

**SELF DRIVE**

# LIMESTONE COAST LOOP



4 day itinerary includes Naracoorte Caves.

## **DAY 1 > ADELAIDE TO MOUNT GAMBIER**

Entering the Limestone Coast Loop from the north, from Adelaide, you will start your journey through this magnificent region through the townships of Keith or Bordertown, which is home to a colony of white kangaroos.

As you begin the loop, travel south through farmland and rows of vineyards to the township of Padthaway. The grand Padthaway Homestead, which dates back to 1882, is a great place to visit.

Continue on to Naracoorte, the heart of the Limestone Coast and home to the famous World Heritage Listed Naracoorte Caves, Bool Lagoon and wetlands. The caves and sinkholes surrounding Naracoorte are a must see, including the incredible World Heritage Listed Naracoorte Caves Fossil Site.

It's not much further before you reach Coonawarra. Arguably the Cabernet Sauvignon capital of Australia, this wine region boasts more than 20 cellar doors and wineries, including Wynns, where you can Make Your Own Blend to take home.



From top: Naracoorte Caves, Naracoorte; Wynns Coonawarra Estate, Coonawarra.

# LIMESTONE COAST LOOP



Rymill, Zema and Penley Estate are all set among beautifully maintained landscapes. Visit Hollick Wines and try its modern Australian cuisine, with views of the vineyard from the on-site restaurant, Upstairs at Hollick.

Just minutes away, Penola combines cultural heritage with historic charm. Learn about Australia's first saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop at the Mary MacKillop Interpretive Centre. Discover historical sites, intriguing past and secrets of Penola, including the State Heritage Listed Petticoat Lane.

Accommodation can be found among the vines of the Coonawarra wine region or further south in Mt Gambier - South Australia's second largest city after Adelaide. Historic self-contained cottages, hosted bed and breakfasts, resort or lodge style accommodation, hotels and motels are all available.

**> Adelaide to Bordertown:**

*271 kilometres, 2 hours 53 minutes*

**> Bordertown to Naracoorte:**

*81 kilometres, 55 minutes*

**> Naracoorte to Mount Gambier:**

*102 kilometres, 1 hour 11 minutes*

**DAY 2 > MOUNT GAMBIER**

Spend the morning exploring Mt Gambier, which is famous for its Blue Lake. Early in November, and almost overnight, the lake mysteriously changes to an intense deep turquoise blue and remains that colour until late February.

The town itself is set in a unique and ancient landscape of volcanic craters, lakes, caves, sinkholes and underground waterways. Visitors can see and explore some of these attractions such as the Umpherston Sinkhole, Engelbrecht Cave and The Cave Garden.

From Mt Gambier, it's a short drive to the coastal town of Port MacDonnell and Cape Northumberland, which is South Australia's most southerly point.

Head on to Tantanoola and the Tantanoola Caves, see the beauty of the stalagmites and stalactites in one of the only pink dolomite caves in Australia. The cave features ease access ramped walkways and allow wheelchair access.

Return to Mt Gambier for your overnight accommodation.

**> Mt Gambier to Port Macdonnell:**

*28 kilometres, 28 minutes*

**> Port Macdonnell to Tantanoola:**

*62 kilometres, 46 minutes*

**> Tantanoola to Mount Gambier:**

*34 kilometres, 26 minutes*

**DAY 3 > MOUNT GAMBIER TO KINGSTON SE**

From Mt Gambier, head to Millicent where you can visit Lake McIntyre - a reclaimed quarry that has been rehabilitated into a natural wonderland of birds and native wildlife. It's a terrific spot to stretch your legs and stop for a picnic.

If you like your Wagyu beef, a visit to The Tasting Room at Mayura Station is a must (by appointment only). Woakwine Wind Farms outside of Millicent is the largest wind farm development in the Southern Hemisphere. Continue your exploration of the regions spectacular coast with a stop at Beachport, boasting the sea on two sides and Lake George beside it.

Learn about Beachport's whaling history at the national Trust Museum in the Old Wool & Grain Store. Bowman Scenic Drive has coastal dunes offering spectacular views of the rugged coast of the Southern Ocean.

Further along is Robe - a popular seaside town known for its crayfish. You can purchase the best catch from local outlets or order it at local hotels and restaurants. If you've brought your fishing gear along, you'll be delighted with the choice of fishing locations here, including Guichen Bay, Lake Butler Boat Haven Channel or off the new jetty.

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The next coastal town is Kingston SE, home of "Larry" the Big Lobster, which is a must-do photo stop. Attractions here include the historic Cape Jaffa Lighthouse which was once the only offshore lighthouse in Australia that had quarters for a keeper. Kingston is home to an Analematic Sundial, the second in Australia and one of only eight in the world. Nearby Mount Benson is a new and exciting wine region which offers a selection of cellar doors.

Choose to stay the night in one of these coastal towns, with Robe and Beachport providing a wide variety of accommodation options.

**> Mt Gambier to Millicent:**

*50 kilometres, 37 minutes*

**> Millicent to Beachport:**

*35 kilometres, 31 minutes*

**> Beachport to Kingston SE:**

*100 kilometres, 1 hour 13 minutes*



**DAY 4 > KINGSTON SE TO ADELAIDE OR COORONG NATIONAL PARK**

Complete your loop by travelling east to Keith and continue on to Adelaide or the Murray River. Alternatively you can continue north and explore the wonders of the Coorong National Park, an area of international significance. This is a habitat for numerous species of migratory birds. The park is also an archaeological site, with evidence of Aboriginal occupation over many thousands of years.

From the Coorong, you have easy access to the Fleurieu Peninsula, McLaren Vale wineries, Adelaide Hills, Murray River and further along to Kangaroo Island and Adelaide.

**> Kingston SE to Adelaide, via Keith:**

*337 kilometres, 4 hours*

**> Kingston to Coorong National Park:**

*113 kilometres, 1 hour 10 minutes*



**ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Padthaway Homestead
- Naracoorte Caves National Park (World Heritage-listed)
- Bool Lagoon
- Coonawarra wineries
- Mary MacKillop Penola Centre
- Blue Lake
- Tantanoola Caves
- Robe
- Coorong National Park

*\*Distances and times are approximate and do not include detours or stops.*