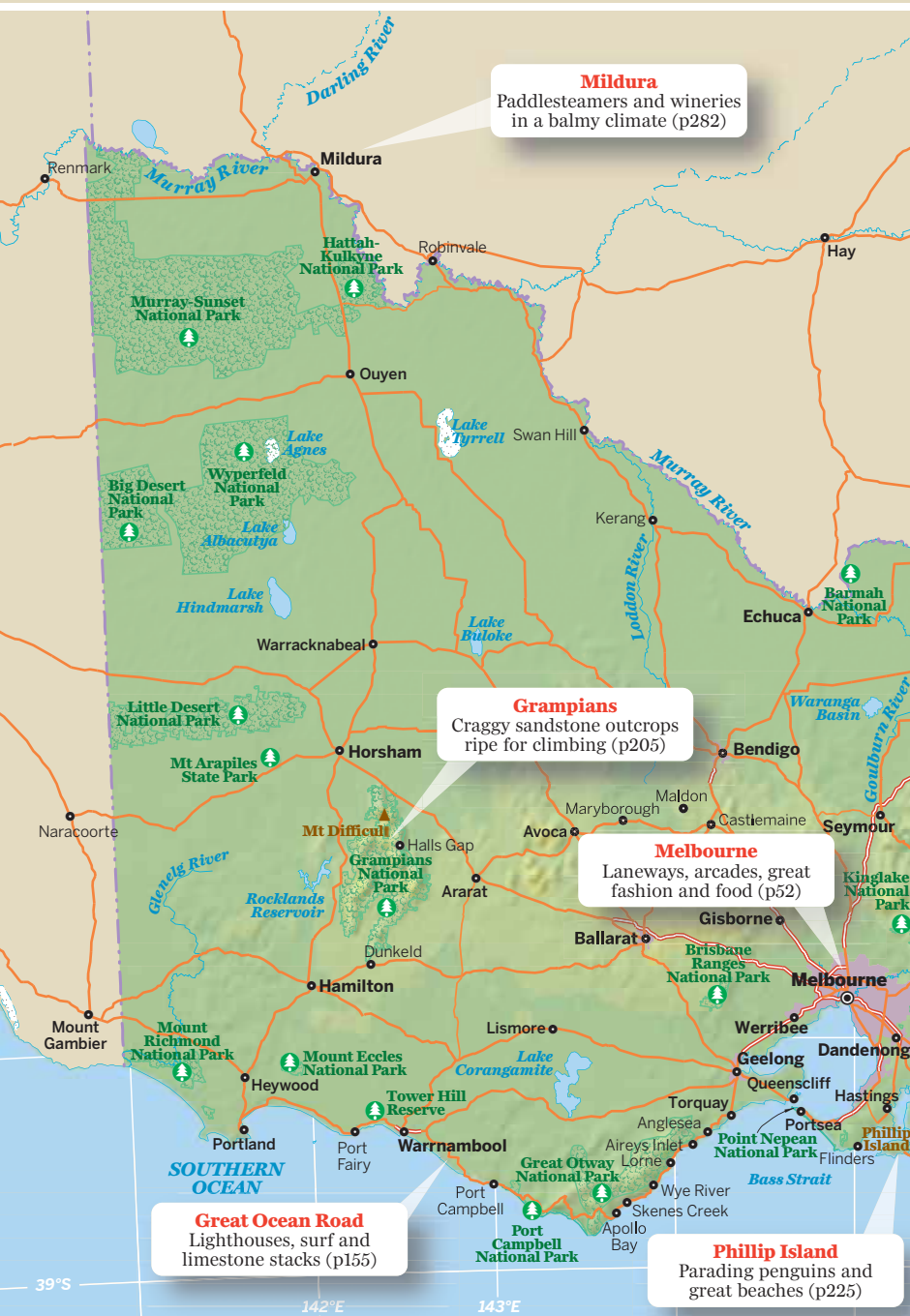
THE HIGH COUNTRY	254
BAW BAW NATIONAL PARK	255
Baw Baw Village	255

LAKE EILDON NATIONAL PARK	255
Eildon	258
Jamieson	259
MANSFIELD	259
MT BULLER	261
KING VALLEY & THE SNOW ROAD	263
Milawa Gourmet Region	263
BEECHWORTH	264
YACKANDANDAH	266
MYRTLEFORD	267
MT BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK	268
BRIGHT	268
MT BEAUTY & THE KIEWA VALLEY	271
FALLS CREEK	272
HARRIETVILLE	274
MT HOTHAM & DINNER PLAIN	275
OMELO	277

THE MURRAY	279
MILDURA	282
SWAN HILL	287
Around Swan Hill	289
GUNBOWER NATIONAL PARK	290
ECHUCA	290
AROUND ECHUCA	295
Barmah National Park	295
YARRAWONGA	295

RUTHERGLEN	296
AROUND RUTHERGLEN	298
Wahgunyah	298
Chiltern	298
WODONGA	299
THE WAY NORTH	299
The Mallee	299
Goulburn Valley	301
Up the Hume	302

Melbourne & Victoria



Top Experiences ›



itineraries

Whether you've got four days or 40, these itineraries provide a starting point for the trip of a lifetime. Want more inspiration? Head online to www.lonelyplanet.com/thorntree to chat with other travellers.



Two to Three Days

Melbourne to Melbourne via Sorrento and Queenscliff

Head Mornington-way from Melbourne, then cross the Peninsula and have a break in the antique stores at **Tyabb** on the way to **Stony Point**. From here take the ferry to **French Island** for some quiet time, before returning to the mainland and having a stroll along the beach at **Point Leo**. Head inland to check out a couple of **Red Hill wineries**, then turn back to the coast and continue to the **Cape Schanck** lighthouse. Next stop is the Peninsula Hot Springs in **Rye**, then the refined town of **Sorrento**. Keep an eye out for dolphins while you're on the Sorrento-Queenscliff car ferry and take a deep breath as you approach the historic town of **Queenscliff**. Spend a day here, heading out to the foodie spots on the **Bellarine Peninsula** and west to the joined-by-a-bridge towns of **Barwon Heads** and **Ocean Grove**. Get onto the Bellarine Hwy and spend a bit of time admiring Corio Bay from **Geelong**, Victoria's second-biggest city, before returning to Melbourne on the Princes Hwy.



One Week

Murray River

It's not easy to lose your way on this route: simply find the Murray River (via the Calder Hwy from Melbourne) and stick to it. Start at **Mildura** at the top of the Murray, and head east against the flow. Mildura is a lovely town to get acquainted with; its food and wine are worth the five-hour trip from Melbourne alone. Head to **Swan Hill** and visit its Pioneer Village before tucking into some unexpectedly good Thai and Japanese food. Snap a photo with the Giant Murray Cod by the information centre then set off, stopping at farm gates along the way, for **Echuca**. Here you can hop on a paddle steamer or take some time out admiring the Murray from the towering historic port. You can head back to Melbourne from here (it'll take around 3 hours) or 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 sculpture-like remains of long-dead trees. Continue on your way to 'sticky' **Rutherglen**, Victoria's home of fortified wines, before getting on the Hume Fwy back to Melbourne.



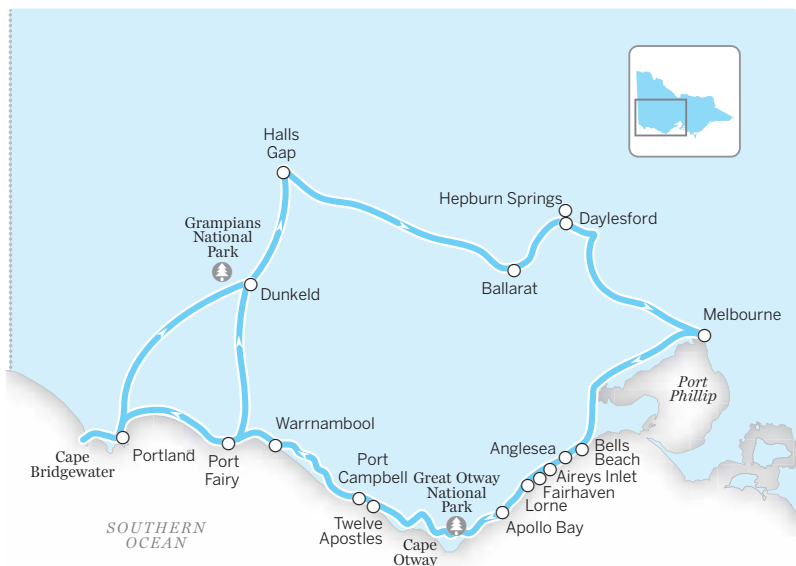
Two Weeks

High Country & Gippsland Touring

Victoria's High Country is the best place in the state for car and motorcycle touring, especially outside the winter months, when even the highest roads are clear of snow. Taking the Great Alpine Rd, you can sail right over the mountains and down to the coast at Gippsland. Now that's an adventure.

Start your journey 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 recently sealed southern road around the lake to **Jamieson**, a quaint little former gold-mining town with a renowned brewery. The road winds north from here to the all-seasons adventure town of **Mansfield**, gateway to Mt Buller and a base for horse riding and mountain biking. 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 some time in the **King Valley** – an underrated wine region – before hitting the gourmet trail along the Snow Rd between Milawa and Myrtleford. By now you're on the **Great Alpine Rd**. Carry on to Bright, famous for its autumn colours and spring blossoms, before continuing on to **Harrietville** and the winding, hairpin ascent of **Mt Hotham**. Enjoy the expansive Alpine views from the summit before continuing to **Dinner Plain** and through alpine meadows to the historic town of **Omeo**.

An alternative route from Bright is via **Mt Beauty** and **Bogong Village** to **Falls Creek**, then on the recently sealed road linking Falls with the Omeo Hwy. After taking a breather in Omeo, start your descent along the Tambo River through stunning valleys and farmland to **Bruthen**. From here it's an easy drive to **Bairnsdale** or **Lakes Entrance**, where you can recuperate on the beach before deciding whether to continue east to **Mallacoota**, on the remote Wilderness Coast, or turn west and return to Melbourne via the **Gippsland Lakes** and **Wilsons Promontory**.



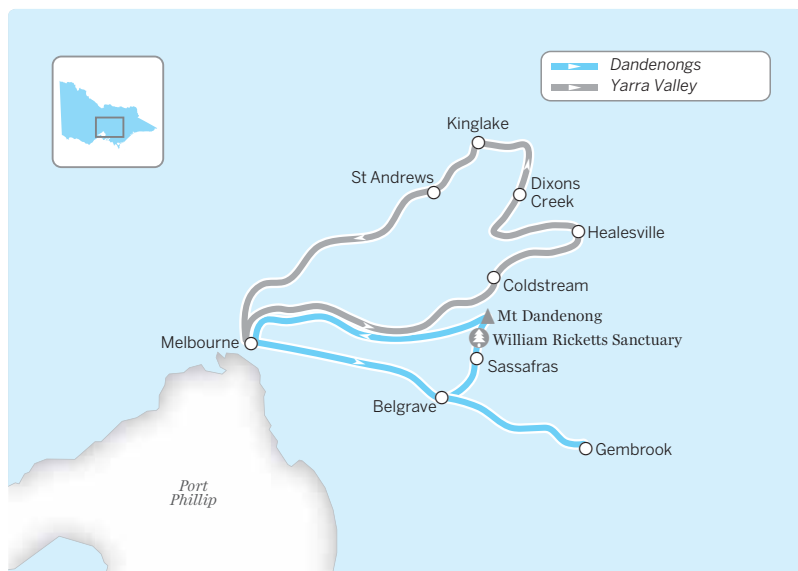
Three Weeks

Great Ocean Road & Grampians

The **Great Ocean Road** is one of the most popular touring routes in the country, and it's no surprise to discover that it is worth the hype. Take two weeks to get the best from this region, then take another week to wind down via the Grampians and Goldfields.

Start in the surfing mecca of Torquay by checking out the waves at **Bells Beach**, then head to family-friendly **Anglesea** to see the kangaroos at its golf course and take a break by its river. **Aireys Inlet** is next; tour the lighthouse before a beach walk at **Fairhaven** and a coffee and overnight stay in the resort town of **Lorne**. The Great Ocean Road is in its element now, but you can break up the sea views with a detour up into the rainforests of the **Otway Ranges**. Back on the Great Ocean Road, head to the fishing village of **Apollo Bay** for a day or two then continue west into the koala and lighthouse zone of **Cape Otway**. It's quite a stretch to Port Campbell National Park and its famed **Twelve Apostles**; take the time to count them and spend a night in **Port Campbell** to get a real feel for the area. Look for whales off the coast of **Warrnambool** then continue west to quaint, and very Irish, **Port Fairy**. If there's time, head to tiny **Cape Bridgewater** to check out the seal population and wind farms, then head inland towards the **Grampians** from **Portland** or Port Fairy.

On the way to the **Grampians** stop for a meal (voted Victoria's best in 2011) in tiny **Dunkeld**. Spend a few days among the granite rock formations at **Halls Gap**, and visit some of the local wineries. Head back Melbourne-way via the gold-rush town of **Ballarat**. Check out its art gallery, antique stores and grand buildings before taking a detour to the goldfield towns of **Daylesford** and **Hepburn Springs**, now more famous for their natural mineral springs. Head through Trentham and Blackwood to the Western Hwy and you'll be back in Melbourne in an hour.



One Day

Dandenongs

A mere 35km from Melbourne, the Dandenongs' leafy respite is favoured by day-trippers, and you'll find shops, restaurants and sights geared up for visitors. From the Burwood Hwy head east to **Belgrave**; here's where all climb aboard *Puffing Billy* for a steam train journey through the mountains to **Gembrook**. From Belgrave, take the Monbulk Rd through Dandenong Ranges National Park and head to **Sassafras**, which, apart from having a great name, has some good eating options. Head through Olinda to **William Ricketts Sanctuary** and round off the day by taking in the view from nearby **Mt Dandenong** (a view that's even more spectacular at night).

Two Days

Yarra Valley

This itinerary doesn't take you too far out of Melbourne, but it does show off Melbourne's vineyard-filled backyard. Start in Melbourne and hit the Maroondah Hwy to antique-laden **Coldstream**. Continue along the Maroondah to **Healesville**, a lovely town on the edge of the Yarra Ranges National Park. Eat at the large winery, taste a beer at the brewery and enjoy its small town charm. Head directly west to Yarra Glen, and up to **Dixons Creek**. The area was severely affected by bushfires in 2009 and is still recovering. Be adventurous and head up the Melba Hwy, then take a left west to **Kinglake**. Start the journey back to Melbourne via **St Andrews**, stopping at its market, if you happen to stumble upon the town on a Saturday.



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 Melbourne, London and Oakland, 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



Jayne D'Arcy

Coordinating author, Melbourne, Short Trips Around Melbourne, Great Ocean

Road Growing up in the Victorian seaside suburb of Frankston had its advantages for Jayne; it motivated her to catch the train through all three zones to hang out in Prahran's Greville St, Fitzroy's Brunswick St, St Kilda and the Queen Vic Market.

She hit 18 and swapped countries before returning and swapping geographical sides of the bay, making Geelong and Anglesea her home while she studied journalism. After a longish spell working in community radio in East Timor, she finally settled with her family in Melbourne's vibrant north (in Zone 1, just). When she's not riding her French 1970s folding bike around North Fitzroy, booking flights or pretending to renovate, Jayne writes for the Age in Melbourne. This is her seventh book for Lonely Planet.



Paul Harding

Short Trips Around Melbourne, Goldfields & Grampians, Mornington & Phillip Island, Gippsland & Wilsons Promontory, The High Country, The Murray

Melbourne-born but country-raised, Paul spent childhood summers in the Gippsland Lakes, and later many fishing and camping trips along the Murray River and ski trips to Mt Hotham. He's since seen (and written about) a good part of the world, but still calls this part of Australia home. For this edition, Paul

travelled around most of regional Victoria and discovered – yet again – what a beautiful state this is. A freelance writer and photographer, Paul has contributed to more than 30 Lonely Planet guides, including numerous Australian titles.



Donna Wheeler

Melbourne Today, History, Food & Wine, Fashion & Shopping, The Arts, Sport

Sydney-born and raised, Donna fell in love with Melbourne as a teenage art student. Various stints in New York, London, rural Ireland and Italy aside, she has spent the better part of two decades trying to get used to Victoria's weather. After careers as an editor, art director, digital producer and content strategist, Donna has embraced the solitude of the writer's life and published widely on

contemporary art, design, history and food. She is *ninemsn Travel's* Melbourne Insider and has written guides to Melbourne, Milan and Tunisia for Lonely Planet. She is also an occasional trend forecaster and consultant. Currently based in Turin, Donna misses Melbourne's easy-going but always spot-on style, gingerbread breakfasts at Cumulus Inc, and all her haunts on Smith St, Collingwood.

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