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Great Ocean Road One Day Tour

(We recommend that you spend a minimum of 2 days to explore the Great Ocean Road.)

This one day trip of approximately 450 kilometre starts from Melbourne and provides a good overview of features along the Great Ocean Road between Anglesea and Port Campbell. It is a very long day of around 9 hours and you should begin early in the morning. Actual driving time will be around 6 hours so try to leave Melbourne by 7 am.

Take the M 1 and cross the Westgate Bridge and continue on the M 1. The M 1 bypasses Geelong and comes out on the A1 at Waurin Ponds . As at June 2010 you need to turn right onto the A 1 and proceed for 400 metres and turn left on to the Anglesea turn off (C134). The M 1 is currently being extended with a bridge that will give an exit directly to C134 completion is expected April 2011. The distance to the Anglesea turn off from top of the Westgate Bridge is 73.4 kilometres. (See Map 1 and 2) Continue down C134 for 14.6 kilometres until it intersects the Great Ocean Road (B100) at the round about. Turn right. (See below on left picture)



Anglesea is a further 12 kilometres on. At Anglesea travel time elapsed should be less than 75 minutes. Distances to and from Anglesea are from the round-about above (right picture) just beyond Anglesea shops. Continue along the Great Ocean Road for 7.3 kilometres to Urquhart's Bluff car park (left hand side of the road). Take 5 minutes to take in the view along the coast back to Anglesea. Between Anglesea and Urquhart's Bluff there are numerous spots that give excellent scenic views of the Split Point Lighthouse and are worth a stop. Continue along the Great Ocean Road through Aireys Inlet and turn left into Inlet Road. It is unsealed but in good condition. From the roundabout in Anglesea to the turn is 11.3 kilometres. Continue along Inlet Crescent and turn left into Reserve Road and park at the car park (approximately 1 kilometre from the Great Ocean Road See map 3). It is a short walk up to the lighthouse. There is a short walk below the light house that is also worth doing as it gives excellent views along the coast in both directions. Allow 40 minutes for this stop.



Split Point Lighthouse Aires Inlet



Eagle Rock

Back track to the Great Ocean Road and continue for 4.6 kilometres and turn left into the car park just before the Great Ocean Road Memorial Arch. This Arch commemorates the Returned Soldiers from the First World War who built the Great Ocean Road. Allow 10 minutes for this stop.



The Great Ocean Road past the Memorial Arch follows the coast then climbs up and over Big Hill 90 metres above sea level before descending back to the coast approaching Lorne. Lorne is 13 kilometres past the Memorial Arch.

Visit one our sponsor businesses in Lorne for a take away morning tea. Weather permitting we suggest that you have your takeaway morning tea on the Lorne Pier which is located 13.6 kilometres past the Memorial Arch. The walk on the pier gives excellent views along the coast and back to Lorne and is an excellent spot for a short break. Allow 15 minutes for this stop.



Lorne Pier



Aerial photo of Mt Defiance lookout

Past the Lorne pier the Great Ocean Road hugs the coast and gives some of the most spectacular views on the drive. Travel down the Great Ocean Road for another 8.2 kilometres from the Lorne Pier and stop at Mt Defiance Lookout. The car park will only take 3 cars so look ahead when approaching to see if there is a car parking spot. Do not try to stop if there is no park (this stop is optional as the view at Mt Defiance lookout has got a little obstructed by vegetation).

Continue past Mt Defiance for 16.1 kilometres to pull in at Sausage Gully. You will pass through the small towns of Wye River (7.4 kilometres past Mt Defiance) and Kennett River(10.6 kilometres past Mt Defiance). Koalas are to be seen on the Great Ocean Road in this area. Generally if there are lots of cars parked there will be Koalas close by. Allow 15 minutes for this stop.

Continue along the Great Ocean Road for a further 1.6 kilometres and pull into the Cape Paton car park. This gives stunning views along the coast towards Apollo Bay. Also have a look over the stone wall to the waves breaking below. Allow 10 minutes for this stop.



Aerial Shot Cape Paton



Apollo Bay from Mariners Lookout

Apollo Bay is a further 17.4 kilometres beyond Cape Paton and is a good spot to stop for lunch as the Great Ocean Road heads inland through the Otway Ranges before returning to the coast near the 12 Apostles. We have allowed 50 minutes for a lunch stop. There are a number of beach parking spots between Apollo Bay and Marengo that have excellent views. At Apollo Bay elapsed travel time from Anglesea is 3.5 hours.

The Great Ocean Road follows the coast for approximately 4 kilometres before climbing into the Otway Ranges through the Great Otway National Park. The top of the Otway Ranges is located at the small township of Lavers Hill 47.9 kilometres from Apollo Bay. Lavers Hill is 470 metres above sea level. At the T intersection entering Lavers Hill turn left along the Great Ocean Road and continue for 31.3 kilometres. The Great Ocean Road travels along a forested ridge before descending into the Gellibrand River valley near Princetown.



T intersection at Lavers Hill



Princetown Turn off

The 12 Apostles parking area is located on the right side of the Great Ocean Road 6.4 kilometres past the turn off to Princetown. Do not leave valuables in clear view in your car. Allow 45 minutes to view 12 Apostles and visitor information centre. There are toilets at the information centre.

After the 12 Apostles continue along the Great Ocean Road for 3.5 kilometres and turn left into Loch Ard gorge. You can spend the day at Loch Ard gorge exploring but for the one day tour we recommend that you park at the walk down into the gorge. This is a short but steep walk down stairs into the gorge. The other walk is the Razor Back walk. The Razor Back walk takes in spectacular coastal scenery and is a must do walk. Allow 60 minutes for these two walks. See Map 4 and 5



12 Apostles



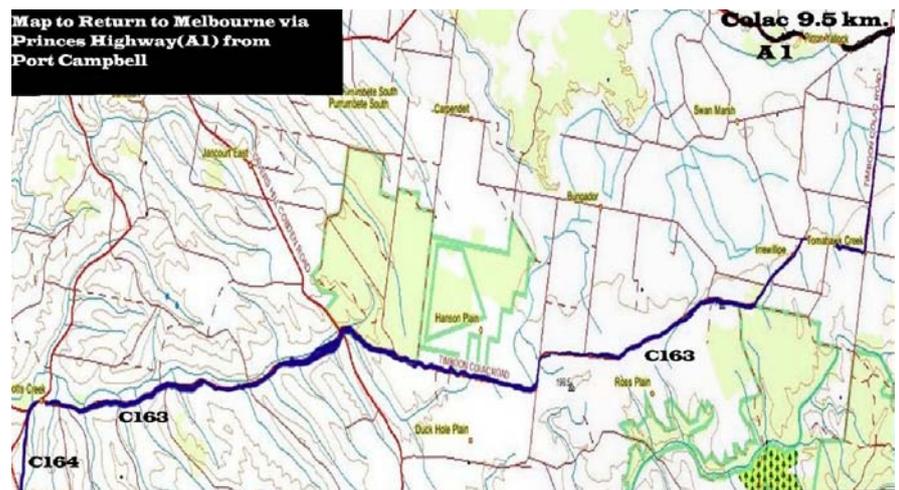
Inside Loch Ard Gorge

Continue along the Great Ocean Road (B100) for a further 7.5 kilometres to Port Campbell. Do not take the first turn into Port Campbell but take the second turn (see map 5). This brings you into Port Campbell close to the ocean. Port Campbell is a good place for afternoon tea. It is worth having a short walk on the pier as it gives a good overview of Port Campbell. Total elapsed time is just under 6 hours.

Taking the short cut back to Princes Highway(A1) and back to Melbourne from Port Campbell is approximately 225 kilometres that will take around 3 hours to drive making total elapsed time for the trip around 9 hours. To take the short cut back to A1 continue along the Great Ocean road. Approximately 1 kilometre out of Port Campbell the Great Ocean Road turns sharply to the left. Continue straight ahead on C 164. Continue on C164 for 18.4 kilometres and turn right onto C163. Continue down C163 for a further 12.8 kilometres and turn left then turn right after 100 metres. This is still C 163 road. Continue for another 23.6 kilometres and turn left. It is a further 7 kilometres to the A1 turn right and continue on A1 9.5 kilometres to Colac. It is 76 kilometres back to Geelong and take the M1 bypass back to Melbourne a further 75 kilometres away.

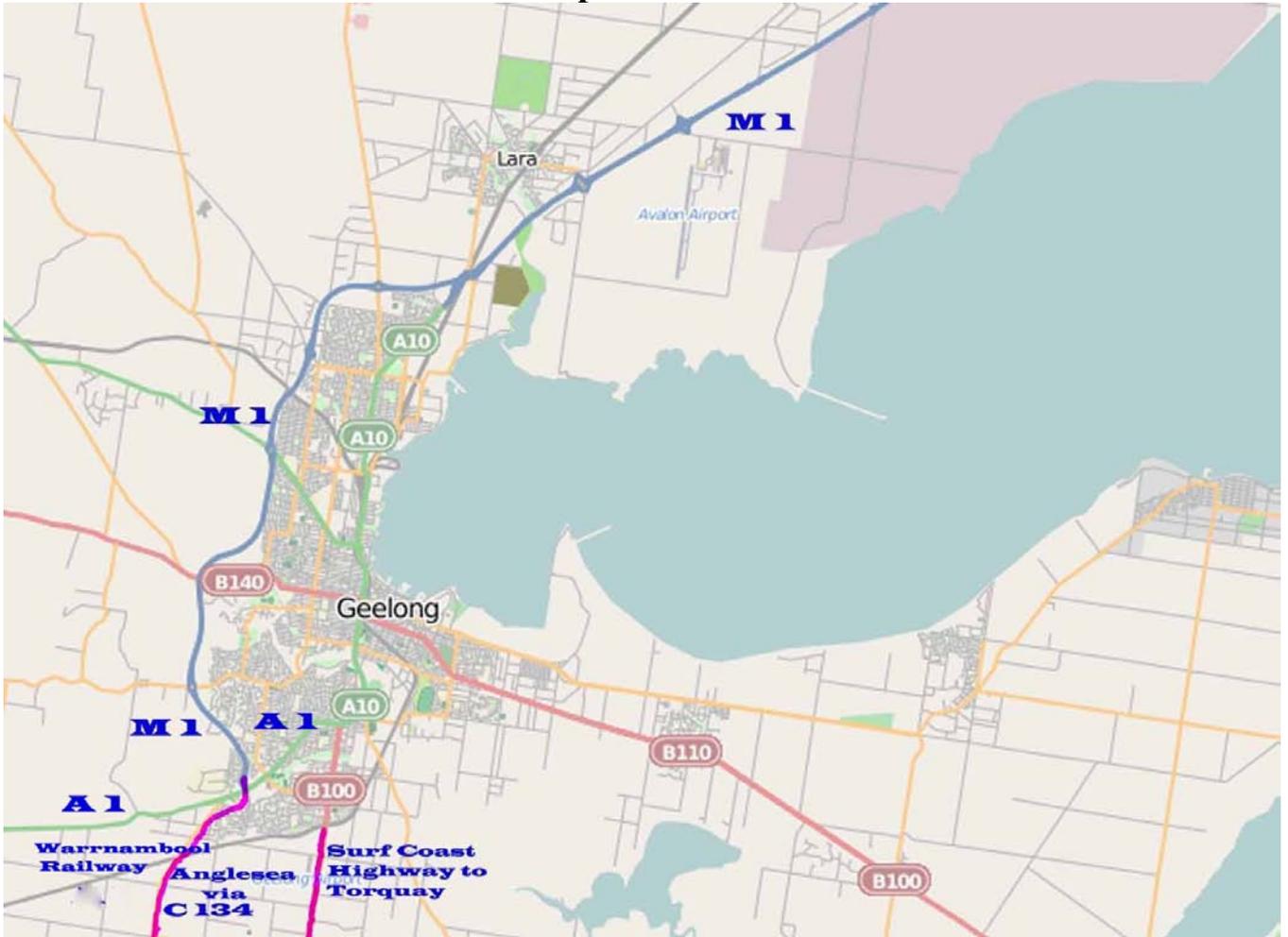
Returning to Melbourne from Port Campbell

Turn onto A 1 to Colac

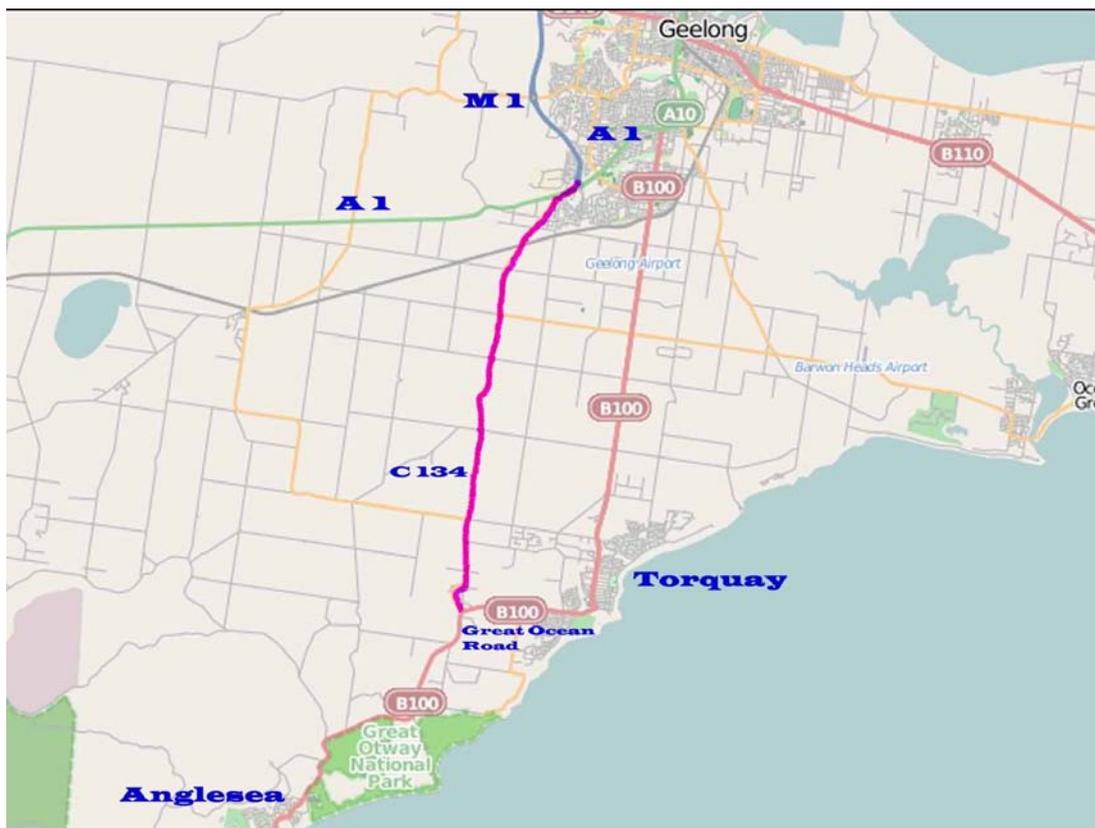


Take the C 164 from B100

Map Number 1



Map 2



Map 3



Map 4



Map 5
Loch Ard Gorge



Map 6
Port Campbell

