

SELF DRIVE

MELBOURNE TO ADELAIDE



5 day itinerary via the Great Ocean Road in Victoria. This road is one of the world's most spectacular coastal drives and a great way to travel from Melbourne into South Australia.

DAYS 1 & 2 > MELBOURNE TO PORT FAIRY

Travel from Melbourne on the Great Ocean Road to Lorne and stay overnight in this attractive resort town. The Great Ocean Road winds its way between the coastal towns of Torquay, Lorne, Apollo Bay, Port Campbell and Warrnambool. It reveals some of the most dramatic coastal scenery in Australia, especially near Port Campbell. Look out for the famous Twelve Apostles – huge sandstone pinnacles that rise from the surf near the coastline.

Stay the second night at Port Fairy.

> Melbourne to Lorne:

141 kilometres, 1 hour 50 minutes

> Lorne to Port Fairy:

235 kilometres, 3 hours 30 minutes



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DAY 3 > PORT FAIRY TO COONAWARRA OR ROBE

Travel to the Limestone Coast of South Australia, stopping in the city of Mount Gambier, which is built on the site of an extinct volcano.

Mount Gambier is surrounded by ancient crater lakes including the Blue Lake, which mysteriously changes colour from dull grey to vivid blue each November – and stays that way for a few months.

After Mount Gambier, continue north towards the historic town of Penola, home to St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, who co-founded the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Several minutes down the road is the world-famous Coonawarra wine district which is renowned for its fine wines, particularly red wine varieties.

Make your own blend at Wynns Coonawarra, or simply enjoy the spoils of the winemakers' hard work at wineries such as Rymill, Zema Estate and Hollick Wines. An overnight stay here is highly recommended: there are numerous bed and breakfast properties and more than 20 cellar doors to visit.

Alternatively, from Mount Gambier, travel along the coast to the historic fishing ports of Beachport and Robe. Beachport is a tranquil lobster-fishing town that becomes a bustling holiday spot during summer.

Robe is a picturesque village beside a lovely sheltered harbour and a perfect place for an overnight stay. Indulge in the fresh seafood from the region and explore the stunning surf beaches and rugged coastlines.

> Port Fairy to Coonawarra:

215 kilometres, 2 hours 30 minutes

> Port Fairy to Robe:

285 kilometres, 3 hours 15 minutes

DAY 4 > COONAWARRA OR ROBE TO VICTOR HARBOR

From Coonawarra, visit the impressive World Heritage-listed Naracoorte Caves, with caves full of delicate calcite formations and a 350,000-year-old fossil bed. Two hours on, cross the Murray River at Wellington on the free car ferry. The short trip offers a charming introduction to the river landscape. From there you can travel to the historic town of Strathalbyn on the Fleurieu Peninsula - the region immediately south of Adelaide.

For those driving north from Robe, the highway skirts the Coorong National Park - a long, narrow stretch of shallow lagoons separated from the ocean by a long peninsula. It's also a waterbird habitat of international importance.

On the way, stop at Camp Coorong or Coorong Wilderness Lodge to learn about the local Aboriginal culture. Follow the highway through Meningie to Wellington where you cross the Murray River.

Travel to Strathalbyn - a mecca for those who love antique shopping. From Strathalbyn, head towards the coast, visiting the heritage river port of Goolwa and the popular seaside town of Victor Harbor. Stay overnight in one of the coastal towns.

> Coonawarra to Victor Harbor:

380 kilometres, 4 hours 30 mins

> Robe to Victor Harbor:

330 kilometres, 4 hours

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DAY 5 > VICTOR HARBOR TO ADELAIDE

Spend the day exploring the Fleurieu Peninsula. Join a river cruise at Goolwa that takes you to the mouth of the Murray River and into the Coorong and learn about the ecosystem, wildlife and Aboriginal heritage of the area.

Alternatively, spend a leisurely morning exploring the coastal towns or the picturesque wine regions of McLaren Vale, Langhorne Creek and Currency Creek.

> Victor Harbor to Adelaide:

84 kilometres, 1 hour 30 minutes

SUGGESTED EXTENSION:

Travel on to Kangaroo Island. Take the passenger and vehicle ferry to Penneshaw from Cape Jervis and spend a few days exploring this natural wonderland.

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Twelve Apostles
- Blue Lake
- Coonawarra Wineries
- Mary MacKillop Penola Centre
- Naracoorte Caves National Park (World Heritage-listed)
- Coorong National Park
- Goolwa
- Murray River mouth
- Victor Harbor
- McLaren Vale wineries

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

For further information
visit southaustralia.com

