



# THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO THE BEST ROAD TRIPS IN AUSTRALIA



## The Ultimate Guide to the Best Road Trips in Australia

If you've always dreamed of hiring a campervan and hitting the open road on an epic adventure, then Australia needs to be on your must-do road trip list.

Roadtrippin' in the Australia is guaranteed to be an exciting, memorable and a once in a lifetime experience. The wide-open spaces, the mind-blowing sunsets and the variety of wildlife all make a drive Down Under one you'll still be talking about in years to come.

To help you get started on planning out your road trip dream we've put together a guide on all the things you need to know about the best road trips in Australia.

Read on for detailed driving itineraries, tips for must-see places to stop and essential information on driving Down Under.

### Here's what you can find in the guide:

1. City to City: Sydney to Melbourne
2. West Coast Adventure: Perth to Darwin
3. Beach Lovers Paradise: Brisbane to Airlie Beach
4. Classic East Coast: Sydney to Byron Bay
5. Victoria's Most Famous Road: The Great Ocean Road
6. Drive Around the Red Centre: Darwin to Uluru
7. Top Tips for Driving a Campervan in Australia
8. How to Rent or Buy a Campervan
9. Things you need to do if you break down



## 1. CITY TO CITY: SYDNEY TO MELBOURNE

This epic Aussie road trip takes you on a coastal journey from Sydney in New South Wales to Melbourne in Victoria. With natural rainforests, breath-taking coastal views, whale watching and relaxed seaside towns, this is one chilled out road trip you won't want to end.



**3. Batesmans Bay** – With lots of restaurants and pubs this area is a great place to stop off over night. If you fancy spending some time here then head to some of the local lakes, Durras, Colia or Tuross or take a boat trip up the beautiful Clyde River.

**4. Eden** – Eden was founded as a whaling station in 1800 and is now a prime spot for whale watching.

**5. Lakes Entrance** – This large fishing town is an area many Victorians visit on their holidays. It's extremely busy over summer so if you are stopping over then make sure you have a reservation in one of the campervan parks nearby.

Driving time: 8.5 hrs  
Distance: 878km  
Time needed: 4 - 5 days

### Our favourite places to stop on the way

**1. Kiama** – This little village is home to the famous 'Kiama blow hole', which spouts water high into the air. It's also the perfect place for pelican spotting and long beach walks along the stunning '7-mile beach'.

**2. Jervis Bay** – With the whitest sand in the world and crystal clear waters you could be forgiven for thinking you had been transported to a tropical paradise. For those of you that are more actively inclined then you will be pleased to hear that Jervis Bay is also great for hiking, rock climbing, snorkeling and canoeing.



**"The Grand Pacific Highway is one of my favourite roads to drive on the East Coast"**

Claire, Customer Service Officer – Head Office Sydney

## 2. A WEST COAST ADVENTURE: PERTH TO DARWIN

This is definitely one of the more adventurous road tips. We recommend you take at least 21 days to complete this Australian road trip, as there is a lot of ground to cover, and things to see!

### First Leg: Perth to Shark Bay via the Pinnacles

Spend around 2 days in Perth and take your time to see some of the sights and soak up the laid back beach-loving culture. Once you're done head up to Namberg through the Pinnacles Desert.

From there make your way up to Shark Bay via the beautiful city of Kalbarri. Once you've arrived we recommend you spend around 3 days exploring Shark Bay to make sure you catch a glimpse of the dolphins and other marine wildlife. This is a 600km drive in total.



Driving time: 43 hrs  
Distance: 4,040 km  
Time needed: 21 days



### Second Leg: Shark Bay to Karijini (via Ningaloo Reef)

Get your campervan back on the road and head up to the natural wonder that is Karijini via Coral Bay, Cape Range and Ningaloo Reef.

Now might be a good time to have your campervan serviced.

## Third Leg: Karijini to Nitmiluk

This distance between these two destinations is over 2500km, so be prepared for a long drive.

This is one of the most scenic parts of the journey, as you drive your campervan past lofty mountains, beautiful North Eastern coast beaches, gorges and villages.

Once you arrive in Nitmiluk, make sure you take a day or so to rest from driving before moving on.

"Karijini National Park is a great place to experience real outback camping in your campervan"

Anna, Social Media Guru at TAB Head Office in Sydney



## Final Leg: Nitmiluk to Darwin.

Nitmiluk to Darwin is almost 400km apart so you will need around three days to complete the last leg of this epic roadtrip.

Recommended scenic stop offs on the way include:

- Katherine Gorge at Nitmiluk,
- Kakadu National Park
- Litchfield.

Once you arrive in Darwin, you've made it. Pull up and grab a cold beer, you deserve it!

## EXPERT ADVICE: Driving in the outback is extreme, so always be prepared in case you breakdown

If you are about to embark on a long road trip then make sure you are prepared. Driving in the outback is unlike any other roadtrip you are likely to have experienced, so follow these simple steps to help keep you safe.

- **If you break down, stay where you are and wait for help** – don't try and set off to find it yourself.
- **Always carry enough food and water** – about 4 – 5 liters per person, per day
- **Watch out for the wildlife** – it might be cute but it could be dangerous so keep your eyes open and avoid driving at dusk, night and dawn.
- **Avoid unsealed roads** – our insurance policy doesn't cover you for driving your campervan on unsealed roads.

## 3. BEACH LOVERS PARADISE: BRISBANE TO AIRLIE BEACH

Whether it's been your dream to go scuba diving the Great Barrier Reef, swimming in crystal clear freshwater lakes, dolphin watching or island hopping, then Queensland has it all.

The route from Brisbane to Airlie Beach is one of the most frequently asked about road trips. So check out this go-to tried and tested roadtrip route below.



### Second Leg: Noosa to Hervey Bay & Fraser Island

The drive from Hervey Bay along the Bruce Highway is 190km and takes about 2.5 hours. Hervey Bay is a hotspot for whale watching (especially between the months of August to October).

It's also the gateway to the famous Fraser Island. Fraser Island is a must-see for any travelling backpacker, with stunning beaches, 100 freshwater lakes with crystal clear waters, tea tree forests and rainforests.

Driving time: 20 hrs  
Distance: 1708 km  
Time needed: 16-20 days

### First Leg: Brisbane to Sunshine Coast (via Moreton Bay)

Pickup your campervan from the office in Brisbane and head north out of the city to the Sunshine Coast, where over 100km of beautiful beaches await you. Driving up this part of the coast is a real Aussie experience as you pass through the laidback beachside towns of Caloundra, Mooloolaba and Noosa.

Spend a couple of days exploring the Sunshine Coast and surrounding areas that include the

- Glass House Mountains
- Blackall Range
- Noosa Hinterlands





## Third Leg: Hervey Bay to Bundaberg

This 1.5 hour drive takes you to the city of Bundaberg, famous for its dark rum. Over 500 hectares of parkland, historical museums and of course guided tours of the famous rum distillery make this a great place to stop off on your roadtrip.

## Forth Leg: Bundaberg to the Town of 1770.

This seaside town is nestled between two National Parks and sits at the gateway to the Southern Great Barrier Reef. Nearby Lady Elliot Island and Lady Musgrave Island are renowned for great diving and snorkeling.

"Bundaberg is the home of Bundaberg Rum - you have to do the distillery tour and there are samples to try!"

Zoe, Assistant Branch  
Manager in Darwin

## Fifth Leg: Town of 1770 to Yeppoon (via Gladstone & Rockhampton)

The journey to the relaxed seaside town of Yeppoon takes just over 3 hours of driving (longer if you stop off on at Gladstone and Rockhampton on the way for a break and to stretch your legs).

## Sixth Leg: Yeppoon to Mackay

This is the longest leg of the journey and will take you about 4 hours door to door. Mackay is famous for being the sugar capital of the world. There are plenty of cafes and restaurants, a great marina and a nearby National Park where you might even spot a platypus.

## Seventh Leg: Mackay to Airlie Beach

After a short 2 hour drive along the coast, the final leg of your trip sees you pull at the iconic Airlie Beach. This little town overlooks the famous Whitsunday Island's and is a great place to base yourself for exploring the islands and Great Barrier Reef. Things to do here include sailing, diving, snorkeling and skydiving.



## 4. CLASSIC EAST COAST: SYDNEY TO BYRON BAY

Superb beaches, great hinterland and a relaxed lifestyle make Byron Bay one of the most famous places to visit in Australia.

Although you can drive from Sydney to Byron in just under 10 hours you would be missing out on loads of great places on the way, so make sure you allow enough time for this great east coast road adventure.

Driving time: 9 hrs  
Distance: 800 km  
Time needed: 4-5 days

### First Leg: Sydney to The Central Coast

After a quick stop to hire your campervan from our Sydney office, hit the road and head north towards the Hunter Valley.

On the way you will drive up through Ku-ring-Gai Chase National Park and if you have time to pull in visit one of the oldest National Parks in Australia.

The drive to The Central Coast from Sydney will take you 2.5 hours in total, and offers you lots of great places to park up and chill out once you arrive. Some of our favourite spots include:

- Terrigal
- Shelly Beach
- The Entrance



**LOCAL'S TIP:** Nearby Hunter Valley is a wine lovers paradise, and a great Aussie experience.

Day trips to vineyards and cellar doors run on a daily basis and we totally recommend you try to fit in an organised winery tour if you can!



## Second Leg: The Central Coast to Port Macquarie (via Port Stephens).

Driving from The Central Coast to Port Macquarie will take you around 3.5 hours, and we recommend you stop off at Port Stephens on the way. Port Stephen's is a beautiful bay, famous for its whale watching, dolphin tours and wait for it... sand boarding. The sand dunes here are massive and lots of fun.

"Make sure you try sand-boarding at Port Stephens, the sand dunes are epic and it's as amazing as it sounds"

Joy, Reservations Guru at TAB Head  
Office in Sydney



## Third Leg: Port Macquarie to Byron Bay (via Coffs Harbour).

The final leg of your campervan roadtrip will have you on the road for just under 5 hours, so be sure to stop off and spend some time at Coffs Harbour, most famous for it's big banana. We don't know any backpacker who hasn't taken a picture of the famous banana, but don't be fooled – there is much more to see.

White water rafting, sky dives and surfing are just a few of the activities you can do to get your adrenaline pumping. It's 3 hours from Coffs Harbour to Byron Bay, your final destination.

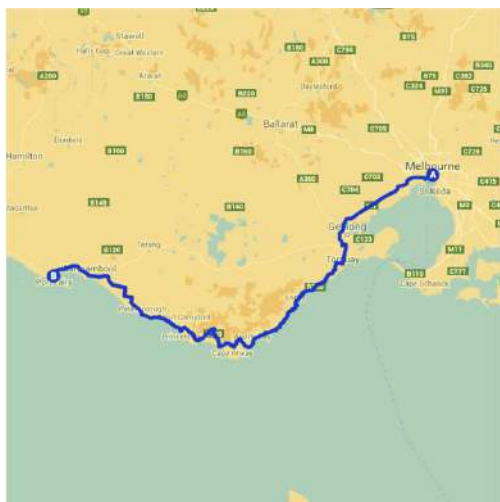
Once you arrive, park up, grab a juice and there is only one thing left to do, throw on your swimmers and hit the beach.



## 6. VICTORIA'S MOST FAMOUS DRIVE: THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD

No trip to the south coast would be complete without a drive along the Great Ocean Road. If you only have a couple of days to spare then this is a great option for backpackers who are keen to fit a roadtrip in. 3-5 days is a good amount of time to fit everything in without missing out.

Driving time: 5 hrs  
Distance: 346 km  
Time needed: 3-4 days



### Our favourite places to stop:

**The Twelve Apostles and Gibson Steps.** – The Twelve Apostles are iconic features that are recognised around the world. We recommend you walk down onto the beach at Gibson Steps and then drive onto the Twelve Apostles, which is just down the road.

**Bells Beach** – This is one of the most famous surfing beaches in Australia. The best time to go is during Easter where you can get to see the world's best surfers carve up the waves and compete for a trophy in the world-famous Rip Curl Pro Surfing Competition.



The mighty Twelve Apostles on The Great Ocean Road

## More places we love on The Great Ocean Road

**Split Point Lighthouse and The Cape Otway Lightstation** are two great buildings that deserve more recognition.

- **Splitpoint Lighthouse:** This is the setting for the classic Aussie TV series 'Round the Twist'. Splitpoint Lighthouse is definitely one of the most recognisable lighthouses in Australia. If you're a fan of photography or history - you should definitely consider taking one of their tours.
- **Cape Otway Lightstation:** This is the oldest lighthouse in mainland Australia. You can spend the whole day exploring the historic Telegraph Station and of course the popular WWII secret Radar Bunker.



Splitpoint Lighthouse on the Great Ocean Road

**The Great Ocean Road Memorial Archway** was built to commemorate the 3000 Australian soldiers who built the road after returning from WW1 in 1918 – 1932.

**Teddy's Lookout and Mariners Lookout** are a must do for all selfie lovers. Look out signs along the way, pull up and snap away.

**"My favourite places to stop for some beach time and a coffee on the Great Ocean Road are Apollo Bay, Torquay and Port Fairy – beautiful"**

Bob, Assistant Brand Manager,  
Melbourne Office

## Places we love to park up :

There are a number of chilled out beach towns on The Great Ocean Road. If you are looking for places to park up at on the way then try these:

- Angelsea
- Apollo Bay
- Torquay
- Lorne
- Port Fairy



## 6. DRIVE THE RED CENTRE

This self-drive adventure that takes around a week is the perfect opportunity to explore Australia's natural wonders, ancient culture and spiritual centre. If you are planning on exploring the Red Centre then this itinerary will help you to make the most out of your Alice Springs adventure.

It's a good idea to pick your campervan in Darwin for this roadtrip and then head south via the Stuart Highway to Alice Springs. This is a 17.5 hour drive (each way), so be prepared with several designated drivers, lots of water and a good supply of food.



Driving time: 48 hrs  
Distance: 1135 km loop  
Time needed: 5-7 days

### Our Favourite Things to See and Do in the Red Centre

**Red Rocks** - Uluru is possibly Australia's most famous landmark. Dominating the landscape at over 348m high, this magnificent rock demands a presence and is the perfect place to watch the sunrise.

**Redbank Gorge Pool** is a great place to start the day, and offers you the chance to catch a glimpse of the Red Centre's ancient past at lush Palm Valley. Walk along the soaring cliffs or head down into the dense forest of palms on the canyon floor below.

Don't forget to visit the 4,700 year old **meteorite craters at Henbury** before heading back to Alice Springs for a well earned rest.

### Expert Tips: Top healthy road trip snacks ideas:

- Create your own trail mix with your favourite big bags of nuts, seeds and dried fruit from Coles and Woolworths
- Cereal bars and natural energy bars
- Veg and dips. Think carrots, snap peas and celery with hummous, cottage cheese or salsa
- Look out for air pop and baked chips (available in most supermarkets)

## 7. THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DRIVING A CAMPERVAN IN AUSTRALIA

There's nothing like hitting the open road, singing along to your favourite playlist, sitting back and enjoying the ride. And the best thing is, you can stop off and park up whenever and wherever you like.

But before you hit the road here are some essential things backpackers should know about driving a campervan in Australia.

### Aussie driving rules and regulations

#### Drive on the left

The first thing to remember is that Australian's drive on the left side of the road – so if you're from the UK you'll feel at home behind the wheel. If you're travelling from Europe or the USA then it will take some getting used to, so be wary when you first start out.

#### Speed Limits

The Australia speed limit in and around cities is 60kph (or 35 mph), whereas highways allow you drive at speeds of up to 110kph (68mph). Speedometers will always be in KPH in Australia so bear that in mind before putting your foot down

#### Driving License

You can drive using your driving license from your own country, but if you are planning on staying for longer than 6 months then you can apply for an international license before you leave your country. You will need your license (and a credit card) to rent a campervan – so don't forget to pack it!

#### Petrol

If you are on an Aussie road trip then petrol is likely to be one of the biggest outgoing costs to eat into your backpacker budget. But you'll be glad to hear that petrol in Australia is cheaper than petrol in Europe and expect to pay around \$1.37 a litre.

#### EXPERT TIP

Download the [MotorMouth](#) app and save money by making sure you buy the cheapest fuel on your journey. This app lets you know when the best time to buy cheap fuel is each week, and where the nearest (and cheapest) petrol station is.

## 8. HOW TO RENT OR BUY A CAMPERVAN

Buying or renting is always a difficult decision – and if in doubt give the team at Travellers Autobarn a call for more help. Below are some of the benefits for buying and renting campervans and cars in Australia.

### BENEFITS OF BUYING CARS & CAMPERVANS

- **Total Freedom.** The vehicle belongs to you – so you can take it anywhere you want to. Dirt tracks? No problem! As long as you don't do any damage to the vehicle, your Guaranteed Buyback price is secure.
- **The Guaranteed Buyback of Travellers Autobarn** means you'll definitely get some money back at the end of your trip, either to go home with or to continue travelling.
- Remember that at the end of your trip **you are not obligated to sell to the vehicle back to Travellers Autobarn.** You are free to sell the car to whoever you choose, naturally this is usually the person who makes you the best offer! If you're a good salesperson, it's possible to get back more than the 50% we guarantee you by selling to another traveller.

### BENEFITS OF RENTING CARS & CAMPERVANS

- If you have only limited time to spend, renting **not only saves you money but also time.** Picking up and dropping off a rental car is much **quicker and easier** than buying and selling a car. People who buy a car, even with a guaranteed buyback, spend at least a some time (if not days) trying to sell their car on to other travellers.
- **Hassle Free.** Should any problems arise during your rental period, they are the responsibility of the rental company. Travellers Autobarn will make every effort to get you speedily on your way again.
- You can **afford more car for your money when renting in the short term.** For 10 weeks buying a \$4,500 stationwagon with with a Buyback might be outside your budget, but renting the same car for \$39/day is certainly affordable.



## 9. KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU BREAK DOWN

Even if you think you've rented the best campervan in town, you should prepare yourself for the fact that at some point, somewhere, your beloved car or campervan might break down – and if it does then it's best to have a good idea of what you should do.

*And if it doesn't happen – well that's just a bonus!*

**Before you set off, here are some things you should carry in your vehicle during the trip:**

- **Drinking water** – have at least 5 liters in the car at all times.
- **Cereal bars**. Keep them tucked away and don't be tempted to snack on them until you really need them.
- **A torch**. While it's not ideal to be driving at night it's always a good idea to have one handy.
- **Carry a map**. There is a good chance that your GPS won't always work so it's can be really helpful to carry a map with you.
- If you can, bring an **umbrella** with you. They can be great as a shelter from the strong sun.

**If you break down the most important thing you need to do is not panic.**

1. First things first give the Travellers Autobarn team a call to let us know what has happened. We'll be able to take control from there:

**Our number is: 1800 674 374 (option 3 > option 4)**

2. If, for some reason, you can't call then wait. Australia is big and remote but someone will eventually come along. Stay with your vehicle, raise the bonnet and put your blinkers on. The Aussies are a friendly bunch so there is a good chance that if someone drives past they will pull over and help you out.

3. Avoid overheating. The most common cause of breaking down is your campervan or car overheating (oh and running out of fuel). Try to avoid this by checking your water and oil levels regularly. If you don't know how to this then ask one of the Traveller's Autobarn team before you leave.

# TRAVELLERS AUTOBARN

Whether you are a gap year backpacker, budget traveller, or tourist on the cheap, discover campervan hire Australia with Travellers Autobarn.

Visit the website or contact the team for more information today!

[www.travellers-autobarn.com.au](http://www.travellers-autobarn.com.au)

