



# Great Ocean Walk - End to End

7 Days



Leading adventures for over 20 years

Part of the JOOB Travel Company

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ADVENTURE TOURS



# Great Ocean Walk – End to End

One of Victoria's most iconic walks, the Great Ocean Walk meanders through spectacular national parks full of tall forests, coastal heathlands, wild rocky shores, river estuaries and windswept cliff-tops presenting amazing coastal views - nature truly unfolds around every bend. Carry only a day pack as you enjoy the amazing sights of one of Australia's greatest multi-day walks.

By walking the approx. 104 km of the Great Ocean Walk as a series of day walks in graded stages, people with a moderate level of fitness can complete the walk. Excellent home-made food, comfortable lodge style accommodation and knowledgeable guides will complement your trip.

Join us on a Great Ocean Walk end to end tour this year and tick this amazing walk off your bucket list. It's a challenging but achievable walk which you'll look back on with a great sense of satisfaction

## Details

Arrive:	Melbourne
Depart:	Melbourne
Duration:	7 Days
Group Size:	Max 12 Guests
Average Age:	50-75
Activity Level:	Moderate to Challenging

## Testimonials

It was a first for me to participate in an organised walking trip and it exceeded all my expectations. From the first contact of booking the trip, the follow up information to get ready for the walk as well as the care taken in every aspect was faultless. Our guides Rita and Hannan were attentive to all our needs and had great knowledge and background of all aspects of the walk, i.e. nature, geology, animals etc. Accommodation and food were excellent. I'm hoping to be able to do more walks offered by Inspiration Outdoors and can only recommend it to anyone interested.

Lilly, Trip Advisor

Got Questions? Chat with us...



1300 544 882

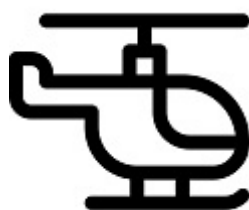


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# Highlights



104kms of windswept cliff-top walking, river estuaries and wild rocky shores.



Optional Helicopter flight over the 12 Apostles



Enjoy comfortable accommodation, a hot shower and a delicious meal.

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## What to expect



Carrying only a day pack, walk between 9 - 23 kms each day, returning to your comfortable accommodation each evening.



Time to relax in the evenings enjoying a drink and some nibbles before dinner.



Autumn Departures

10 min - 24 max

Spring Departures

9 min - 20 max

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# Itinerary

A guide will accompany you each day as you walk between 9 and 23 km. There are no easy days on the Great Ocean Walk; but, with a moderate level of fitness, they are all enjoyable! There are some steep sections, and a bit of beach walking, which can be challenging, so we recommend training.

Each day we will resume the walk from where we finished the previous day. Please note that on some days there are options to walk half a day; and you are always welcome to take a day off.

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## Day 1

### DRIVE FROM MELBOURNE. WALK APOLLO BAY TO SHELLY BEACH

We depart Melbourne CBD at 8am, heading for the spectacular Great Ocean Road and Apollo Bay - the start of the Great Ocean Walk. Enjoy the first of many fresh picnic lunches for the week, get to know your walking companions and see if you can spot some Australian Fur Seals out on the rocks.

The walk today is relatively easy with some short sections of beach walking and a few hills. Keep an eye out for Koalas near Shelly beach!

Note, as we walk on the first afternoon, please wear your hiking clothes on the bus and bring your day pack ready to go. After our walk the bus will meet us at Shelly Beach carpark and we will drive to our accommodation in Apollo Bay.

**Activity:** 9km walk

**Meals:** L, D

**Accommodation:** Apollo Bay Motel (or similar)

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## Day 2

### SHELLY BEACH TO PARKER INLET

Today the walk starts off by heading away from the coast and into towering forest of Mountain Ash, a characteristic feature of this part of the Great Otway National Park.

There are a few hills to negotiate before re-joining the coast at Blanket Bay. Blanket Bay is one of the few safe swimming locations along the walk.

After a relaxing lunch at Blanket Bay the track then meanders along cliff tops and through coastal forests to Parker Inlet. Look out for black wallabies, echidnas, black cockatoos and other wildlife along the way. We end our walk at the top of Parker Hill.

**Activity:** 19km walk

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Accommodation:** Johanna Seaside Cottages (or similar)

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## Day 3

### PARKER INLET TO CASTLE COVE

Our path this morning will take us inland through manna gums towards Cape Otway. The trail then heads back to the coast and we pass Crayfish Bay with its magnificent turquoise water. As we get closer to Cape Otway we begin to see glimpses of the lighthouse in the distance.

From Cape Otway the track winds its way through wind sculpted landscapes of sand dunes, coastal scrubland and magnificent calcified cliffs. As we come closer to Aire River Valley we will get some fantastic views down to the estuary where the Aire River meets the Southern Ocean and Glenaire Beach.

From Aire River we head inland for a bit, climbing up and around the next headland before rejoining the coastal track, with sweeping views of the rugged coastline. We end our day at Castle Cove lookout, surrounded by towering cliffs which have high archaeological significance.

**Activity:** 23km walk

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Accommodation:** Johanna Seaside Cottages (or similar)

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## Day 4

### CASTLE COVE TO MILANESIA TRACK

A very varied day today, as we walk from Castle Cove along cliff tops, through heath-lands and forests, occasionally emerging to breathtaking views along the extensive coast. There are beautiful expanses of grass trees and, in spring, wonderful wildflower displays. You may be lucky to see Peregrine Falcons along this section.

Eventually the path emerges onto Johanna Beach, where we walk along one of Australia's best beaches with superb views and enormous crashing surf. From Johanna Beach the path heads through rolling hills inland, where you can expect to see Eastern Grey Kangaroos, towards Milanesia Track.

**Activity:** 17km walk

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Accommodation:** Johanna Seaside Cottages (or similar)

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## Day 5

### MILANESIA TRACK TO GABLES

The first highlight today is Milanesia Beach, which is one of those secret beaches not many people get to. The track then cuts through and alternates between farmland and isolated beach and sea cliffs with a roller coaster of ups and downs to reach Ryan's Den. From here you'll have breathtaking views all the way back to Cape Otway and west to Cape Volney.

From Ryan's Den the trail then continues through coastal forests over Cape Volney towards Moonlight Head. After a steep climb up to Moonlight Head the track dips down into a valley which will lead us to The Gables Lookout. The Gables lookout is perched on one of the highest sea cliffs in mainland Australia, where will end today's walk.

**Activity:** 16km walk

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Accommodation:** Johanna Seaside Cottages (or similar)

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## Day 6

### GABLES TO GIBSON STEPS

Today we will continue our walk from The Gables through a grove of casuarina trees to Wreck Beach. Here, at low tide, you can see the anchors of two of the many shipwrecks that lie submerged along this coast. Due to safety reasons, we will however take the high tide route to Devils Kitchen. From Devils Kitchen the trail hugs and meanders along the wild coastal cliffs, nicely protected by beautiful coastal heath, all the way to Princetown.

The wetlands around Princetown support a wide variety of bird life, where we will cross the Gellibrand River on a trestle bridge to embark on one of our last sections to the 12 Apostles. A pleasant walk through coastal scrub and escarpment will start to reveal stunning views of the looming Apostles.

We will end our walk today just before Gibson steps.

**Activity:** 18km walk

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Accommodation:** Port Campbell Motel (or similar)

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## Day 7

### GIBSON STEPS TO 12 APOSTLES. DRIVE TO MELBOURNE

This morning we take the short walk from just before Gibson steps to the Twelve Apostles visitor centre - the end of the Great Ocean Walk.

Here you'll have time to wander the boardwalks and viewing platforms before the rush of the crowds early in the morning. There is the option of a 15 minute helicopter flight to see the spectacular coastline and the 12 Apostles from the air.

We head to the fabulous Loch Ard Gorge for morning tea, before taking the inland route back to Melbourne. Pick up some take-away lunch (own expense) on the way and we will arrive back in the city by late afternoon.

Activity: 2km walk

Meals: B

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# Departure Dates

09 May 2023	-	15 May 2023
16 May 2023	-	22 May 2023
23 May 2023	-	29 May 2023
12 Sep 2023	-	18 Sep 2023
19 Sep 2023	-	25 Sep 2023
26 Sep 2023	-	02 Oct 2023
03 Oct 2023	-	09 Oct 2023
10 Oct 2023	-	16 Oct 2023
17 Oct 2023	-	23 Oct 2023
24 Oct 2023	-	30 Oct 2023
31 Oct 2023	-	06 Nov 2023
07 Nov 2023	-	13 Nov 2023
14 Nov 2023	-	20 Nov 2023
21 Nov 2023	-	27 Nov 2023

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# Pricing

## 2023

\$2,745 Per Person  
\$350 Deposit

### Optional Extras

\$625 Single Supplement

## 2024

\$3,069 Per Person  
\$350 Deposit

### Optional Extras

\$625 Single Supplement

## Inclusions

- All transport: private coach transport to and from Melbourne; as well as transport to and from the track each day
- Expert leadership from experienced hiking guides
- Emergency support: guides carry satellite phones and a full first aid kit
- 6 night's comfortable accommodation
- 6 healthy breakfasts - cereal, fruit, yogurt, toast
- 7 morning teas, carried by your guide
- 6 lunches - some packed and some delivered picnics
- Pre-dinner nibbles each night
- 6 delicious two course dinners
- Excellent itinerary and planning drawn from years of experience

## Exclusions

- Optional travel protection
  - Lunch on Day 7
- Helicopter ride over the 12 Apostles (NOTE: rescheduled bookings from 2020-2021 have already paid for Helicopters and are included)

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# Ready to book?

Your next adventure is two steps away...

Jump onto our website [www.inspirationoutdoors.com.au](http://www.inspirationoutdoors.com.au) , find your tour in the menu and click on the orange button in the top right hand corner that states, 'CheckAvailability/Book Now' alternatively call us on 08 6219 5164 (international calls dial +618 62195164) or email us at [walk@inspirationoutdoors.com.au](mailto:walk@inspirationoutdoors.com.au).

Pay a \$350pp deposit to secure your booking (full payment is required six weeks prior to departure or at time of booking if booking within six weeks).

## Cancellation Policy

All our tours are guaranteed departures.

We hope that you do not need to cancel your booking. However, if you do, our cancellation fee, based on the notice given prior to the departure date, is:

- 85 days or more, you will be refunded all monies paid, less a \$50 administration fee
- 42 to 84 days prior to departure, you will lose your deposit
- 28 to 41 days: 25% of full tour cost
- 14 to 27 days: 50% of full tour cost
- less than 14 days: 100% of full tour cost, no refund

If you have any concerns about cancelling, please take out travel insurance covering this contingency. This policy will be adhered to despite the most compelling and compassionate circumstances.

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## About our tours

First, our tours are for people who like to walk long(ish) distances. That means we usually leave our accommodation pretty early each morning (between 7.30 and 8.30) and finish walking mid to late afternoon.

You won't break any records on our walks - for fastest or slowest hike. We keep a steady pace, but there are plenty of opportunities to rest, take photos and appreciate the views along the way.

A relaxed, social and supportive atmosphere is central to our tours. Have a chat and enjoy the sights and smells with your walking companions. Then back at the accommodation, slip into your comfy slacks and slippers and put your feet up with a cup of tea or a wine. Enjoy the conversation around the dinner table. And if you want to go to bed as soon as you've finished the last spoonful of dessert, or stay up and chat, you can.

We don't specialise in birds or plants or rare subterranean amphibians - although we're interested in all of these things. There are no evening lectures and you don't need to bring a notepad and pen (unless you want to). We have a sound and ever-expanding knowledge of the unique and special environments that we walk through, and love sharing what we know with those who are interested. We especially like digging around for stories of the plants and people whose history is linked with the areas we walk in and we'll share those stories with you as we walk.

Our tours are for those who enjoy the simple pleasure of walking in nature, combined with the luxuries of a proper relaxing holiday. We pay attention to the details so that you can relax and enjoy the experience.

## Check out our reviews on TripAdvisor



Got Questions? Chat with us...



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