

DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF PORT FAIRY: A FAMILY ADVENTURE AWAITS

Spend a Long Weekend in Port Fairy and surrounds...



SELF-DRIVE ITINERARY

3 DAY / 2 NIGHT PORT FAIRY LONG WEEKEND GETAWAY



PORT FAIRY

DRIVE

MELBOURNE

Port Fairy is an easy 3.5-hour, 290km drive from Melbourne, via the Princes Highway (A1) or the Hamilton Highway (B140), which passes through Mortlake. Alternatively, you can take the coastal route from Torquay along the spectacular Great Ocean Road – it's a few hours longer but so worth it.

12 APOSTLES

Staying on the Great Ocean Road, travel west to the A1 at Allansford, before travelling through Warrnambool to Port Fairy. The 100km trip will take you around 75 minutes.

ADELAIDE

Leaving Adelaide along the Dukes Highway, you turn south at Keith on to Riddoch Highway/A66 before arriving at Mount Gambier; from here you turn east on to the Princes Highway driving directly to Port Fairy. The 575km route takes around six-and-a-half hours.

TRAIN & BUS

Traveling with V-Line from Melbourne to Port Fairy, you can take a train on the Melbourne Rail Network to Warrnambool. Once you arrive in Warrnambool, you can catch a coach that will take you directly to Port Fairy. The entire journey takes about four hours.

II PAUSE STOP

As part of your self-drive itinerary, it's important to plan ahead and take regular breaks to avoid driver fatigue. Start your drive well rested. Take a break every two hours and swap drivers when possible. A pause from the road might save your life.

The Transport Accident Commission (TAC) and the Victoria Tourism Industry Council (VTIC) operate Pause Stop pop-up sites across Victoria at selected Visitor Information Centres. These stops provide a great opportunity to pull over, stretch your legs and recharge. [Plan a Pause Stop at a Visitor Information Centre here.](#)



Port Fairy & Region Visitor Information Centre | Railway Place, Bank Street
03 5568 2682 | vic@moyne.vic.gov.au | www.iamportfairy.com.au | #iamportfairy

I AM PORT FAIRY *Great Ocean Road*

PORT FAIRY

FAST FACTS

- Port Fairy became Victoria's first municipality in 1852 and was proclaimed a borough in 1863.
- Port Fairy was named after the vessel "Fairy," which called here in 1828, skippered by Captain Henry Wishart. In 1843 Irishman, James Atkinson purchased 5120 acres of land and named the town "Belfast". In 1887, a plebiscite led to the town being renamed "Port Fairy".
- From humble beginnings in 1977, Port Fairy Folk Festival has become one of Australia's largest and most loved festivals. Port Fairy is the place to be during the Victorian Labour Day long weekend in March, as we present the finest Artists from around the World in a four-day celebration of music, community and culture.
- Port Fairy has a wealth of 19th-century buildings built in a variety of styles and building materials. The National Trust has classified over 60 buildings in the town, and these range from small cottages to substantial homes and public buildings.
- Griffiths Island was named after John Griffiths, who established Port Fairy's whaling industry on the island in the 1830's. Since then, the island has been an Aboriginal mission, a quarry, a shipbuilding site and a prime location for a lighthouse.
- Port Fairy was voted as the World's Most Liveable Community in 2012 and Top Tourism Small Town of Victoria 2021 and 2022.
- Port Fairy has a population of 3,340.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS

We acknowledge the Eastern Maar and Gunditjmara people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which Port Fairy and the Moyne Shire are situated. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present, and emerging, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We recognize their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture, and we are committed to working together to create a future that embraces and respects the rich cultural heritage of this region.



DAY ONE

DIVE INTO HISTORY & COASTAL CHARM

MORNING

Start Your Adventure



As you arrive in Port Fairy, take a moment to stretch your legs and kick off your adventure.

Your first stop will be the Visitor Information Centre. There, you'll meet the friendly staff and volunteers who are eager to share their passion for Port Fairy. They will provide you with valuable tips and assistance to make sure your stay is truly memorable. Make sure to pick up your [Port Fairy Heritage Trail](#) and [Griffiths Island Trails](#) with your haul of brochures. These guides will lead you through the rich history and stunning landscapes of the area, offering insights into the unique character of Port Fairy.

While you're there, take some time to explore the Gift Shop, where you'll find a wonderful range of souvenirs and locally made products. It's the perfect place to pick up a special gift or a keepsake to remind you of your visit. Don't forget to browse the selection of locally crafted items. There's sure to be something that captures the spirit of Port Fairy to take home with you!

MORNING

Step Back in Time

Take a stroll or ride your bikes to explore the township's historic streets lined with 19th-century cottages and Norfolk Island pines.

Head down to the historic Port of Port Fairy, where all types of seacraft are moored. Here you can buy fresh seafood, including locally caught southern rock lobster (in season). Then, make your way along the wharf to Martins Point for some fun at the playground before heading to Griffiths Island.

ACCESSIBILITY: The walk along the Wharf is accessible by foot, bicycle and mobility aids. The playground features a Liberty Swing for users of mobility aids, along with rubber soft-fall matting, a wheelchair-accessible carousel, and accessible paths with musical instruments. A key for the swing can be obtained at the Port Fairy & Region Visitor Information Centre.

Book a guided Historic Walking Tour of Port Fairy through the Visitor Information Centre. Cost: \$15 per adult, children free.

Historic Wharf & Martins Point, Gipps Street, Port Fairy



DAY ONE

DIVE INTO HISTORY & COASTAL CHARM

MORNING

Explore Griffiths Island Wildlife and Lighthouse



Griffiths Island, with its seasonal colony of shearwater seabirds, winding pathways and the spectacular 1859-built basalt lighthouse at the eastern tip, is a great place to explore. Keep an eye out for the resident swamp wallabies and the occasional echidna. A short walk across the causeway from Martins Point gets you onto the island. Dogs are not allowed on the island, and visitors are urged to stick to the walking tracks, which wind through the low-lying scrub. Nesting birds, including the shearwaters that migrate from the northern hemisphere each year, create burrows for their young hidden in the sand, and it's important these nests aren't disturbed by wandering sightseers.

ACCESSIBILITY: *Walking the Island* - The complete circuit of the island is 2.9 km and takes about 50 minutes. Alternatively, it takes about 25 minutes to walk 1.25 km to the lighthouse, along the formed riverbank, with two optional pathways: along the beach or a limestone track. The pathway along the limestone track to the lighthouse is accessible for mobility aids, bikes and prams. Beyond the lighthouse, the track is rough, over sand and rocks in some places, and walking along the southern beach sections depends upon the height of the incoming tide.

Griffiths Island, Ocean Drive, Port Fairy

LUNCH

Picnic with a Past

Your next stop is Battery Hill. On the way, be sure to stop by East Beach Fish 'N' Chips for some delicious takeaway. Their crispy fish and perfectly cooked chips are a local favourite. With your meal in hand, continue along Griffiths Street to Battery Hill. As you enjoy your fish and chips, you'll be surrounded by fascinating remnants of the past. The cannons and fortifications offer plenty of opportunities for imaginative play and exploration. Meanwhile, you can relax and take in the stunning views of the coastline. The combination of delicious food, historical intrigue and beautiful scenery makes Battery Hill an ideal spot for a memorable outing in Port Fairy.

HISTORY: *Battery Hill, established in the 1800s, is a historic site with cannons and fortifications that were originally built to protect the town from the perceived threat of Russian warships. This spot is perfect for a picnic, offering a unique blend of history and scenic beauty.*

East Beach Fish 'N' Chips, Griffiths Street, Port Fairy (\$-\$\$) | Battery Hill, Griffiths Street, Port Fairy



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I AM PORT FAIRY *Great Ocean Road*

DAY ONE

DIVE INTO HISTORY & COASTAL CHARM



Start your afternoon with a copy of the Port Fairy Art Map, it's your guide to discovering the town's creative side. There's heaps to explore in this creative little pocket—check out colourful galleries, quirky shops, and local makers showing off everything from paintings to pottery. Adults will love browsing the unique fashion boutiques and finding treasures like handmade jewellery, homewares, and gifts.

Meanwhile, kids can enjoy a scoop of ice cream from Rebecca's Café or pick out some old-school sweets at Port Fairy Confectionery. It's a great spot to slow down, explore, and soak up the charm of Port Fairy's artsy side.

Juno Boutique, Sackville Street, Port Fairy (\$-\$\$)

Rebecca's Café, Sackville Street, Port Fairy (\$-\$\$)

Port Fairy Confectionery, Sackville Street, Port Fairy (\$-\$\$)

AFTERNOON

Discover Local Creativity in the Heart of Town



AFTERNOON

Rockpool Ramble & Marine Life

Next, head up to Pea Soup, one of Port Fairy's most picturesque beaches. Discover the curious creatures living in the rockpools and see who can spot the weirdest one. You'll make amazing discoveries and lifelong memories on a leisurely walk along the rocky foreshore. What has the sea washed up today? Remember to leave the creatures and shells where you find them, as marine creatures use them for their homes.

HOT TIP: Pea Soup Beach is perfect for swimming and snorkelling safely, as it fully protected by the basalt reef.

Pea Soup Beach, Ocean Drive, Port Fairy



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I AM PORT FAIRY *Great Ocean Road*

DAY ONE

DIVE INTO HISTORY & COASTAL CHARM



ACCOMMODATION

Southcombe Caravan Park Deluxe Villas

It's time to check out your accommodation - get ready for an unforgettable stay in a 3-bedroom Deluxe Villa at Southcombe Caravan Park! Each villa is thoughtfully designed to be your home away from home, complete with a fully equipped kitchen and a private deck that boasts breathtaking views of South Beach. With its spacious layout, comfort and convenience are at your fingertips, making it the perfect choice for a fun-filled family getaway. So, kick back, relax and immerse yourself in the luxurious atmosphere of these stunning modern villas — your adventure awaits!

Southcombe Caravan Park Deluxe Villas are designed to accommodate up to 8 guests, each featuring up to 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms (1- or 2-bedroom options are available during off-peak season). They also offer a villa that is fully accessible, ensuring utmost convenience for guests of all abilities.

HOT TIP: When you stay at Southcombe Caravan Park, you're only steps away from the Port Fairy Skate & Play Precinct. This family-friendly space is packed with fun. Featuring a modern skate park, pump track, and playground for kids of all ages. It's the perfect spot for an afternoon of adventure without even leaving the neighborhood!

Southcombe Caravan Park, James Street, Port Fairy (\$\$-\$\$\$)

DINNER

Family-Friendly Dining at The Victoria Hotel

Gather the kids and make your way to The Victoria Hotel, conveniently located a 10-minute walk from your accommodation. It's the perfect spot for a family-friendly meal. With a dedicated children's play area, it's an ideal place for the kids to have fun while you relax and enjoy your meal. The menu offers a variety of delicious meals that cater to all tastes, ensuring everyone in the family finds something they love. Whether you're looking for a casual meal or a special night out, the Vic Hotel provides a welcoming atmosphere and excellent service.

The Victoria Hotel, 42 Bank Street, Port Fairy (\$-\$\$)



DAY TWO

FOOD & WINE, ANCIENT CULTURE AND BIG NATURE

BREAKFAST

Morning Indulgence at Bank St + Co



Only a short drive into the town centre, enjoy a nourishing breakfast in the relaxed, casual dining atmosphere at Bank St + Co, located in the heart of town. Serving exceptional coffee and a menu that offers a selection of delicious options that both locals and visitors keep returning for. The seasonally changing menu brings the world to your table – right here in Port Fairy.

Bank St + Co, 28 Bank Street, Port Fairy (\$-\$\$)



MORNING

Market Treasures & Local Delights

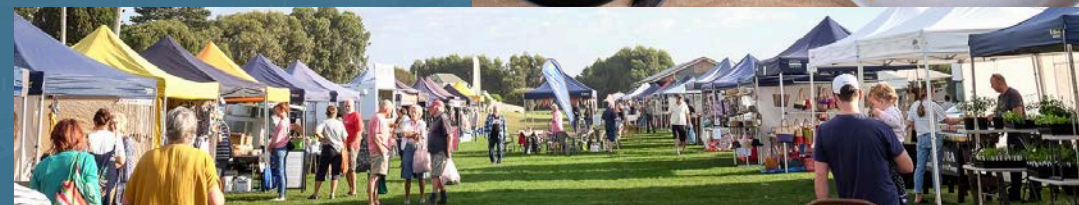
Then head further down Bank Street to Railway Place, where you'll find the vibrant Port Fairy Markets—a local favourite full of colour, flavour, and creativity. Wander among the stalls and discover fresh produce, handmade treats, unique crafts, and homegrown delights. There's something to tempt everyone, from farm-fresh fruit and veggies to locally made jams, baked goods, and sweet snacks.

It's a great spot for families to explore together—kids can pick out their favourite market finds while adults browse for special ingredients to take back to the villa. Local wineries and distilleries also attend the markets, offering tastings to guests, so you might even find the perfect bottle to enjoy once the kids are tucked into bed.

Stock up on goodies for a delicious homemade breakfast and maybe grab a locally made keepsake or two to remember the day.

TIP: The market alternates each Saturday between the two local community groups. The Port Fairy Farmers Market (1st and 3rd weekend of every month, excluding January) and the Port Fairy Community Market (2nd and 4th weekend of every month, and every weekend in January).

Railway Place, Bank Street, Port Fairy



DAY TWO

FOOD & WINE, ANCIENT CULTURE AND BIG NATURE

AFTERNOON

Journey to UNESCO World Heritage Site Budj Bim



Venture inland from Port Fairy on a 50-minute car ride to the UNESCO-listed, culturally significant landscape of Budj Bim, located in the traditional Country of the Gunditjmara people. The unique lava flow from an ancient volcanic eruption created this significant landscape, connecting the long dormant Budj Bim Volcano and Tae Rak (Lake Condah), the wetland swamps of Kurtonitj, and the rocky ridges and marshes of Tyrendarra. Budj Bim's system of weirs, channels and volcanic lava flow allowed the Gunditjmara people to create the earliest living example of aquaculture in the world, with a history of eel farming dating back over 6,600 years. Hence its UNESCO listing of 'outstanding universal value'.

LUNCH

Taste of Culture at Tae Rak Café

Start your journey at the Tae Rak Aquaculture Centre and Café and enjoy a delicious lunch at the café, which offers a variety of local dishes and refreshments. The café serves meals prepared by a local Gunditjmara chef, featuring modern dishes using regional produce and infused with local bush herbs and spices. You can even try eel on the menu if you dare! The café offers both indoor and alfresco dining, with stunning views overlooking the shores of Tae Rak (formerly Lake Condah). There's plenty of space for the kids to run around, making it a perfect spot for a relaxing and enjoyable meal with the family.

Tae Rak Aquaculture Centre and Café, Vaughans Rd, Breakaway Creek (\$-\$\$)



AFTERNOON

Ancient Aquaculture

Once you've refuelled, join a Gunditjmara guide on the Tae Rak Guided Cultural Tour, a 2-hour exploration of the Tae Rak (Lake Condah) wetlands. The tour provides an overview of the Gunditjmara creation story, the lifecycle of Kooyang (eels), and the lake's extensive aquatic life and birdlife. Walk out on Country to see the network of aquaculture systems designed to trap and harvest Kooyang (eel) for food and trade.

Tae Rak (Lake Condah) Guided Cultural Tour, Vaughans Rd, Breakaway Creek (\$\$-\$\$\$)



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DAY TWO

FOOD & WINE, ANCIENT CULTURE AND BIG NATURE

AFTERNOON

Explore Budj Bim & Lake Surprise



“Ngatanwarr wartee pa kakay teen Gunditjmara mirring” – Welcome brothers and sisters to Gunditjmara Country. The Traditional Owners ask that you take the time to look, listen and feel the Country.

DINNER

Gourmet Pizza at Coffin Sally

After a fun-filled day, it's time to make our way back to Port Fairy. The 45-minute drive will certainly provide a rest. Head to Coffin Sally on Sackville Street for a memorable evening! This quirky and creatively decorated spot is perfect for families. The adults can unwind with refreshing cocktails while the kids enjoy the lively atmosphere.

Coffin Sally is known for its delicious wood-fired pizzas, which are sure to please even the pickiest eaters. The pizzas are served in a charming annex behind the historic front building, adding a unique touch to your dining experience. With a variety of toppings and options, there's something for everyone to enjoy. After dinner, it's time to head back to your accommodation and relax.

[Coffin Sally](#), 33 Sackville Street, Port Fairy (\$-\$\$)

After your tour, make your way to Budj Bim National Park. Discover the rich cultural heritage and natural wonders of this ancient volcanic landscape. The visitor area is home to a tranquil crater lake, lava canals and caves in a lush bushland setting. Embark on the Lake Surprise Walk and descend into the crater of this dormant volcano. Begin your journey at the lookout, offering stunning views of the lake. Follow the lake's edge nestled among tall Manna Gum, Blackwood trees, and lush bushland, where the trail loops back to Budj Bim Campground. This walk provides a unique blend of natural beauty and cultural heritage, making it a must-visit for families and nature enthusiasts.

[Budj Bim National Park](#), Mt Eccles Road, Macarthur



DAY THREE

SURF, WILDLIFE AND IRISH CHARM

BREAKFAST

Market Fare Breakfast

MORNING

Ride the Waves with a Morning Surf Lesson

Time to catch some waves in an early morning surf lesson. With the choice of GO Surf or Port Fairy Surf School instructors, they'll be ready with wetsuits and boards for the whole family. Start your day with a fun and informative beach-based session where you'll learn essential surf techniques and safety tips. Feel the excitement build as you practice your moves on the sand, preparing for the real deal.

Next up, it's time to hit the light surf in waist-deep water. Under the careful watch of your friendly instructor, you'll paddle out and catch your first waves. Who will be the first to ride like a pro, and who will have a hilarious belly flop into the seaweed? Either way, it's all part of the fun!

Wrap up your lesson with a group photo to capture the memories of your epic surf session. Whether you're a natural or a novice, this experience is sure to bring smiles, laughter, and a newfound love for the ocean.

HOT TIP: Wear a swimsuit or boardies, bring a towel and plenty of sunscreen. Everything else you need is provided.

[Go Surf School \(\\$\\$-\\$\\$\\$\)](#) | [Port Fairy Surf School \(\\$\\$-\\$\\$\\$\)](#)
Beach Street, Port Fairy



Whip up a delicious breakfast with your local fare, collected from yesterday's market. The fully equipped kitchen provides everything you need to create a hearty and fresh morning meal before you check out.



LUNCH

Beachfront Dining at Charlie's on East

After your surf lesson, head to Charlie's on East to refuel while taking in stunning views of Port Fairy Bay. Located at the Port Fairy Surf Lifesaving Club, Charlie's offers breathtaking sights of the iconic East Beach and the Historic Lighthouse on Griffiths Island. The café is family-friendly and fully licensed, providing a beachfront dining experience.

[Charlie's on East](#), 4 Hughes Avenue, Port Fairy (\$-\$\$)

DAY THREE

SURF, WILDLIFE AND IRISH CHARM

AFTERNOON

Wild Encounters at Tower Hill Wildlife Reserve

As you begin your journey home, take a ten-minute detour and visit Tower Hill Wildlife Reserve, a dormant volcano formed over 37,000 years ago. Sitting in a large volcanic crater, the Reserve is one of Victoria's most fascinating and significant geological formations. Volcanic cone-shaped hills rise from the lakes, where you will find scenic walks and natural wonders.

Tower Hill is home to some of Australia's most loved wildlife, including emus, kangaroos, koalas, echidnas, swans, blue wrens and so much more. Walk across wetlands, craters and bushland, and learn how the park was exploited by early settlers before being restored to its natural beauty by volunteers, local community groups and school kids.

FUN FACT: Tower Hill Reserve was declared Victoria's first National Park in 1892.

HOT TIP: If you've never tried 'Bush Tucker,' put Worn Gundidj at Tower Hill on your to-do list. Join a local Indigenous guide to gain a deep understanding of traditional culture and lifestyles and learn how to identify native plants used for food and medicine. Test your skills and find out who's the best boomerang thrower in your family. (\$-\$\$)

Tower Hill Wildlife Reserve, 105 Lake View Road, Tower Hill



AFTERNOON

Explore Koroit's Irish Heritage & Botanic Gardens

Before you leave, take some time to visit Koroit, a historic Irish farming settlement located on the outskirts of Tower Hill. This charming village showcases the early Irish settlement and is known for its friendly locals and vibrant culture. Stroll through picturesque streets, admire heritage buildings, and enjoy a hearty lunch at one of Koroit's cozy cafes or pubs, where you can find traditional Irish stew or locally brewed beer.

Take a playful run through the Koroit Botanic Gardens and soak up the beauty of these lush green spaces. Designed by renowned landscape gardener William Guilfoyle, the gardens are home to magnificent heritage-listed trees—perfect for a game of hide and seek or a shady spot to catch your breath before heading home.

Koroit Botanic Gardens, High Street

AFTERNOON

Treasured Memories for the Journey Home

Reflecting on your incredible three-day adventure in the charming town of Port Fairy, your family is set to head home with a treasure trove of unforgettable memories. With hearts and bellies full, you've experienced the rich culture and captivating history of this beautiful destination. Embrace the lasting impact of your journey and carry that appreciation with you as you travel home. Safe travels, and until your next adventure!



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I AM PORT FAIRY *Great Ocean Road*

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Experience luxury at Southcombe Caravan Park in Port Fairy by staying in their spacious Deluxe Villas. These modern villas can accommodate up to 8 guests and feature 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a fully equipped kitchen, and a private deck with stunning views of South Beach. Perfect for families or groups, the Deluxe Villas offer a comfortable and stylish retreat close to local attractions and activities. They also offer a villa that is fully accessible, ensuring utmost convenience for guests of all abilities.

(\$\$-\$\$\$)

Seacombe House in Port Fairy offers a variety of family-friendly accommodations, including spacious Motor Inn Suites, cozy Historic Cottages, and comfortable rooms in the Seacombe Guest House. Located at 22 Sackville Street, it's within walking distance to local attractions, making it an ideal choice for a family getaway.

(\$\$-\$\$\$)

A family-friendly beachfront accommodation in Port Fairy is Hearn's Beachside Villas. These luxurious villas offer stunning ocean views, spacious living areas, and modern amenities, making them perfect for a family stay. Located right on the beach, they provide easy access to the sand and surf, as well as being close to local attractions and dining options.

(\$\$-\$\$\$)



PHOTO CREDIT: BOB MCPHERSON

WINTER WHALE TRAIL

During winter, Port Fairy and its surrounds become a prime spot for whale watching. From May to September, Southern Right, Humpback, and occasionally Blue, and Orca whales migrate to the warmer waters of the Southern Ocean to breed and raise their calves. Warrnambool, Port Fairy, and Portland offer excellent vantage points to see these magnificent creatures up close. Beyond whale watching, the region's stunning coastal scenery and charming towns make it a perfect winter destination.

[Download your copy of the Winter Whale Trail.](#)



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ASK A LOCAL

PORT FAIRY AND REGION VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

- Tour Bookings
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- Guided Walking Tours
- Local Products & Souvenirs
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