

# Destination Conservation Experience



## The Great Ocean Road Victoria

*Help conserve and explore the Great Ocean Road*



*Make a difference as you travel*



## Overview

### Help conserve and explore the Great Ocean Road

Located not far from Melbourne, The Great Ocean Road is an iconic destination in Victoria which offers historic sites as well as awe-inspiring natural beauty. This program uniquely combines conservation and travel along the most famous road-trip experience in Australia.

You'll experience a variety of conservation activities in diverse coastal and inland locations. Environments we'll help protect and restore include coastal sand dunes, woodlands, wetlands and other areas of important wildlife habitat. Koalas, kangaroos and emus are some of the native Australian animals we'll see, while exploring a variety of National Parks and waterfalls along the way.

We'll also stay in a variety of coastal towns throughout our journey and introduce you to Aboriginal culture at Tower Hill. Join us to make a difference in one of Australia's famous coastal locations for nature and heritage.

### Highlights

- Discover the Great Ocean Road and be awe-struck by the incredible Twelve Apostles, London Arch and Loch Ard Gorge along the Shipwreck Coast
- Visit iconic Bells Beach, a world-famous surfing location, and the Eastern View Memorial Arch
- Volunteer and learn a diverse range of practical conservation skills that impact important wetlands, coastal sand dunes, woodlands and more
- Explore rainforests, waterfalls, inland plains, coastal and mountain regions, plus Otway and Port Campbell National Parks
- See loads of wildlife such as koalas, kangaroos, emus, brologas, dolphins and migrating whales (June-Sept), and enjoy the rugged coast line of South West Victoria
- Experience an abundance of native animals at Tower Hill and enjoy a guided twilight tour to gain insights into Indigenous culture and Aboriginal lifestyles

## What you'll see and do

**Day 1** 8.45am meet your Conservation Volunteers Australia host at Docklands in Melbourne where we'll take you by ferry across bustling Port Phillip Bay. With luck you'll catch a glimpse of dolphins or whales (in winter) and take in the distant granite peaks of the You Yang mountains. Upon arrival we'll begin our conservation activities on the foreshore and Ramsar-listed Swan Bay Wetlands, helping with habitat restoration and marine debris collection. With luck you'll see a sea eagle and other wildlife throughout the afternoon. This evening we'll settle into our accommodations at the historic township of \*Queenscliff.

**Meals: Lunch and dinner.**

*\*CVA reserves the right to accommodate the group in Portarlington or Barwon Heads as needed.*

**Day 2** This morning we'll begin our conservation activities by helping with coastal sand dune rehabilitation at scenic Barwon Heads. This site enjoys fantastic views of the Southern Ocean and the many bluffs and lighthouses along the coastline. In the afternoon we'll start our trip along the famous Great Ocean Road: sites we'll see include the Eastern View (Memorial) Arch, iconic surfing destination Bells Beach, Split Point Lighthouse and Aireys Inlet. Finally, we'll setting into our overnight accommodation in the picturesque township of Lorne.

**Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.**

**Day 3** Get ready to explore the Great Ocean Road! Start with a visit to Erskine Falls, then discover the lighthouses, rainforests and koalas of Otway National Park. We then visit the famous Twelve Apostles, London Bridge and Loch Ard Gorge along the Shipwreck Coast. Keep a lookout for migrating whales between June and September. At twilight we'll visit Tower Hill and take an Aboriginal cultural tour to learn about bush tucker, Aboriginal lifestyles and native wildlife. Learn how to throw a boomerang, and as night closes in we'll hopefully see emus, kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas and a range of birdlife. We'll end our action-packed day by overnighing in the town of Warrnambool, at the very end of the Great Ocean Road.

**Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.**

**Day 4** Today we'll stay within the vicinity of Warrnambool and support the conservation efforts of the local Basalt to Bay Landcare network. Get ready for a full day of volunteering on seasonal environmental activities such as tree planting, pest plant control and flora and fauna surveys in rare and special places. Tonight, we'll return to our accommodation in Warrnambool and get better acquainted with the historic buildings and attractive streetscapes of this friendly regional coastal town.

**Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.**

**Day 5** On our final day we'll travel inland and east towards Melbourne via the volcanic western plains where we'll volunteer at the wildlife haven of Serendip Sanctuary. Our activities will focus on invasive weed control, native vegetation and animal habitat management. The Sanctuary provides opportunities for close encounters with wildlife such as emus and eastern grey kangaroos, along with a variety of birdlife such as brolgas, whistling kites and spoonbills. Lastly, we'll drive to the dramatic granite peaks of You Yangs National Park for a nature walk, before returning to city life in Melbourne.

**Meals: Breakfast and lunch.**

**Disclaimer:**

1- Conservation Volunteers reserves the right to change the itinerary, volunteer activities and accommodations without notice. Safety and the management of risks are CV's primary concern. We thank volunteers for their flexibility and understanding if changes occur.

2- We do our absolute best to deliver volunteer experiences that leave you inspired, educated and up close with native wildlife when possible. However, please realise that due to the inherent nature of viewing wild animals (particularly rare or endangered species) in their natural habitat, we cannot guarantee with 100% certainty that there will be sightings on every program.

## Conservation Impact

Our conservation activities cover a variety of coastal, wetland and inland areas, and link in with a number of other community partners.

**Port Phillip Bay** - An area of significant ecological importance. For example, up to 82% of the marine life in Port Phillip Bay is found nowhere else in the world. Likewise, around 1,300 different plant and animal species are endemic (unique) to Port Phillip Bay. Also, the Bay is home to around 100 individuals of the bottlenose dolphin known as the Burrunan, which some studies suggest may be a distinct species. In comparison, in the Great Barrier Reef only 10% of the marine life is unique to the area. For these reasons, protecting the Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park environment from marine debris is going to have important ecological impacts.

**Barwon Heads coastal sand dune rehabilitation** - This wild coastline of cliffs, rock platforms, sand dunes and surf provide habitat for a diverse range of animals and plants, includes threatened Coastal Moonah Woodlands and wetlands with high environmental biodiversity and conservation values. By tackling invasive weeds, we will help prevent them spreading all along the coast and ruining this beautiful and picturesque environment.

**Basalt to Bay Landcare** – South west Victoria is home to some of the most productive agricultural areas in Victoria. Unfortunately, this has resulted in many of the existing remnant bushland areas being small, isolated and sometimes under pressure from those adjoining agricultural practices. Conservation Volunteers are supporting the hard work of Basalt to Bay Landcare who are working with farmers to develop more sustainable practices including protecting remnant bushland, revegetation and indigenous shelter belt plantings to link isolated remnants and encourage greater community engagement and understanding of existing bushland reserves.

**Serendip Sanctuary** - Located at the base of the You Yangs, 60km from Melbourne and 22km north of Geelong, Serendip is a haven for nature enthusiasts and wildlife watchers. Originally used for farming, in 1959 the state government purchased the Sanctuary to create a protected area for wildlife research, captive management and breeding for threatened species such as the Eastern Barred Bandicoot, whose grasslands habitat has been destroyed by over 99%. Conservation Volunteers has a long-term partnership with Serendip Sanctuary (Parks Victoria) where our volunteers assist in establishing crucial grasslands to support our amazing threatened species.

## Logistics

Duration	5 days / 4 nights
Departs	Melbourne (Starting in January 2019)
Meeting location	8.45am Docklands Ferry Terminal - 131 Harbour Esplanade. Victoria Harbour, Docklands

### [Departure Point Location](#)

Return time	4.00pm Melbourne Southern Cross Train – Corner of Collins Street and Spencer Street Melbourne
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### [Drop Off Point Location](#)

## What is included

- Experienced Conservation Volunteers team leader
- Return transfers from Melbourne (including ferry across Port Phillip Bay)
- 4 nights' bunk room accommodation in shared accommodation and backpackers lodging
- Monday – LD, Tuesday to Thursday – BLD, Friday – BL
- Conservation activities and equipment
- Visitor inclusions: Bells Beach, Erskine Falls, Cape Otway, Tower Hill Twilight Bush and Nature Walk, Great Ocean Road attractions (Twelve Apostles, London Bridge and Loch Ard Gorge), and You Yangs National Park
- Certificate of appreciation

## What's not included

- Travel to Melbourne city departure point (Docklands)
- Meals - Friday – D, Saturday and Sunday BLD, Monday - B
- Laundry, medical expenses, personal travel insurance and items of a personal nature
- Visa and passport charges
- Departure, airport and airline charges
- Souvenirs, any additional tours or activities

## Accommodation and Meals

Our accommodation along the Bellarine Coast and Great Ocean Road will be in shared dorm rooms with communal bathroom amenities. Please bring a sleeping bag and bath towel.

- Monday: Queenscliffe, Portarlington or Barwon Heads Caravan Park – Shared Style Accommodation
- Tuesday: Lorne Backpackers
- Wednesday: Warrnambool Backpackers
- Thursday: Warrnambool Backpackers

Three meals a day and snacks are provided except on day 1 (breakfast) and 5 (dinner). Meal-preparation is a shared responsibility, with different participants taking turns helping to manage the meal preparation and clean-up. Don't worry if you're not a great cook, as everyone can do something to help, even if it's just chopping vegetables!

## Fitness

Expect a moderate amount of physical activity. Conservation activities involve active-hands on projects and potentially walking on unmarked tracks and in warm climatic conditions. We take regular rest breaks and you also are encouraged to monitor yourself to determine your need for a time-out.

## Equipment and Clothing

**Luggage is strictly limited to a maximum of 15kgs – the following items are essential:**

- Backpack
- Long trousers and Long-sleeved shirts
- Strong boots\*
- Wide-brimmed sun hat
- Sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries and bath towel
- Sunscreen – choose high protection (at least SPF 30) and Insect repellent
- Wet weather clothing
- Personal drink bottle (approx. 1 Litre)
- Sunglasses

\*Conservation Volunteers recommends strong work or walking boots that will protect your feet and ankles – make sure they are comfortable!

## Weather

Victoria enjoys warm summers, glorious springs, mild autumns and crisp winters.

With its variable climate, Melbourne hots up December to February (summer), cools down March to May (autumn), chills out June to August (winter), and warms up again September to November (spring).

Melbourne's highest temperatures are usually in January and February. Those months are often dry, with hot spells and cooling afternoon breezes off Port Phillip Bay. June and July are the coldest months, and October is the wettest. Annual average rainfall for Melbourne is around 650mm – less wet than Sydney!

Please bring the appropriate clothing (and sleeping bag) for the climate in the area and time you have chosen to visit. Using a quality guidebook or talking with your travel agent will help.

### More Information

Freecall in Australia: 1800 032 501  
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