



## 25-DAY COASTAL ROAD TRIP IN AUSTRALIA



### Highlights

- Stroll Melbourne's vibrant laneways
- Drive the iconic Great Ocean Road
- Relax at Peninsula Hot Springs
- Hike the rugged trails of Wilsons Promontory
- Explore K'Gari's (Fraser Island's) Champagne Pools
- Venture the dreamy Whitsundays

#### Day 1: Torquay

**Distance:** 101 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 20 minutes

- **Morning:** Enjoy breakfast before exploring Melbourne's laneways & visiting the museum.
- **Afternoon:** Pick up your campervan in the early afternoon and visit the Royal Botanic Gardens before setting off towards Torquay.
- **Evening:** Settle in at your campsite & get familiar with your camper's kitchen with a meal.
- **Where to stay:** Torquay Foreshore Caravan Park, 35 Bell St, Torquay, VIC, 3228.

#### Day 2: Great Ocean Road

**Distance:** 189 Kms **Time:** 3 hours 20 minutes

- **Morning:** Have breakfast in Torquay by Bells Beach and set off across the Great Ocean Road.
- **Afternoon:** Stop at Lorne for lunch and visit Erskine Falls, the 12 Apostles, and Split Point Lighthouse.
- **Evening:** Dine out in Port Campbell or cook something in your camper.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Port Campbell Holiday Park, 30 Morris St, Port Campbell VIC 3269.

#### Day 3: Mornington Peninsula

**Distance:** 339 Kms **Time:** 4 hours

- **Morning:** Double back through Melbourne towards the Mornington Peninsula, stopping by the Peninsula Hot Springs for a recharge.
- **Afternoon:** Enjoy fresh wine and lunch at Red Hill before stretching your legs out at Cape Schanck.
- **Evening:** Dine at Sorrento with gorgeous sunset views over the waterfront.
- **Where to stay:** Big4 Mornington Peninsula Holiday Park, 2 Robinsons Road Frankston South 3199.

#### Day 4: Phillip Island

**Distance:** 109 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 35 minutes

- **Morning:** Take a day trip to Phillip Island, with a morning stop by the Koala Conservation Centre.
- **Afternoon:** Stop by the Nobbies Centre after lunch and follow the boardwalk to the Seal Rocks.
- **Evening:** Witness the adorable Penguin Parade.
- **Where to stay:** Big4 Mornington Peninsula Holiday Park, 2 Robinsons Road Frankston South, VIC 3199.

#### Day 5: Wilsons Promontory

**Distance:** 105 Kms **Time:** 1 hour 30 minutes

- **Morning:** Depart Phillip Island in the morning for a scenic drive through Wilsons Promontory!
- **Afternoon:** Hike up to Mt Oberon Summit for sweeping panoramic views of the park and its surrounding beaches. Check out Squeaky beach!
- **Evening:** Settle into your campground near the park and enjoy the stargazing opportunities.
- **Where to stay:** Big4 Wilsons Prom Holiday Park, 390 Foley Rd, Yanakie VIC 3960.

#### Day 6: Lakes Entrance

**Distance:** 255 Kms **Time:** 3 hour 10 minutes

- **Morning:** Check out the Gippsland Lakes on your way towards Lakes Entrance!
- **Afternoon:** Enjoy fresh, locally caught seafood and wander the town for unique and antique shops.
- **Evening:** Get some rest after a big day of driving.
- **Where to stay:** Lakes Main Holiday Park, 7 Willis St, Lakes Entrance VIC 3909.



## Day 7 & 8: Canberra

**Distance:** 422 Kms **Time:** 5 hours

### DAY 7

- **Morning:** It's a big day of driving today with plenty of stops through various national parks, such as Snowy River National Park, Kosciuszko National Park, and Namadgi National Park. Plan to make a few detours along the way.
- **Afternoon:** Continue driving and exploring freely, aiming to arrive in Canberra by late afternoon or early evening.
- **Evening:** Give yourself an easy pub meal for dinner after a busy day of exploring.
- **Where to stay:** Exhibition Park, Corner of Flemington Road and Northbourne Avenue, Mitchell ACT 2911.

### DAY 8

- **Morning:** Spend a bit of time getting familiar with Australia's capital city, stopping by Mount Ainslie Lookout, the Australian War Memorial, and Duntroon.
- **Afternoon:** Enjoy lunch in the city and check out the National Museum of Australia and Parliament House (both activities offer free entry) to get a culture fix.
- **Evening:** Stock up your campervan in preparation for the next few days at any of the nearby supermarkets and return to your holiday park for dinner in your camper.
- **Where to stay:** Exhibition Park, Corner of Flemington Road and Northbourne Avenue, Mitchell ACT 2911.

## Day 9 & 10: Sydney

**Distance:** 150 Kms **Time:** 2 hours

### DAY 9

- **Morning:** You're in luck, because Sydney is only three hours away! Aim to be in the city by mid-morning with time to explore The Rocks, a historic Sydney precinct. Wander through its cobblestone streets and walk to Circular Quay or join a guided tour of the Sydney Opera House, an architectural masterpiece and global icon.
- **Afternoon:** Head to Bondi Beach for a relaxing swim or take the Bondi to Coogee Coastal Walk, which is a picturesque trail that hugs the coastline and offers spectacular ocean views. Stop along the way for a light lunch at one of the beachfront cafés.
- **Evening:** This is your time to spoil yourself if you're looking for a memorable experience! Dine at a fine restaurant like Bennelong, located within the Opera House, and enjoy views of the Harbour Bridge. Alternatively, take a harbour dinner cruise and admire the city's glittering skyline from the water.
- **Where to stay:** Discovery Parks Lane Cove, 13 Plassey Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113.

### DAY 10

- **Morning:** Dedicate your second day in Sydney to its stunning harbour and green spaces. Drive over to Taronga Zoo, where you can meet native Australian wildlife with the Sydney skyline as a backdrop. Enjoy a relaxed zoo tour in the morning, followed by lunch at its café overlooking the water.
- **Afternoon:** Leave your camper somewhere nearby and return to Circular Quay to take a walk across the Harbour Bridge (or you can even climb it if you're feeling adventurous). Afterward unwind at the Royal Botanic Garden.
- **Evening:** Chinatown offers vibrant and flavourful dinners for all budgets. Sample authentic dishes at local restaurants or explore the street food stalls at Dixon Street. End your day with a walk through Darling Square, enjoying its lively atmosphere and public art installations.
- **Where to stay:** Discovery Parks Lane Cove, 13 Plassey Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113.



### Day 11: Blue Mountains (Day Trip)

**Distance:** 60 Kms **Time:** 50 minutes

- **Morning:** Begin your day at Scenic World, experience the Scenic Railway and the Three Sister's rock formation.
- **Afternoon:** Enjoy lunch at Leura, known for its boutique shops and cosy cafes. Spend the afternoon out at the Prince Henry Cliff Walk - comfortable for most hikers.
- **Evening:** End your day back in Sydney with a relaxed dinner in your camper, or book a campsite in the Blue Mountains if there's a better deal to be found!
- **Where to stay:** Discovery Parks Lane Cove, 13 Plassey Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113.

### Day 12: Port Macquarie

**Distance:** 393 Kms **Time:** 4 hours 15 minutes

- **Morning:** Start the day early, following the Pacific Highway with an early morning stop at Forster. You could easily spend the day in this area, with Wallis Lake and the Pacific Ocean creating a natural aquatic haven full of boating, fishing, paddling, and surfing for an all-out authentic Aussie experience. There are also a few national parks nearby and plenty of coastal adventures.
- **Afternoon:** You'll arrive in Port Macquarie by mid/late afternoon (depending on how many stops you made), where you can check into your accommodation and head to the Billabong Zoo Koala & Wildlife Park (\$30-\$45 for general admission) for the rest of the afternoon and poke your nose into the Koala Conservation Hospital (\$8-\$12.50 for general admission).
- Otherwise, if you're keen to keep your funds in the bank or you're short on time, set off towards Lighthouse Beach for a swim and then spend the day exploring the endless hiking trails that'll give you a close and personal view of the region's popular lookouts.
- **Evening:** Enjoy a waterfront dinner! The local musicians set the stage for an evening of dining and entertainment.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Port Macquarie Breakwall, 1 Munster St, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

### Day 13 & 14: Byron Bay

**Distance:** 385 Kms **Time:** 4 hours

#### DAY 13

- **Morning:** Head north towards Byron Bay, planning scenic stops along the way to stretch.
- **Afternoon:** You've got time to poke your head into some of the top spots along the way such as Nambucca Heads, Dorrigo National Park, and the Big Prawn. Coffs Harbour is your halfway point and well worth some exploration.
- **Evening:** Aim to arrive in Byron Bay by late afternoon or early evening (before it gets dark) to check into your accommodation. Spend the night unwinding at a local beachfront restaurant, enjoying the laid-back atmosphere and live music this coastal town is famous for.
- **Where to stay:** Reflections Byron Bay, 1 Lighthouse Rd, Byron Bay NSW 2481.

#### DAY 14

- **Morning:** Start your morning with a yoga class on the beach or a leisurely breakfast at one of the town's cafés. Then, head out for a kayaking adventure with dolphins, a signature Byron Bay experience that lets you paddle alongside playful marine life.
- **Afternoon:** Take a walk to Cape Byron Lighthouse, the easternmost point of mainland Australia. The trail offers spectacular ocean views, and during late summer, you may even spot migrating whales. Afterward, spend some time relaxing on Wategos Beach, one of the most picturesque spots in the region
- **Evening:** Enjoy a tasty homecooked meal in your campervan.
- **Where to stay:** Reflections Byron Bay, 1 Lighthouse Rd, Byron Bay NSW 2481.



## Day 15 & 16: Gold Coast

**Distance:** 192 Kms **Time:** 2 hours

### DAY 15

- **Morning:** After breakfast, take the short drive to the Gold Coast, the perfect balance of natural beauty and urban excitement. Check into your accommodation and spend the morning exploring waterfalls and ancient forests at Springbrook National Park.
- **Afternoon:** Head to Surfers Paradise, affectionately known as the heart of the Gold Coast for some shopping therapy, relax on the golden sands, or take book a surfing lesson. For a fun family activity, visit SkyPoint Observation Deck for panoramic views of the city and coastline.
- **Evening:** Treat yourself to a waterfront dinner at Broadbeach. For nightlife enthusiasts, the Gold Coast's vibrant club scene offers plenty of options to dance the night away.
- **Where to stay:** Broadwater Tourist Park, 169 Marine Parade, Southport QLD 4215.

### DAY 16

- **Morning:** Dedicate your second day in the Gold Coast to its world-famous theme parks! Choose from Dreamworld for thrilling rides, Sea World for marine life encounters, or Movie World for Hollywood-inspired fun. Each park offers a full day of entertainment for visitors of all ages
- **Afternoon:** For lunch, enjoy a casual meal at one of the food stalls within the parks and get straight back to the epic rides!
- **Evening:** It's time to relax! Settle down at your camper for a meal.
- **Where to stay:** Broadwater Tourist Park, 169 Marine Parade, Southport QLD 4215.

## Day 17: Noosaville

**Distance:** 214 Kms **Time:** 2 hours 25 minutes

- **Morning:** Bid farewell to the Gold Coast and drive north to the Sunshine Coast, with a stop en route at the Glass House Mountains for a short hike or scenic photo opportunity. These ancient volcanic peaks are a striking feature of the hinterland and not one to be missed.
- **Afternoon:** Arrive in Noosaville by mid-afternoon. Spend the rest of the day exploring Noosa National Park, walking its coastal trails and spotting wildlife like koalas and dolphins. Cool off with a swim at Noosa Main Beach, renowned for its crystal-clear waters and gentle waves.
- **Evening:** Enjoy a meal at one of Hastings Street's upscale beachfront restaurants. The Sunshine Coast's relaxed yet refined atmosphere sets the tone for a perfect end to your day.
- **Where to stay:** Ingenia Holidays Noosa, 141 Cooroy Noosa Rd, Tewantin QLD 4565.

## Day 18: Hervey Bay

**Distance:** 178 Kms **Time:** 2 Hour 5 Minutes

- **Morning:** Begin your day with a paddle through the Noosa Everglades. Guided kayak tours offer a peaceful way to explore the unique ecosystem, with its mirror-like waterways and diverse birdlife. After your morning adventure, head back to Noosa for a relaxed beachfront brunch.
- **Afternoon:** Soak up the sun at Noosa Main Beach or take a short hike to Hell's Gates, a dramatic viewpoint along the Noosa National Park coastal trail. The walk offers stunning views of the turquoise ocean and rugged cliffs. Make the two-hour drive up to Hervey Bay in the afternoon.
- **Evening:** Enjoy dinner from the comfort of your camper and prepare for an early morning ferry.
- **Where to stay:** Big4 Hervey Bay Holiday Park, 26 Corser Street, Hervey Bay 4655 QLD.





### Day 19: K’Gari (Day Trip)

**Distance:** Ferry Ride

- **Morning:** Hervey Bay is the launching point for K’Gari (formerly known as Fraser Island). Take the morning SeaLink ferry from River Heads to K’Gari, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the largest sand island in the world.
- **Afternoon:** Start with a guided 4WD tour along 75 Mile Beach and explore sandy highways or ancient rainforests. Stop at the Maheno Shipwreck, and enjoy a swim in Eli Creek, a crystal-clear stream.
- If you have extra time, you should absolutely spend an extra day on the island exploring the inland wonders, such as the Champagne Pools, Indian Head, and Lake McKenzie.
- **Evening:** Catch the latest ferry back to land and return to your campervan in Hervey Bay.
- **Where to stay:** Big4 Hervey Bay Holiday Park, 26 Corser Street, Hervey Bay 4655 QLD.

### Day 20: Rockhampton

**Distance:** 382 Kms **Time:** 4 hours 15 minutes

- **Morning:** Make a stop for coffee and snacks at the charming town of Agnes Water, with a quick walk to the Captain Cook Monument or the Paperbark Forest Walk.
- **Afternoon:** Arrive in Rockhampton by mid-afternoon to visit the Botanic Gardens and Zoo, which offers free entry and is home to various native animals. Alternatively, if you’re keen on exploring, Mount Archer National Park is accessible via sealed roads and offers plenty of walking tracks, or the Capricorn Caves are a great destination for unique underground exploration.
- **Evening:** After a busy day of adventuring, take a sunset stroll alongside the Rockhampton River and then make yourself a tasty meal in your camper.
- **Where to stay:** Discovery Park Rockhampton, 394 Yaamba Rd, Norman Gardens QLD 4701.

### Day 21: Airlie BEach

**Distance:** 483 Kms **Time:** 4 hours 25 minutes

- **Morning:** Depart Rockhampton first thing in the morning with your sights set on Airlie Beach. Today’s long drive features coastal sights and plenty of things to look at along the way.
- **Afternoon:** Plan for a major stop in Mackay! You can spend an extra day here if you have time, but otherwise you’ve got a free afternoon to stretch your legs with a swim at Bluewater Lagoon and some city exploration.
- **Evening:** Arrive in Airlie Beach by evening, just in time to catch the tropical sunset. Check into your holiday park and enjoy a relaxed dinner at a waterfront restaurant like Fish D’vine, known for its fresh seafood and tropical cocktails.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Airlie Beach, 234 Shute Harbour Road, Cannonvale, QLD 4802.

### Day 22: Whitsundays (Day Trip)

**Distance:** Ferry Ride

- **Morning:** Airlie Beach is the gateway to the Whitsundays, and today is all about exploring this stunning archipelago. Begin your day with a sailing tour to Whitehaven Beach, consistently ranked among the world’s best beaches for its pure white silica sand and turquoise waters. Spend your morning swimming, snorkelling, and soaking in the paradise-like surroundings.
- **Afternoon:** Continue your tour to Hill Inlet, a breathtaking viewpoint where swirling sands meet the azure ocean. It’s one of the most photographed locations in Australia and a highlight of the Whitsundays. Return to Airlie Beach by late afternoon and unwind at the lagoon, a picturesque swimming area perfect for a relaxing end to the day.
- **Evening:** For dinner, head to a local restaurant or enjoy a casual meal by the beach as you reflect on your adventures so far.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Airlie Beach, 234 Shute Harbour Road, Cannonvale, QLD 4802.

### Day 23: Townsville

**Distance:** 274 Kms **Time:** 3 hours 10 minutes

- **Morning:** Depart Airlie Beach early and enjoy the scenic drive to Townsville. On arrival, visit The Strand first, which is a picturesque waterfront promenade best for wandering and swimming. If you've got time up your sleeve, we suggest checking out Magnetic Island, but since the itinerary is coming to an end it's time to hustle!
- **Afternoon:** Spend your afternoon at Reef HQ Aquarium, home to the world's largest living coral reef aquarium, and learn about the Great Barrier Reef's incredible ecosystem. Alternatively, head out to Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park to stretch your legs.
- **Evening:** Take a stroll along the waterfront as the city lights come alive and head back to your camper for a homecooked meal.
- **Where to stay:** Big4 Ingenia Holidays Townsville, 234 Shute Harbour Road, Cannonvale, QLD 4802

### Day 24 & 25: Cairns

**Distance:** 347 Kms **Time:** 4 hours 15 minutes

#### DAY 24

- **Morning:** Stop by Mission Beach for a swim and photography opportunity. Give yourself a few hours to wander and explore the area – or stay an extra night if you have time!
- **Afternoon:** You'll arrive in the city around lunchtime or late afternoon. Start by settling into your holiday park then jump straight into exploring the city. One of your first destinations has to be the Cairns Esplanade Lagoon and Boardwalk. You'll be spending tomorrow out on the ocean, so this is a good opportunity to return your camper and relax in a hotel for the night.
- **Evening:** After a busy day of adventuring, take a sunset stroll alongside the Rockhampton River and then make yourself a tasty meal in your camper.
- **Where to stay:** Treat yourself at the Salt House, a waterfront restaurant with views of the marina and a menu highlighting fresh local seafood.

#### DAY 25

- **Morning:** There's no shortage of things to do in Cairns! Set off on a full-day tour of the Great Barrier Reef. Snorkel or dive among coral reefs and marine life, or enjoy the views as a spectator on a glass-bottom boat.
- If the Great Barrier Reef isn't your thing, there's plenty to see in the area! Head out to Kuranda for an afternoon of exploration, check out Babinda Boulders, and discover so much more!
- **Afternoon:** Continue your adventures. If you're not out at the Great Barrier Reef, aim to return to Cairns in the late afternoon and visit the Cairns Botanic Gardens, renowned for its tropical plant displays before wrapping up the day with a relaxing meal.
- **Evening:** Dine out with the locals or save your budget with a home-cooked meal.
- **Where to stay:** NRMA Cairns Holiday Park, 12-30 Little St, Manunda QLD 4870.

### Packing Tips

#### Some things you'll want to bring include:

- Appropriate footwear (comfortable, closed shoes for walking tours)
- Hat, sunscreen and sunglasses
- Mixture of clothing for different weather/activities
- Insect repellent + band-aids
- Camera/phone + chargers
- Light backpack (to carry food + water bottle)

**Reminder:** This road trip has plenty of driving, so if you'd like to spend more time in towns don't be afraid to extend your trip to 6-8 weeks.



Hill Inlet, Tourism & Events Queensland