GREAT OCEAN WALK®

Walk Victoria's Icons

FAQ Sheet

The Great Ocean Walk is a 103 km hike from the Apollo Bay Visitor Information Centre to the information bay at Glenample, adjacent to the Twelve Apostles. The trail takes hikers through a variety of different landscapes including tall forests, coastal heathlands and rocky shores. It is truly a spectacular walk.
Here are 18 of the most frequently asked questions to help you plan your walk.

1. **Where can I start my Great Ocean Walk hike?**
2. **Where can I camp?**
3. **What overnight accommodation alternative to camping is there?**
4. **Do I need permission to camp on the Great Ocean Walk and how much does it cost?**
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8. **How can hikers organise transport for the walk?**
9. **Where can I park my car?**
10. **Is there water available along the walk?**
11. **Can I purchase food along the way?**
12. **Why do I need to check the tide times?**
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14. **Can I have a campfire?**
15. **Your Bushfire Safety**
16. **Will I have mobile phone coverage on the walk?**
17. **How can I complete the whole Great Ocean Walk in a shorter time?**
18. **What are some handy contacts?**

1. Where can I start my Great Ocean Walk hike?

The Great Ocean Walk enables walkers to 'step on' and 'step off' the trail. The following tables feature some of our recommended overnight and multi-day hike itineraries along the length of the walk. Hikers staying overnight are required to walk from East to West.

One night, two day hikes

Option 1

Starting Point	End Point	Overnight Campsite Location	Comments
Shelly Beach Carpark	Cape Otway Lightstation Car park	Blanket Bay Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Tall forest and coastal woodland. Koala viewing opportunities.

Option 2

Starting Point	End Point	Overnight Campsite Location	Comments
Cape Otway Lighthouse Car park	Johanna Beach Car park	Aire River Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Coast and heathland walk. Some beach walking.

Option 3

Starting Point	End Point	Overnight Campsite Location	Comments
Milanesia Beach Access Gate	Moonlight Head Car park	Ryans Den Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Isolated with spectacular views. Undulating with some steep sections.

Two night, three day hikes

Option 1

Starting Point	End Point	Night 1 Campsite Location	Night 2 Campsite Location	Comments
Apollo Bay Visitor Information Centre	Cape Otway Lightstation Car park	Elliot Ridge Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Blanket Bay Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Tall forests and coastal woodland.

Option 2

Starting Point	End Point	Night 1 Campsite Location	Night 2 Campsite Location	Comments
Blanket Bay Car park	Johanna Beach Car park	Cape Otway Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Aire River Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Coast and heathland walk. Koala viewing opportunities.

Option3

Starting Point	End Point	Night 1 Campsite Location	Night 2 Campsite Location	Comments
Milanesia Beach Access Gate	Glenample, adjacent to the Twelve Apostles, at the Great Ocean Road information bay	Ryans Den Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Devils Kitchen Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Spectacular views. Undulating with some steep sections. Takes hikers to the end of the walk within sight of the Twelve Apostles.

Three night, four day hike

Option 1

Starting Point	End Point	Night 1 Campsite Location	Night 2 Campsite Location	Night 3 Campsite Location	Comments
Shelly Beach Car park	Johanna Beach Car park	Blanket Bay Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Cape Otway Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Aire River Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Tall forest, coast and heathland walk. Koala viewing opportunities.

Four night, five day hike

Option 1

Starting Point	End Point	Night 1 Campsite Location	Night 2 Campsite Location	Night 3 Campsite Location	Night 4 Campsite Location	Comments
Apollo Bay Visitor Information Centre	Johanna Beach Carpark	Elliot Ridge Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Blanket Bay Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Cape Otway Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Aire River Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Coast, tall forest and heathland walk.

Option 2

Starting Point	End Point	Night 1 Campsite Location	Night 2 Campsite Location	Night 3 Campsite Location	Night 4 Campsite Location	Comments
Cape Otway Lightstation Car park	Glenample, adjacent to the Twelve Apostles, at the Great Ocean Road information bay	Aire River Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Johanna Beach Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Ryans Den Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Devils Kitchen Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Coast and heathland walk. Spectacular views. Takes you to the end of the walk within sight of the Twelve Apostles.

Five night, six day walk

Option 1

Starting Point	End Point	Night 1 Campsite Location	Night 2 Campsite Location	Night 3 Campsite Location	Night 4 Campsite Location	Night 5 Campsite Location	Comments
Apollo Bay Visitor Information Centre	Johanna Beach Carpark	Elliot Ridge Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Blanket Bay Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Cape Otway Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Aire River Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Johanna Beach Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Coast, tall forest and heathland walk.

Option 2

Starting Point	End Point	Night 1 Campsite Location	Night 2 Campsite Location	Night 3 Campsite Location	Night 4 Campsite Location	Night 5 Campsite Location	Comments
Blanket Bay Car park	Glenample, adjacent to the Twelve Apostles, at the Great Ocean Road information bay	Cape Otway Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Aire River Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Johanna Beach Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Ryans Den Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Devils Kitchen Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Coast and heathland walk. Spectacular views. Takes you to the end of the walk within sight of the Twelve Apostles.

Six night, seven day walk

Starting Point	End Point	Night 1 Campsite Location	Night 2 Campsite Location	Night 3 Campsite Location	Night 4 Campsite Location	Night 5 Campsite Location	Night 6 Campsite Location	Comments
Shelly Beach Car park	Glenample, adjacent to the Twelve Apostles, at the Great Ocean Road information bay	Blanket Bay Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Cape Otway Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Aire River Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Johanna Beach Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Ryans Den Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Devils Kitchen Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Coast and heathland walk. Spectacular views. Takes you to the end of the walk within sight of the Twelve Apostles.

Seven day, eight day walk

Starting Point	End Point	Night 1 Campsite Location	Night 2 Campsite Location	Night 3 Campsite Location	Night 4 Campsite Location	Night 5 Campsite Location	Night 6 Campsite Location	Night 7 Campsite Location	Comments
Apollo Bay Visitor Information Centre	Glenample, adjacent to the Twelve Apostles, at the Great Ocean Road information bay	Elliot Ridge Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Blanket Bay Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Cape Otway Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Aire River Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Johanna Beach Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Ryans Den Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Devils Kitchen Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Coast and heathland walk. Spectacular views. Takes you to the end of the walk within sight of the Twelve Apostles.

2. Where can I camp?

There are three main forms of camping available to hikers.

Great Ocean Walk individual hike-in campsites
Seven purpose-built Great Ocean Walk hike-in campsites are located at manageable intervals for multi-day walking along the Great Ocean Walk. Each campsite has eight individual camp pads set into the surrounding bushland. Each camp pad has room for a 2-3 person tent. There is a maximum number of Twelve people per hiker party, booking no more than four hike-in campsites at each location. Registration fees apply at these campsites and hikers must book at least two weeks in advance.

Great Ocean Walk Group Areas
The Great Ocean Walk hike-in campsites at Elliot Ridge, Blanket Bay, Cape Otway, Aire River and Johanna Beach have dedicated group areas. These are larger and more open sites catering for groups up to a maximum of 16 people, with enough room for eight, 2-3 person tents. Registration fees apply at these campsites and hikers must book at least two weeks in advance.

Car-based Camping
There are five drive-in campsites: Blanket Bay, Parker Hill, Aire River East and West, and Johanna Beach. These sites have minimal facilities and are aimed at visitors camping in proximity to their vehicles. Registration fees do not apply at these sites (except Blanket Bay during Christmas and Easter). Car-based camping is not available in the Great Otway National Park west of Johanna Beach. Hikers are required to use the dedicated hike-in campsites for the Great Ocean Walk (Bookings and fees are applicable) visit www.greatoceanwalk.com.au. For more details visit the website (www.parkweb.vic.gov.au) and look under 'Great Otway National Park'.

Great Ocean Walk Hike-in and Group Area campsite facilities.

Camp Location	Great Ocean Walk Individual Camp Sites	Great Ocean Walk Group Area	Water Facilities	Three sided Shelter	Notes
Elliot Ridge	8 camp pads, each site fits a 2-3 person tent. Maximum of 4 camp pads per booking.	Yes, up to a site maximum of 16.	Two untreated rainwater tanks.	Yes	Sheltered site amongst the tall trees.
Blanket Bay	8 camp pads, each site fits a 2-3 person tent. Maximum of 4 camp pads per booking	Yes, up to a site maximum of 16.	Untreated rainwater available from a tap in the nearby car-based camping area.	No	Next to the ocean and Blanket Bay car-based camp.
Cape Otway	8 camp pads, each site fits a 2-3 person tent. Maximum of 4 camp pads per booking	Yes, up to a site maximum of 16.	Two untreated rainwater tanks.	Yes	Sheltered site with koala viewing opportunities.
Aire River	8 camp pads, each site fits a 2-3 person tent. Maximum of 4 camp pads per booking	Yes, up to a site maximum of 16.	One untreated rainwater tank.	Yes	Sheltered site near Aire River car-based camp.
Johanna Beach	8 camp pads, each site fits a 2-3 person tent. Maximum of 4 camp pads per booking	Yes, up to a site maximum of 16. Sheltered area under Cypress trees, adjacent to day visitors area.	One untreated rainwater tank.	Yes	Set on a ridge line with spectacular ocean views.
Ryans Den	8 camp pads, each site fits a 2-3 person tent. Maximum of 4 camp pads per booking	No	Two untreated rainwater tanks.	Yes	Set on a ridge line with spectacular ocean views.
Devils Kitchen	8 camp pads, each site fits a 2-3 person tent. Maximum of 4 camp pads per booking	No	Two untreated rainwater tanks.	Yes	Set on a ridge line with spectacular ocean views.

Please note: each Great Ocean Walk campsite has composting toilet facilities except Blanket Bay and Aire River. At these sites, hikers are required to use the nearby car-based camping area toilets.

3. What overnight accommodation alternative to camping is there?

At various locations along the Great Ocean Walk, accommodation providers offer overnight stays for those who prefer the extra comfort of a soft bed and even a spa. To see what is available, please click on the 'Off-Park Accommodation' link on the website (www.greatoceanwalk.com.au), or contact the Great Ocean Road Visitor Information Centre on (03) 5237 6194.

Alternatively you can refer to a copy of the *Great Ocean Walk Brochure*, for more options.

4. Do I need permission to camp on the Great Ocean Walk and how much does it cost?

Overnight hikers using Great Ocean Walk campsites are required to complete and send in a registration form at least two weeks in advance of their intended hike.

Permit application forms are downloadable from the website (www.greatoceanwalk.com.au). Alternatively, they can be sent out by post, fax or e-mail. Parks Victoria's preferred method of payment is by credit card; however the option of money order or cheque is available. Completed application forms, including the calculation and payment of fees, can be sent to:

Great Ocean Walk
Post: Level 10, 535 Bourke Street, Melbourne 3000
Fax: (03) 96134777
Email: GOWregistration@parks.vic.gov.au
General enquiries tel: 13 1963

Once payment is received Parks Victoria will book your sites and send you a confirmation letter and receipt of payment. Hikers are required to take the confirmation letter with them when they walk to confirm designated tent sites.

Fees Schedule 1/9/2011 - 31/8/2012 (GST INCLUDED)

(Please note that prices listed are current up to the 31/8/2012. New prices will come into effect from 1/9/2012).

INDIVIDUAL GREAT OCEAN WALK HIKE-IN TENT SITES

$23.50 per tent site per night,

Plus $5.00 processing administration fee (non-refundable)

	Number of Tent Sites:			
No. of Nights	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
1	$28.50	$52.00	$75.50	$99.00
2	$52.00	$99.00	$146.00	$193.00
3	$75.50	$146.00	$216.50	$287.00
4	$99.00	$193.00	$287.00	$381.00
5	$122.50	$240.00	$357.50	$475.00
6	$146.00	$287.00	$428.00	$569.00
7	$169.50	$334.00	$498.50	$663.00

GROUP CAMPING AREA

(Elliot Ridge, Blanket Bay and Cape Otway, Aire River and Johanna Beach only)

These more open campsite areas are ideally suited to walking groups requiring more than the maximum allowed four individual Hike-in Tent Sites (or for more than 12 people). A maximum limit of 16 people applies to the Group Camping areas.

OPTION 1:

$168.50 per night to book out an entire Group Area,

plus $10.00 processing administration fee.

No. of Nights	Whole Site
1	$178.50
2	$347.00
3	$515.50
4	$684.00
5	$852.50

OPTION 2:

Booking per individual tent within Group Area at
$17.00 per tent (max. 3-person tent) per night,
plus $10.00 processing administration fee.

No. of Nights	Number of Tent Sites (Size limit of 3-person tent)							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	$27.00	$44.00	$61.00	$73.00	$95.00	$112.00	$129.00	$146.00
2	$44.00	$78.00	$112.00	$146.00	$180.00	$214.00	$248.00	$282.00
3	$61.00	$112.00	$158.00	$214.00	$265.00	$316.00	$367.00	$418.00
4	$73.00	$146.00	$214.00	$282.00	$350.00	$418.00	$486.00	$554.00
5	$95.00	$180.00	$265.00	$350.00	$435.00	$520.00	$605.00	$690.00

5. What are the Booking Terms and Conditions for the Great Ocean Walk Campsites?

Great Ocean Walk Campsites – Booking Terms and Conditions

Bookings

Prices are in $AUD and include GST

Sites can be booked up to 12 months in advance from the date of arrival and within 14 days of the first camping night

Full payment is required at the time of submitting the application form.

Payment can be made by cheque, money order or credit card (MasterCard, or Visa).

Bookings made within 14 days of the first camping night will be accepted subject to availability and will be confirmed once payment has been cleared.

All bookings and payments are not transferable.

Alterations to Bookings

Subject to availability, alternative dates may be booked, providing the request is received within 14 days of the first night's camping and also providing the alternative dates are within the next 12 months of first camping night originally booked.

Any alterations to bookings will attract an additional administration fee (currently $5.00 for individual campers and $10.00 for groups).

In the event of a request to alter bookings, Parks Victoria does not guarantee the availability of sites on the days requested.

Refund Policy

In the event of a cancellation by the applicant, the following cancellation fees apply:

31 Days or more notice	20% of total payment
14 to 30 days notice	50% of total payment
0 to 14 days notice	100% of total payment

Full refunds will be payable if a campsite is officially closed by Parks Victoria as a result of an emergency or other exceptional circumstances.

In all such cases, refunds must be sought within 30 days of the first camp night booked. A copy of the receipt must be attached to the application.

Refunds will not be available in cash.

If any alteration involves the payment of a lesser fee, no refund of the balance is payable.

6. What are the distances between the Great Ocean Walk Hike-in campsites?

Distances are calculated from camp-site to camp-site.

Section	Distance	Approx. Time*	Grade
Apollo Bay Visitor Information Centre to Elliot Ridge Campsite	10.3 km	3 hr 30 min	Medium
Elliot Ridge Campsite to Blanket Bay Campsite	13.3 km	4 hr 30 min	Easy
Blanket Bay Campsite to Cape Otway Campsite	11.4 km	3 hr 45 min	Easy/Medium
Cape Otway Campsite to Aire River Campsite	9.8 km	3 hr 15 min	Medium
Aire River Campsite to Johanna Beach Campsite	15.3 km	5 hr 15 min	Medium
Johanna Beach Campsite to Ryans Den Campsite	14.8 km	5 hr	Medium/Hard
Ryans Den Campsite to Devils Kitchen Campsite	15.3 km	5 hr 15 min	Medium/Hard
Devils Kitchen Campsite to Great Ocean Road information bay adjacent to Glenample Homestead.	14.1 km	4 hr 45 min	Easy/Medium

** Note that these times reflect a walking pace of around 3 km per hour.*

7. What Great Ocean Walk Maps and Brochures are available?

Parks Victoria has published a fold-out colour '*Information and Map Guide to the Great Ocean Walk*". This guide provides you with all the details you need to know to navigate your way along the Great Ocean Walk.

The 'Information and Map Guide to the Great Ocean Walk' is available through Parks Victoria (tel. 13 1963) and Information Victoria. The Guide is also available from local visitor centres closer to the Great Ocean Road at: Queenscliff, Torquay, Lorne, Apollo Bay, Port Campbell and Warrnambool. The guide can be purchased from Parks Victoria over the phone using a credit card.

For hikers who would like more detail, '*The Otway's 4WD Touring Guide*', published by Meridian, is a comprehensive contour map of the Otway's Region. The Great Ocean Walk is highlighted on this map.

Both maps are available from the Apollo Bay Visitor Information Centre and can be purchased by credit card over the phone on (03) 5237 6529, and posted to you.

8. How can hikers organise transport for the walk?

Being a linear rather than a circuit walk, utilising two vehicles in a 'car shuffle' will provide the most flexible and convenient transport options. A 'car shuffle' is a good way to provide transport to and from the start and end of the walk independent of transport timetables. Hikers can for example drive to the end of the walk with both vehicles, drop one off, and then return to the start of the walk in the other vehicle.

If you have only one or no vehicles, you may consider using a shuttle service provider. If hikers are utilising their own vehicle, we recommend that you leave this vehicle at the end of your walk first and get shuttled back to where you will be starting your walk. This gives you the convenience of walking towards your vehicle to your final destination; and avoiding possible glitches such as missing pick-up times arranged with transport providers because of lateness on your last day. Mobile telephone coverage is not reliable along the walk, which may make changing agreed times problematic.

Current shuttle services recommended by Parks Victoria are:

Walk 91	Ph. 5237 1189 or 0405 495909
Timboon Taxi	Ph. 0438 407777
GOR Shuttle	Ph. 5237 9278 or 0428 379278

For hikers who require public transport back to Apollo Bay, there is a V/Line bus service to Apollo Bay via the Great Ocean Road, stopping at Princetown and the Twelve Apostles Car park. Alternatively, if you are heading directly to Melbourne or Geelong, V/Line services also head inland via Colac and the Princess Highway. Similarly, this service is available for those travelling further west along the Victorian coastline. Contact Warrnambool Bus Service (V/Line) to book your trip on (03) 5562 5748.

9. Where can I park my car?

Public parking in the Great Otway National Park is available at the following car parks: Shelly Beach, Blanket Bay, Parker Hill, Cape Otway, Aire River East and West, Johanna Beach, Milanesia Beach Access, Moonlight Head, The Gables Lookout, and Wreck Beach. No designated long-term parking is provided in the Apollo Bay and Marengo area, however vehicles can be parked in the foreshore car parks between Apollo Bay and Marengo.

Vehicles can be parked at the Princetown Recreation Reserve for hikers completing the 'end' of the walk. This camping reserve is managed by a caretaker, providing relatively secure parking (tel. 0429-985176 or 03-5598 8119). Walkers usually drop their heavy packs off at their cars as they hike past the Reserve, before continuing on for 5 km to complete the end of the Great Ocean Walk, and returning to their vehicles.

Parking areas within the Great Otway National Park are open to the public at all times. Owners are responsible for any vehicles and their contents left at these sites. Please remove any valuables and lock your vehicle.

At the end of the Walk, there is small information and parking bay suitable for day parking, and 'dropping-off' and 'picking-up' hikers. This is located opposite the historic Glenample Homestead, adjacent to the Twelve Apostles. Hikers, please note that the Glenample Homestead is currently closed, and the Twelve Apostles Car park has no overnight parking available.

A number of private businesses provide secure parking. Please click on the *'Services and Tours'* link on the website (www.greatoceanwalk.com.au).

10. Is there water available along the walk?

Untreated rainwater is collected in tanks located in the Great Ocean Walk hike-in campsites and is available for hiker use. This water is **not** suitable for drinking unless treated. There are a number of different methods that hikers can use to treat rain water, such as filtering and boiling or adding sterilisation tablets. For further information, please refer to the Parks Victoria Park Note entitled 'Water-make it safe to drink' (see www.parkweb.vic.gov.au).

At Blanket Bay, untreated rainwater is available for Great Ocean Walk hikers from a tap in the car-based campground. This water is not suitable to drink unless treated.

Whilst the water level of each campsite tank is checked on a regular basis by Park Rangers, Parks Victoria cannot guarantee that rainwater will always be available at each campsite. Hikers are responsible for their own water requirements. In periods of warm weather, hikers will need to carry extra water. There are a number of potential water drop sites along the walk, where water containers can be dropped off by 2WD vehicle and discretely hidden in vegetation for intended use along the hike. All containers should be recovered and removed following the completion of your walk.

11. Can I purchase food along the way?

The options for purchasing food once you have commenced your walk are very limited. Hikers can discretely drop off their own personal food and water at a number of 2WD access points along the walk by hiding it amongst vegetation out of sight of others (guard against foraging animals such as foxes and possums by using sealed containers). This service is also available from Parks Victoria's licensed tour operators (please follow the '*Tours and Services*' link in the website (www.greatoceanwalk.com.au).

The Cape Otway Lightstation precinct has a café that serves light meals and refreshments during business hours. However you must purchase an admission ticket to the historic facility to gain access. The Lighthstation ticket sales kiosk near the car park area also sells cold drinks and snacks to the public not entering the lighthouse precinct. The Lightstation can be contacted on (03) 5237 9240.

Other limited food supplies are available from Bimbi Park private campground, Lavers Hill and Princetown General Store. The township of Apollo Bay has supermarkets for more comprehensive shopping needs prior to commencing walks.

12. Why do I need to check the tide times?

The Great Ocean Walk has sections of track that can be dangerous or impassable at high tide. As an alternative, there are inland high-tide routes paralleling the low-tide routes that hikers can use during periods of high tides or rough seas. At the start of each of these tide affected areas, where high and low-tide routes diverge, there is a '*Decision Point*', advising hikers to decide which route to take. The location of the decision points are indicated on the '*Great Ocean Walk Information and Map Guide*', and are clearly identified by signs along the track. At many of the decision points, walkers can make a visual assessment of tide levels and see where the Great Ocean Walk heads inland, parallel to the beach and rock platforms.

It is important to note however that hikers cannot see the tide levels from the Great Ocean Walk decision point at Wreck Beach, located between Ryans Den and Devils Kitchen campsites. The spectacular Wreck Beach is accessed from the top of the cliff by 366 stairs. The beach is defined by 100 m sheer cliffs on one side and the ocean on the other, and is well worth planning your walk beforehand for the experience. Hikers need to time their walk along Wreck Beach to correspond with the low-tide period; otherwise the high-tide route along the Old Coach Road should be used. The decision point is located at the intersection of Moonlight Head Road and the Old Coach Road. Hikers will arrive at this point about 1.5 hrs before descending to Wreck Beach. As tide levels cannot be observed from this decision point, hikers will need to have already noted local tide times (see note below) to allow safe and successful passage through this section. Hikers can check tide times at the Apollo Bay or Port Campbell Visitor Information Centres or with the National Tidal Facility (www.bom.gov.au/oceanography). Although tides are not visible from the decision point, planning ahead and commencing the high-tide route at this point will save hikers a lot of unnecessary walking, and the inconvenience and disappointment of encountering impeding high tides on their walk late in the day.

Please note: for the Great Ocean Walk sections west of Moonlight Head to the Twelve Apostles, including Wreck Beach, refer to the Port Campbell tide times (subtract 4 minutes from Portland tide times for the approximate local times). For the Great Ocean Walk sections east of Moonlight Head, refer to the Apollo Bay tide-times (subtract 28 minutes from the Port Phillip Heads times for the approximate local tide times).

13. What wildlife should I be aware of?

The Great Ocean Walk provides the hiker with a range of natural experiences. Hikers are often able to observe a wide range of animals along the walk such as koalas, wallabies, echidnas, reptiles and many bird species. However, hikers need to also be aware that they can occasionally share the walking track with snakes, ants, bees, European wasps and leaches. This is all a part of the experience of being out 'in the bush'. Hikers with allergies need to ensure they have appropriate medication. All hiker parties should carry a basic first-aid kit.

Please do not touch or feed wildlife, and please take all rubbish home with you as it can cause injury to wildlife.

The Great Ocean Walk traverses a section of Victoria's wild southern coastline, and as a consequence weather conditions can change with short notice at any time of the year. Please take appropriate clothing.

Walking after dark on the Great Ocean Walk is not recommended.

14. Can I have a campfire?

There are no camp fires allowed at Great Ocean Walk campsites at any time. Camp fires can be lit within the Great Otway National Park at **Blanket Bay and Aire River West car-based camping areas in designated fireplaces only**. Campers must provide their own firewood from outside the National Park. No fires or flames are permitted anywhere on Total Fire Ban days, inside or outside tents, shelters or toilets. This includes the use of portable compact liquid or gas cooking stoves. For further information, please ring the CFA on 13 1599 or visit the CFA website (www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

15. Your Bushfire Safety

The Great Ocean Walk is in a high bushfire risk area and there is no safe place to shelter and survive a bushfire. Because your safety is your responsibility, we ask that you read this guide to Prepare, Act and Survive.

During the fire season, over the warmer months of the year, hikers on the Great Ocean Walk need to be aware of when a Total Fire Ban has been declared. On these days you must not light a fire and stop any activity which might start a fire. This includes using portable liquid and gas fuel cooking stoves. During periods of hot and windy weather and in the event a Total Fire Ban is declared, hikers should carry some food that does not need to be cooked. For Total Fire Ban information, please call the Country Fire Authority (CFA) on 13 1599 or visit the CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au

The Great Ocean Walk is in the South West Fire District.

For information on fires in Victoria and general fire safety, please contact the Victoria Bushfire Information Line on freecall 1800 240 667. People can also tune into their emergency broadcasters: ABC Local Radio (including 774 on the AM band) and commercial radio. In the event of an uncontrolled fire or any fire being lit on a Total Fire Ban day, please ring 000 and ask for the CFA.

Victoria also has a Fire Danger Rating (FDR) indicator. The FDR predicts how a fire would behave if it started and how difficult it would be to put out. It is an indicator of the danger you might face should a fire start, so the FDR is a trigger to act. The expected FDR will feature in weather forecasts and be broadcast on radio and TV and appear in some newspapers. It can also be found on the CFA website at cfa.vic.gov.au or by calling the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667

On days rated Severe and Extreme fire danger, all walkers are advised to consider their safety along their planned walking route. If temperatures and winds are high, escape routes need to be considered as many sections of the walk have no safe refuge due to impenetrable heathland vegetation, thick fuel-laden forest, steep cliffs or a combination of these. Parks Victoria advises that leaving the park early in the day is your best option, do not wait and see.

Code Red indicates the worst conditions for a bush or grass fire and leaving the park the night before is the safest option, do not wait and see. Parks Victoria advises park visitors that the Great Otway National Park will be closed on days of Code Red fire weather predictions.

Check the attached brochure Hiking and Camping in Parks and Forests for more information.

The Great Ocean Walk is subject to the Department of Sustainability's (DSE) Planned Burning program aimed at reducing the bushfire risk in Victoria's public land. Planned burns usually happen in autumn or spring and may impact on sections of the walk. Planned burning is weather dependent, so advice on when

it may occur could be short. Walkers may need to look at alternative options to avoid the areas impacted and/or repeat sections of the walk when a planned burn is underway. Information will be updated on the GOW website and can be found on the DSE website www.dse.vic.gov.au

16. Will I have mobile phone coverage on the walk?

Mobile telephone coverage is intermittent along the Great Ocean Walk. Hikers are advised to check their mobile telephones for reception along the way. In the event that walkers need to contact someone, one option can be to return to the last spot they received reception to make a call out. Generally this is at high points with little overhanging vegetation. These locations include, Blanket Bay beach area, Station Beach inland walk section, Ryans Den campsite, Moonlight Head and Devils Kitchen campsite ocean-view areas,

In an emergency, ring 000 for Police, Fire and Ambulance. For mobile telephones in poor reception areas, ring 112 in emergencies.

17. How can I complete the Great Ocean Walk in a shorter time?

Do you consider yourself to be fit, and would like to complete the whole Great Ocean Walk in a shorter time? The table below provides you with some options. The maximum walk distance in one day is 25.1 km.

Five night, six day walk

Starting Point	End Point	Campsite 1 Location	Campsite 2 Location	Campsite 3 Location	Campsite 4 Location	Campsite 5 Location	Comments
Apollo Bay Visitor Information Centre	Glenample, adjacent to the Twelve Apostles, at the Great Ocean Road information bay	Elliot Ridge Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Cape Otway Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Johanna Beach Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Ryans Den Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Devils Kitchen Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Skips Blanket Bay and Aire River Great Ocean Walk Campsites. Requires a 24.7 km walk on day 2 and a 25.1 km walk on day 3.

Six night, seven day walk

Starting Point	End Point	Campsite 1 Location	Campsite 2 Location	Campsite 3 Location	Campsite 4 Location	Campsite 5 Location	Campsite 6 Location	Comments
Apollo Bay Visitor Information Centre	Glenample, adjacent to the Twelve Apostles, at the Great Ocean Road information bay	Elliot Ridge Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Cape Otway Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Aire River Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Johanna Beach Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Ryans Den Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Devils Kitchen Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Skips Blanket Bay Great Ocean Walk Campsite. Requires a 24.7 km walk on day 2.
Apollo Bay Visitor Information Centre	Glenample, adjacent to the Twelve Apostles, at the Great Ocean Road information bay	Elliot Ridge Great Ocean Walk Camp Site	Blanket Bay Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Cape Otway Great Ocean Walk Camp Site	Johanna Beach Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Ryans Den Great Ocean Walk Camp Site	Devils Kitchen Great Ocean Walk Campsite	Skips Aire River Great Ocean Walk Campsite. Requires 25.1 km walk on day 4.

18. What are some handy contacts?

Emergency telephone numbers

Police, Ambulance, Fire:	000
Apollo Bay Police:	(03) 5237 6750
Lavers Hill Police:	(03) 5237 3200
Colac Police:	(03) 5231 5599
Port Campbell Police:	(03) 5598 6310
Apollo Bay Hospital:	(03) 5237 8500
RACV:	13 1111
Apollo Bay RACV:	(03) 5237 6720

Please Note:
You may not be in network range along some areas of the Great Ocean Walk. All mobile telephone users, including international, can connect to the Police, Ambulance or CFA on another emergency mobile network by dialling 112.

For More Information

Parks Victoria Information Centre:	13 1963
Great Ocean Walk Web Site:	www.greatoceanwalk.com.au
Parks Victoria Web Site:	www.parks.vic.gov.au
Bureau of Meteorology Web Site (Tide Times and Weather):	www.bom.gov.au
Apollo Bay CFA:	(03) 5237 6552
Total Fire Ban Information:	13 1599, www.cfa.gov.au

Visitor Information Centres

Apollo Bay	Great Ocean Road	(03) 5237 6529
Port Campbell	26 Morris Street	(03) 5598 6053
Colac	Cnr Murray and Queen Sts	(03) 5231 3730
Lorne	144 Mountjoy Parade	(03) 5289 1152
Geelong	Princes Hwy, Corio	1800 620 888