

# Drive Australia

## DRIVING GUIDE



...driving since 1988

# Welcome

## THE SELF-DRIVE SPECIALISTS

### Welcome!

Thank you for downloading our Self-Drive Guide. As you're likely to be in the planning stage for your next holiday, we've put together a selection of driving itineraries, along with suggested key attractions to visit along the way. Our driving tips will have you driving around Australia like a local.

Here at DriveAway Holidays, we believe that there's no better way to experience freedom than by taking a self-drive holiday. As the leading specialist in Australia offering worldwide car hire, motorhome rentals, motorcycles and European Peugeot Leasing, find the best deals from world-leading suppliers with the expertise and knowledge of our team; and take the road to freedom on your next self-drive holiday!

At DriveAway we are proud of our prices, so don't forget, if you find a cheaper price with the same supplier and details we will beat it!

Drive Safely,

The DriveAway Holidays Team

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## AUSTRALIAN DISCOVERY



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# Why Self-Drive

## IN AUSTRALIA



There is no denying that Australia is a big country! As the sixth largest in the world, its landscapes are diverse; rainforest's, long stretches of beach, and of course the vast outback. Unless you have only one destination in mind, the best way to get around is by hiring a car. Plan your own road trip and itinerary to make the best use of your time in this Great Southern Land. The east coast of Australia is the most populated and is made up of four states: New South Wales, Queensland, The ACT and Victoria. This is where you will find the larger cities such as Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, as well as popular holiday destinations such as Cairns, Byron Bay and Port Macquarie. The east is also home to Australia's ski fields which are located near the New South Wales and Victorian borders. Featuring a rugged coastline along the Great Australian Bite, the southern region of is where great deserts meet the Southern Ocean. Home to the cities of Adelaide, and Coober Pedy, the south offers visitors unique destinations and plenty of open space.

Travel to the north of Australia for a real outback experience in cities such as Darwin and Alice Springs. The vast wilderness combines amazing wildlife and cultural heritage. The West Coast is an expansive area with few cities and endless natural space. Explore the cities of Perth, Exmouth, Geraldton and Broome, driving along thousands of kilometres of unspoilt rugged coastline!



# Renting A Car










## IN AUSTRALIA



When selecting a rental vehicle take into consideration where you will be travelling, how many people will be travelling in the vehicle, luggage size and the kind of driving you intend to do. DriveAway Holidays offers a vast range of vehicles from small economy sizes to larger full-sized cars, 4WDs, convertibles and luxury vehicles.

### Collecting at an Airport in Australia

At most Australian airports you will find your rental company has a desk in the arrivals hall, with the rental cars being located within walking distance. However, at smaller airports you may be required to collect your vehicle from a downtown depot and a courtesy transfer will be provided from the airport to the depot. DriveAway Holidays offer all-inclusive prices which generally include any location / airport fees and charges that may otherwise apply. Remember to check at time of booking to ensure your rental will include all airport fees.

<b>Economy</b> Nissan Micra  4 people, 1 luggage, 0 bags	<b>Compact</b> Hyundai i20  5 people, 1 luggage, 1 bag	<b>Standard</b> Hyundai Elantra  5 people, 2 luggage, 2 bags	<b>GREAT VALUE</b> <b>Full Size</b> Toyota Camry  5 people, 2 luggage, 3 bags	<b>Premium</b> Mercedes C Class  5 people, 2 luggage, 2 bags
<b>Wagon</b> Toyota Kluger Wagon  5 people, 2 luggage, 2 bags	<b>Standard SUV</b> Toyota Rav 4  5 people, 2 luggage, 3 bags	<b>Full Size SUV</b> Toyota Pajero  5 people, 2 luggage, 3 bags	<b>Minivan</b> Kia Carnival  8 people, 2 luggage, 1 bag	<b>12 Seater Van</b> Toyota Commuter  12 people, 2 luggage, 2 bags

# Renting A Car

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### **Do I need a credit card?**

Yes. A credit card will be needed when collecting, which will be used to take a deposit. The deposit is generally the insurance excess of the rental car which can vary depending on the category of vehicle you have booked.

### **Can I choose between Automatic and Manual Transmissions?**

Automatic and manual vehicles are available in Australia and are generally similar in price to rent, so choose which one you feel most comfortable driving.

### **Can I collect my rental car in one Australian city and drop it off in another Australian city?**

One-way rentals are possible in Australia however fees may apply. Check with DriveAway Holidays when making your reservation.

### **What do I do if I want to extend my car rental once it has already been collected?**

There are two options - one is to contact DriveAway Holidays and we will assist you with your amendment if the supplier permits the change. Additional fees may apply and the daily car rental price may be different from what you initially paid. Alternatively, contact the supplier directly who will be able to assist you. If the vehicle is available, you will be charged at the supplier's local rate.

### **Is it safe to drive in rural and remote areas?**

Driving in rural and remote areas requires special driving skills and awareness of different road conditions. If you are travelling to remote areas off major highways, make sure you have plenty of fuel as well as food and water. There are often long distances between towns and facilities so it's important that you plan your trip before setting off. If you are planning to travel to remote areas that are not on major highways, inform family or friends of your intended route and expected arrival time (ETA). You may also consider hiring emergency communications equipment like a satellite phone or an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPRIB) device.

# Insurance

## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW...

Australian law requires all vehicles to have compulsory third party (CTP) injury insurance, although your car rental supplier should already have comprehensive insurance covering their cars. In the case of an accident it must be reported to the insurance provider immediately and an excess will be due.

Car Rental Companies in Australia will normally include:

- > Third Party Insurance: Compulsory insurance and will be included in your car hire price. This covers you for other people's injury and damage to their vehicle.
- > Collision Damage Waiver (CDW): This limits your financial liability for damage to the rented vehicle and is normally included in prepaid car hire prices. Rentals are normally subject to liability excess, which can be reduced at the time you collect your rental car or by taking out **DriveAway Hire Car Excess Insurance**.
- > Theft and Loss Cover: This limits your financial liability for the loss or theft of the rented vehicle and is generally included in the prepaid car rental price.
- > Fire and Liability: Limits your financial liability for bodily injury or death and is normally included in the prepaid car hire price.
- > Personal Accident Insurance: This covers the driver for personal injuries and is generally not included in your car rental rate. It is considered an optional extra that you can take out upon collection of the car.

## DriveAway Hire Car Excess Insurance

When renting a vehicle, the rental rates include basic insurance, however, in the event that the vehicle is stolen or accidentally damaged, there is usually an Insurance excess amount which the driver is liable to pay to the rental company. To avoid any unexpected costs opt for DriveAway Hire Car Excess Insurance which will offer a reimbursement for the supplier's damage and theft excess to a maximum for AU\$5,000. Simply add this onto your car rental booking prior to departure and you could save thousands of dollars in the long run! To find out more, simply call DriveAway Holidays on 1300 363 500 or visit the DriveAway website.

**DriveAway  
Holidays**  
*Your road to freedom*

Your  
Excess  
Insurance

- > Pre-paid product
  - > Less than AUD\$13 per day
  - > Paid in Australian dollars
  - > Claim up to AUD\$5,000
- Call 1300 363 500  
Visit [www.driveaway.com.au](http://www.driveaway.com.au)

The DriveAway Hire Car Excess Insurance is managed by Accident & Health International Underwriting Pty Limited, ABN 26 053 335 952, AFSL 238261 and underwritten by CGU Insurance Limited, ABN 27 004 478 371, AFSL 238291.

# Motorhome Rentals

## YOU ONLY NEED TO UNPACK ONCE!

A motorhome self drive holiday in Australia is perfect for short or long breaks. Enjoy self drive itineraries such as Hunter Valley to Barrington Tops, Canberra and its surroundings, Victoria's Great Ocean Road drive, South Australia's Barossa Valley, the East coast of Tasmania, Western Australia's coral coast and Monkey Mia, Ayers Rock in the Northern Territory to Queensland's Great Barrier Reef. With over 200 top tourist parks located throughout Australia you will never be too far from a caravan/camping park!

Depots are located in Adelaide, Alice Springs, Brisbane, Broome, Cairns, Darwin, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney so there is bound to be a convenient location near you. Motorhomes in Australia are available in both automatic and manual options and can sleep from 2 up to 6 people.

View some of the fleet below and visit [www.driveaway.com.au/motorhomes](http://www.driveaway.com.au/motorhomes) for the full fleet and specifications:



Britz: Safari Landcruiser 4WD  
5 Berth: Sleeps 5 (in tent)  
Manual  
No Shower/Toilet



Mighty: Jackpot  
2-3 Berth: Sleeps 2 - 3  
Manual  
No Shower/Toilet



Britz: Explorer  
4 Berth: Sleeps 4  
Automatic  
Shower/Toilet



Maui: Ultima  
2 Berth: Sleeps 2  
Automatic  
Shower/Toilet



Mighty: Big Six  
6 Berth: Sleeps 6  
Automatic  
Shower/Toilet



Maui: River  
6 Berth: Sleeps 6  
Automatic  
Shower/Toilet



# Driving

## IN AUSTRALIA



### Driving Laws in Australia

- A valid licence needs to be carried by the driver of a vehicle at all times. For foreign travellers with a driver's licence in another language, an English translation needs to be carried. Some rental companies however will only rent to drivers who have an international driving permit, so be sure to check this with DriveAway Holidays when making your booking.
- Drive on the left hand side of the road in Australia and overtake in the right lane. Vehicles are right-hand drive.
- Seatbelts must be worn at all times by both drivers and passengers.
- Children younger than 6 months must be secured in a rearward facing restraint. Children aged 6 mths - 4 yrs must be in a rear or forward facing restraint. Children aged 4yrs - 7yrs must be secured in a forward facing child restraint or booster seat.
- The legal limit blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is under 0.05. Provisional drivers must have a zero BAC.
- It is illegal to talk on or use your mobile phone whilst driving in Australia.
- Speed Limits: (Unless signed otherwise) City and Residential roads: 50-60km/h Highways: 100 km/h Freeways: 110km/h School Zones: 40km/h at specific times of the day.
- In the case of accidents in Australia, it is essential to exchange details with the other parties involved. If the other vehicle is unattended you must leave a note with your details. For serious accidents involving injuries and detrimental vehicle damage, notify the police by dialing 000.

### Driving Off-Road

In most cases, car rental suppliers will not permit travel on un-sealed roads or off-road unless it is reasonably unavoidable. This will also include driving through rivers, streams or beaches and in some cases above the snow line in the Australian ski fields. You will not be covered by insurance if you do drive in these conditions - so check with DriveAway Holidays when you book to ensure exactly where you can drive.

### Important Road Signs

**Stop Sign:** Red octagon with 'STOP' in the centre.

**Give Way:** Triangle with red border and white centre.

**Speed Limits:** Usually a red or black circle with the speed limit in km/h in the centre.

**Warning/Caution signs:** Usually yellow diamond shaped signs showing the possible threat ahead.

**Touring Routes:** Brown background with white writing, indicating popular tourist routes.

### Encountering Wildlife

With wildlife found throughout Australia including near the outskirts of major cities, extra caution needs to be taken when driving on rural roads. Take care when driving in areas which aren't built up, particularly around dawn, dusk and night-time. Kangaroos, wombats and koalas frequently venture onto roads and can cause accidents to unsuspecting drivers.

# Driving IN AUSTRALIA



## Licence Requirements

When renting a vehicle in Australia, a driver will generally need to have held a full licence for a minimum of one year. Some suppliers may make exceptions, however fees may apply.

## Min & Max Age Requirements

The minimum age for drivers renting a car in Australia does vary, with most suppliers requiring a minimum of 21. It is important to check this when booking rental car, and also be sure to enquire about a young driver's surcharge which may apply to those under the age of 24. This charge can range from AU\$20 to AU\$30 per day. Some suppliers do have a maximum age limit also, so drivers aged over 75 should check this at the time of booking with DriveAway Holidays.

## Child Safety

- **Newborn up to 6 months:** Approved rear facing child car seat with a built-in 5 or 6 point harness.
- **6 months to 4 years:** Approved rear or forward facing child car seat with a built-in 5 or 6 point harness.
- **4 - 7 years:** Children aged from four years old but under seven years old must be secured in a forward facing approved child restraint with an inbuilt harness or an approved booster seat.
- **7 - 16 years:** Must use either an approved child restraint (a child safety seat or booster seat depending on their size), or a seatbelt that is properly adjusted and fastened.
- **An adult seatbelt won't generally fit a child properly until they are at least 145cm tall. Children should remain in a booster seat until they can wear a seatbelt safely.**

## Parking Laws

There are various types of free and paid parking options within Australia. In the larger cities parking can be costly for limited periods of time. As signage, rates and time limits vary between states, it is important to check your options before planning to drive into the centre of one of the main cities.

## Road Tolls & E-Tags

Whilst the vast majority of roads in Australia feature no tolls or fees there are some, particularly bridges, freeways and tunnels, which do charge drivers for their use. These are mainly found in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. You can pay with cash at some points, however many are now switching to electronic tolling, where an electronic tag (also called an E-Tag) is attached to the vehicle and is picked up by sensors along the route. If you are planning to drive in major cities enquire about these tolls with the rental company before you set off.

# Driving IN AUSTRALIA



## Australian Driving Distances

From:	To:	Approx Distance (km)	Approx Travel Time (hr)
Adelaide	Barossa Valley	70	1
Adelaide	Port Augusta	322	3.5
Alice Springs	Uluru	440	5.5
Darwin	Alice Springs	1497	17.5
Brisbane	Gold Coast	80	1.5
Brisbane	Cairns	1750	22
Brisbane	Noosa Heads	139	2.5
Canberra	Sydney	300	4
Canberra	Melbourne	650	6.75
Canberra	Thredbo	200	2.5
Hobart	Launceston	197	2.75
Melbourne	Adelaide	730	9.5
Melbourne	Brisbane	1799	22
Melbourne	Warrnanbool	268	3.5
Perth	Broome	2175	26
Perth	Margaret River	268	3.5
Perth	Karratha	1536	18.5
Sydney	Newcastle	165	2.5
Sydney	Melbourne	880	10.25
Sydney	Coffs Harbour	534	6.75
Sydney	Wagga Wagga	461	5
Sydney	Brisbane	1000	12

## Australian Road Signs



Give Way Sign



Stop Sign



No Right Turn

# EXPLORING AUSTRALIA

## CONTENTS:

NEW SOUTH WALES

VICTORIA

QUEENSLAND

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

TASMANIA

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NORTHERN TERRITORY



# New South Wales

## A GEOGRAPHICAL PLAYGROUND



The state of New South Wales is home to the world famous Sydney Harbour Bridge, beautiful Bondi Beach and timeless history. Sydney is a majestic city filled with so much to see and do. Start by visiting museums, enjoy shopping and try the local and international cuisine. Once night falls climb over the steel arches of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the views are extraordinary and will surely take your breath away. A road trip along the highways of NSW is fantastic with many scenic routes to take. One idea is to visit Wollongong, just over an hour drive from Sydney; it is a pleasant place to relax away from the hustle and bustle of the busy city. The Blue Mountains are also a fantastic place to visit, you will be surrounded with a peaceful atmosphere filled with fresh air and fantastic scenery.

### Events

#### JANUARY

**Sydney Festival** - Three weeks of music concerts, dance, art and outdoor entertainment.

**Australia Day** - Whether you're in the city, on the coast or in a regional area, there are lots of events happening.

#### MARCH

**Mardi Gras** - A parade of costumes and colour, the largest gay pride event in the world.

#### MAY

**Vivid Sydney** - An annual festival of light, music and ideas – the largest of its kind in the world.

#### SEPTEMBER

**Sydney Running Festival** - Choose from a number of courses to run - The Sydney Marathon, Half Marathon, Bridge Run (9km) and the Family Fun Run (4.0km)

#### OCTOBER

**Sculpture by the Sea** - A large outdoor sculpture exhibition located on the coastal cliffs between Bondi and Bronte.

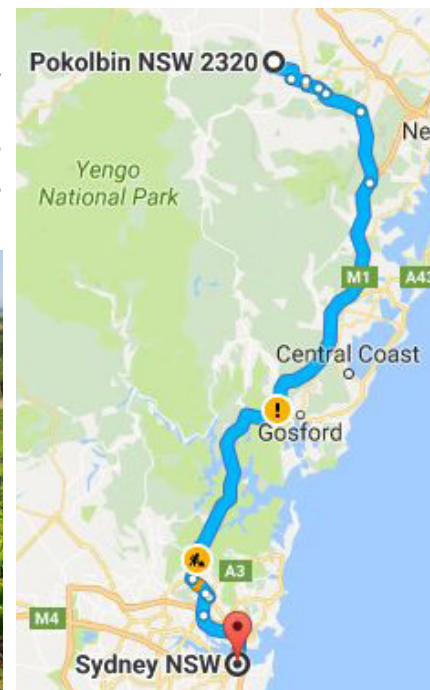
#### NOVEMBER

**Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race** - Departs from Sydney Harbour on Boxing Day.

# Self-Drive Tours in New South Wales

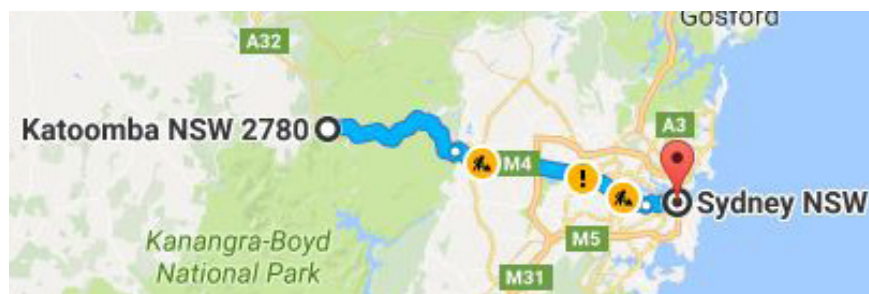
## Hunter Valley

Just two hours northwest of Sydney, the Hunter valley is famous for its many fine wineries. Head north of Sydney on the freeway towards Newcastle, then take the exit near Freeman's Waterhole, which will lead you to the Hunter region. Here you will find over 120 wine cellars, fine dining, gardens and health spas.



## The Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains inherited its name from the blue haze given off by the eucalyptus trees. Located just 50kms west of Sydney, enjoy stunning scenery and spectacular views of the magnificent Three Sisters rock formations. Be sure to visit the charming city of Katoomba and discover the thrill of a 52° incline riding the steepest passenger railway in the world. Enjoy picturesque Leura and the Jenolan Caves. Take a bushwalk along the Six Foot Track, the Megalong Valley and Wentworth Falls. Visit the small art galleries that display the local artist's work or visit the Norman Lindsay Gallery in Faulconbridge with its magnificent gardens.



**How to get there?** From the City, follow signs to Parramatta and join the M4 Motorway (Great Western Highway) which starts at Strathfield and takes you to the Blue Mountains. Alternatively for a more scenic and longer drive, follow the Bell's Line of Road, commencing at Richmond and passing over Mount Victoria.

### ATTRACTIONS

- » Hunter Valley Vineyards
- » Hunter Valley Gardens
- » Blue Mountains
- » Bushwalking Trails
- » Whale Watching
- » Wine Tours



The Three Sisters

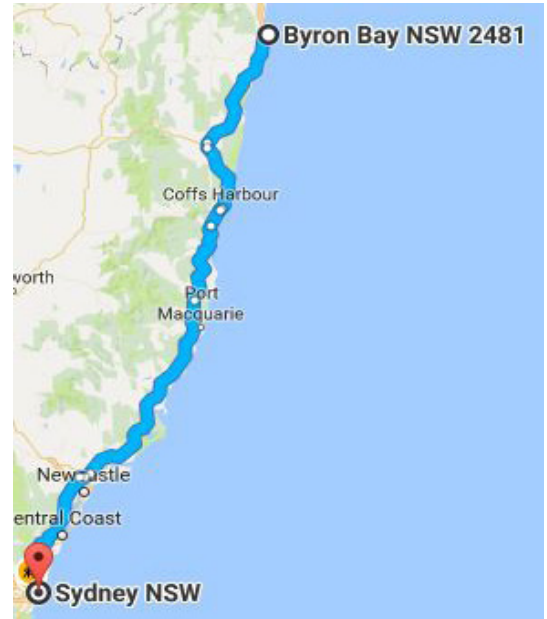
# Self-Drive Tours in New South Wales

## The NSW North Coast

When planning a road trip in Australia, a popular route is to head up the coast from Sydney. There are many stunning beaches and towns to check out on the road to Brisbane. Just north of Newcastle, stop off at Nelson bay, located just over 2 hours from Sydney. Here you will find a small seaside town, with popular activities such as dolphin watching and camel riding.

Travelling north, stop off at Port Macquarie for a variety of water activities and take advantage of the network of rivers, canals, lakes and beaches. At Coffs Harbour, enjoy scuba diving and white-water rafting - don't forget to visit the Big Banana - one of the oldest "big things" in Australia! Kids will enjoy the toboggan rides, banana-splits, ice-skating and the wild waterslide.

Heading north towards the border you will find the laid-back beachside towns of Ballina and Byron bay. Discover stretches of stunning surf beaches, rolling hinterland and natural wilderness.



Port Macquarie

### ATTRACTIONS

- » Billabong Koala and Wildlife Park
- » Tacking Point Lighthouse
- » Big Banana
- » Dorrigo National Park
- » Kiama Blowhole
- » Pebbly Beach

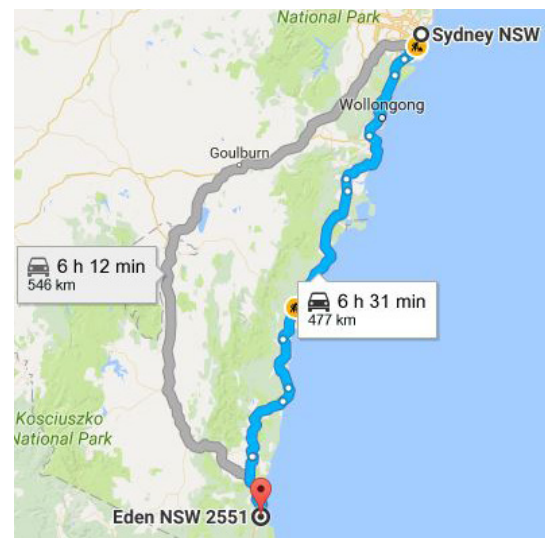
## The NSW South Coast

There are some magnificent places to explore on the south coast of NSW. One option is to follow the Grand Pacific Drive, which begins in Stanwell Tops, just south of Sydney, and winds its way south along the coast through such towns as Wollongong, Kiama, Shellharbour and on to Nowra. You will be able to drive along a stretch of road which was recently built and transverses along the coastline, over the waters edge. Stop off at fantastic beaches, coastal towns and villages. Head inland from Kiama and experience the Illawarra Fly Tree Top Walk which offers outstanding views of the surrounding rainforests and the coastline.

Travel further south through Nowra along the Princes Highway and along the south coast of NSW. Visit the white sands of Jervis Bay, the fishing villages around Ulladulla and the picturesque seaside towns of the Sapphire Coast such as Batemans Bay, Merimbula and Eden.



Little Blowhole Kiama

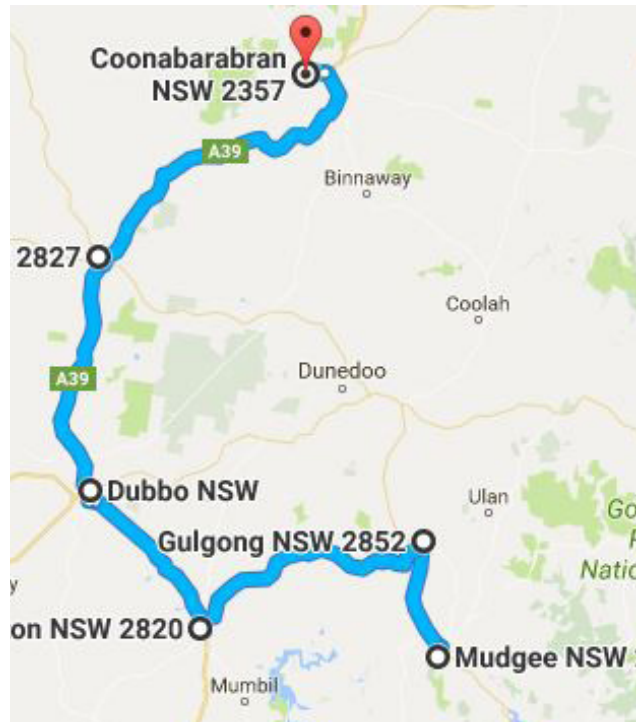


# Self-Drive Tours in New South Wales

## The Best of Country NSW

This route takes in some of the best country towns in NSW. Commence at the town of Coonabarabran, which you can use as a base to explore the spectacular Warrumbungle National Park or visit one of the observatories at night to see millions of stars in the country sky. Drive through the Biddon State Forest to Gilgandra on the Castlereagh River where you can explore the museums and learn of the local indigenous Wiradjuri people who first inhabited this region. Head south on the Newell Highway to Dubbo, spending a day or two at the Dubbo Western Plains Zoo and visit the Old Dubbo Gaol.

Follow the Mitchell Highway south to Wellington, where you can enjoy the extensive town gardens, unwind, fish at the massive Lake Burrendong or explore the Wellington Caves just outside of town. Drive east to historic Gulgong which was famous in the gold rush era and was once home to the poet Henry Lawson. From here, drive through one of NSW's best food & wine producing regions south east to the town of Mudgee. This region is full of Australian history and beautiful vineyards, creating world class wines and produce.



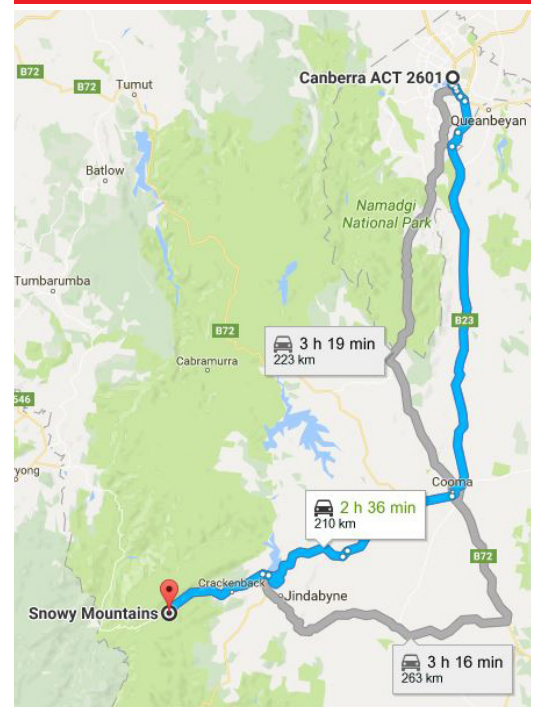
Dubbo River

### ATTRACTIONS

- » Wollemi National Park
- » Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve
- » Taronga Western Plains Zoo
- » Old Dubbo Gaol
- » Mount Kosciuszko
- » Charlotte Pass
- » Thredbo Village

## The Snowy Mountains

Three hours drive from Canberra will take you to the alpine national parks - a playground of adventure activities. During wintertime, visit the ski resorts of Thredbo and Perisher, home to a vast network of ski runs and lifts. Activities in the summertime include mountain climbing, bushwalking and mountain biking. For a scenic hike, climb Mt Kosciuszko from Charlotte Pass, enjoying stunning scenery and wildlife.





# Victoria

## DYNAMIC & COSMOPOLITAN



Victoria is fast becoming one of Australia's most popular states for holiday makers. Diverse and full of beauty, chose from world-class wineries to natural springs, coastal villages and alpine towns. Victoria is a self-drive destination full off endless roads waiting to be discovered. There are 12 distinct regions which make up this exciting state. Melbourne is truly a multicultural city packed with food, wine, sports and arts. Enjoy a meal along the Yarra River in Southbank, take a dip at the St Kilda Baths, and enjoy a beverage at one of Carlton's bars. Geelong and the Bellarine is full off fine food and wine, historic seaside villages and breathtaking natural beauty. The Great Ocean Road is one the world's most scenic coastal drives and the 12 Apostles should not be missed. Yarra Valley has some of Australia's finest wine, while wandering the Dandenong Ranges find hidden villages, arts and craft stores and extensive walking trails. Inhale fresh air in the Grampians where the scenery is lush and the local wildlife is lively or get your adrenaline pumping in the rugged but calming surrounds.

## Events

### JANUARY

**The Australian Open** - World-class Tennis Tournament

### MARCH

**Australian F1 Grand Prix** - Formula 1 Racing event hold over 4 days.

### APRIL

**Melbourne International Comedy Festival** - The third largest 3 week comedy festival in the world.

### OCTOBER

**Melbourne International Arts Festival** - Held over two weeks, packed with music, dance, art and theatre.

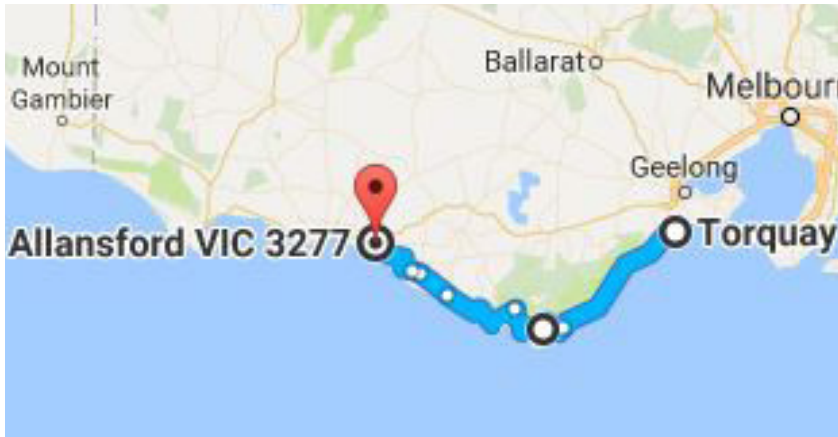
### NOVEMBER

**Melbourne Cup** - The biggest horse race in the Southern Hemisphere. Known as 'The race that stops a nation'.

# Self-Drive Tours in Victoria

## The Great Ocean Road

Covering a distance of 243km, the Great Ocean Road is regarded as one of the most scenic drives in Australia. Head west of Melbourne and travel through this stunning scenery along the way. Stop at charming towns along the way such as Apollo Bay, Lorne and Warrnambool. Visit Bells Beach, one of the most famous surfing beaches in the country. As you make your journey along the coast, marvel at one of Australia's natural attractions, the 12 Apostles, making the drive even more scenic and special.



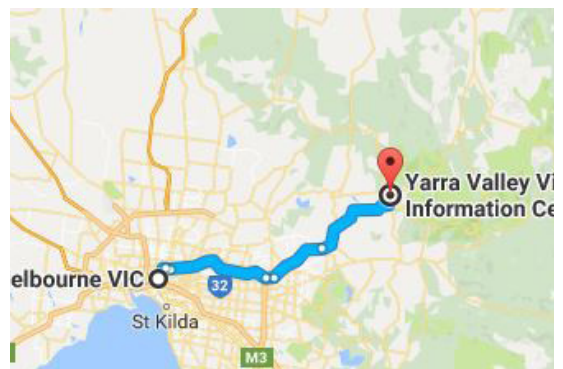
## Yarra Valley

Located a short distance east of the city, the Yarra Valley is a popular destination for day trips and short breaks from Melbourne. Visitors come here to enjoy the scenery and the great outdoors, as well as visit the many wineries and farms located here. Explore the region by car, sampling great local produce along the way. Stop off at the charming towns of Yarra Glen, Warburton, Badger Creek and Milgrove, or perhaps head into the Yarra Ranges National Park and explore the lush forests that it contains.



### ATTRACTIONS

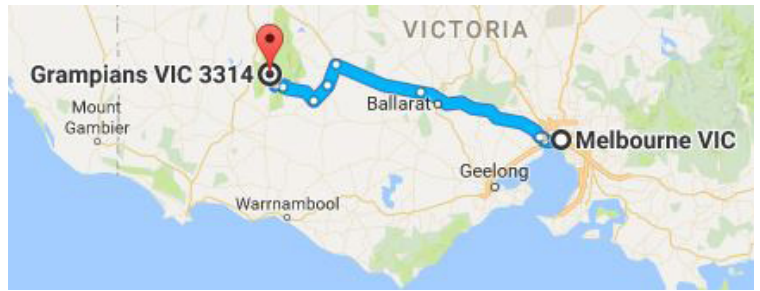
- » The Twelve Apostles
- » Great Otway National Park
- » Tower Hill State Game Reserve
- » Alowyn Gardens
- » Blue Lotus Water Garden
- » Cathedral Range State Park



# Self-Drive Tours in Victoria

## Explore the Grampians

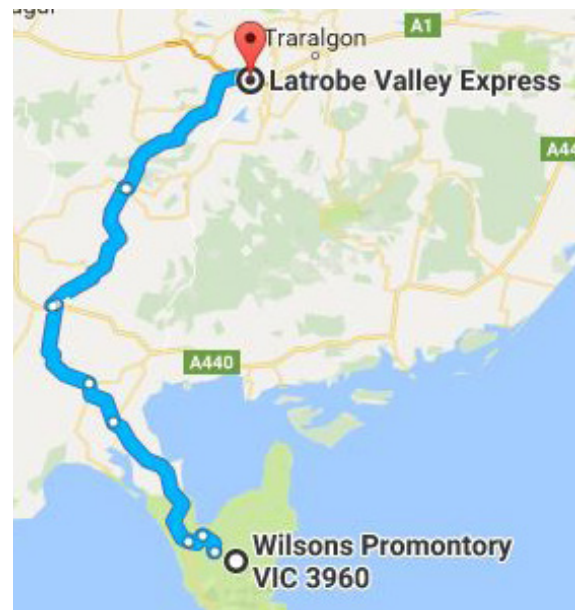
Located roughly three hours northwest of Melbourne, the Grampians National Park is a popular destination for visitors keen to unwind and enjoy the scenery. Small towns can be found throughout the area and while touring here you will discover waterfalls, lakes, untouched forests and rugged mountain landscapes, which create a tranquil region.



## Grand Ridge Road, Gippsland

This drive will take you from Latrobe Valley to the southern-most tip of mainland Australia near Wilsons Promontory. Take a drive along the Strzelecki Mountains for 130kms, passing through charming towns and villages, impressive farms and gardens. Take time to stop off and enjoy breathtaking views and explore some of the national parks along the way.

- ATTRACTIONS**
- » The Pinnacle, Halls Gap
  - » Halls Gap Zoo
  - » The Grand Strzelecki Track
  - » Ninety Mile Beach
  - » Old Gipps town



# Queensland

## AUSTRALIA'S HOLIDAY HAVEN



Perfect for holidays, Queensland is a favourite among both Australian and international travellers alike. With vast World Heritage listed areas, miles of stunning beaches, great weather and hundreds of attractions, it's easy to see why! Travel by car or motorhome and experience the freedom to stop when and where you choose, exploring the lush tropical rainforests and unspoilt beaches.

### Events

#### JANUARY

**Magic Millions, Gold Coast** - Horse Racing Carnival.

#### MAY

**Port Douglas Carnival** - An art, music, food and culture event, held in a tropical paradise.

#### JUNE

**Wintersun, Coolangatta** - A rock & roll and retro nostalgia event, including music, cars and fashion from the 1950s and 60s.

#### JULY

**Gold Coast Marathon** - A grand running race attracting over 20,000 competitors.

#### AUGUST

**Festival Cairns** - An art, drama and culture festival with a tropical theme.

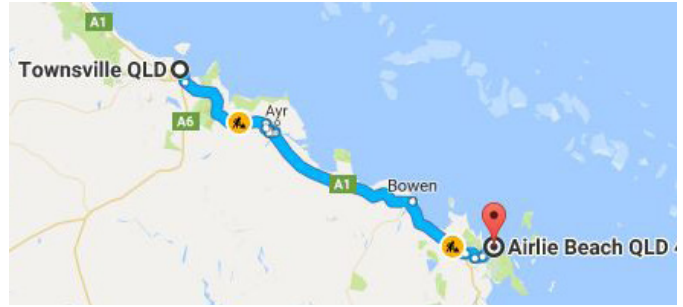
#### OCTOBER

**Nikon Indy 300 Surfers Paradise** - A huge motor sport event held over a weekend.

# Self-Drive Tours in Queensland

## Airlie Beach to Townsville

Starting off in Airlie Beach, gateway to the Whitsunday Islands. This drive will take you through areas of amazing scenery and intriguing history, while enjoying the great weather that this region is famous for. The first part of the trip will take you to the town of Bowen where the forest meets the Sea and is also home to a thriving mango industry.



Further along your journey, you will pass through vast sugar cane fields, fruit farms and the towns of Home Hill and Ayr. While here, be sure to head up to either Mount Inkerman or Mount Kelly, both of which will give you spectacular views of the area. Once you have reached Townsville, you will find yourself faced with yet more great options to explore. To the north lie lush rainforests and to the west is the start of the Queensland outback. Eastwards, discover more spectacular beaches and reefs.



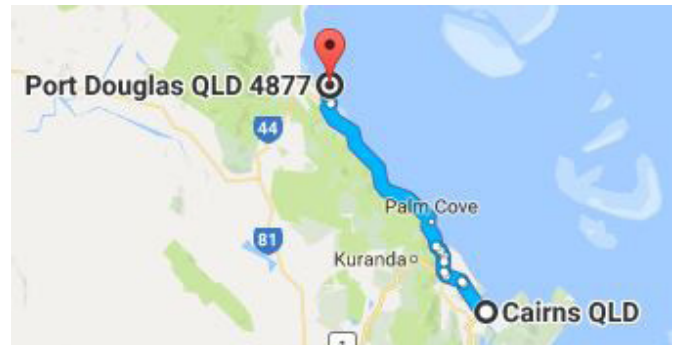
Airlie Beach

### ATTRACTIONS

- » Whitsunday Islands
- » Whitehaven Beach
- » Daintree Rainforest
- » Kuranda Scenic Railway
- » Palm Cove
- » Bowen
- » The Coral Sea

## Cairns to Port Douglas

Covering a 70km stretch of coastline, the Captain Cook Highway connects Cairns to Port Douglas and is one of the most scenic drives in the country. The inviting waters of the Coral Sea are just metres away from most of the coast road, along with spectacular lookouts points, such as Yule Point and Rex's Lookout where you can experience a perfect view.



Sunset in Cairns

# South Australia

## LANDSCAPES, FESTIVALS & FOOD



South Australia offers long hot summers, perfect for self-drive holidays. A state renowned for its wine growing, there are 16 regions to explore with over 200 cellar doors. Explore the state's diverse landscapes and wildlife, including a trip to Kangaroo Island, The Flinders Ranges and the Limestone coast. Voted the most liveable city, Adelaide is a friendly, laidback place with hundreds of restaurants, cafes and pubs waiting to be discovered.

### Events

#### JANUARY

**Santos Tour Down Under** – A cycling race attracting some of the biggest names in the world.

#### FEBRUARY

**Adelaide Fringe Festival** – World's second-largest annual arts festival, and the largest in the Southern Hemisphere.

#### APRIL

**Tasting Australia** – A major event showcasing Australian food and drink.

#### JUNE

**Adelaide Cabaret Festival** – Showcasing the best local, national and international artists in the Cabaret Genre.

#### AUGUST

**Barossa Gourmet Weekend** – This weekend is filled with wine producers generously showcasing their finest drops, matched with heart-warming food and the best of South Australia's live entertainment.

#### OCTOBER

**Kangaroo Island Art Feast** – The Kangaroo Island Art Feast is an annual celebration of the island's art, food and wine.

#### NOVEMBER

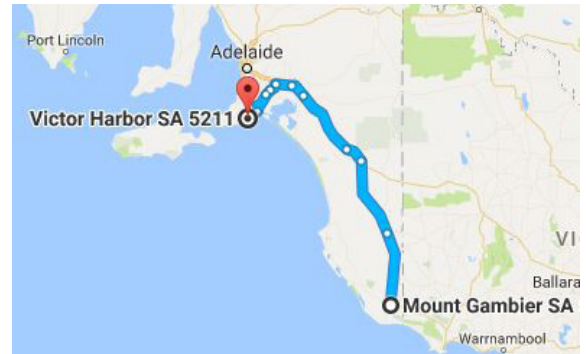
**Credit Union Christmas Pageant** – A huge Christmas parade held in the streets of Adelaide.

# Self-Drive Tours in South Australia

## Mount Gambier to Victor Harbour

Starting off in Mount Gambier in the southeast corner of the state, this drive will take you along a stunning coastline passing several charming towns along the way. Start off by visiting the most famous attraction of Mt Gambier - an impressive Blue Lake, located in a volcanic crater next to the city. Take the scenic coastal route as opposed to the highway, and encounter picturesque sights such as Lake George and Lake Ekza. Stop off at the tiny fishing town of Robe and also Kingston - home to the Giant Lobster.

The final destination, Victor Harbour, is a favourite holiday spot for travellers and locals alike from nearby Adelaide, who come to enjoy the sandy beaches and whale watching.



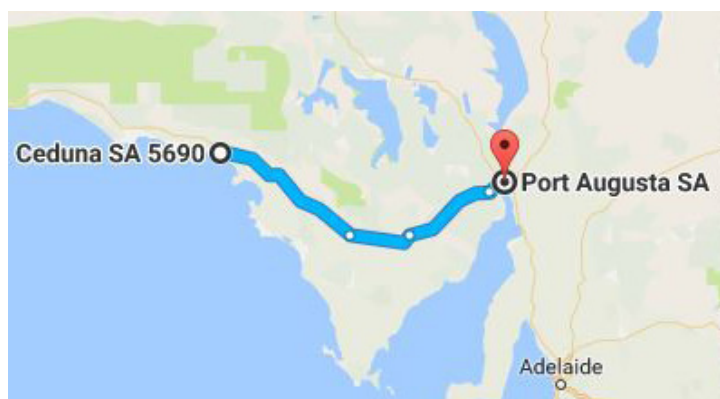
Victor Harbour

### ATTRACTIONS

- » Blue Lake Mt Gambier
- » Centenary Tower
- » The Big Lobster
- » Wadlata Outback Centre
- » Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens
- » Southern Right Whale Watching

## Port Augusta to the Nullarbor Plain

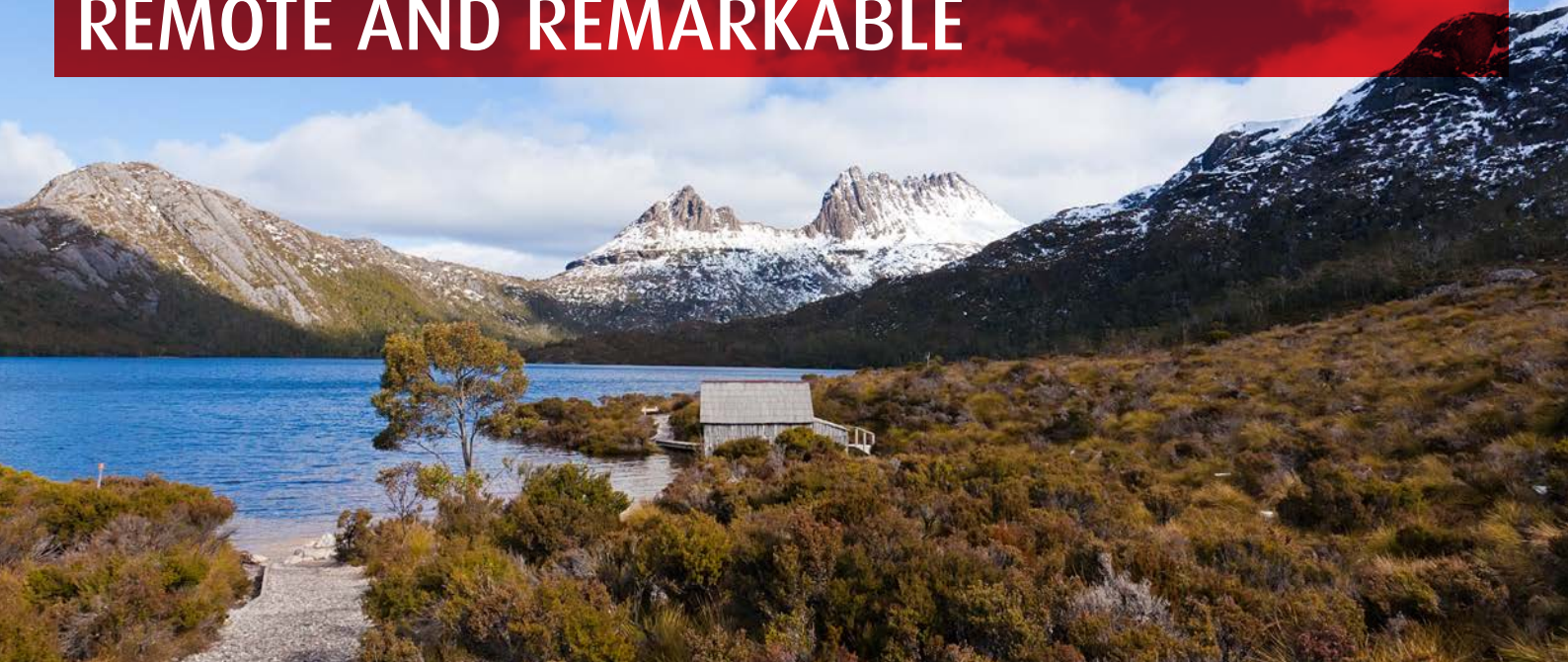
This drive not to be taken lightly! The epic journey will lead you through seemingly endless deserts and some of the most isolated parts of Australia. Thorough preparation is a must before setting off but if well planned, this trip will be one to remember. You'll pass through remote towns such as Kimba, Wudona and Streaky Bay, experiencing some amazing scenery along the way. The Nullarbor Plain, a Latin name meaning no trees, begins at Ceduna and spans across to Western Australia. The landscape is indeed very flat with few trees, making it a real road trip of a lifetime!



Nullarbor Plain

# Tasmania

## REMOTE AND REMARKABLE



The southernmost state of Australia, Tasmania is a nature lover's paradise offering visitors huge areas of amazing wilderness to explore, while also having its own unique history. Truly perfect for touring in a rental car, Tasmania features excellent roads connecting the different parts of the island, little traffic and breathtaking scenery.

### Events

#### JANUARY

**Hobart Comedy Festival** - Showcasing comedic talent from both Tasmania and across Australia

#### FEBRUARY

**Australian Wooden Boat Festival** – Fantastic festival held on Hobart's waterfront celebrating Australia's maritime culture and heritage.

#### APRIL

**Targa Tasmania** - A world class rally event which runs across many parts of the island over 5 days.

#### JUNE

**Antarctic Midwinter Festival** – Celebrating Tasmania's link with the Antarctic.

#### NOVEMBER

**Tasmanian Beerfest** – Join over 10,000 others sampling boutique beers from Tasmania and around the world.

#### DECEMBER

**Taste of Tasmania** – Food festival held adjacent to Salamanca Market, showcasing Tassie's local food and beverage.

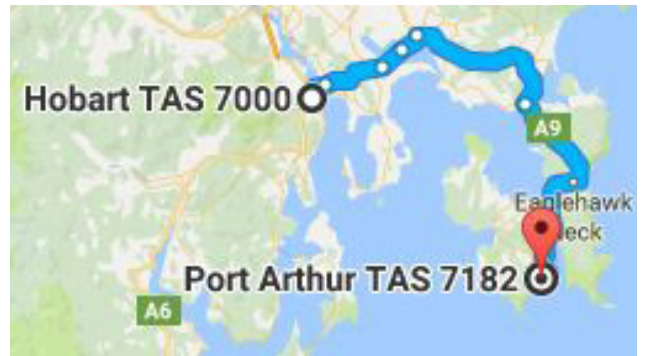
**Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race** – Hobart turns into one big party celebrating the finish line of the famous yacht race.



# Self-Drive Tours Around Tasmania

## Hobart to Port Arthur

Starting off in Hobart, head east from the city, crossing the Derwent River, passing through Mornington and Hobart Airport. The drive gets particularly scenic from here on. Firstly, cross the Sorell Causeway and McGees Bridge with amazing views of the water on either side of you, then as you pass through rolling green hills and farmland. The rest of the journey is equally scenic, if not even more impressive, as you cruise along untouched coastline and through protected forests.



When you reach your end destination of Port Arthur, it will seem almost like a time capsule. With amazingly well preserved and restored buildings, it's easy to imagine life here two centuries ago.

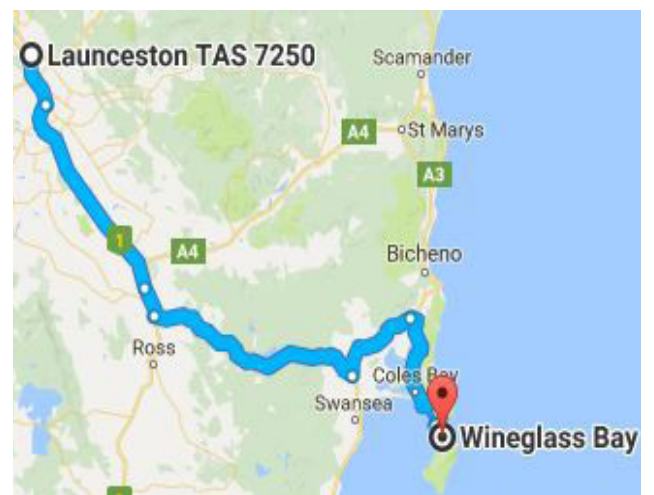


### ATTRACTIONS

- » Mount Wellington
- » Salamanca Market
- » Port Arthur Historic Site
- » Remarkable Cave
- » Tama Valley
- » Cataract Gorge

## Launceston to Wineglass Bay

Heading southeast from Launceston and cutting across the vast countryside, this route will take you to one of the most picturesque scenes in Tasmania, Wineglass Bay, which is found in Freycinet National Park. The drive will take you roughly 2.5 hours as you pass through the classical Tasmanian landscape, and upon arrival there is a hike to the lookout.



From the lookout you will get to see what many people believe to be one of the most picturesque beaches in the world, Wineglass Bay. Complete with picture-perfect shape, sand, and beautiful coloured water, it's easy to see why the beach is so highly regarded. If you're travelling during warmer months, take a bushwalk down to the bay for a swim. It might just be too tempting to resist!



# Western Australia

## THE FINAL FRONTIER



The largest state of Australia, Western Australia, covers a huge area and offers visitors almost endless opportunities to explore remote untouched places. From miles and miles of beautiful coastline to deserts and ancient forests to canyons, Western Australia is filled with unique attractions unlike anywhere else in the world. With thousands of kilometres between major towns and cities, not to mention the distance from cities in other states, the remoteness and isolation of Western Australia is a major attraction for visitors, keen to explore a unique part of the country.

### Events

#### JANUARY

**Hopman Cup** – A world class tennis tournament which runs for one week.

#### MARCH

**Sculptures by the Sea** – Perth's Cottesloe Beach is turned into an outdoor gallery for almost three weeks.

#### APRIL

**Fremantle Street Arts Festival** - Buskers and performers take to the streets to entertain over 100,000 people.

#### AUGUST

**Australasian Safari** – An eight day off road race which passes through the WA outback.

#### NOVEMBER

**Margaret River Gourmet Escape** – a unique opportunity to discover local produce, taste world-class wines and meet international chefs, amongst the natural beauty of the Margaret River Region.

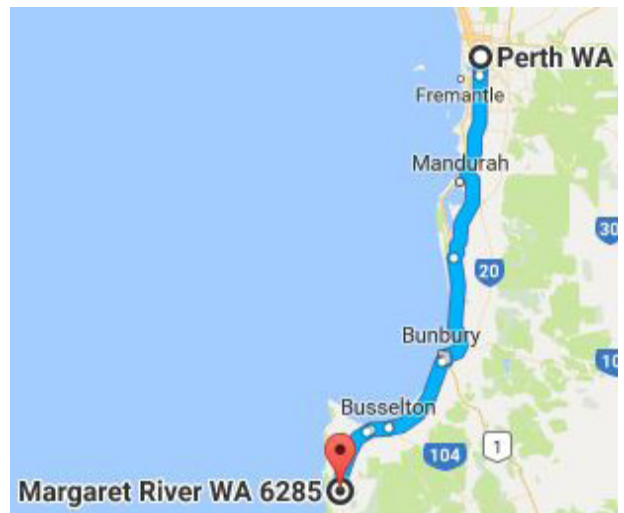
#### DECEMBER

**Christmas Pageant**– Held throughout the main streets of Perth, is the largest and most popular in Australia featuring light covered floats, street performers, marching bands and more.

# Self-Drive Tours Around Western Australia

## Perth to Margaret River

Drive 270km south of Perth to the town of Margaret River and the surrounding area, which is a well known winery region, producing many award winning wines. There are over 130 wineries here, producing one fifth of Australia's wine. The drive will take you along the impressive south stretch of WA's east coast, and pass through towns of Mandurah, Bunbury and Busselton.

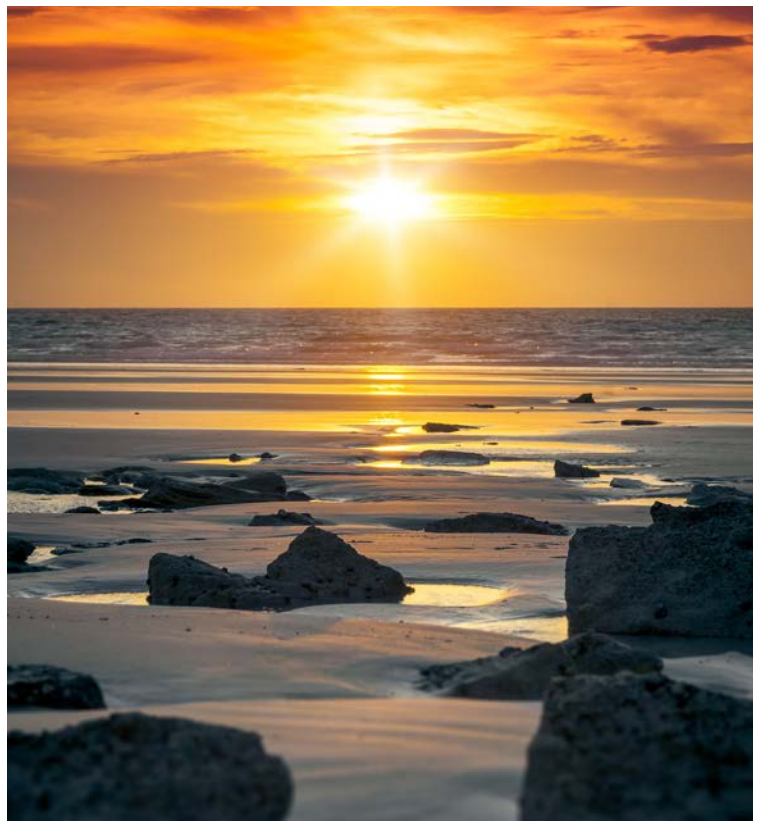
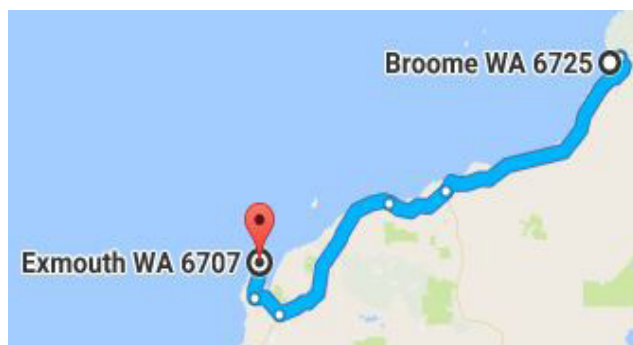


## Broome to Exmouth - The Pilbara Coast

This is a drive that should be taken over at least a couple of days, as it is almost 1400km in total, however this will cover some of the best parts of the West Australian coast. Begin in Broome, where you will see the dazzling white sand and aqua waters of Cable Beach, unique Roebuck Bay and see how pearls are formed and harvested.

Follow the Great Northern Highway south along the coast along Eighty Mile Beach to Port Hedland, where mining of iron ore is the predominant industry, then onto Karratha. From here you can explore the heritage town of Cossack, the magnificent Millstream-Chichester National Park, and learn of the local aboriginal rock art and culture. Drive along the Northwest Coastal Highway until you reach the turnoff to Exmouth on Burkett Road. Exmouth is the gateway to the magical Ningaloo Reef, where you can swim with whale sharks or snorkel in aquamarine waters displaying fish.

- ### ATTRACTIONS
- » Kings Park
  - » Swan Valley
  - » Mammoth Cave
  - » Roebuck Bay



# Northern Territory

## THE TOP END



Covering the central northern part of the country, the Northern Territory can be described with words such as remote, wild, breathtaking and untouched. With amazing natural attractions and landscapes appearing just as they would have millions of years ago, the Northern Territory is the territory where travellers can truly enjoy the vastness of Australia's Outback.

### Events

#### MAY

**Red Centre MTB Enduro** - A five day mountain bike race held on the MacDonnell Ranges.

#### JUNE

**V8 Supercars** - Darwin's very own round of supercar racing, held at Hidden Valley Raceway.

**Tattersall's Finke Desert Race** - A two day race across roughly 230km of desert.

#### JULY

**Territory Day** - A day of celebrations also known as Fireworks Day.

#### AUGUST

**Darwin Beer Can Regatta** - A boat race held on Mindil beach, where a race is held between craft made out of beer cans.

**Henley-On-Todd Regatta** - A race involving bottomless boats powered by people running through a dry riverbed in Alice Springs.

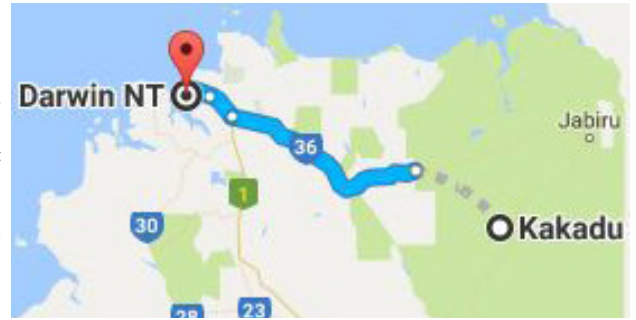
#### OCTOBER

**Global Green Challenge** - A solar powered vehicle race. in and race the 3,000km to Adelaide.

# Self-Drive Tours Around Northern Territory

## Darwin to Kakadu National Park

From Darwin, head along the Stuart Highway, which will take you out of the city and connect you to the Arnhem Highway heading east. The drive to Kakadu National Park is roughly 250km and can be done in three and a half hours, however heading out in a leisurely pace and stopping off along the way to see the sights is definitely recommended. Particularly worth a visit is the historic town of Humpty Doo which is just a short distance from Darwin, and also Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve.



Once you reach Kakadu, you will have the chance to see amazing scenery and wildlife unlike anywhere else in the world. The largest National Park in Australia, Kakadu covers a huge area, and offers endless opportunities to explore, from wetlands and rugged coastlines to huge valleys and gorges, Kakadu has it all!



Kakadu National Park

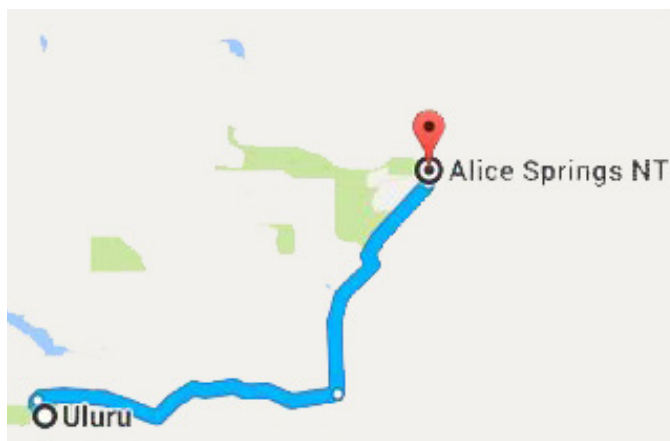
### ATTRACTIONS

- » Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
- » Darwin Military Museum
- » Olive Pink Botanic Garden
- » Lasseters Hotel Casino
- » Finke Gorge National Park

## Alice Springs to Kings Canyon & Uluru

Although not a short drive, the trip from Alice Springs to Kings Canyon and Uluru will take you through some outback areas with amazing scenery. Heading southwest from Alice Springs, it will take you around four hours to reach Kings Canyon, where you'll find spectacular views and great walking trails which will also lead you to ancient rock paintings. Once you have explored the canyon, you can either spend the night at a nearby camping ground or resort, or continue on to Uluru, which is roughly another four hours from here.

Uluru itself is a breathtaking site, standing at almost 350m tall and often appearing to change colour. For the best viewing times, aim to be here around sunrise or sunset when the colours of the rock are at the most vivid.



Uluru

# Visiting Australia

## GUIDE TO STAYING SAFE



### Stay Safe

**Crime:** Australia is a relatively safe place to travel by world standards but if you feel like you are in danger or encounter any type of criminal activity the emergency number for police, ambulance and fire brigade is 000.

**Beaches:** While beaches provide people with a unique opportunity to surf, swim, relax and have fun there are a number of dangers which beachgoers face. Many people fail to realise that the water conditions on Australian beaches can change rapidly causing strong currents and rips. Popular beaches are patrolled by volunteer and professional lifeguards. Both lifeguards and lifesavers are experts in the area of surf safety and will identify the safest area for people to swim. These areas are highlighted by the world famous red and yellow flags.

### Stay Healthy

Healthwise, Australia is a remarkably safe country in which to travel, considering that such a large portion of it lies in the tropics. Australia has an excellent health-care system. It's a mixture of privately run medical clinics and hospitals alongside a system of public hospitals funded by the Australian government. Painkillers, antihistamines for allergies, and skincare products are widely available at chemists throughout Australia. In Australia's remote locations, it is possible there'll be a significant delay in emergency services reaching you in the event of serious accident or illness. Do not underestimate the vast distances between most major outback towns; an increased level of self-reliance and preparation is essential.

### Climate & Weather

The Australian sun is very strong and can burn your skin in as little as 15 minutes, even on cloudy days. It is important to protect yourself from excessive exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays, and take extra care between 11am and 3pm when UV radiation levels are generally at their highest. While travelling in Australia, be 'sun smart' and protect yourself from the sun by wearing clothes that cover as much of your skin as possible; applying a high-level water resistant sunscreen (SPF30+ or higher) regularly throughout the day; and wearing a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses. Protect yourself from heat exhaustion by sitting in the shade and drinking plenty of water to avoid dehydration.

# Visiting Australia

## MONEY MATTERS



### Currency

Australia's national currency is Australian dollars (AUD), which comes in denominations of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 notes. Coins come in 5, 10, 20 and 50 cent and one and two dollar denominations.

### Currency Exchange

Currency exchange is available at banks, hotels and international airports. Australian banks offer the same range of services typical in other western nations.

### ATMs

Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) are widespread, although facilities may be limited in remote towns and the Outback. EFTPOS is also widely available in most Australian shops allowing you to pay for purchases with your credit or debit card. Fees may be charged on transactions, particularly if withdrawing from an international account.

### Credit & Debit Cards

Credit cards such as American Express, Bankcard, Diners Club, MasterCard, Visa, UnionPay and JCB are accepted in Australia. VISA or MasterCard can be used everywhere credit cards are accepted. American Express and Diners Club are accepted at major supermarket and department store chains and many tourist destinations. A good tip is to carry multiple credit cards and a little cash. Merchants may impose credit card surcharges in some places.

### Travellers Cheques

Traveller's cheques are not widely accepted in Australia. If you do purchase traveller's cheques, it is best to buy them in Australian dollars as smaller shops, restaurants and other businesses are unlikely to know what the exchange rate is if you present a cheque in a different currency such as US dollars or British pounds.

### Tax

Australia has a Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 10 per cent. You may be able to claim a refund for the GST paid on goods if you have spent AUD\$300 or more with a single business, no more than 60 days before departing Australia. Tourist Refund Scheme facilities are located in the departure area of international terminals.

### Tipping

Hotels and restaurants do not add service charges to your bill, and tipping is always your choice. In upmarket restaurants, it is common to tip waiters 10% of the bill for good service.

# What are you waiting for?

BOOK YOUR SELF-DRIVE HOLIDAY IN AUSTRALIA



## Customer Reviews

### **Driveaway is the only company we use for car rental worldwide**

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- Catherine, August 2016

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"It's a one stop car hire for your holidays overseas. Great, personal & Australian service is always offered by an Australian call centre. We have used them several times over the past years and always the same great service."

- Pieter, September 2016

### **Helpful and Friendly**

"The staff were very helpful and friendly. The process to book, pay for, pick up and drop off our hire car was straight forward and simple. I would absolutely use this service again and recommend them to others."

- Maxine, December 2016

Once you have planned your self-drive itinerary and are ready to book, simply visit [www.driveaway.com.au](http://www.driveaway.com.au), call our dedicated Reservations Team on 1300 363 500 or visit your local travel agent.

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