

# Australia – Twelve Apostles Lodge Walk



## Trip Summary

On the Twelve Apostles Lodge Walk, your only job is to put one foot in front of the other. We'll show you the way, carry all the extras on our back and point out natural features along the way. We'll supply sumptuous lunches to sustain you, daypacks and walking sticks, cool lemonade at the end of each walk and even apply a band-aid if required. All you need to worry about is soaking up the walk experience, which culminates in hikes to (and a helicopter ride above) the stunning geological formations known as the Twelve Apostles.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Castle Cove / Johanna Beach – 7 km

Today begins in the tea-trees with a few impromptu peeks out to the Southern Ocean • Enter a flawlessly-groomed grass tree forest and hear tales dating back 104 million years at Dinosaur Cove • Next, drop down onto Johanna Beach, an opportunity to kick off the boots and walk barefoot with wind-swept waves just meters away • This two-kilometer stretch has a knack of clearing busy minds and washing away city stresses • At the end of the beach is your cool water and lemonade greeting • Hop in the van or choose to walk back to the lodge under your own steam • *Overnight at Twelve Apostles Lodge (L, D)*

### Day 2: Melanesia Track / Ryans Den / Cape Volney – 14 km

Beginning at Milanesia Gate, today's hike covers some of the most remote sections of the Great Ocean Walk • The ocean is your steadfast companion across 12.5 kilometers of rolling terrain today, beginning with a descent onto Milanesia Beach • After a fleeting beach visit, it's a short but bracing climb that whispers of inclines to come • Over the next hours, your trail carves its way through deep gullies with tree ferns and towering remnant Eucalypts • There're 132 steps to ascend before trailing west out of the forest to Ryans Den (on suitable days, this is your lunch spot, as it provides unsurpassed views across to Cape Volney and Cape Otway) • Further along the trail keep an eye out for Cape Volney • Heaving seas disappear into watery caves, views west travel to the horizon's edge, and the entire spectacle is framed by the forest • *Overnight at Twelve Apostles Lodge (B, L, D)*

### Day 3: Wreck Beach / Devils Kitchen / Port Campbell National Park – 17 km

More than 300 ships have come to grief on this stretch of coastline, so your first stop is aptly named Wreck Beach • If conditions allow, you'll drop down to Wreck Beach and hear tales of pillaging and misfortune including a ship which travelled from China whose cargo of tea colored the ocean • Depending on tide, an alternate route leads through to Devils Kitchen, home to arguably Australia's best lavatory vista! • Following lunch, notice how the geology begins to change from sandstone to limestone • The Gellibrand River marks the entrance to Port Campbell National Park and this freshwater river near the sleepy hamlet of Princetown is an easy downhill stroll • After some 12.5 kilometers, reward yourself with a cooling river dip • *Overnight at Twelve Apostles Lodge (B, L, D)*

### Day 4: Princetown / The Apostles / Port Campbell / Melbourne – 8 km

Depart from the quiet shores of Princetown by the Gellibrand River, beginning with an easy 30-minute wander to reveal your first full view of the Apostles (seven standing and five recently discovered apostles beneath the ocean's surface) • Weathered but not beaten, those in view lose a couple of centimeters each year to the perilous swells and winds whipping up from the Southern Ocean • The Apostles reveal gradually along this stretch, reappearing as the trail rises • There's a



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viewing platform exclusive to walkers on the final stretch before your arrival to the Visitor Center, the official end to your walk • If conditions permit, don't miss the opportunity to descend 80-plus steps to the beach below to get a real sense of the Apostles' brooding heights (one 73-metres tall, nudging the equivalent of a 20-story building) • Take to the skies with a 15-minute helicopter flight, to help provide scale not only to the Apostles but the trek you've completed • Follow this with a final lunch, coffee and hot shower in the sleepy fishing town of Port Campbell • Transfers back to Melbourne for your onward flights (5-5:30pm for flights from 6:30pm) or Melbourne CBD central drop-off location (6:30-7:00pm) • *No overnight (B, L)*

*\*Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

## **Our Partner – Tasmanian Walking Company**

Austin Adventures is proudly offering this trip in conjunction with Tasmanian Walking Company. TWC is proudly Tasmanian and has been operating for over 30 years. Tasmanian Walking Company offers true Australian hospitality. Their chef designs your meals, their guides connect you, and their accommodation comforts and shelters you. Their history and reputation will be with you every step of the way. When it comes to best environmental practice, TWC is seen as a leader in the industry. They follow best practice track guidelines on all walks and follow designated trails, remove all waste from huts, camps and lodges and recycle whenever possible. They have won numerous national and state tourism awards.

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## Activities

**Hiking:** Easy to Moderate hikes between 7 km (4 hours) and 17 km (8 hours) with up to 711M elevation gain

### **Discovery:**

Walk at your own pace across sands frequented by hooded plovers. Hear tales dating back 104 million years at Dinosaur Cove. Hike thick eucalypt forest that eventually gives way to sections of moon-like terrain. Learn about various shipwrecks including a ship from China whose cargo of tea colored the ocean. Keep an eye out for native rosemary, cushion plants and wild flowers in season. Keep an eye out for two resident mobs of kangaroos across the hillsides. Understand the effect perilous swells and winds whipping up from the Southern Ocean have upon the giant Apostles. Learn the romantic tale of Tom, a gallant local who swam more than an hour to the Loch Ard shipwreck, and Eva, one of only two people to survive after being whisked to a cave by Tom. Stare up at the towering, imposing Apostles – then down on them from above via helicopter flight.

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions, and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels. Most importantly, your guides will help you select the distance that's right for you.

### **Meals**

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages including house wine and beer are included in the trip price (gratuities are not included). House wines will be served with dinner and a selection of wine will be available for purchase.



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## Distinctive Accommodation

### Twelve Apostles Lodge

The Twelve Apostles Lodge is a forest-hugged refuge three hours from Melbourne. This is where the foot spa awaits, rainforest showers, kitchen garden, dining room stocked with local wines, and your king bedroom with spacious in-suite bathroom.

The architecturally-designed lodge has been crafted with environmental sensitivity in mind. This translates to passive solar design, hydronic heating, low consumption electric and water fittings, on site waste water treatment and composting, plus a self-sufficient water supply. And there's reason this eco-development is award-winning, delivering modern comforts with equal rigor. Expect Myrtle & Moss toiletries, hair dryers, library, mobile coverage (Telstra only).

The dining room has a lounge area well-suited for canapes when the fire pit isn't crackling with friend-huddling flames. After a glass of regional red, move to the long table for your nightly two-course regional menu.

Onsite you'll also find 24-hour tea and coffee facilities, gear drying room, daily newspapers and a lodge library well stocked with magazines, reference and fictional books or ask about the lodge property walks.

Alcoholic beverages are available in the lounge. House wines are included with evening meal and a further selection can be put on tab and settled with the staff at the end of your stay. We stock a small selection of house and premium wines and locally brewed beers by the bottle. As an eco-accredited operator, we support local wine and beer, however, you are welcome to bring your own wine.

One complimentary clothes wash (including soap) is included in your walk package, the Lodge Manager will explain how this is organized at your briefing on day one. Additional loads are charged to your tab to discourage excessive usage/environmental impact.

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## Arrival & Departures

You will need to arrive in Melbourne at least the day prior to your walks departure. Day one of your itinerary starts at 7:45 am with pick-up at The Travelodge, Southbank, Melbourne. Your trip ends with transfers back to Melbourne for your onward flights (5-5:30pm for flights from 6:30pm) or Melbourne CBD central drop-off location (6:30-7:00pm).

## Trip Price

Please call for 2019 pricing

## Trip Length

4 days/3 nights

## 2019 Dates

Departing weekly September – May, please call for availability

## Host City

Melbourne, Australia  
Airport Code: MEL

## Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

*Stroll one of the Great Walks of Australia  
and bear witness to the massive 'Apostles'*



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## Trip Reservations

### Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$500 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

**Toll free:** 800-575-1540

**Phone:** 406-655-4591

**Online:** [austinadventures.com](http://austinadventures.com)

**Email:** [reservations@austinadventures.com](mailto:reservations@austinadventures.com)

**Mail:** Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

\* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

\*\* We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

### Included in the Trip Price

- Three-night lodge stay, including all linens and towels.
- 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinners; daily morning and afternoon tea; and non-alcoholic drinks.
- Daily guided walks with professional eco-guide.
- Any necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support daily.
- All entrance and national park fees.
- Round trip transfers to/from Melbourne.
- Twelve Apostles scenic helicopter flight.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt and luggage tags.
- Pre-departure and packing information.

### Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

### Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.

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## Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

## Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you. If you book 90 days before the trip and we cannot find you a suitable roommate, we will take care of the single supplement. *\*some restrictions may apply*

## Minimum Age

The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

## Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

\*\*\*As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

**Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure** – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

**Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure** – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

**Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure** – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

**Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure** – No refund is given

## Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.