

WINTER WHALE TRAIL



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As the warmer months are windswept aside for the cool change and wild shores of winter, we're taking the heat off the Great Ocean Road's most trodden sites and following in the tail slaps of the whales.

We know that chilly days can be a real drag, but that's no reason to meltdown your travel plans. Winter along the Great Ocean Road isn't all grey skies and rainy days. Rainforests come to life, the ocean adds powerful drama to the coastline, fireplaces crackle and invite cosy evenings, and crowds dwindle. And of course, our giant flippered friends return to the southern shores for their annual baby moon.

Our winter is a whale's summer and from May to September, the giants of the deep journey from the Antarctic to the warmer waters of the Southern Ocean to breed, birth and raise their calves. This is what we call that 'whale corridor'. It's the only place in the world where you can watch whales breeding so close to the shore, and we're not at all surprised our mammal friends love to come here and play. It is one of the most spectacular stretches of coastline in the world – if we do say so ourselves.

Warrnambool, Port Fairy and Portland offer some of the best whale spotting vantage points to watch the Southern Right, Humpback, Blue, and the occasional Orca whale breaching, chin slapping, flippering and spy hopping. And if you're lucky enough, you might even see a few young calves splashing about, too.

But the region offers much more beyond blow holes and flipper slaps.

Uncover the secrets of the Shipwreck Coast at **Loch Ard Gorge** and **Wreck Beach** in **Port Campbell National Park**. Sure, the limestone structures of the **12 Apostles** and **London Bridge** are pretty remarkable, but there are some lesser selfie-ed spots just as worthy of a snap'n'brag. Visit **Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village** to see

the resurrection of the 19th century village brought to life by day, and by night a dazzling **sound and light show**. Warm up at the **Deep Blue Hot Springs**; then brunch, lunch, wine and dine on lip-smacking local produce in one of Warrnambool's cafés or restaurants.

Discover native wildlife and explore the wetlands, craters and bushland of the ancient volcanic landscapes of **Tower Hill**. Step back in time with a walking tour of **Port Fairy**, and immerse yourself in the history of the town. Be sure to stop by one of the many local eateries to refuel, before continuing your adventure to the World Heritage listed **Budj Bim Cultural Landscape**. Uncover the tranquil crater lake, lava canals and caves at **Budj Bim National Park** or visit **Tae Rak Aquaculture Centre** to discover the world's most extensive and oldest aquaculture systems.

The **Portland Maritime Discovery Centre** allows you to dive into the history of the whaling industry, before exploring the **Historical Buildings of Portland trail**. **Cape Bridgewater** will offer a marine-life view of a furrer kind thanks to the colony of fur seal that call it home. Take the opportunity to walk amongst the **petrified forest's** moon-like rock formations perched high on coastal cliffs and see the oceans iconic blowholes.

Talk about a whale of a time.

Visit the full Winter Whale Trail itinerary at WWW.VISITGREATOCEANROAD.ORG.AU



Logans Beach Whale Nursery



Warrnambool Coastline



Port Fairy



Port Fairy Lighthouse



Cape Bridgewater Seals



Portland Whale Viewing Platform

Great Ocean Road



THIS WINTER
TAKE THE JOURNEY

#WINTERWHALETRAIL

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