

Sydney to Melbourne

Coastal Drive via Walhalla | Monuments, mountains and valleys

A Leg 1: Sydney to Kangaroo Valley 156km, 2 hours 15 minutes

Start your drive at the Royal National Park, the second oldest national park in the world. Continue along Grand Pacific Drive to Bald Hill lookout at Stanwell Tops, across the cliff hugging Sea Cliff Bridge and through the coastal villages of Scarborough, Austinmer and Thirroul into the bustling city of Wollongong and to the seaside villages of Shellharbour and Kiama. Visit the nearby Illawarra Fly Tree Top Walk on the Illawarra Escarpment then stop off in Berry for a cleansing ale at the Berry Pub. On arrival at Kangaroo Valley, explore the nearby national parks or browse the shops for that special gift.

B Leg 2: Kangaroo Valley to Batemans Bay 138km, 1 hour 50 minutes

Start the morning with a canoe safari or bushwalk to the nearby waterholes in Kangaroo Valley. Travel via Cambewarra Mountain

to Nowra and continue south to Mollymook and Ulladulla. Ulladulla is home to a commercial fishing fleet. Take the bushwalk from Bawley Point to Kioala through the Murrumbidgee Aboriginal Area, a rocky headland protecting middens and other evidence of Aboriginal occupation. See kangaroos on the beach and witness one of their occasional swims in the surf at Peppy Beach. Enjoy fresh seafood at one of the excellent restaurants in Batemans Bay overlooking the Clyde River or take a guided kayaking paddle up the Clyde and discover the Oyster farms and sample their succulent produce.

C Leg 3: Batemans Bay to Canberra 149km, 2 hours

Travel via the historic town of Braidwood on the Kings Highway to Canberra. The national capital has an outstanding collection of national treasures including Parliament House, the Australian Institute of Sport, the Australian War Memorial and much more. Hire a bike to ride around Lake Burley Griffin in the city or take a hot air balloon ride for something different. Canberra is also known for its fine restaurants and cool climate wineries.

D Leg 4: Canberra to Batemans Bay to Merimbula 329km, 3 hours 50 minutes

Travel back to Batemans Bay before heading south again. En route, stop off in Narooma and visit Montague Island Nature Reserve, famous for its seals, penguins and rich bird life. Travel inland to Bega, a heritage town that is famous for its cheese production. Head back out to the coast to Merimbula, to its lively esplanade lined with great cafes and restaurants as well as coastal walks, wreck diving and dolphin cruises. Pick up some freshly shucked oysters from Wheelers Oyster Barn and enjoy with a sunset drink.

E Leg 5: Merimbula to Lakes Entrance 269km, 3 hours

Visit the Killer Whale Museum at Eden on the way through or take a whale-watching cruise in spring. If you are lucky you will catch the Eden Whale Festival. Lakes Entrance is known as the seafood capital of Australia. Cross the footbridge and explore Ninety Mile Beach or take a lake cruise and winery tour before enjoying a meal of fresh seafood.



F Leg 6: Lakes Entrance to Walhalla 202km, 2 hours 40 minutes

Travel through Bairnsdale and Sale before reaching the rolling hills of West Gippsland. Take the turnoff to Walhalla to ride on the Walhalla Goldfields Railway or venture deep into the mountain on a tour of the Long Tunnel Extended Gold Mine.

G Leg 7: Walhalla to Melbourne 182km, 2 hours 10 minutes

On the final leg savour the fresh air and fresh produce of the countryside, meet local vignerons at cellar doors on the way into Melbourne.

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	-

