

Melbourne to Sydney

History, heritage and cultural riches

A Leg 1: Melbourne to Bendigo 150km, 1 hour 30 minutes

The highway from Melbourne to Bendigo will lead you past idyllic Mount Macedon and through Victoria's apple region Harcourt Valley. Arrive in the centre of Bendigo at the elaborate Alexandra Fountain. Discover the city's rich past with a day visiting attractions. Discover gold history at Central Deborah Gold Mine, view some of Australia's most significant artworks at Bendigo Art Gallery or wander through the historic streets admiring boom time architecture. At the Golden Dragon Museum learn about Bendigo's rich Chinese heritage or see Australia's oldest working pottery at Bendigo Pottery. More gold was found in Bendigo between 1850 and 1900 than anywhere else in the world. Today, art, culture, food, wine and heritage attractions are the new riches of Bendigo.

B Leg 2: Bendigo to Yarrowonga- Mulwala 250km, 2 hours 30 minutes

Today you will need to make a few stops on your journey so make an early start to be in Echuca-

Moama for the first steaming of the paddle steamers. After exploring the wharf area you are on your way east following the Murray River through the Barmah Forest. Take a little time to explore this iconic area. Your trip to your evening destination of Yarrowonga-Mulwala will take you through farmland where many farms are open to the public for fruit picking, wine tasting, cheese tasting.... the list goes on. Golf enthusiasts will find championship rated sand belt courses all through this area with the course at Yarrowonga offering 45 holes.

C Leg 3: Yarrowonga-Mulwala to Albury-Wodonga 125km, 1 hour 15 minutes

On the short journey from Yarrowonga- Mulwala, make sure you stop at Rutherglen, home to the premier fortified wine producing area in Australia. European history in the area goes back over 180 years, when explorers Hume and Hovell crossed the Murray River in 1824. Gold fever, paddle steamers and railways all fuelled the development of Albury-Wodonga into a vital river port and customs point. Stroll through Albury's QEII Square visiting the Albury Regional Art Gallery to see works by well-known 20th century Australian artists or the Albury Regional

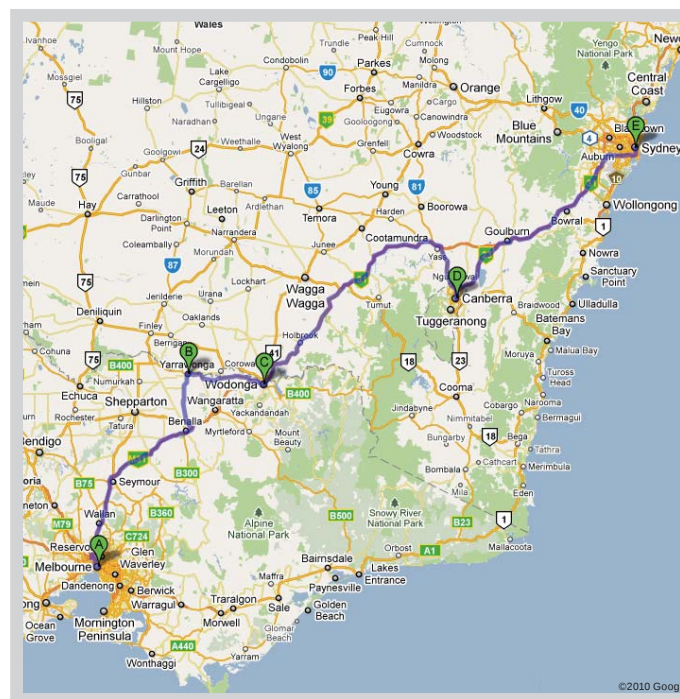
Museum. Cross over the Murray River into Wodonga, enjoy a leisurely drive out to the Army Museum at Bandiana or take in a 'Migrant Experience' at Block 19, Bonegilla.

D Leg 4: Albury-Wodonga to Canberra 345km, 4 hours

Take the Hume Highway north to the national capital, Canberra. This well-planned city was established in 1911 to create a capital for the newly federated country of Australia. Hidden beneath Canberra's leafy surrounds is a thriving modern city with national attractions that hold and share the treasures of the nation. At the National Gallery of Australia experience Australia through the eyes of our artists. Regular free tours will guide you through Parliament House, one of the world's most acclaimed buildings. At Old Parliament House wander through this iconic 1920s building that was home to the Australian Parliament for 61 years. Visit the newly constructed National Portrait Gallery, which includes Ned Kelly's death mask. At the National Museum of Australia be enthralled by the stories of unique Australians.

E Leg 5: Canberra to Sydney 280km, 3 hours

Before leaving the Canberra region



consider visiting a few vineyards. The region's cool climate wines are now receiving recognition worldwide. There are 140 vineyards with more than 35 cellar doors in peaceful rural countryside around Canberra, and most are within 30 minutes of the city centre. From here, follow the Federal

Highway to Highland Way and then onto the Western Freeway through Liverpool and into Sydney.

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	-

