



GREAT OCEAN WALK

Walk Victoria's Icons

at

GREAT OCEAN WALK GUIDED TOUR

AllTrails - slow travel tour specialists for the Great Ocean Road region

This is a 7-day walk along the entire length of the Great Ocean Walk. There are **no missing sections**, the daily distances are manageable, and you walk at **your own pace** - no group marches here! Each day you will enjoy this world class walking track and rejuvenate nightly with hot showers and the conveniences of modern accommodation – then a few drinks and restaurant dinners.

AllTrails has been taking groups for multi-day tours around Australia for over 25 years and have extensive experience in the Great Ocean Road region. We now apply our winning AllTrails formula to the famous Great Ocean Walk journey: top accommodation (no lodge accommodation or shared facilities), quality restaurant meals (no crew-cooked meals), luggage transfers (no carrying a pack), walking guide, support vehicle and of course, that famous AllTrails camaraderie.

AllTrails creates bespoke tours for the discerning traveller and our tours are not churned out en masse – get ready for unique, individual experiences where the crew are as excited to be on tour as you are.

The tour at a glance

Dates: Mon 21 Oct – Sun 27 Oct 2024

Distance: 104 km

Group Size: 10-15 approx

Trail snacks: Included

Deposit: \$400pp

Duration: 7 days / 6 nights

Average Daily: 14km (shorter options available)

Accommodation: Quality ensuite accom all the way

Meals: All meals included + morning teas & snacks

Support: Walking guide, support vehicle driver

Surface: Well compacted walking tracks, some steps/stairs

Terrain: Undulating coastal tracks with some hilly sections

Difficulty Rating: Generally easy to moderate (occasional harder sections)

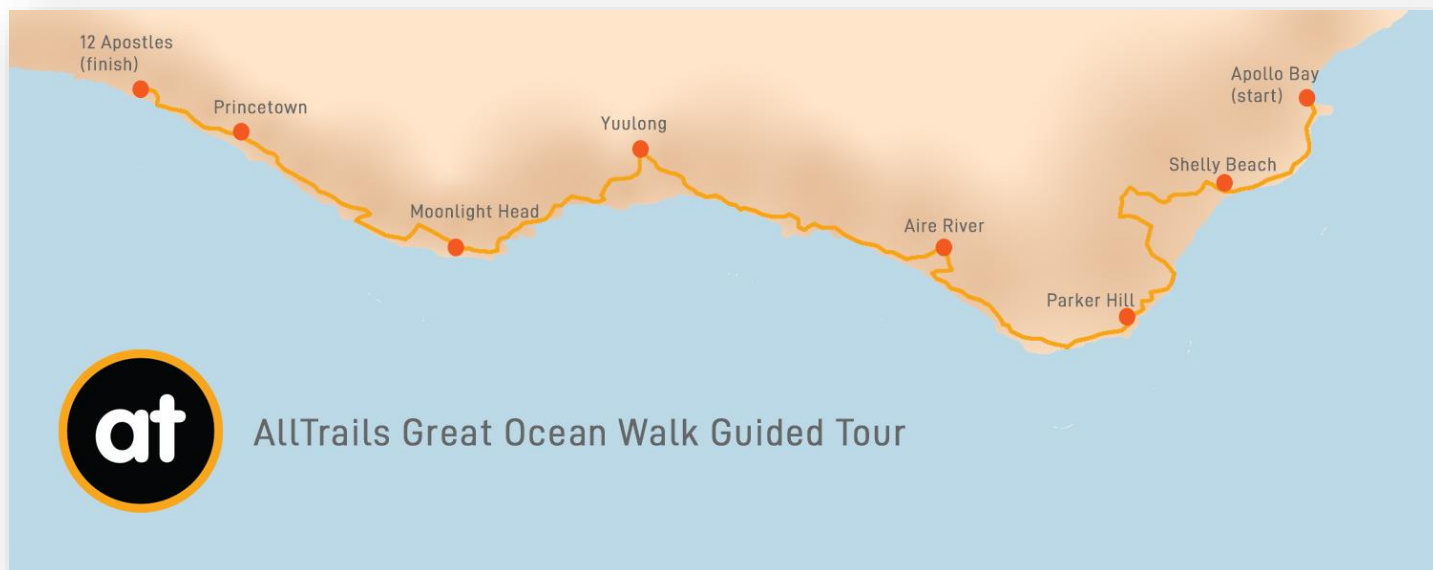
Always wanted to walk the full length of the Great Ocean Walk?

This is the Great Ocean Walk without the logistical headaches – we organise everything that you will need including quality accommodation, food, vehicle support, safety briefings, first-aid qualified guides, luggage transfer, great camaraderie and much more. You enjoy each evening in a quality ensuite motel room and walk away each morning knowing that your morning tea and lunch stops will be set up for you along the route, your luggage will be taken care of, and you are being looked after by a tour operator with over 25 years' experience.

All you need to do is decide which way to look to enjoy the scenery of this magnificent part of the world.

Highlights

- Experience the Great Ocean Walk (**full length**) with guide support
- Pack-free walking with trail snacks provided
- Achievable and **enjoyable distances** so you can enjoy your time on and off the track
- Culminate the journey at the 'Twelve Apostles' Marine National Park
- Overnights in Apollo Bay (3 nts) and Port Campbell (3 nts)
- Superior private hotel rooms with **ensuites** on all nights
- Restaurant dinners - nourish body and mind with high quality meals
- Daily transfers to and from the track
- Time available for extras such as 12 Apostles helicopter flight



Getting to and from the tour

Arriving:

Our meeting place is Southern Cross Station, Melbourne early (approx 6:30am) on the first day of the tour. If you are staying close to Southern Cross Station you will just need to cross the road with your luggage to meet us at the station (we have some hotel suggestions if you need them). If you have a car you may be able to leave your car at the hotel for the duration of the tour - enquire directly with the hotel. Please contact our office about other car parking options if required. From here we transfer to Apollo Bay to begin the walk.

Departing:

The tour will finish on the final day at the Twelve Apostles followed by a transfer back to Melbourne Southern Cross Station arriving approx 3:30pm. It is possible to catch a plane home that evening, however we suggest that you do not book anything earlier than 6:00pm, just in case you are delayed getting back to Melbourne for any reason (weather, traffic etc). Staying in Melbourne that night will give you more leeway if that is possible for you.

Pricing and payment information

AUD	Book before 21 Aug	Book from 21 Aug
Twin share	\$3650	\$3750
Single room	\$4290	\$4390

\$50pp discount for groups of 3 or more walkers.

Included:

- Quality ensuite accommodation
- Snacks, water and fruit on the walk
- Walking guide and support vehicle
- Transfer from Melbourne to the start of the walk
- Transfers between accom and daily walks
- Official Great Ocean Walk map booklet
- Most meals (6 breakfast, 5 morning tea, 3 lunch, 4 dinner)
- Cape Otway Lightstation grounds entry and tour
- Maps and day sheets
- Transfer from end of the walk to Melbourne
- Luggage transfers where required
- AllTrails merchandise pack

Payment Schedule:

- Deposit on booking (\$400 pp)
- Progress Payment 30 days after deposit (40% of package cost less deposit paid)
- Balance due two months before the tour begins

Travelling on your own

Solo walkers can book a single room, or can book a twin share package and we will put you on our 'twin share request list' to try to partner you up with somebody else of the same gender travelling on their own. If we cannot match you, the single room price will apply. Contact us any time to check – we may already have a match for you.

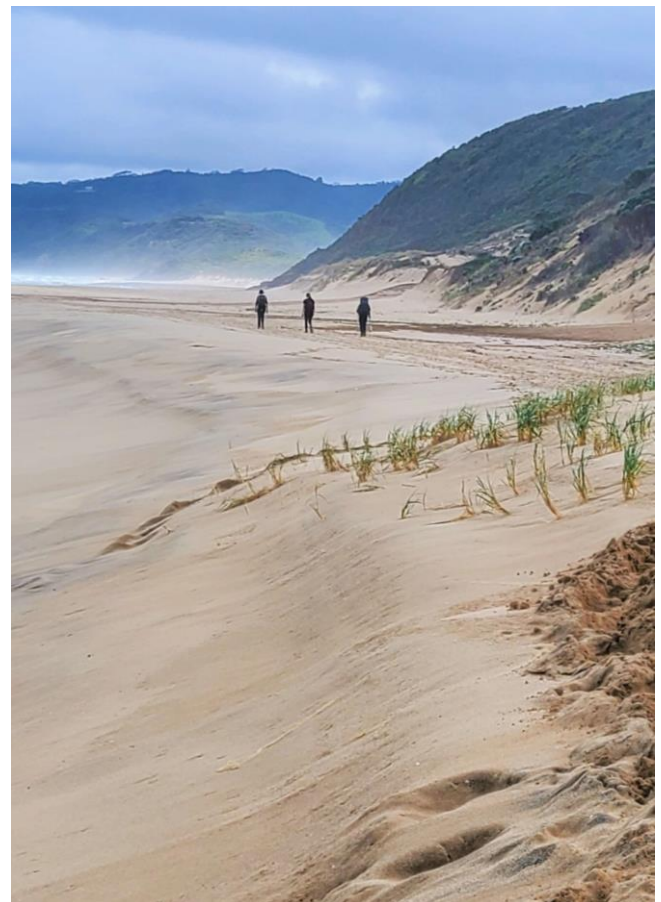
Extras

Pre tour accommodation.

Coming from overseas, interstate or outside Melbourne? On the day of departure, we meet early morning at Southern Cross Station, Melbourne so we suggest arriving the night before. Southern Cross Station is approx 30 minutes from the airport via the Skybus or taxi. We have some good hotel suggestions close to the station - just ask us and we will send through the information.

Post tour accommodation.

You should be back at Southern Cross Station Melbourne on the final day by mid-afternoon, so you could book a hotel that night or fly home sometime after 6:00pm. Southern Cross Station is approx 30 minutes from the airport via the Skybus or taxi.



Itinerary

Meals and Accommodation inclusions: B = Breakfast, MT = Morning Tea, L = Lunch, D = Dinner, A = Accommodation

Location	Distance	Date	B	MT	L	D	A
<i>Melbourne transfer to Apollo Bay</i>							
1. Apollo Bay to Shelly Beach (o/n Apollo Bay)	9km	Mon 21 Oct 2023	-	-	-	D	A
2. Shelly Beach to Parker Hill (o/n Apollo Bay)	19km	Tue 22 Oct 2023	B	MT	L	D	A
3. Parker Hill to Aire River (o/n Apollo Bay)	15km	Wed 23 Oct 2023	B	MT	L	-	A
4. Aire River to Yuulong (o/n Port Campbell)	19km	Thu 24 Oct 2023	B	MT	L	D	A
5. Yuulong to Moonlight Head (o/n Port Campbell)	14km	Fri 25 Oct 2023	B	MT	-	-	A
6. Moonlight Head to Princetown (o/n Port Campbell)	17km	Sat 26 Oct 2023	B	MT	-	D	A
7. Princetown to Twelve Apostles	7km	Sun 27 Oct 2023	B	MT	-	-	-
Total Distance	104km		6	6	3	4	6
Average Daily Distance	14km						

Melbourne (transfer to Apollo Bay) walk to Shelly Beach - 9km (overnight Apollo Bay)

Day 1. Your Great Ocean Walk Tour starts at Southern Cross Station, Melbourne. We load luggage into our vehicles and set off for Apollo Bay at the close end of the Great Ocean Walk. Arriving late morning, we get set up and head off after a safety briefing, orientation and some lunch from the famous Apollo Bay bakery. Before you know it, you will be walking the world-famous Great Ocean Walk, taking in sweeping rural farmland views with a couple of short beach walks. At the end of a good first day's walking we will take you to your accommodation for a hot shower and the opportunity to settle in and relax. Tonight we will all enjoy a welcome dinner together to get to know your fellow walkers and crew.

Shelly Beach to Parker Hill - 19km (overnight Apollo Bay)

Day 2. This morning after breakfast you'll be all fired up to get back on the track for your first full day of walking. It's a 19km day that starts with a downhill section to the river followed by a climb up to Elliot Ridge. The track leaves the coast for a while, winding through thick Mountain Ash trees and forest with plenty of wildlife and birds to spot before hitting the beach again at Blanket Bay where our staff will have your lunch ready and waiting for you. The remainder of the walk presents some small creek footbridges and coastal forest to Parker Hill. Transfer to your accommodation to freshen up and relax before dinner and a good night's sleep – you deserve it.

Parker Hill to Aire River - 15km (overnight Apollo Bay)

Day 3. Back on the track today we have a special stop for morning tea at Cape Otway Lightstation where we will also listen to some of the history and stories of the historic site. After Cape Otway you walk high along the ridgeline overlooking the wild Southern Ocean, ducking in and out of tree-covered track sections before dropping down to Aire River where you may want a swim in the fresh river water before lunch (all supplied by our crew). It's time to head back to our accommodation for your final night in Apollo Bay where you can do your final explorations of the town including a 'Get Your Own' dinner, where you can choose from the wide variety of restaurants from fine dining to classic pub meals to simple and tasty fish and chips.

Aire River to Yuulong - 19km (overnight Port Campbell)

Day 4. This morning after breakfast pack up your luggage and get ready for another great day on the track. We will take your luggage to our next overnight destination while you again take in the views from the cliff-top walk as you make your way to Castle Cove where the Great Ocean Walk meets the Great Ocean Road and we will have morning tea ready for you as you pass through. After morning tea more lovely views from upon high unfold before we drop down to Johanna Beach for a stunning 2km beach walk section before lunch at the AllTrails vehicles at Johanna Beach. From here it's an uphill climb with stunning ocean views (check out Slippery Point views) leading into tea tree scrub and blue gum woodland to where we meet our vehicle to take us through to our new accommodation at Port Campbell and a lovely dinner overlooking the bay.

Yuulong to Moonlight Head - 14km (overnight Port Campbell)

Day 5. Today's walk begins with some significant stair-work. A number of steps up and down will take you eventually down to Milanesia Beach for a short beach walk section, the track then leading through to the AllTrails crew waiting with morning tea. Refuel and get back on the track again with more stairs through to Moonlight Head providing rewarding views for all those who take the challenge. On the way back to Port Campbell in the vehicles we will stop in at the stunning Loch Ard Gorge for a few photos and you'll have plenty of time this afternoon to continue exploring the town, head down to the pub for a drink or take a swim in the sheltered bay. Tonight is the second of two 'Get Your Own' dinners on the tour, giving you the flexibility to splash out on something special, or keep it simple.

Itinerary cont.

Moonlight Head to Princetown – 17km (overnight Port Campbell)

Day 6. After another great breakfast you will be ready to take on our last full day of walking, and it's another beauty. Several wooden bridges take you over wet forested gullies as you glide through Moonlight Valley with beautiful views at the Gables Lookout. Wreck Beach and around this area is the resting place for multiple shipwrecks in the 1800's (hence the name Shipwreck Coast). AllTrails crew will meet you at Devils Kitchen for morning tea before the second section of the day meanders high above the beach and through dense vegetation sections, opening out to the Gellibrand Estuary's sandy landscape. One final boardwalk takes us into Princetown where we gather together and transfer the short distance through to Port Campbell for lunch and a relaxed afternoon to rest the legs. Tonight's final group dinner will be a lot of fun as we celebrate a stunning week of walking with just the one final push to finish it off tomorrow.

Princetown to Twelve Apostles - 7km

Day 7. The climax of the tour is nearly upon us. We head out from Princetown with just a few kms to the Twelve Apostles. Making this a short day allows us to arrive at the popular location before most of the crowds and gives us plenty of time for photos, exploring the area and helicopter flights (optional extra). We will be on the road heading back to Melbourne before lunchtime when the place can get very busy. Congratulations on your walk. Whether you walked the full distance, skipped a couple of sections or decided to take a day off here and there, we are sure that your experience will be a memorable one.

What our customers say...



"Really enjoyed the Great Ocean Walk, the scenery was spectacular and it was extra special to see some koalas along the way. The fabulous week was a credit to AllTrails ... who looked after us so well and were a pleasure to spend time with. I absolutely loved the walk and the camaraderie of our group. I would happily do another trip with AllTrails and would recommend to anyone considering this tour."
Alison (NSW)



"AllTrails & the rest of the group were great company. Logistics, accommodation, meals were all top-notch & professional. There's time each day to relax & do your own thing. The iconic GOW is a must-do spectacular trail. We saw plenty of wildlife, birds, varied terrain and landscapes. Got up close with a koala on the trail. The sun lit up the 12 Apostles coast and the turquoise ocean beautifully. Richard went beyond expectation, taking those that wanted on a guided road tour of more limestone coast features. Highly recommended."
Don (NSW)

"Thank you so much for an amazing week. It was...challenging...but I am so glad I did it. I'm feeling a great sense of achievement, as well as exhaustion! Thanks for all your hard work and support along the way"
Jane (VIC)



"We wanted to challenge ourselves with the amazing Great Ocean Walk, 100+ km over 6 days, and were delighted to be helped along the journey by the terrific AllTrails team who took great care of us, feeding us well both along the walk and in the evenings, tips to keep us moving, and just generally attempting to meet our every wish. They were also good company, as were the rest of our small group. And of course, the walk itself was spectacular, even when the weather took a turn for the worst. Thanks AllTrails for a wonderful trip! Highly recommended!"
Heather (NSW)

"The Great Ocean Walk with AllTrails was a wonderful experience. While the 100 Klm 6 day walk was a physical challenge, [AllTrails] looked after us royally. With toe and knee trouble, I was able to take rest days and operate to my capabilities. Loved it. Great care, company, accom and spirit. Many thanks!"
Jane (VIC)

Frequently asked questions and helpful information

We are happy to answer any other questions you may have.

Feel free to contact us at any time through our website 'Contact Us' page, phone or email. We love what we do and want to get you on the best tour for you. Speak to us about what's on your mind and we'll help you make your decision.

Guide assistance provided

We will have a team of minimum 2 staff. That will usually be one walking with the group and one with the vehicle heading up the track to set up morning tea or lunch. Guides are first aid qualified.

Support vehicle

There is no vehicle access to most locations along the track and for this reason we will have a crew member walking with the group as well as a crew member in the support vehicle. The vehicle will be stopped at strategic locations where the track is accessible by road, setting up morning teas and lunches, helping with water refills, snacks or information. Walkers may get in our support vehicle at the meet-up points if they would like to skip a section of the walk or if they have fallen well behind schedule. There is no shame in riding in the support vehicle for a section or two so if you are considering coming along and are 'in-the-ball-park' in terms of your fitness and preparedness, but not 100% sure if you will be up to it on the toughest days, just go for it – our vehicle and staff will be there to help out. It's better to give it a try than to miss out altogether. If you feel that you are extremely far off the fitness level required and cannot commit to enough training that will get you fit in time then you may be better off booking a later tour – just give us a call or email to discuss.

Times and schedules

Times for morning departure and stops such as morning tea and lunches will be given on the profile maps and are based on a steady speed (approx 4kph - not fast), depending on the terrain. We try as best we can to stick to the schedule and keep the group within a reasonable distance of each other and the AllTrails support. This is for safety reasons and to create a stronger connection and camaraderie in the group. If some walkers are behind these times we try to help them catch the group and they may be asked to board the vehicle to the next meeting point where they may re-join the walk and keep within the times. Slower walkers should leave first to allow plenty of time to enjoy their walk and snack breaks, while faster walkers are encouraged to leave a bit later. If you plan to walk the entire distance each day please check the daily departure times and leave with the appropriate group.

Fitness and expectations for the AllTrails Great Ocean Walk Tour

You really need to be a reasonably keen walker – not necessarily fast, but consistent. The walk ranges from 'easy' (most of the walk) to 'hard' (a few sections with lots of steps), however the full distance is over 100km so it is certainly a challenge due to the sheer length of the walk and the multi-day activity. In saying that, we have spread the walk out over 7 days which is often done in 6. After walking the track ourselves we feel that this is the balance for the best tour, allowing enough time on the track and enough recovery time after each day. And of course, we have the vehicle transfers available for skipping a few sections here and there, plus the opportunity to take a day off when you feel like it.

Training for AllTrails Great Ocean Walk Tours

Start by walking around the neighbourhood or in local parks 3-6km per outing, building up to around the 10-15km distance over time. Try to find some bushwalks, perhaps as a weekend activity. These do not necessarily need to be 10-15km length as even a shorter bush walk will give you some experience in dealing with uneven ground, tree roots and varying terrain. Closer to the tour try to get out for a couple of 15km walks for two days in a row (preferably bush walks if you can). This will usually put you in a good position to be ready for your tour. We have a specific training schedule which we send to you after you place your deposit, however we are more than happy to send this to you earlier when you are considering the tour – just ask us for a copy and we will get it out to you straight away.

Carrying personal items on the walk

We suggest you carry a full water bottle or hydration pack and your own personal goods such as phone, snacks and rain gear with you in a small backpack or hydration back-pack. We transport your luggage, drawstring day bags, food and extra water in the vehicles which you may see once or twice during the daily walk. A more detailed list of things to bring and not bring is on our 'Tour Preparation Guide' which is sent out to you upon booking.

Non-walking partners and part-time walkers

We realise that often our customers often want to spend their holidays with loved ones who may not be a keen walker as they are - we are happy to accommodate non-walkers or part-time walkers who only want to walk part of each day, or only certain days. We will generally allocate pick-up or drop-off points along the route every day. The entry price will usually be the same for part-timers. A price for non-walkers will be established individually depending on their tour plan.

Frequently asked Questions Cont.

Dangers on the track

Walkers occasionally share the track with some potentially dangerous creatures including snakes, spiders, ants, leeches, ticks and insects such as European wasps and honeybees. Hikers with allergies to bites and stings need to ensure they carry appropriate medication and advise our crew. Stay on the track and watch your step - if you see a snake, quietly step back and wait until they go away. Leeches are harmless and painless, but the resulting tiny bite is messy, causing blood to flow freely. Remove the leech, clean and disinfect the tiny bleeding wound - the bleeding will stop after a time. Beach walks and river crossings can be tricky depending on tides and weather. Our staff will be fully informed and aware of current conditions and this will make up part of the daily briefings.

Weather

Coastal weather can change quickly. It can be unpredictable in all seasons, so it is important to plan-in-advance and always be prepared for strong winds, heavy rain and hot or cold weather. Our support vehicle will have your drawstring day-bag available for when you meet up at certain points during the day however you will need to carry appropriate clothing and supplies between meet up points.

Bushfire Season

Our walk is not in the regular bushfire season for this region however staff will be fully informed of the daily fire danger levels and include this as part of the daily briefing if appropriate.

What clothes/footwear to bring

Two pairs of comfortable footwear in case one gets wet and does not dry by morning. A good combination is a solid, but reasonably light walking shoe (waterproof or resistant if possible, non-slip with chunky grip), plus a more sturdy waterproof hiking boot (in case of very wet underfoot surface). Make sure your shoes are worn in - you DO NOT want blisters from new shoes. A few layers of clothing (preferably quick-dry), comfortable shorts or walking pants, thermals, light rain jacket and warm jacket. Each day you can assess the weather and leave what you won't need in your motel and bring the things that you might need in your drawstring day-bag. Don't forget your hat and sunglasses. Optional: gaiters, walking pole. More info in our 'Tour Preparation Guide' sent out upon booking.

Phone coverage

Mobile telephone coverage is intermittent along the Great Ocean Walk and extremely rare for networks other than Telstra. Generally, coverage is found at high points where there is little overhanging vegetation. Phone coverage and WiFi is available each night at your accommodation. All mobile telephone users, including international, can connect to the Police, Ambulance or CFA on 000 or another emergency mobile network by dialling 112 and selecting HELP. Crew will also carry a satellite phone and UHF radio.

Accommodation on our tours

We always try to obtain great accommodation in the best location for you to rest your weary head (and legs) in each town whether it be a motel, hotel, B&B, cabins or similar, usually 3-4 star. We choose the best and most welcoming motels who can cater to our tour group needs. On this Great Ocean Walk tour we have two great accommodations with welcoming hosts and comfortable lodgings.

Sharing rooms – how does it work

On the online entry form you can nominate any travelling companions who you would like to share a room with and/or be accommodated close to so that couples or friends can be grouped together. This can be in a double bed or twin beds. If you are travelling alone like many of our customers, a Single Supplement price is available for those who would like their own room for the whole trip, or you can put your name down on a Twin Share Request List and we will try to match you up. If you are a snorer or have other habits that may affect your fellow roommates, we ask that you book your own room at the Single Supplement price. If you are a solo twin share traveller, this usually means that you will share a room with one other single twin share customer or crew member, however in some cases we may have larger rooms (eg. two-bedroom apartment or a B&B/house with multiple bathrooms) where we may have 3 or more single twin share travellers together.

Snorers can enjoy their own room

If you are a chronic snorer or have other habits that may affect your fellow roommates, we suggest booking your own room (single supplement cost). This is not just a courtesy to your fellow travelling companions but will also give you the space and privacy you need to enjoy your sleep after a long day of activity.

Frequently asked Questions cont.

Airport transport to Southern Cross Station

The Skybus goes from both Melbourne Airports to Southern Cross Station. More info at www.skybus.com.au.

Meals and food

Always a big part of any active holiday! Check tour details for meal inclusions on your walk. Most meals are usually included as part of our tours, however you may be required to purchase some meals. Our emphasis is on fresh food and balanced diet with plenty of carbohydrates, proteins, fruit and vegies catering for an active holiday. We successfully cater to most dietary requirements, however feel free to contact us with any questions.

Safety

We have a great safety record, but accidents can happen. We have trained First Aiders as crew, comprehensive First-Aid kits, a list of hospitals in the areas that we travel through, as well as mobile phones and a satellite phone for emergency calls when we are out of cellular range. Safety discussions are held throughout the tour as part of the daily briefings.

Packing tips

We recommend you bring a soft bag or backpack if possible, however suitcases are ok if that is all you have. You may be required to lift or carry your own luggage from time to time, e.g. into accommodation. We expect your bag to be no heavier than 15kg, making it easy to manage for you and the staff. Information about what to pack is included as part of your Pre-Departure Information. Generally, we advise that you pack as light as possible.

What sorts of people join our tours?

People from all parts of Australia and some overseas guests. Ages can range from 35 – 75 with most in their 50's and 60's (although always young at heart!). Approx 40% women and 60% men; couples, friends and solo travellers.

Group discounts

Bring your friends and save some money! Many of our tours have group discounts for 3 or more entrants. Check out the 'pricing' on each tour's information PDF to see if group discounts apply to that tour. This generally excludes any optional extras such as pre and post tour accommodation, merchandise etc. Contact our office for more details and information.

Changing or cancelling a tour

Should you wish to change your booking with AllTrails to a different walking tour date or a cycling tour, there will be a very reasonable service charge. We try to keep this figure as low as possible to allow flexibility where we can as we want to make sure that you get on the right tour for you. For cancellation and refund policies for your tour click the 'Book this tour' button on the relevant tour page of our website and scroll down for the T&C's. If you need to cancel your tour, a travel insurance policy will cover cancellation fees due to most unforeseen events. This is why we provide links to travel insurance options and highly recommend that you investigate and purchase travel insurance for all our tours (including Australian domestic tours) at the time of deposit and ensure that it includes coverage for cancellation fees if for some reason you are not able to travel (see Travel Insurance FAQ). For our international tours we require all participants to have Travel Insurance to assist you in the event of a medical emergency, lost baggage, personal liability, cancelled tour or other trip related issues.

Why book with us?

We only run 10-15 tours per year, always adding fresh destinations each year. This makes every tour as special to us as it is to you because we are not doing the same thing week-in week-out. We are just as excited to be there as you. On most occasions the owner-operators of the business will be on tour with you and the reassurance that comes with that is one of many great reasons to have confidence in booking your active holiday with us.



We are a proud Australian-owned company, with the privilege of taking customers to the small towns and communities all over the country, supporting regional economies and offering customers the opportunity to experience the hospitality of Australia outside the big cities. We have earned a top reputation in the touring industry through hard work, dedication, and genuine care for every person on every tour. Our longevity in the industry and large community of AllTrails clients who keep coming back year after year are testament to the high standard of tours that we provide. We consider ourselves the best in the business and strive to make sure that our tours are first-and-foremost, a high-quality product that we can be proud of and that our customers will love.