

# MUNGO SELF DRIVE TOURS

MELBOURNE TO MELBOURNE

## Melbourne to Melbourne

Recommended - 10 to 14 Days

A perfect 10 day break: Melbourne to Melbourne (via Mungo Lodge) this itinerary offers the international tourist Country, Coast, Mountain and Outback Australia at its finest, through a variety of towns over an ever changing landscape.



Leave **Melbourne** heading south west via the Werribee Open Range Zoo where you will experience your own African safari in an open vehicle adventure. Visit the beautiful grounds of the Werribee Park Mansion and shop next door and spend ten minutes in the State Rose Garden just minutes away.

Stop off to explore the historic town of Queenscliff or continue on to **Torquay**, Victoria's surf capital and the beginning of the spectacular Great Ocean Road. Experience the many examples of natural beauty from the ocean to the Angahook State Park to the Erskine Falls and **Apollo Bay** lookouts. Walk among the tree tops at the Otway Fly— a 600 metre long, 25 metre high elevated tree top walk.

From Apollo Bay continue along the Great Ocean Road towards Warnambool, past the stunning 12 Apostles giant rock stacks that rise majestically from the Southern Ocean in the rugged Port Campbell National Park. Stop off at Loch Ard Gorge and London Bridge, another interesting rock formation. At **Warnambool**, look out for migrating whales before heading up to **Halls Gap** and visit the pretty village of Dunkeld. Visit the Grampians National Park for bushwalking, rock climbing, fishing and canoeing amidst spectacular ridges. Or simply absorb the wildlife, wildflowers and Aboriginal art sites, such as the famous Bunjil's shelter.

From Halls Gap, travel north via Ouyen to the far north west of the state. Time to relax in **Mildura**, by dining at Stefano's in the Grand Hotel. This multi award winning restaurant is the passion of chef and author Stefano de Pieri and his degustation menu famously unites his Italian heritage with local produce and wines. Also worth visiting are the Rio Vista Museum and the Art Vault. Alternatively, visit Trentham Estate Wines just outside Mildura for a relaxing lunch or enjoy the views of the Murray River from above in a hot air balloon.

From here you can stay in one of Australia's World Heritage sites: **Mungo Lodge** at Mungo National Park and experience a Harry Nanya anthropological tour. Explore the Walls of China hills and fascinating lunar landscape within which the oldest known human burial site was recently discovered. Enjoy a tour of the Desert at Sunset with champagne and canapés.





From Mungo Lodge, head back to Mildura and then follow the Murray Valley Highway through Robinvale to **Swan Hill** which was once a major inland port. Visit the Swan Hill Art Gallery to enjoy regional works or the Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement which recreates life in the Murray-Mallee area between 1830–1930. Take a tour of the night sky using GPS computerized telescopes at Lake Boga — just south of Swan Hill.

Continue on to Kerang before taking the Loddon Valley Highway to **Bendigo**. Bendigo is Victoria's fourth largest city and is notable for its Victorian architectural heritage, gold mining history and a rich Chinese heritage. It has a well developed art and cultural centre. From Bendigo, head north east towards Rutherglen via Shepparton and Cobram. **Rutherglen** is one of Australia's oldest wine regions, reknowned for its diverse take on traditional varieties such as Shiraz, Cabernet and Rhone blends. Visit some of the regions grand old homesteads, sandy beaches and shady billabongs.

From Rutherglen take the short trip to the historic gold rush town of **Beechworth** and see the courthouse where Australia's most infamous bushranger stood trial. Then continue heading south via Glenrowan and Benalla stopping off overnight at **Mansfield**. Mansfield is famous as home of Victoria's traditional Cattleman and Banjo Patterson's legendary poem "The Man from Snowy River". It's a haven for adventure sports and a great place to indulge in local fine wines and fishing.

From Mansfield, continue south through Alexandra and on to the Yarra Valley, just north of Melbourne. Visit the award-winning Healesville Sanctuary, home to platypus, koalas, Tasmanian devils, lyrebirds, kangaroos, emus, wallabies, dingoes, echidnas and more. Have lunch at the popular Healesville Hotel followed by tasting some of the renowned local wineries that make the Yarra Valley landscape and architecture so appealing. From here it is short trip back to **Melbourne**, from where you started from just two weeks ago.