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CITY-GUIDE

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EIGHT DREAM DESTINATIONS FOR TRAVEL WINTER 22/23



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EXTRA **AUSTRALIA** Road trip on the Great Ocean Road **ALIPARIAN ISLANDS** Dolce Vita in Italy **FRENCH POLYNESIA** In the frenzy of color in the South Seas **JORDAN** In the realm of the sons of the desert

Australia has taken advantage of the lull in lockdown. When driving on the famous Great Ocean Road from Melbourne to Adelaide, new attractions lure you alongside well-known treasures.

VON CORINNA MELVILLE

above the damp earth, he balances with the dexterity of a rope

dancer and a self-confidence, as if

High up in the tree, ten meters

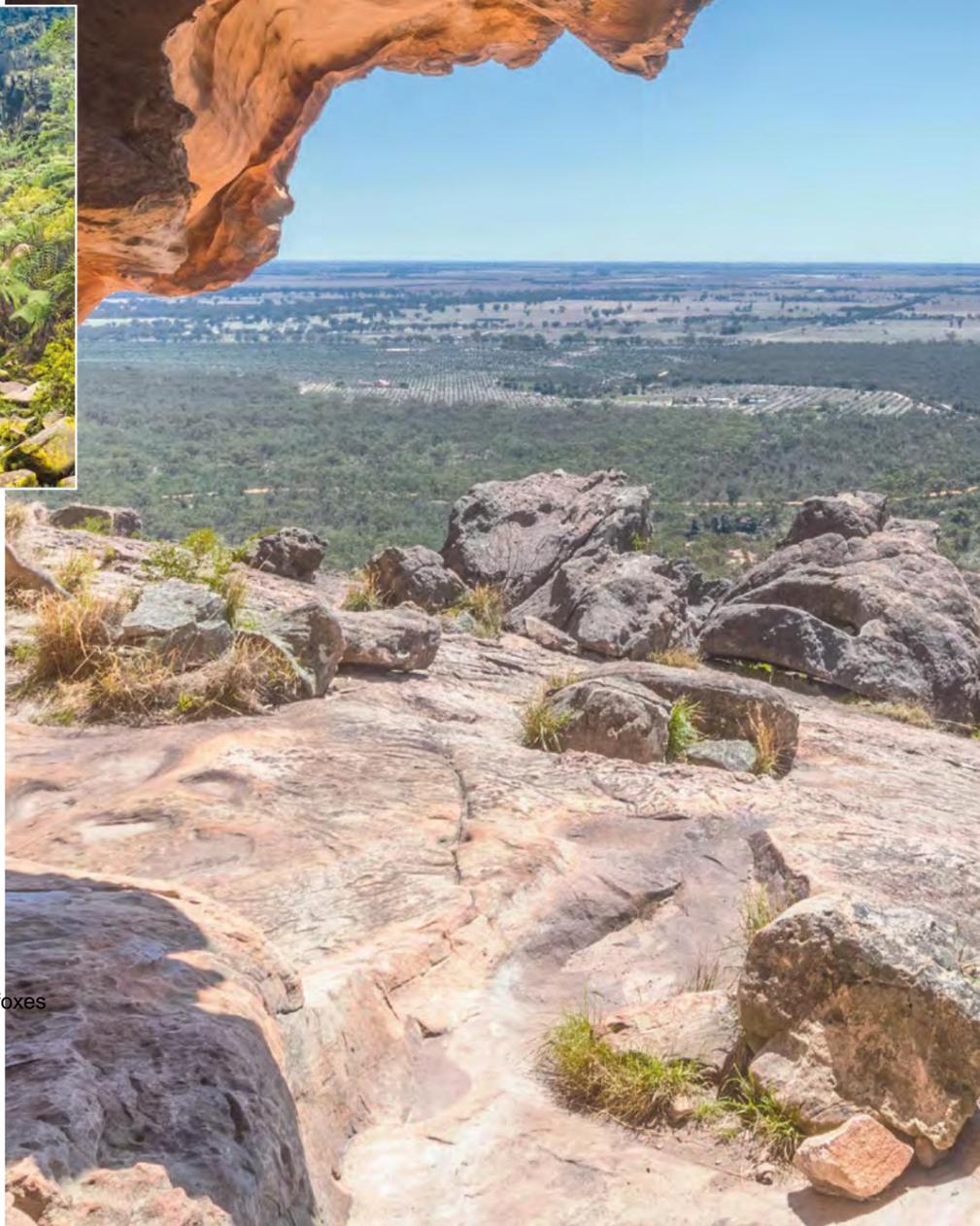
Not apply. The branch bends down menacingly, the chubby koala seizes the moment, grabs the densely leafy branch of the tree next door, gropes one, two



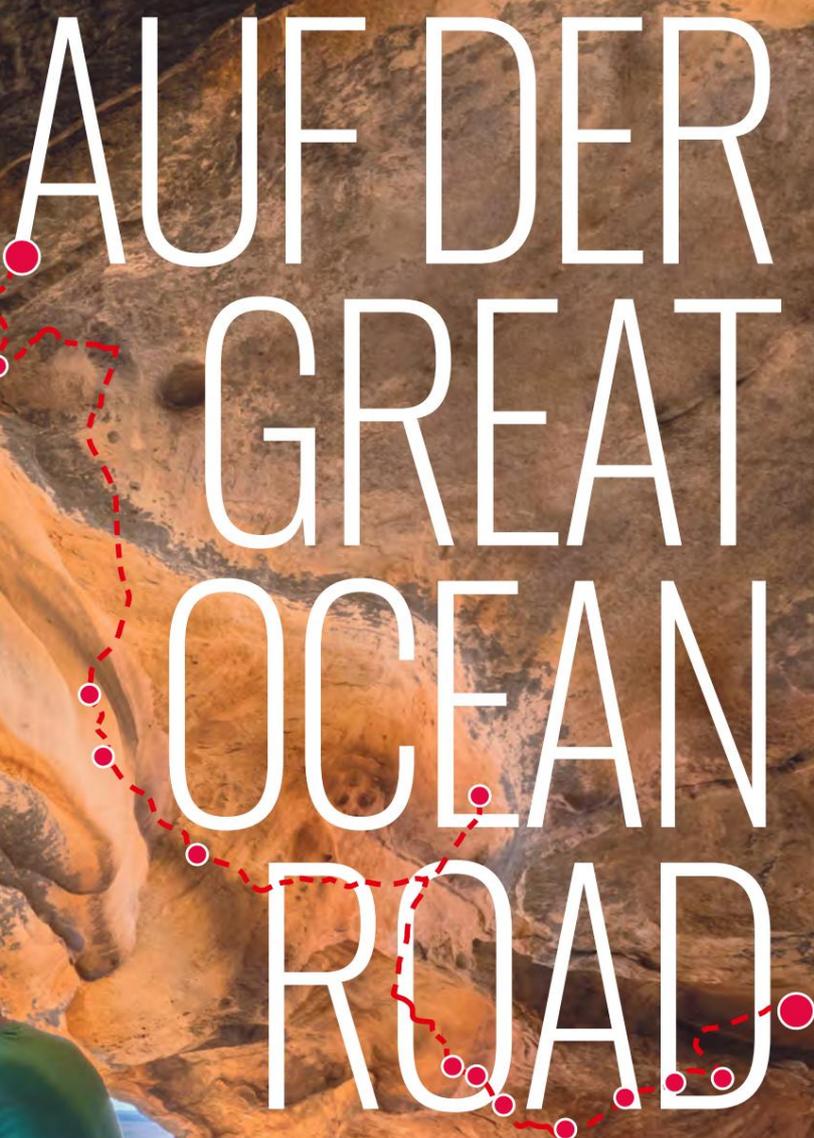
Surrounded by lush greenery: the Erskine Falls in Great Otway National Park
Steps backwards and swings back into a more comfortable position, where it perches in the fork of the branch and devours the fresh eucalyptus. Behind him comes the roar of the *kookaburra*'s laughter

trees, the Australian kingfisher. As the forest clears and we look down from the hill over the wide sea of the Great

Australian Bight, two emus promptly cross our path. So down under like in the advertising brochure.
But it wasn't always like that here, before a few years ago there were sheep paddocks and brambles on the edge of the *Great Otway National Park*, directly on the Great Ocean Road. The Australian animals had imported breeds such as cats and foxes displaced, foreign weeds blocked the way for the koalas to the eucalyptus. then



AUF DER GREAT OCEAN ROAD



VON MELBOURNE
NACH ADELAIDE

Blick aus der
Hollow-Mountain-
Höhle im Grampians
National Park



Path along the banks of the Yarra River (€18, <https://kooorieheritagetrust.com.au>). A visit to the Queen Victoria Market, where Melbourneians have been stocking their pantries since 1878, is of course a must (open Tuesdays and Thursdays–Sundays until 3 p.m., Saturdays/Sundays until 4 p.m.).

Nice bed

Ÿ The rooms with bath in »Selina« (250 Flinders St., www.selina.com, +61-422716090; EZ/DZ from € 58).

ŸŸŸ The colourful, modern interior design of »Ovolo Laneways« suits art-loving Melbourne (19 Little Bourke St., <https://ovolahotels.com>, +61-3-86920777; EZ/DZ from € 213 ÜF).

Dynamic metropolis: the skyline of Melbourne, the capital of the state of Victoria

acquired the environmental organization *Conservation Ecology Center* the country, put a fence around thirty acres during the visitor-free pandemic years

Plant managed by non-natives

beasts from the land, spent months weeding and repopulating the land with his

original inhabitants: bandicoots, brush kangaroos, emus, wallabies and of course koalas. The result is the *Wildlife Wonders* nature park, which will open in 2021 - a zoo experience inside out, where the fences are not there to keep the native animals inside (it's easy for the koalas to climb the fences over the branches of the trees), but the non-keeping native animals outside.

In order to make the Australian idyll perfect, the landscape architect and art director of the Hobbit films Brian Massey traveled to Victoria and said goodbye when the work was done with the words: »If

If I did everything right, no one will know I've ever been there.« Welcome to the rainforest of the Otway Ranges!

1 MELBOURNE Cheerful and colourful

During the pandemic, Melbourne took the uninvited title of the city with the longest lockdown in the world. But those who know it quickly understand: the cultivated, free-thinking and dynamic metropolis has never stood still. Of course, before you jump into the action, you have to have a coffee - and nowhere does it taste better than in Melbourne's *laneways* with their world-famous street art! Best for that

a slice of sourdough bread with *smashed avo* (roughly chopped avocado). If you have a bigger appetite, you should head for the »Big Esso« (www.mabumabu.com.au), which only opened in 2021, directly on the central Federation Square. Typical *Torres Strait Islander* dishes are served there, including crocodile (from €17) and kangaroo (from €15). Right next door is the *Koorie Heritage Trust*, where the indigenous people document their history. They also offer interesting ones

Guided tours on the Birrarung *Marr*

2 GREAT OCEAN ROAD

On the most beautiful panorama mastrasse of Australia

The B100 – better known as the Great Ocean Road – winds its way past world-famous surfing beaches, through dense rainforest, under huge eucalyptus trees and along spectacular rock formations.

Torquay is the first port of call from Melbourne, a surf mecca with numerous surf schools and shops. Lorne and Apollo Bay are the most popular resort towns along the Surf Coast. Behind it, the B100 returns

off the coast and runs through the rainforest of *Great Otway National Park*. The wonderful *Wildlife Wonders* nature park is new (5 km southwest of Apollo Bay, access only with a guided tour, €39, <https://wildlifewonders.org.au>). Here you actually still have a good chance of taking a selfie with Koala in the background. And in the water there is also a lot of Australian wildlife: platypuses live in Lake Elizabeth. The easiest way to get them is in front of the camera lens

Sunrise and sunset, preferably on a canoe tour (€ 57, <https://platypustours.net.au>).

Hardly any stretch of coast is as photogenic as the approximately 30 kilometers from Princetown to Peterborough. **TIP** The stairs down the cliff (*Gibson Steps*) may be steep, but you can't beat the view of the first two rocks of the Twelve Apostles from the beach (unfortunately, there are only eight rocks left). Of course, the stop at the *Twelve Apostles Lookout* and at the Loch Ard Gorge is obligatory. If you have a lot of time and want to wander, you should not miss the 110 km long *Great Ocean Walk* from Apollo Bay to the Twelve Apostles (usually 8 days, you must book in advance, information at www.parks.vic.gov.au).

The Panoramastrasse has good restaurants Also on offer: The "Forage on the Foreshore" in Port Campbell directly across from the beach uses only local ingredients. B. Smoked sea trout for €23 (32 Cairns St.). In the »Coda Lorne« in Lorne you dine on the 3rd floor with a view

A 243 kilometer long Panoramic road is the Great Ocean Road an der South coast of Australia

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across the bay and the Great Ocean Road, excellent Asian fusion dishes with influences from Vietnam, China and Thailand, e.g. B.

Duck curry for €30 (176 Mountjoy Parade, <https://codarestaurant.com.au/coda-lorne>).

Nice bed

»The neat, calm one »Kennett River Family Caravan Park« directly in the Great Ocean Road wird now and then from koalas and Kangaroos visited (www.kennettriver-caravanpark.com.au, +61-3-52890272; Pitch from €27, cabin with kitchen from €92). »Pebble Point's permanent glamping tents have comfy beds and bathrooms, and are set back from bushland and hiking



Washed rock giants: The Twelve Apostles in the Great Ocean Road are among the most photographed Rock formations of Australia

just a few miles from the Twelve Apostles (20 Old Coach Road, Princetown, www.pebblepoint.com.au, +61-3-52433579; tents from €120).

»Unbeatable views of the Bay are offered by the apartments at Chris's Beacon Point Restaurant & Villas, along with a fine dining restaurant serving excellent seafood (Skenes Creek Road, www.chriss.com.au, +61-3-52376411; Studio ab € 177).

3 GRAMPIANS
Hiking among kangaroos

Four hours' drive north of Melbourne is one of Victoria's largest and most popular national parks: the sandstone mountains of the Grampians. Node is that

cozy Halls Gap, where kangaroos outnumber human residents many times over.

And then the colorful ones Birds and Wildflowers! From September to November the valleys are covered with a colorful carpet of flowers. Along the new *Grampians Peak Trail* lie cozy unattended cabins. For the

A complete route of 160 km must be planned 13 days in advance, but you can also select a section.

Absolute Outdoors (www.abso-luteoutdoors.com.au) will help



On fine days the beaches of Adelaide are a Playground for surfers and surfing students

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KOALAS IN NOT: SO CAN YOU HELP



With a bit of luck you can get him in along the woods der Great Ocean Road still to be seen: a cuddly koala in the eucalyptus tree. Unfortunately, Aus loses australia's most iconic marsupials since decades on the ground:

bush fires, heavy deforestation, Global warming, imported Animal Species and Infectious Diseases are giving him problems. The bush fires of 2019/20 alone are said to be around 60,000 koalas killed. Increased temperatures reduce the eucalyptus' nutrient content, which weakens the surviving koalas. This year graded the

Australian government upgraded its status from Endangered to Endangered.

Several organizations have dedicated themselves to protecting the koala tourists can also take part in some of their initiatives. Trees are planted on the tours with *Echidna Walkabout* (2 days from Melbourne € 760, www.echidnawalkabout.com.au).

The *Wildlife Wonders Nature Park* on the Great Ocean Road also supports them initiatives.



Formerly a cave, now a garden: the Umpherstone Sinkhole on the Limestone Coast

of the organization, offers, among other things, shuttle buses for the return transport. Some of the best short hikes include the trail to *Pinnacle Lookout*, the *Balconies*, and *MacKenzie Falls*.

For millennia, the Grampians served as an important food source and meeting place for the native peoples. The *Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Center* documents the region's indigenous history (277 Grampians Road, Halls Gap, open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

Nice bed

– The »Lakeside Tourist Park« in Halls Gap is visited by kangaroos in the evening. There are pitches (€30), cabins (from €80) and cozy glamping tents (from €59); 23 Tymna Drive, <https://hallsgaplakeside.com>, +61-3-53564281). The four cozy cabins and treehouses of the »DULC« in Halls Gap, each equipped with a kitchen, bathroom and fireplace, are located in the middle of bushland. Emus and kangaroos come to visit guests on the terrace (9 Thryptomene Court, www.dulc.com.au, +61-3-53564711; Cabin from €219).

4 MOUNT GAMBIER & DIE LIMESTONE COAST In the world of caves

The most beautiful spot of Mount Gambier is a hole. The *Umpherston Sinkhole* has dug itself 20 meters deep into the earth. And every evening, as darkness wipes the last shades of red from the sky, it comes to life. Then come

countless opossums crawled out of the cliffs and snatched apples and bananas from visitors' hands.

Volcanism has shaped the region. Another testament to this is the Blue Lake, which actually shimmers the deepest cobalt blue during the warm months of November through March. You can circle the lake by car or on foot, there are beautiful viewing platforms all around.

Continuing on the drive to Robe one takes preferably the coastal road B101. she leads to beautiful Beachport, a little holiday haven, quiet and pretty, less touristy than neighboring Robe. *Bowman Scenic Drive* is as scenic as the name suggests. It leads to the Pool of Siloam, whose salinity is seven times higher than that of the sea.

Robe has at least as many visitors as residents during the summer months, but is also very good at accommodating them. Excellent restaurants (**TIP** »Adventurous Spoon«, 46 Victoria St.), cafés and ice cream parlors line the main street, and if you ask the locals, you will find the most beautiful beach in Australia here, Long Beach.

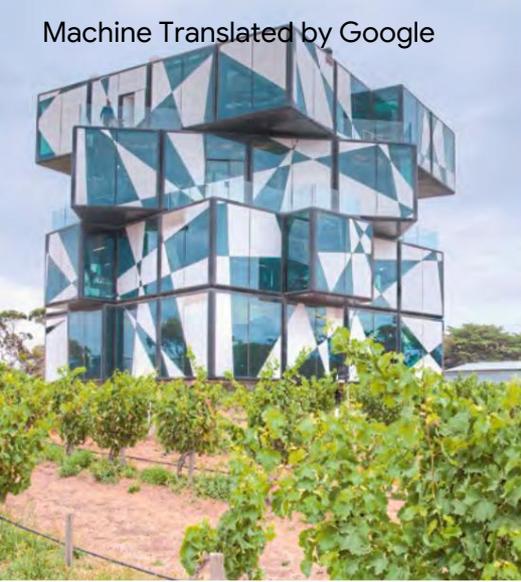
Nice bed

– The rooms at The Caledonian Inn in Robe are just above the pub (live music at weekends) and are ideal for those on a budget. In the garden are four comfortable cottages with kitchen, bathroom and direct access to the beach (1 Victoria St., [https://](https://caledonianinnrobe.com.au)

caledonianinnrobe.com.au, +61-8-87682029; NO/ Double room from €47/67, cottage from €147). The bright, modern apartments of the »Bonnies of Beachport« directly opposite the jetty into the sea have two bedrooms (1 Railway Terrace, www.bonniesofbeachport.com, +61-408482899; Apt. ab € 163).



Stop at the popular rocky cove of Loch Ard Gorge in Port Campbell National Park



In the vineyards of the village of McLaren Vale is the futuristic d'Arenberg Cube, wine shop, restaurant and museum

On the bottom two floors you can go up to the wine tasting with a view over the vines (admission including tasting €7). "D'Arry's Verandah Restaurant" belongs to the upper class (58 Osborn Road, McLaren Vale, 2 courses € 51, www.darenberg.com.au). Victor Harbor is the most famous vacation place on the peninsula, popular mainly because of the offshore Granite Island. You can walk across the bridge to the island or take the horse drawn tram (€13.50 return, <http://horsedrawntram.com.au>). Pssst, at sunset the little penguins return from the sea to their burrows on Granite Island.

Swim or smile at the beach of the Second Valleys.

Nice bed

»Austiny B&B« is run by a German-Dutch couple. From the Room overlooks the magnificent Garden to the Sea (62 Glassenbury Dr, www.austinybedandbreakfast.com.au, +61-436-441110; SR/DR from €113). »Kings Beach Retreats« is unbeatable: The three holiday homes stretch on a hill off the coast right by the rough ocean (Waitpinga, <https://kingsbeachretreats.com.au>, +61-407183905, house for 1-2 people from €213).

5 FLOWERY PENINSULA

Natural paradise in front of Gates of Adelaide

sea lions on the one hand dolphins to the other Side and front on the sand dunes the Pelicans – the 140 km Coorong's long salt lagoon is unbeatable from a kayak (day tour with meals €103, <https://canoethecoorong.com>). And that's just the beginning of the beautiful Fleurieu Peninsula, where city dwellers gather at weekends in the Bask in the sun, ride the waves, roam the national parks or enjoy grape juice and live music in the many elegant to unusual wineries. A visit to the d'Arenberg Cube

is practically a must. The architectural Rubik's Cube is hard to miss. Through the unconventional art exhibition of the

The great hiking trails through the Deep Creek Conservation Park are often crossed by kangaroos. Go fishing, Schnorr

6 ADELAIDE Relaxed and livable

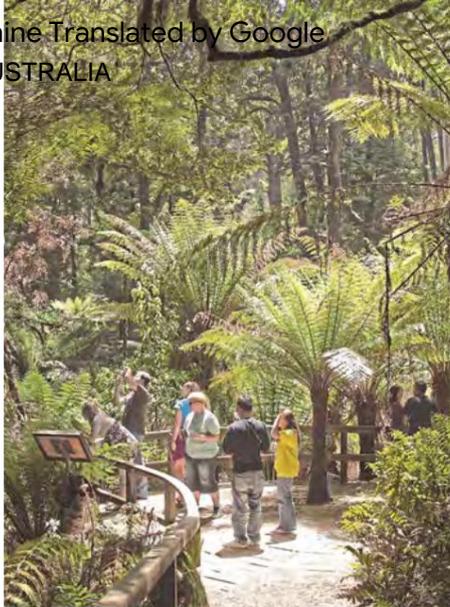
On the list of the most livable Cities of this world cleared them last third place this year. would beaches



ÿ OUR AUTHOR RECOMMENDS

Bellarine Peninsula & the Great Southern Reef Hardly any visitor goes unvisited in the icy waters of Port Phillip Bay. The seals around the pontoon in the bay are so trusting and curious that sometimes nothing but the snorkeling mask remains between animal and person. For James Murphy, who shows tourists around the bay with his boat, it is unbelievable how little is still known about the Australian seals and other animals of Australia's southern waters. Little is known about the Great Southern Reef, the 71,000 km² counterpart to the famous Great Barrier Reef. Underwater cameras attached to the pontoon help to better understand the behavior of the seals and other marine animals, estimate their numbers and prevent threats. Swimming with dolphins, mostly in the warmer water near the beach, is of course also part of the program during the half-day boat tours. Tours depart from Queenscliff (€120, www.dolphinwims.com.au).





Maits Rest: an impressive hiking trail in the Regenwald des Great Otway National Park

and surf culture in the calculations Be esteem, who could hold a candle to Adelaide? The city is green, manageable, relaxed and well-groomed, but also easy to visit. Sample the eclectic eateries of Rundle Street (our favorite is »Ong Vietnamese«, <https://ongvietnamesekitchen.com.au>) and then head out to the coast: cozy cafés, pubs, ice cream parlors and restaurants await in the beach suburbs of Henley Beach, Glenelg and Brighton.

There is a small reef in front of Port Noarlunga beach, so pack a snorkel mask or rent a kayak (€23 for 2 hours, www.easykayaks.com.au).

If you want to surf, visit the beaches of Moana and Aldinga Beach further south.

Surf courses are offered by *Surf & Sun* (2 hours, €37, www.learnintosurfsouthaustralia.com.au).

Nice bed

ÿÿ In the »Majestic Roof Garden Hotel« you are right in the middle, no, above the action.

The roof terrace offers a view over the Stadt (55 Frome St., <https://majesticroofgardenhotel.com.au>, +61-8-81004400, EZ/DZ ab € 137).

ÿÿ – ÿÿÿ Directly on the beach, the »BIG4 Holiday Park West Beach« caravan park offers pitches (from €40), eco-tents with beds (from €86) and luxury cabins with bathroom and terrace from €186 (1 Military Rd, West Beach, <https://www.westbeachparks.com.au>, +61-8-83557320). With pool, bouncy castle and water playground.

INFO

VICTORIA & SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Area: 227,500 & 1,043,500 km², **capital cities:** Melbourne (5.1 million pop.) & Adelaide (1.3 million pop.), **local time:** in summer + 7-7.5 hrs, in winter 9-9, 5 hours, **mains voltage:** 220/240 V, adapter required

TRAVEL PLANNING

entry

Germans, Austrians and Swiss get the three

Months valid eVisitor visa 651 free

(www.immi.gov.au).

Money

The currency is the Australian dollar (AUS). €1 = AU\$1.50 (as of 6/2022).

Credit card payment is practically everywhere and also common for small amounts. In some places, cash is no longer welcome.

Health

Corona vaccination protection must be proven. Non-vaccinated people need a special permit and may have to be quarantined. Otherwise vaccination against tetanus, diphtheria and hepatitis is recommended.

BOOK FLIGHT

An open jaw flight Melbourne// Adelaide is practical. **Singapore Airlines** flies the route from €1,250, **Qatar Airways** ab € 1.330, **Etihad** from €1,580. **Lufthansa** and **Swiss** take from € 1,280, from Singapore **Singapore Airlines** takes over.

FLIGHT **AB € 1.250**

World-Of-Flights.de

Best travel time

The south coast is the most beautiful in spring (October - early December) and late summer/autumn (February - April). Accommodation and tours are during the Australian summer holidays (mid Dec - late Jan).

booked up quickly.

Means of transport

Car Hire: Pre-booked, a small car is available in Melbourne with no excess from €246/ Week bookable (*Argus Car Hire*, meta price www.reise-preise.de/mietwagen). If you plan two weeks for the route and

picks up the vehicle in Melbourne and returns it in Adelaide, pays from €662 (*Cars & Camper*).

Campervan: A fully equipped compact camper van from *Hippie Camper*, picked up in Melbourne and returned in Adelaide, comes with premium insurance for two weeks without

Deductible from € 1,241 bookable in cash (www.bestcamper.de).

Bus and train: *V/Line* trains and buses (www.vline.com.au) is accessed from Melbourne on the Great

Ocean Road bis Mount Gam

beer. From here continue via Beachport, Robe and Meningie to Adelaide with *Stateliner* (<https://state-liner.com.au>).

Domestic flight:

From Adelaide to Melbourne z. B. with *Jetstar*, *Virgin Australia* or *Regional Express* (from €55 one way). You can compare prices and book via www.world-of-flights.de.

accomodation

There is accommodation in all categories along the route, from backpacker hostels (beds from €17) to hotels in all price ranges (simple from €55, middle class from €90), B&Bs (from €80) to holiday apartments (from €450/week).

Campers can cheaply on the Camping sites in the national parks (usually € 11.50 for 1-3 people, information and booking at www.parks.vic.gov.au and www.parks.sa.gov.au).

Eat Drink

Both Melbourne and Adelaide celebrate their culinary Diversity. Asian ones are popular Restaurants (Thai, Indian, Vietnamese; plate dish from €14), Seafood is more expensive (from €20),

PRICE LEVEL

ÿ DOUBLE ROOM

just	€ 55–90
medium	€ 90–150
high	ab € 150

ÿ DINE OUT

Lunch/Snack	€ 7–10
Dinner simply	€ 12–20
elevated	ab € 20

ÿ BEVERAGES

Soft drinks	€ 2,30–2,70
Beer	€ 4–6
Glas of wine	ab € 6

ÿ ON THE ROAD

Rental car from €246/week
Camper Melbourne–Adelaide 14 days from € 1,241
Inlandflug ab € 55 oneway

DAILY BUDGET **€ 110**

Minimum spend on simple to medium Claims including half a double room

but also popular and very much too recommend. For a two course meal and drinks you should stay in a mid range restaurant Expect to pay €30-40.

travel Guide

By R&P writer Corinna Melville: Stefan Loose Travel Handbook "Australia", *DuMont Reiseverlag* 2022, € 27.99.

CLIMATE

Ort: Melbourne

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max. Temperature in °C	26	26	24	21	17	15	14	15	17	20	22	24
Hours of sunshine per day	9	8	8	6	4	4	4	5			6	7
rainy days per month	5	4	5	7	9	8	9	11	10	9	8	6

ÿ easy ÿÿ simple middle class ÿÿÿ upper middle class ÿÿÿÿ demanding