

# POINTS OF INTEREST TRAVELLING WEST ON THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD

- Drive along the Great Ocean Road (G.O.R), 15 minutes out of Apollo Bay and find **Maites Rest** carpark on the left. A good example of our local rain forests and a 45 minutes loop walk.



- Continue driving along the G.O.R. and turn off on the **Cape Otway Lighthouse** Road. Drive toward the lighthouse until you pass a road on the left indicating Blanket Bay.

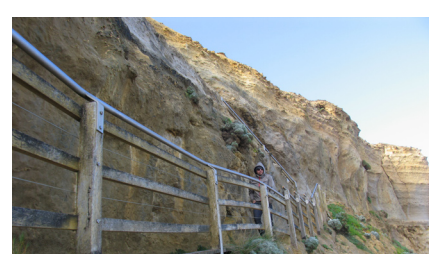


Slow down, and continue towards the lighthouse. While you are driving slowly, look up into the trees for 'rocks' - when you see a 'rock' you are looking at a koala!

- Return to the G.O.R. and turn left.



Next point of interest is **Castle Cove**. Many prehistoric fossils have been found in the exposed cliffs. Great views of the rugged coast line, and if you look out due west, the next land fall is Argentina- South America!



- Next stop in at **Gibson's Steps**, which takes you down to the beach giving you the first view of the Twelve Apostles from sea level. Less busy than Twelve Apostles Lookout with lovely views of the coast from the sand.

- Next is the famous **Twelve Apostles** – this is a must see! Be warned, you will be joined by a lot of other tourists, but the view is so spectacular it is worth bumping shoulders.



- Next up- **Lord Ard Gorge**. From this car park you have 4 pathways leading to various vantage points to view the coast line and the Apostles. Also a stair case which takes you down to a wonderful beach, caves and the historic story of 2 survivors of the Loch Ard ship wreck.



- Next is **The Grotto**, a sea arch still attached either side to limestone cliffs. At high tide the water comes through the arch, at low tide you are able to see through to the sea.



- You then have **London Arch**. The London Bridge formation, since renamed London Arch after a portion of the formation collapsed into the sea.



- Lastly, the '**Bay of Islands**'. This Coastal Park is a 33km long, narrow strip of coastal heathland that runs alongside a series of secluded coves. Car parks lead to spectacular lookouts - great at sunrise and sunset.



**Apollo Bay direct to the Twelve Apostles is 1.5 hours driving.**



## HEADING TOWARDS THE GRAMPIANS & HALLS GAP

*Driving from Apollo Bay to the Grampians is the perfect way to take in the amazing coastal and National Park scenery surrounding the south-west pocket of Victoria.*

- The next stop could be Port Fairy for lunch at Rebeccas' Café.
- On the right, about 8km's east of Port Fairy is a turn off to Penshurst, Dunkeld & Halls Gap – this turn off is not well sign posted and is the most direct route to the Grampians.
- To drive from Port Fairy to Dunkeld is about 1 hour. There is a great hotel at Dunkeld where you could indulge in lunch. The Royal Mail Hotel has won many awards for their meals and service- not to mention the views!
- From Dunkeld to Halls Gap is about 70klms or 1 hour drive.
- **We strongly recommend you drive carefully through the National Park and watch out for kangaroos who do not understand the dangers of jumping out in front of cars.**
- As you enter the district of Halls Gap – on the right is Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre and the National Parks office where you could purchase any local maps of the area. This building is a must visit location – fantastic architecture, landscaping and displays.

### **Stay at the Grampians Eco YHA**

The first purpose built eco hostel designed by YHA Victoria. Corner Buckler and Grampians Road, Halls Gap. (03) 5356 4544

While in the Grampians, why not consider the following activities?

Walking, hiking, rock climbing, visiting waterfalls, abseiling and bird watching are all very popular. Keep your eyes peeled for the spectacular wildflower display in Spring.

The hostel has many furry visitors including kangaroos and wallabies, so keep your eyes peeled! Mini Golf is great fun, and don't forget to visit Live Fast Lifestyle Cafe with your YHA membership for 2-4-1 coffee!

*Enjoy you stay, and sleep well knowing your bed doesn't cost the earth!*