

# Great Ocean Road & Barossa Valley

16  
March  
2011  
12 Days

\$2559pp/pts  
\$575s/s

## Day 1: Newcastle/Sydney—Albury (LD)

Departing from Newcastle, picking up in the Central Coast, Hornsby and Strathfield, before making our way to Albury.

*Sundowner Paddlesteamer Resort 02 6042 0500*

## Day 2: Albury—Ballarat (BLD)

Heading through to Shepparton, the centre of the Goulburn Valley we will have lunch at the beautiful heritage gold mining city of **Bendigo** before joining the **Talking Tram** for a tour and a visit to the **Tram Museum**. We will head through the spa district of Daylesford to Ballarat. Dinner tonight will be at **Sovereign Hill's Napier's Hotel**, before the **spectacular Light and Sound Show "Blood on the Southern Cross"**, depicting events of the Eureka Stockade in 1854.

*Bell Tower Inn 03 5334 1600 (2 nights)*

## Day 3: Ballarat Begonias, Sovereign Hill (BD)

After a town tour of Ballarat, the highlight for garden lovers will be the **Begonia Display** on the shores of Lake Wendouree. Beautifully presented garden beds highlight the **Prime Ministers' Avenue** and the Conservatory filled with tuberous begonias, with time in Ballarat, to explore its wide heritage streets. We spend the afternoon at **Sovereign Hill Village and the Gold Museum**, to pan for gold, watch wood turners at work, see gold being poured at our leisure.

## Day 4: Ballarat—Apollo Bay, Great Ocean Road (BD)

Heading south we travel to Geelong, where we will have morning tea and time to photograph the **unusual bollards along the Esplanade**. We continue on our way along the coast through Torquay, scene of the Bells Surf Classic, we will join the **Great Ocean Road** which hugs the coastline. We will stop for lunch at Lorne before making our way to Apollo Bay for a look around before checking into Skene's Creek Lodge.

*Skene's Creek Lodge 03 5237 6918*



## Day 5: Apollo Bay—Warrnambool—Otway Fly, 12 Apostles, Warrnambool's Light & Sound show (BLD)

Today we head inland to visit the **Otway Fly**, a unique 600 metre walk through the treetops of native eucalypts in Victoria's rugged forest region. We enjoy lunch at Princeton as we start to hug the coastline of the Great Southern Ocean, the scene of many shipwrecks. Our first visit will be the **Twelve Apostles**, where a scenic helicopter flight is available (own expense). **Loch Ard Gorge**, named from the ship wrecked at this spot, will show us the rugged cliff line and ferociousness of the sea. We will visit the **Arch, the remains of the London Bridge and the Bay of Islands**. Bring your cameras as there will be lots of opportunities to record this rugged coastline today. Tonight we will visit **Warrnambool's Sound & Light Show "Shipwrecked"**, the story of the Loch Ard Wreck.

*Gateway Motor Inn 03 5562 8622*

## Day 6: Warrnambool—Mount Gambier (BLD)

We will visit the **Flagstaff Maritime Village** with shops, ship building and a museum housing the beautiful Loch Ard Peacock. We will visit the **gardens of the Fletcher Jones Factory** before lunch at Port Fairy. We arrive in Mt Gambier and drive around the **Blue Lake** and visit the beautiful **Umpherston Sinkhole** then go to our motel.

*Comfort Inn  
Silver Birch  
08 8725 5122*



## Day 7: Mount Gambier—Barossa Valley (BLD)

We will follow the coast line through Millicent to Kingston S.E. for morning tea. We will continue travelling the **Coorong** with its rugged dunes, coastal vegetation and over 400 bird species. After lunch we head to our motel in the beautiful Barossa Valley.

*Barossa Weintal Resort 08 8563 2303 (3 nights)*

## Day 8: Barossa Valley—Wine, Cruise & Art (BLD)

This morning we will visit the **Whispering Wall** to hear its secrets and **Mengler's Hill** for a spectacular view over the Barossa Valley from the **Pioneer Memorial and Sculpture Display**. We will visit Tanunda, enjoy a picnic lunch and then head to a **winery for a tasting**. A tour of the **Chateau Barrosa** with its beautiful 18th Century furniture collection and wine tasting will complete our afternoon. We will travel to **Mannum** to visit the wharf area or antique shops, before enjoying a **Sunset Dinner Cruise** on the **Murray Venturer III**. We may also be lucky enough to spot some wildlife in the gums at dusk.

## Day 9: Adelaide—Haighs Chocolate & Hahndorf (BD)

Off to Adelaide today, our first stop will be **Haigh's Chocolates**, then some **free time in Rundle Mall** to shop, relax or sightsee. This afternoon we will head through the Adelaide Hills to spend some time in **Hahndorf Village** before returning to the motel.

## Day 10: Barossa—Mildura—Orange World (BLD)

Today we must leave the Barossa and head towards the Riverland towns. Blanchetown is the beginning of the locks and weir system on the Murray. Lunch will be at Mildura and we will visit **Orange World** for a **train ride through the extensive orchards** to tell us about the industry, and perhaps gain some hints for our own trees!

*Boulevard Motor Inn 03 5023 5023*

## Day 11: Mildura—Wagga Wagga (BLD)

We will leave the Riverland and travel via Balranald for morning tea. Lunch will be at Hay before we travel through a little of the **Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area** at Narrandera on our way to Wagga Wagga. The MIA covers 550,000 hectares and is one of the richest food producing areas in Australia, including citrus and stone fruits.

*Country Comfort Wagga Wagga 02 6921 6444*

## Day 12: Wagga Wagga—Home (BL)

This morning we will leave Wagga Wagga and make our way home, with morning tea and lunch en route.