



Great Ocean Road

Spectacular Coastal Drive – plus wildlife! three day tour

Tour code:	GOR
Tour Duration:	Three day journey
Style:	Small group FIT eco-touring. Minimum passengers: 2 adults; Maximum: 8 adults
Operates:	daily on request all year (Note: no tours run on or through Christmas Day)
Departs:	Melbourne city – guests' hotel or agreed convenient location
Returns to:	Melbourne city – same location as pickup <i>Note: for an added cost this tour can drop off at Melbourne Tullamarine Airport on Day 3 for domestic flights departing after 5.00pm, and for international flights departing after 7.00pm)</i>

Overview

[Travel Agents please see last page for suggested brochure/website text]

Wildlife abounds on the golden grasslands and rocky cliffs of the famous Great Ocean Road. Pockets of forest are home to Koalas; Kangaroos graze the plains, Echidnas amble through dense coastal heathland. Sea-birds and outback cockatoos share the rocky cliffs. Waterbirds are found on the largest permanent lakes in Australia contained in the huge craters of extinct volcanoes.

This 3 day tour gives you quality time to enjoy the wildlife and scenery of this magnificent area with your experienced Wildlife Guide. Tour includes 2 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner and 2 nights at friendly, very comfortable B&B's.

Day by Day Description (Note meal inclusions shown thus: B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)

Day 1 Kangaroos and Koalas in the Wild (The Savannah Walkabout)

This fully guided journey begins with a detailed introduction to Australian wildlife starting with a visit to the You Yangs Park to search for Koalas in the wild. After lunch we search for wild Kangaroos and many birds in open range grasslands and woodlands nearby. The evening is spent in the tiny outback town of Little River. (L)

Accommodation: Little River B&B, Little River or similar

Day 2 The famous Great Ocean Road

We explore the rainforests of the Otway National Park, lunch in a seaside village then travel to the Great Ocean Road to see the spectacular sea stacks known as the Twelve Apostles set against a magnificent backdrop of huge limestone cliffs, overlooking the Southern Ocean. We take time to enjoy the abundant wildlife of the coastal area. The Great Ocean Road hugs this scenic coastline providing dramatic views at every turn. (L, D)

Accommodation: Loch Ard B&B, Port Campbell or similar

Day 3 Lakes & Volcanoes of the Great Western Plains

After a final visit to the coast, we return to Melbourne across the vast Western Plains. We drive to the top of an extinct volcano for expansive views across the plains. We pass volcanic lakes, including the largest permanent lake in Australia, all set in a sea of savannah grasslands - the richest wool growing area on earth. (B, L)

Location: West of the city of Melbourne in south-east Australia. Visit Serendip Open Range Sanctuary or Mt Rothwell Conservation Park, You Yangs or Brisbane Ranges National Park, the Great Ocean Road, the Twelve Apostles, the Shipwreck Coast, volcanoes and lakes of the Western Plains.

Duration: 3 days, 2 nights

Departs: on request all year from Melbourne (except Christmas Day, December 25)

Returns: to Melbourne

Minimum passengers: 2 adults Maximum: 8 adults



Great Ocean Road

Wildlife

This tour is a great way to see wild Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Koalas, Swamp Wallabies and many birds – waterbirds and birds of the forests. We often see Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, corellas, Galahs, Laughing Kookaburras, Superb Fairy-wrens, White-winged Choughs, Emus, Cape Barren and Magpie Geese; Singing, New Holland and White-plumed Honeyeaters, ibis, ducks, cormorants, Whistling and Black-shouldered Kites, Nankeen Kestrels, Australian Magpies, Magpie-larks, Red-rumped and King Parrots, Crimson and Eastern Rosellas, Bronzewing and Crested Pigeons, Red and Little Wattlebirds and Willie Wagtails. We sometimes see Echidnas, possums, fur-seals, Blue-tongue or Jacky Lizards, Rufous Bristlebirds, Wedge-tailed and Little Eagles, falcons, goshawks, Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoos and Gang Gang Cockatoos. We occasionally see a Southern Brown Bandicoot or a whale. We rarely see snakes or spiders, though we are as interested in them as in all wildlife, and will look out for them.

For a full list of wildlife seen go to: [GOR Wildlife Species Full List](#)

Note: we go to enormous effort to ensure sightings of Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Koalas and have a very high success rate with these species. However, we do not guarantee sightings of any wild animal.

Retail Prices

Prices are per person, are in Australian dollars and are retail (rack/recommended sell) rates.

Note that all departures are from the city of Melbourne and all trips return to Melbourne. Price is for twin share accommodation; S/S = single supplement must be added for all single travellers.

Price from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013:

Adult: AUD \$1100pp Child: (up to 13 years) AUD \$825pp S/S: AUD \$210pp

Inclusions

- Tour includes: Full interpretation by an experienced Wildlife Guide, all transport, meals and accommodation as described below and entry fees.

Expert Wildlife Guides: You will be guided on this journey by a friendly, experienced and knowledgeable Wildlife Guide. Many hours of research work precede the tour to ensure that you see and learn about native wildlife in its natural environment.

First class standards in guidance are the hallmark of Echidna Walkabout. Our in-house Wildlife Guide training program ensures that all guides have an in-depth knowledge of the wildlife and environments you will see. Guides carry two way radios which link them to our office and to emergency services.

Accommodation: At friendly, comfortable B&B's in the region, all with ensuite rooms.

Meals on tour: Meals from lunch on Day 1 to lunch on Day 3, but excluding dinner on Day 1. NB Vegetarian or other food preferences should be noted at the time of booking. We can only cater for allergies and special food preferences that we are informed of in advance.

Easy walking: Although this tour is vehicle based, most of the day is spent outside the vehicle on a number of easy, flat terrain, bushwalks so that you can get close to nature. Passengers must be able to walk unassisted at



Great Ocean Road

least 1km on uneven dirt surfaces to ensure wildlife sightings. There may be up to 5 walks of this duration during the day.

Transport: In our comfortable air conditioned vehicle.

What to bring: Good walking shoes or boots, outdoor clothing to suit variable weather conditions (please check weather forecast for accurate predictions), sun hat, rainproof coat, insect repellent, 15+ sunscreen, small torch (flashlight), daypack and 1 litre water bottle. Camera and binoculars are recommended.

As space is limited please keep luggage to 1 duffel bag OR 1 backpack OR 1 small suitcase per person.

Please note that whilst every attempt will be made to follow our planned route National Park Service requirements and weather conditions may cause amendments which will be clearly outlined to you by your Guide.

About Us

Janine Duffy and Roger Smith founded Echidna Walkabout in 1993, to foster respect for Australia's wildlife and to ensure its wild and free-living future. Most tours depart Melbourne and travel to carefully chosen wildlife locations in south eastern Australia.

Our fantastic team of Wildlife Guides – Bill, Paul, Joanne, Martin and Janine & Roger – and Koala Researchers – Mary, Donna & Alison – ensure that every tour is a special, once-only experience. No two tours are ever the same with wild animals!

Our Wildlife Team provides support to our tours. Their research is passed on to you and to the National Parks Service, Field Naturalists Clubs and the Atlas of Australian Birds.

Echidna Walkabout respects our Indigenous Cultures, and is grateful to the Wathaurong and Gunaai communities for their support over many years.

Our tour groups are small (no more than 8 people) allowing for a personal experience and optimal wildlife viewing opportunities.

For the past 12 years, Echidna Walkabout has tracked and monitored the movements and lives of hundreds of wild koalas. The proceeds of each tour contribute to this important study and our guests are involved while on tour. The results of this study are made available to all our staff, the National Parks Service, Field Naturalists Clubs, wildlife veterinarians and wildlife carers.

We are also regenerating an old farming property west of Melbourne as a Wildlife Habitat – for the benefit of native wild birds, Kangaroos, Koalas and Wallabies, plus reptiles, frogs and invertebrates - to restore some lost habitat to these wild creatures that have given us so much. We have, and have always had, a serious commitment to running sustainable tours. Our comprehensive environmental code is available for viewing on our website: [Environmental Code](#)

Bookings/More Information

Echidna Walkabout

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Great Ocean Road

Detailed Itinerary/Day by Day Description

NOTE: this itinerary is an indication only. Due to conditions on the day, weather or National Parks instructions, it may change to maximise wildlife viewing opportunities

Day 1 WILDLIFE OF THE WESTERN PLAINS The Savannah Walkabout

Stroll through a national park looking for wild koalas, cockatoos and kookaburras. Your Wildlife Guide and Koala Researcher will explain the behaviour and individuality of each of the Koalas you meet.

Walk quietly up to a wild mob of Kangaroos on the plains and in open Bushland. They are thrilling animals to watch. Their natural instinct is to flee humans, but with care we often get close enough to observe their complex social life. We may also find parrots, fairy-wrens, emus, honeyeaters, wallabies and reptiles. Your Wildlife Guide will help you understand them. A substantial picnic lunch is included.

Accommodation tonight is at a B&B in the tiny outback town of Little River. Dinner is at your own expense at the local pub (L)

Day 2 THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD and the Twelve Apostles

See some of the world's most spectacular coastal scenery. We follow the Great Ocean Road to the surging surf coast, and walk in the magnificent rainforests of the Otway National Park. Your Wildlife Guide will explain the formation of these mighty forests. Travel through Port Campbell National Park, looking out for echidnas, wallabies, lizards and colourful birds which make their home in the coastal heathlands. Linger a while to take in some of nature's handiwork at the Twelve Apostles and the Loch Ard Gorge. Hear stories about the terrible shipwrecks of the past. We have dinner at our B&B near Loch Ard Gorge. (BLD)

Day 3 THE EXPANSE OF THE WESTERN PLAINS - volcanoes and lakes in a great savannah.

This morning we have one last look at the coast in the dramatic morning light before returning to Melbourne across the vast grasslands of the Western Plains. Created by intense volcanic activity over the past 2 million years, the 7000 volcanoes of the Western Plains are now extinct but the resultant savannah is pasture to a rich wool growing area - a wonderful example of Australia's great range lands. We stop en route to drive to the top of an extinct volcano with spectacular views across the plains. From the summit we see some of the hundreds of volcanic lakes scattered across the plains. Later we pass Lake Corangamite, the largest permanent lake in Australia, often covered with prolific birdlife. We return to Melbourne in the late afternoon. (BL)



Great Ocean Road

TRAVEL AGENT'S PAGE

Suggested Brochure/website text

Great Ocean Road. Three day tour

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Wildlife abounds on the golden grasslands and rocky cliffs of the famous Great Ocean Road. Pockets of forest are home to Koalas; Kangaroos graze the plains, Echidnas amble through dense coastal heathland. Sea-birds and outback cockatoos share the rocky cliffs. Waterbirds are found on the largest permanent lakes in Australia contained in the huge craters of extinct volcanoes.

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[99 words, 628 characters including spaces]

Updated: July 2011 For more details about this tour contact: roger@echidnawalkabout.com.au