



Great Ocean Road – three day tour Spectacular Coastal Drive - plus wildlife!

Echidna Walkabout Fact Sheet

THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD

Quote tour code: GOR

Three day journey - fully accommodated

Departs Melbourne on request all year (Note: no tours run on or through Christmas Day)

Returns to Melbourne

Overview (see page 4 for detailed itinerary, and page 3 for suggested brochure/website text)

To the west of the city of Melbourne in south-eastern Australia a vast volcanic plain of golden grasses stretches into the distance broken by isolated forested ranges and bounded by miles of rocky cliffs pounded by the Southern Ocean. The famous Great Ocean Road hugs this coastline providing spectacular views of the rugged coastal scenery. Koalas inhabit the forests and Kangaroos graze the grasslands. Waterbirds are found on the largest permanent lakes in Australia contained in the huge craters of extinct volcanoes. This three day, small group tour gives you quality time to enjoy the wildlife and scenery of this magnificent area with your experienced Nature Guide. Tour includes 2 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner and 2 nights at friendly and 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 (Savannah Walkabout)

This fascinating guided journey begins with a detailed introduction to Australian wildlife starting with a visit to the You Yangs Ranges to search for Koalas in the wild. After lunch we search for wild Kangaroos, Emus and many birds in the open range grasslands, open forests and billabongs of Serendip Sanctuary. This evening you'll overnight in a charming Bed & Breakfast. (L)

Accommodation: Hosted Country style B&B

Day 2 The famous Great Ocean Road

We explore the rainforests of the Otway National Park, lunch in a seaside village then head off to the Great Ocean Road to see the spectacular sea stacks known as the Twelve Apostles set against the magnificent backdrop of the huge limestone cliffs of 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: Hosted Country style B&B

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 where we drive to the top of an extinct volcano for expansive views across the plains. We pass by 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)



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Location: West of the city of Melbourne in south-east Australia. Visit Serendip Open Range Sanctuary, the You Yangs Ranges (or Brisbane Ranges National Park), the Great Ocean Road, the 12 Apostles, the Shipwreck Coast, volcanoes and lakes of the Western Plains

Duration: 3 days, 2 nights

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

Returns: to Melbourne

Maximum group size: 8 adults **Minimum:** 2 adults

INCLUDES:

Full interpretation by experienced nature guides, all transport, meals and accommodation as described below and entry fees.

Expert Nature Guides: You will be guided on this journey by a friendly, experienced and knowledgeable Nature 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 Nature Guide training program ensures that all guides have an in-depth working 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 final day but excluding dinner on Day 1. NB Vegetarian or other food preferences should be noted at the time of booking.

Transport: In our comfortable air conditioned vehicle.

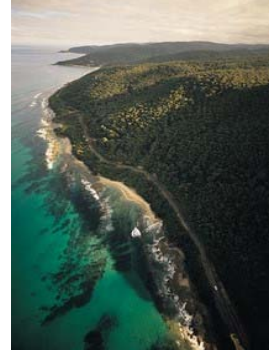
What to bring: Strong walking shoes or boots, clothing to suit variable weather conditions (please check weather forecast for accurate predictions), sun hat, rainproof coat, small torch, insect repellent, sunscreen, daypack and 1 litre water bottle. You can also bring swimming gear.

As space is limited please keep luggage to 1 sausage bag OR 1 backpack OR 1 small suitcase per person. During the journey we can store extra luggage in Melbourne as required, but we must be notified in advance. Hand luggage should be small.

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.



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About Us: Janine Duffy and Roger Smith are the founders of Echidna Walkabout, based in Melbourne, Australia. Our business is based upon a deep respect of nature, indigenous cultures and environmentally sustainable living. Our fantastic team of Nature Guides – Tim, Bill, Paul, Joanne, Martin and Janine & Roger – and Koala Researchers – Mary, Melinda and Alison – ensure that every tour is a special, once only experience. No two tours are ever the same with wild animals!

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

For the past 10 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. 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 yabbies - 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.

BOOKINGS/INFORMATION

Echidna Walkabout

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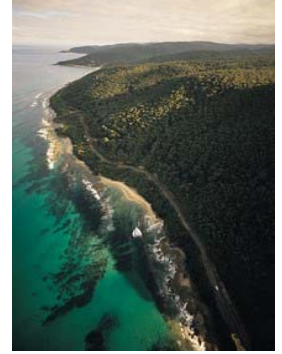
www.echidnawalkabout.com.au

SUGGESTED BROCHURE/WEBSITE TEXT:

Great Ocean Road. Three day tour

[6 words, 32 characters incl. spaces]

West of Melbourne a vast volcanic plain of golden grasses stretches into the distance, broken by isolated forested ranges, bounded by rocky cliffs, pounded by the Southern Ocean. The famous Great Ocean Road hugs this coastline providing spectacular views of the rugged coastal scenery. Koalas inhabit the forests and Kangaroos graze the grasslands. Waterbirds are found on the largest permanent lakes in Australia contained in the huge craters of extinct volcanoes. This three day, small group tour gives you quality time to enjoy the wildlife and scenery of this magnificent area with your experienced Nature Guide. Tour includes 2 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner and 2 nights at friendly, very comfortable B&B's. *[112 words, 718 characters incl. spaces]*



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DETAILED ITINERARY FOR GREAT OCEAN ROAD

NOTE: this itinerary is an indication only, due to conditions on the day it can change slightly to maximise wildlife viewing opportunities

DAY 1 WILDLIFE OF THE WESTERN PLAINS The Savannah Walkabout

See Kangaroos and Koalas **IN THE WILD!** In small groups this Naturalist guided journey gives you quality time to learn about wildlife and enjoy the wide open spaces of Australia. Watch the natural behaviour of wild kangaroos, koalas and abundant birdlife. Get involved in koala research with your Nature Guide. A delicious bush lunch is included.

Walk amongst free ranging "mobs" (groups) of wild kangaroos. Spot Emus, Cockatoos and other unique Australian wildlife on the grasslands, in the bush and around the billabongs of Melbourne's Western Plains. Visit an open forest in a National Park that is home to a large and healthy population of wild koalas. Our Koala Research Project ensures that on most days we have multiple sightings of these delightful creatures. Within easy reach from the centre of the city of Melbourne, these environments provide the perfect introduction to Australia's unique wildlife and indigenous culture. During your journey your guide will share with you the great significance of the Western Plains to Aboriginal People.

Accommodation tonight is at a delightful B&B. Dinner is at your own expense (L)

DAY 2 THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD and the 12 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 Nature 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 12 Apostles and the Loch Ard Gorge. Hear stories about the terrible shipwrecks of the past. We stay tonight at a country B&B looking out over the coast. Dinner is with our hosts at the B&B (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 now pasture to the richest wool growing area on earth - 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)

Updated: January 2010 For more details about this tour contact: roger@echidnawalkabout.com.au

*This tour itinerary is the property of - **Echidna Walkabout** PO Box 370 Port Melbourne 3207 AUSTRALIA
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