

Great Alpine Road

Great Alpine Experiences

A Leg 1 : Wangaratta to Myrtleford 41km, 40 minutes

Located at the junction of the Ovens and King rivers, Wangaratta is a relaxed commercial city that hosts the popular Wangaratta Jazz Festival each year. Oxley and Milawa are the centre of the Milawa Gourmet Region and home to Brown Brothers Vineyards, as well as the Milawa Cheese Company and Milawa Mustards. Follow the King River from Wangaratta into the heart of King Valley, which is famous for its Italian wine grape varieties. Take the snow road to meet up with the Great Alpine Road and visit the many local producers and wineries of the Ovens Valley including Gapsted and Michelin Wineries. Today the town has a thriving retail precinct catering to its population of 3,600. Other local industries include timber, walnuts, beef and grapes.

B Leg 2 : Myrtleford to Bright 30km, 30 minutes

The drive up the Ovens Valley to Porepunkah and Bright provides an abundance of local produce. Porepunkah is a pretty settlement on the junction of the Ovens

and Buckland Rivers and is a relaxing stop on the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail. It is home to Boynton's and Ringer Reef Wineries boasting magnificent views of Mt Buffalo which was proclaimed a national park in 1898. Mt Buffalo is renowned for its magnificent granite tors, waterfalls, rock climbing and hang-gliding. Explore the network of walking trails in the warmer months. Before heading to Bright take a detour to the beautiful Buckland Valley where you will find the Alpaca Farm and the Buckland Studios and Café. For something more adventurous the Porepunkah airfield has paragliding, microlighting and helicopter tours. Bright welcomes visitors all year round in a magnificent sub-Alpine setting. Good shopping and a range of cafes and restaurants showcase the region's produce. Its famous avenues of deciduous trees are at their best during Spring and Autumn.

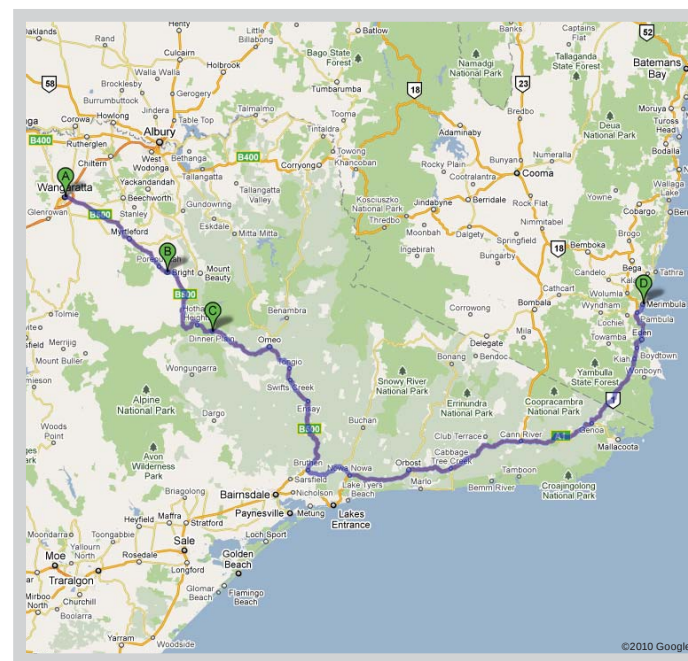
C Leg 3 : Bright to Dinner Plain 63km, 1 hour 30 minutes

Just out of Bright, get yourself lost in the hedge maze at Wandiligong. Continue to Freeburgh and Smoko, former gold townships that are today centres of farming on the valley floor. Harriettville nestles in the foothills of Mt Hotham. Its riverside park pays homage to the pioneers of the district and outlines the colourful history

of this town from the discovery of gold in 1852. It is the starting point for walking tracks that lead to Mt Feathertop (1922m) and Mt Hotham (1862m). From Harriettville, the road winds its way up to Mt Hotham, the highest point on the Great Alpine Road. Mt Hotham is a mecca for skiing and snowboarding enthusiasts during winter. The summer months offer a multitude of walking and cycling tracks with spectacular mountain views. Just down the road you'll find Dinner Plain. This alpine village epitomises the beauty and tradition of Australia's Alpine High Country. Featuring a unique alpine environment and architectural style which owes its roots to the stone, timber and iron of early cattlemen huts, Dinner Plain offers everything from restaurants to horseriding, skiing and bushwalking. The Onsen Retreat and Spa will soothe tired muscles after a day's activity.

D Leg 4 : Dinner Plain to Bairnsdale 168km, 2 hours

From Dinner Plain, head down the hill to Omeo. The history of this frontier town since the mid 1800s has been forged by gold seekers, mountain cattlemen and farming families. The Oriental Claims and Victoria Falls Historic Areas are well worth a visit. Anglers Rest is home to the famed Blue Duck Inn and is a great spot for



fishing and high country horse riding. Further along the Great Alpine Road you'll find Swifts Creek. The Great Alpine Gallery is a must do. The nearby towns of Cassilis and Ensay are worth the diversion for a taste of high country wine and honey mead. The Great Alpine Road ends at Bairnsdale, a major retail and commercial centre servicing central Gippsland and the

Gippsland Lakes. In the mid 1800s Bairnsdale was a popular port for the transport of goods to the Omeo goldfields.

Things you need to know

Australians drive on the left. However, it does take only a small amount of time to adjust - just remember, passenger on the kerb side! Observe the law and drive safely.

Driver's licence

You must be licensed and carry your licence with you when you are driving in Australia, or you will incur an on-the-spot fine. If your licence is not in English, you must carry an English translation.

Seat belts

All passengers must use seatbelts at all times. Baby capsules or child restraints must be used for all children.

Speed limits

You must not drive at a speed over the posted limit (check signs along the roads). In most towns the limit is 50 km per hour and on freeways it will vary between 60-110km.

Alcohol & driving

For fully licensed car drivers the legal limit is 0.05 g/100ml. Australian Police are authorised to stop any vehicle and breath test the driver at any time.

Mobile phones

It is illegal to drive or ride a vehicle while using a hand-held mobile phone. It is also illegal to perform these activities when your vehicle is stopped but not parked, such as when you are waiting at traffic lights. The penalty is a significant fine.

Driver fatigue

It is recommended that for every two hours of driving you stop and rest for 15 minutes - distances between towns and cities may be far greater than you are accustomed.

Country driving

Constantly be on the alert for dangerous situations and drive at a speed that suits the conditions. Watch for:

- Potholes and rough surfaces
- Soft or broken road edges
- Single lane bridges
- Road surfaces changing without notice
- Livestock or wildlife crossing the road (particularly near sunrise or near sunset).
- Very large trucks (road trains).

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS



Ambulance/Fire/Police: 000

Don't forget:

Hat, sunscreen, walking shoes, insect repellent, windproof/waterproof jacket, water bottle and most important a sense of adventure.

Distance /km	Adelaide	Brisbane	Cairns	Canberra	Darwin	Hobart	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Adelaide	-	2127	2845	1212	3225	1007	755	2713	1422
Alice Springs	1693	3064	2435	2905	1532	2700	2448	3772	2960
Brisbane	2127	-	1826	1331	3582	1927	1675	4427	1027
Cairns	2845	1826	-	3157	2953	3753	3501	4727	2853
Canberra	1212	1331	3157	-	4233	903	651	3925	304
Darwin	3225	3582	2953	4233	-	4232	3580	4283	4095
Hobart	1007	1927	3753	903	4232	-	252	3720	1145
Melbourne	755	1675	3501	651	3580	252	-	3468	893
Perth	2713	4427	4727	3925	4283	3720	3468	-	4135
Sydney	1422	1027	2853	304	4095	1145	893	4135	-

