



JOURNEY BEYOND

GREAT SOUTHERN

SOUTH-EAST SUMMER

BRISBANE TO ADELAIDE

OFF TRAIN EXCURSIONS

Off-train excursions and experiences are subject to change and subject to availability. Capacity limits may apply. Fitness levels are guides only. Please speak to a staff member for further information. Timetables and excursions may vary on public holidays. All excursions are subject to cancellation or modification due to inclement weather, timetable variations or other unforeseen circumstances.

DAY 2 HUNTER VALLEY WINE REGION

(EXCURSION OPTION INCLUDED IN YOUR JOURNEY)

 APPROXIMATELY 8.5 HOURS  LOW  HAT & SUNSCREEN + SHOPPING OPPORTUNITY

Famous for superior semillon and shiraz, the Hunter Valley is around 50km inland from the New South Wales coast. Jump off the train and spend a day hopping between fabulous cellar doors in Australia's oldest wine region.

From historic Maitland Station (1880), enjoy an easy coach ride into this fertile valley, home to around 150 wineries ranging from slick big-name producers to small-scale boutique bottlers.

Your day amongst the vines will take you to some of the region's finest wineries, from stylish and contemporary to marvellously historic, and relaxed and fun. Generous tasting times – at least an hour at each winery – will allow you to savour the full range of Hunter Valley offerings. In between wine tastings you'll also enjoy a lovely long-table lunch.

Suitably wined and dined, you will return to your coach to make the leisurely journey to Broadmeadow Station, meeting the Great Southern in time for dinner and your continuing journey southwards.

Please note: this itinerary will vary on New Year's Eve. Please see your friendly Great Southern staff for details.

RECOMMENDED FITNESS LEVEL:

Low – coach tour with short walks required.



DAY 2 PORT STEPHENS BY LAND & SEA

(EXCURSION OPTION INCLUDED IN YOUR JOURNEY)

 APPROXIMATELY 8.5 HOURS  LOW - MODERATE  HAT, SUNSCREEN & COMFORTABLE WALKING SHOES

Port Stephens' sun-soaked beaches, dunes and beautiful waterways are essential east coast highlights – just ask the local dolphins and koalas as you tour through this heavenly seaside realm.

The Great Southern pulls into old-time Maitland Station, from where it's a relaxed one-hour coach ride to the Marina at Nelson Bay, just east of Port Stephens. Here you'll enjoy a relaxed cruise on the Bay, spying playful bottlenose dolphins in their glorious natural habitat.

After the cruise it's a short stroll to your marina-side lunch. It's no surprise that fresh-caught local seafood is the star attraction on the local menus.

Next up, a short coach ride brings you to the vast Stockton Sand Dunes. Soaring to an improbable 30m high and 1km wide in some places, these colossal sand hills are the largest mobile dunes in the Southern Hemisphere. A guided 4WD excursion is the best way to see and experience the beaches and dunes, and their interesting military and Worimi Indigenous history.

Back on the coach, it's a scenic drive back to meet the Great Southern at Broadmeadow Station in time to freshen up for dinner.

Please note: this itinerary will vary on New Year's Eve. Please see your friendly Great Southern staff for details.

RECOMMENDED FITNESS LEVEL:

Low/Moderate – Stair climbing on cruise, 4WD van tour and some walking.
Not wheelchair accessible.



DAY 2 NEWCASTLE EXPLORER

(EXCURSION OPTION INCLUDED IN YOUR JOURNEY)

 APPROXIMATELY 8.5 HOURS  MODERATE - HIGH  HAT & SUNSCREEN



Newcastle is a city on the rise, where creative energy and heritage architecture collide with surf beaches and a hard-edged industrial legacy. Take a day to discover the many charms of Australia's third-oldest city.

From Maitland Station, travel by coach to Queens Wharf on the waterfront in 'Newy'. There's enough here to keep you busy all day: an observation tower, marina, ferry dock, cafes, restaurants, pub, brewery... But an easy-going two-hour Newcastle Afoot walking tour will give you a broader sense of the city, finishing with lunch at a uniquely Newcastle venue.

A tunnel tour of Fort Scratchley is next, an intriguing historical remnant atop Flagstaff Hill, built in 1882 to defend Newcastle against Russian attack. The Russians never arrived. These days it's a fascinating place to explore.

Named after the geologist who pioneered large-scale coal mining in the region in the 1840s, Strzelecki Lookout is a top spot from which to survey the city. From here you can walk (or coach) downhill to nearby Anzac Lookout for further photo opportunities, via the spectacular cliff-top Memorial Walk.

Back on the coach you'll transfer to Broadmeadow Station, where you'll reboard the Great Southern in time for your evening meal.

Please note: this itinerary will vary on New Year's Eve. Please see your friendly Great Southern staff for details.

RECOMMENDED FITNESS LEVEL:

Moderate/High – Approximately 3km of walking required. Standing for long periods of time.

DAY 3 MELBOURNE EXPLORER

(EXCURSION OPTION INCLUDED IN YOUR JOURNEY)

 APPROXIMATELY 10 HOURS  LOW - MODERATE  HAT & SUNSCREEN + SHOPPING OPPORTUNITY

The Victorian capital of Melbourne is a vast metropolis - take it all in from the highest public viewing platform in the Southern Hemisphere, the Eureka Skydeck. Down at ground level, the city's famous laneways are begging to be explored.

From Broadmeadows Station in Melbourne's north, coach to Southbank where the 297m-high Eureka Tower points skywards. Designed by famous Melbourne architect Nonda Katsalidis and opening in 2006, it's the second-tallest building in Australia, and the views from the top-floor Eureka 89 restaurant are astonishing! Enjoy a fabulous lunch at Eureka 89 then visit the Eureka Skydeck for an expansive 360° outlook. Feeling brave? 'The Edge' is a walk-in glass cube suspended high above the streets.

Ride the Southern Hemisphere's fastest elevator back down to terra firma. Once you have arrived at street level, you have the opportunity to choose one of three options:

Laneways Walking Tour: Melbourne's CBD is criss-crossed with cobblestone laneways, once the domain of Victorian-era 'dunny trucks'. These days Melbourne's laneways sustain cafes, hole-in-the wall bars, boutiques and a booming street-art scene. Venture into this

unique and soulful realm on a two-hour walking tour. Comfortable walking shoes are a must.

National Gallery of Victoria: The NGV is a bastion of high art and high ideas. The Australian collection features some truly spectacular Aboriginal art. Enjoy a guided tour or time to explore at your own pace.

Free time: It's time to go exploring at your own pace. You might like to venture into coffee-scented laneways, wander through historic arcades or browse the Bourke Street Mall boutiques. The walkway from Federation Square along the meandering Yarra River to the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) is a memorable afternoon stroll. Meeting back at Federation Square, the city's cultural heart, your coach will transfer you to the Moorabool Valley wine region near Geelong for dinner and wine tasting. You'll reboard the Great Southern at nearby Inverleigh Siding in time for your nocturnal journey west.

Please note: this itinerary will vary on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Please see your friendly Great Southern staff for details.

RECOMMENDED FITNESS LEVEL:

Low/Moderate – Walking tour, approximately 2km of walking required.



DAY 3 WINE & WATERFRONT

(EXCURSION OPTION INCLUDED IN YOUR JOURNEY)

 APPROXIMATELY 9 HOURS  LOW - MODERATE  HAT & SUNSCREEN + SHOPPING OPPORTUNITY

The snug wine region along the Moorabool River north of Geelong was once the most bountiful in Victoria. With limestone and basalt geology and a Mediterranean climate, the wines produced here are exotic and unusual. In Geelong itself, there are few more pleasant places to spend an afternoon than the revitalised waterfront precinct – the shining centrepiece of this buzzing southern city.

After brunch, step off the Great Southern at Inverleigh Siding west of Geelong. From here it's a short coach ride to the vineyards of the Moorabool Valley. Cool-climate pinot noir is a focus here, with some cuttings originating from as far afield as Switzerland. Enjoy wine and food tastings and time to sit back and enjoy the view.

It's then a short hop to the Geelong waterfront: explore the foreshore at your

own pace, discovering public art, the safe-swimming sands at Eastern Beach and the 330m-long Cunningham Pier, dating from the 1850s. Don't miss a photo opportunity with the famous Baywalk Bollards.

Before you return to the Great Southern, finish the day with dinner and wine tasting near the confluence of the Moorabool and Barwon Rivers. Buckley Falls are nearby, too, slowly cascading over the Barwon River boulders.

Please note: this itinerary will vary on Christmas Day. Please see your friendly Great Southern staff for details.

RECOMMENDED FITNESS LEVEL:

Low/Moderate – Some walking required.



DAY 3 WONDERS OF THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD

(EXCURSION OPTION INCLUDED IN YOUR JOURNEY)

 APPROXIMATELY 9 HOURS  MODERATE  HAT, SUNSCREEN & ENCLOSED SHOES

An essential Victorian road-trip destination, the Great Ocean Road plays host to natural wonders such as the Twelve Apostles, London Bridge and Bay of Islands – truly iconic Australian landmarks. Explore this rugged seashore, followed by drinks and dinner at a historic hinterland pastoral property.

From Inverleigh Siding west of Geelong, Victoria's gritty second city, journey by coach to the majestic Great Ocean Road. Moving through a lake-filled landscape and across the lush Otway Ranges, your two-hour coach ride is a photogenic snapshot of rural Victoria. But the Southern Ocean shoreline delivers the real scenic surprise. No matter how many TV travel shows you've watched, the first time you see the icons of the Great Ocean Road on this surf-battered shore is a moment to cherish. Where we visit on the

day will depend on summer tourist numbers and site capacities – but any visit to this picture-perfect region will have you reaching for your camera.

Coach back to historic Coragulac House (1873) in the Otways hinterland for drinks, canapes and a sumptuous dinner – the grand finale of this super-scenic day.

Reboard the Great Southern back at Inverleigh Siding and travel west towards South Australia.

RECOMMENDED FITNESS LEVEL:

Moderate – Walking, some stair climbing and approximately 2-hour coach travel each way.



DAY 3 WONDERS OF THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD –SCENIC FLIGHT UPGRADE ★



(OPTIONAL UPGRADE, NOT INCLUDED IN YOUR JOURNEY)

 APPROXIMATELY 9 HOURS  MODERATE  HAT & SUNSCREEN

The expedition along Victoria's Great Ocean Road is an Australian rite of passage. A scenic flight offers an even more intimate encounter with the craggy natural features along this incredible stretch of coastline.

Disembark the Great Southern at Inverleigh Siding west of Geelong, then board your coach for a two-hour tour to the Southern Ocean shore. Heading inland, it's a pretty drive through lush dairy country, past lakes and over the koala-filled Otway Ranges – a journey culminating with the show-stopping sight of Port Campbell National Park, home to the Twelve Apostles, London Bridge and Bay of Islands rock formations to name just a few. The friendly visitor centre staff here will direct you to your scenic flight – a 25-minute helicopter ride bringing you up close to these crumbling limestone stacks (don't forget your camera).

After your flight, the coach will take you to stops along the Great Ocean Road for time to explore on foot. Where we visit on the day will depend on summer tourist numbers and site capacities – but any visit to this picture-perfect region will have you reaching for your camera.

Back on the coach, transfer to the meticulously restored Coragulac House (1873) in the Otways hinterland for a festive garden party. Wine, canapes and an impressive evening meal round out your day, before you travel back to Inverleigh Siding to reboard the Great Southern.

Please note: as an optional upgrade, the \$235 fee per person is payable directly to your Guest Experience Manager.

RECOMMENDED FITNESS LEVEL:

Moderate – Walking, some stair climbing and approximately 2-hour coach travel each way.

