

www.greatoceanwalk.com.au

Plan for a safe, unforgettable experience on the Great Ocean Walk

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

April, 2018

Things you need to know



GREAT OCEAN WALK
Walk Victoria's Icons



Great Ocean Walk, Australia – the Great Ocean Road, Australian Wildlife and the iconic Twelve Apostles are all attributes of this spectacular eight-day, one direction, long-distance walk covering approximately 110km. The Great Ocean Walk extends from the Apollo Bay Visitor Information Centre through the Great Otway and Port Campbell National Parks and concludes at the iconic Twelve Apostles near Port Campbell.

The Great Ocean Walk weaves its way through tall forests and coastal heathlands, beside rocky shore platforms, crossing creeks and rivers, passing above wild-rocky shores and deserted beaches with panoramic views from windswept cliff-tops.

Nature unfolds at every step on the Great Ocean Walk - located on the edge of the Southern Ocean and truly in the hands of nature.

*Great Ocean Walk's most frequently asked Questions and Answers plus these **additional planning tools** will ensure you have a safe, enjoyable and inspiring experience.*

OFFICIAL MAP: **Information Guide and Map Edition 5 to the Great Ocean Walk**
(new) OFFICIAL WALKERS MAP-BOOKLET: Easy to use ring-bound maps in half-day page view format
OFFICIAL WEBSITE: www.greatoceanwalk.com.au

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VICTORIA POLICE OUTDOOR INFORMATION SHEET – 'Let someone know when you go'

END

1. MAPS: The official 'Information Guide and Map to the Great Ocean Walk'

This official, full colour Parks Victoria map, gives all the details you need to navigate the Great Ocean Walk safely.

Great Ocean Walk Information Guide and Map (1:25,000 scale) is available from Parks Victoria by calling 13 1963 and Visitor Information Centres along the Great Ocean Road including Apollo Bay and Port Campbell. This official map guide can be purchased from these centres over the phone using a credit card.

For visitors planning to explore the Great Otway National Park and the Otway Forest Park, the **Otway's 4WD Touring Guide** is a comprehensive contour map of this part of the region. The Great Ocean Walk is highlighted on this map.

Both maps are available from the Great Ocean Road Apollo Bay Visitor Information Centre and can be purchased by during business hours or by credit card over the phone on 1300 689 297.

2. HIKE OPTIONS: Overnight and multi-day hike itineraries (including planning for Groups)

Walker Etiquette: Great Ocean Walk is a **one-way walk** from Apollo Bay in the east to the Twelve Apostles in the west. Campgrounds are small and walking groups need to control their noise and environmental impacts.

One night, two day hikes - Great Ocean Walk

Option 1

Starting Point	End Point	Overnight Campsite Location	Comments
Shelly Beach Car park	Cape Otway Lightstation Car park	Blanket Bay GOW Campground	Coast, tall forest and coastal woodland.

Option 2

Starting Point	End Point	Overnight Campsite Location	Comments
Cape Otway Lightstation Car park	Johanna Beach Car park	Aire River GOW Campground	Coast and heathland walk. Some beach walking and river crossing.

Option 3

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

Two night, three day hikes – Great Ocean Walk

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 GOW Campground	Blanket Bay GOW Campground	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 GOW Campground	Aire River GOW Campground	Coast and heathland walk

Option3

Starting Point	End Point	Night 1 Campsite Location	Night 2 Campsite Location	Comments
Milanesia Beach Access Gate	Twelve Apostles	Ryans Den GOW Campground	Devils Kitchen GOW Campground	Spectacular views at the Twelve Apostles

Three night, four day hike – Great Ocean Walk

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 GOW Campground	Cape Otway GOW Campground	Aire River GOW Campground	Coast, tall forest and heathland walk

Four night, five day hike – Great Ocean Walk

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 GOW Campground	Blanket Bay GOW Campground	Cape Otway GOW Campground	Aire River GOW Campground	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	Twelve Apostles	Aire River GOW Campground	Johanna Beach GOW Campground	Ryans Den GOW Campground	Devils Kitchen GOW Campground	Coast and heathland walk. Spectacular views. Ends Twelve Apostles.

Five night, five day walk – Great Ocean 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 GOW Campground	Blanket Bay GOW Campground	Cape Otway GOW Campground	Aire River GOW Campground	Johanna Beach GOW Campground	Coast, tall forest and heathland.

Five nights, six day walk (you need to hike out of Devils Kitchen to Twelve Apostles on Day 6 (16kms))

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
Blanket Bay Car park	Twelve Apostles	Cape Otway GOW Campground	Aire River GOW Campground	Johanna Beach GOW Campground	Ryans Den GOW Campground	Devils Kitchen GOW Campground	Great views. Ends Twelve Apostles.

Six night, seven day walk – Great Ocean 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	Twelve Apostles	Blanket Bay GOW Campground	Cape Otway GOW Campground	Aire River GOW Campground	Johanna Beach GOW Campground	Ryans Den GOW Campground	Devils Kitchen GOW Campground	Great views. Ends Twelve Apostles.

Seven night, eight day walk – Great Ocean 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	Twelve Apostles	Elliot Ridge GOW Campground	Blanket Bay GOW Campground	Cape Otway GOW Campground	Aire River GOW Campground	Johanna Beach GOW Campground	Ryans Den GOW Campground	Devils Kitchen GOW Campground	Coast and heathland. Ends Twelve Apostles.

3. WALK DETAIL: Distances between the Great Ocean Walk hike-in campgrounds?

If you have not undertaken a long distance walk before, or for a reasonable period of time, it is recommended you undertake some walk training. You will be walking all day, for up to 8 days. There are steep staircases and track sections that go up and down again. Sections of track can be wet, muddy and slippery. Prepare well to enjoy yourself and get the most from your experience.

Section – Great Ocean Walk campgrounds	Distance Approx. **	Approx. Time*	Grade 3 overall average. Note: Day 6 & 7 harder
Apollo Bay Visitor Centre to Elliot Ridge	10km	3hr 30 min	Medium
Elliot Ridge Campground to Blanket Bay	12km	4hr 30 min	Easy
Blanket Bay Campground to Cape Otway	11km	3hr 45 min	Easy/Medium
Cape Otway Campground to Aire River	10km	3hr 15 min	Medium
Aire River Campground to Johanna Beach	14km	5hr 15 min	Medium
Johanna Beach Campground to Ryans Den	14km	5hr	Medium/Hard
Ryans Den Campground to Devils Kitchen	13km	5hr 15 min	Medium/Hard
Devils Kitchen Campground to Twelve Apostles END	16km	5hr 15 min	Easy/Medium

* Note that these times reflect a walking pace of around approximately 3 km per hour. The staircases and steep slopes of day 6 & 7 are slower going.

** Distances have been rounded UP or DOWN to nearest half kilometre.

4. CAMP: Individual & Small Group - Where can I camp ON the Great Ocean Walk?

Great Ocean Walk is a **one-way, single direction walk** from Apollo Bay always walking towards the **Twelve Apostles in the west**. Camping ON the Great Ocean Walk is in seven, limited capacity purpose-built hike-in campgrounds. There are 8 sites in each campground with a maximum of 3 campers per site. Maximum Walking Group size is limited to 18 on the first 4 days. Larger groups must camp off-walk in nearby park, or private camping areas NEAR Cape Otway area, Johanna and Aire River.

Plan and book in advance as the campsites have limited capacity.

When booking the GOW Hike-in sites.

1. **Individual** (1-12 people) per booking. Four of the 8 sites available per booking. **(maximum of 3 people per tent).**

2. **Small groups** (13-18 people) first 4 days only. **Maximum 18 people in the group areas spread across 6 tent pads.**

Maximum of 3 people per tent.

Small-group-areas are **NOT AVAILABLE** at the last 3 GOW hike-in campgrounds; Johanna Beach, Ryans Den and Devils Kitchen.

LARGE GROUP PLANNING: 18+ people CANNOT book the GOW purpose built hike-in campsites.

There is a range of 'Off-walk but nearby' options from basic to 'comfort in nature' camping and accommodation which includes some of the Great Otway National Park car-based campgrounds at Blanket Bay, Parker Hill, Aire River and Johanna Beach.

Enquire through the Visitor Information Centres at **Apollo Bay** and **Port Campbell** for the range of (non-national park camping) **camping and accommodation options** that abound in nearby towns and areas including Cape Otway, Aire River, Johanna and Princetown. Visit this website for GOW partners offering services www.greatoceanroad.com.au

National Park car-based campgrounds visit and book at www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay/great-otway-national-park

Please note: Bush camping is NOT PERMITTED in the Great Otway and Port Campbell National Parks.

High season is spring to autumn with an emphasis on school terms and group-use of facilities.

Hike-in campgrounds are **NOT available for exclusive booking** of BOTH individual and small-group campsites.

Toilets for hikers (booked and camping on the walk) at **Blanket Bay and Aire River West** camping areas, are located nearby within walking distance in the national park car-based camping areas.

Visitor Information Centres

Apollo Bay and Port Campbell Visitor Information Centres for a suite of nearby accommodation and vehicle shuttle options.

Apollo Bay	100 Great Ocean Road	1300 689 297
Colac	Cnr Murray & Queen Sts	1300 689 297
Port Campbell	26 Morris Street	1300 137 255

WEATHER CONDITIONS CAUTION: *You must be absolutely sure of tide, wave swell and river levels following high rainfall events on/near the walk in the Otway Ranges. Visit the Bureau of Meteorology at www.bom.gov.au/marine/ to check severe weather event predictions. Beach, coastal walking and un-bridged river crossings should ONLY be attempted during low-tide, calm-sea and low water-level conditions. You may need to wait or turn back. www.bom.gov.au/marine/*

Great Ocean Walk ‘Individual Hike-in’ and ‘Small-Group Area’ campsite facilities

Small group-areas (Maximum of 18 people). More open areas for 6 tents with maximum of 3 people per tent.

Hike-in campgrounds are **NOT available for exclusive booking** of BOTH individual and small-group campsites.

GOW hike-in Campgrounds (Approx. km from previous)	Great Ocean Walk Individual Camp Sites	GOW Small-Group Camping Area	Water Facilities	3-sided Shelter	Notes
1. Elliot Ridge 10km from Apollo Bay or 3hrs, 30min	8 tent sites. Max of 3 people per tent. Max 4 camp sites per booking. 12 people max per booking.	Yes. 6 sites, maximum of up to 18 people	Two untreated rainwater tanks	Yes	Sheltered site amongst the tall trees. Walk grade - MEDIUM
2. Blanket Bay 12km or 4hrs, 30min	8 tent sites. Max of 3 people per tent. Max 4 camp sites per booking. 12 people max per booking.	Yes. 6 sites, maximum of up to 18 people	One untreated rainwater tank	Yes	Next to the ocean and Blanket Bay car-based campground. Walk grade - EASY
3. Cape Otway 10.5km or 3hrs, 45min	8 tent sites. Max of 3 people per tent. Max 4 camp sites per booking. 12 people max per booking.	Yes. 6 sites, maximum of up to 18 people	Two untreated rainwater tanks	Yes	Sheltered site. Walk grade – EASY/MEDIUM
4. Aire River West 10km or 3hrs, 15min.	8 tent sites. Max of 3 people per tent. Max 4 camp sites per booking. 12 people max per booking.	Yes. 6 sites, maximum of up to 18 people	One untreated rainwater tank	Yes	Sheltered site near Aire River West car-based campground. Walk grade - MEDIUM
5. Johanna Beach 14km or 5hrs, 15min	8 tent sites. Max of 3 people per tent. Max 4 camp sites per booking. 12 people max per booking.	NO group area. Use car-based c/ground	One untreated rainwater tank	Yes	Set on a ridge line with spectacular ocean views. Walk grade – MEDIUM
6. Ryans Den (REMOTE) 14km or 5hrs	8 tent sites. Max of 3 people per tent. Max 4 camp sites per booking. 12 people max per booking.	NO group area. Use shuttle.	Two untreated rainwater tanks	Yes	Set on a ridge line with spectacular ocean views. Walk grade – MEDIUM/HARD
7. Devils Kitchen (REMOTE) 16km or 5hrs 15min	8 tent sites. Max of 3 people per tent. Max 4 camp sites per booking. 12 people max per booking.	NO group area. Use shuttle.	Two untreated rainwater tanks	Yes	Set on a ridge line with spectacular ocean views. Walk grade – MEDIUM/HARD

Last walk section to Twelve Apostles -16km or 5hrs, 15min

Congratulations - **The End**

5. *STAY NEARBY: Overnight accommodation and camping nearby*

A variety of accommodation and camping sites exist along the Great Ocean Road between Apollo Bay, Cape Otway Aire River, Johanna and Princetown areas.

- Overnight stays for those who prefer the extra comfort of a soft bed, hot shower or perhaps a spa. For details visit the **Off-Park Accommodation** link at www.greatoceanwalk.com.au or contact the Great Ocean Road Visitor Information Centre in Apollo Bay on (03) 5237 6194.
- To camp nearby in the Great Otway National Park visit www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay and search 'Great Otway National Park'

TIP: Groups of **more than 18 people** are advised to access this range of alternative accommodation/camping providers. **High season** is spring to autumn with an emphasis on school terms and group-use of facilities.

6. *BOOK TO PAY AND CAMP: Register and pay to camp ON the Great Ocean Walk*

Overnight hikers using the purpose-built Great Ocean Walk hike-in, and national park campgrounds, are required to make a booking and pay a fee in advance.

Visit www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay to book full, individual and group area Great Ocean Walk campsites or call parks Victoria on 13 1963. Fees apply for telephone bookings. Fee schedule* listed below as a guideline.

TIP: When booking on-line for Small-group campsites: Great Ocean Walk 'Group Camping' areas are listed separately (for booking) at the end of the ParkStay individual campsites product list. www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay

TIP: Do not attempt to book Individual and Group campsites. Hike-in campgrounds are **NOT** available for exclusive booking of **BOTH** individual and small-group campsites.

Fees Schedule* (GST INCLUDED - these figures are guideline only and 'on-line' fees reflect current prices)

Camping fees for Great Ocean Walk purpose built hike-in campsites.

Individual: Per tent, per night. Maximum of 12 people. One 2-3 person tent, per tent site, max 4 sites. \$32.30

Small Group: Per tent, per night. Maximum of 18 people. One 2-3 person tent, per tent site, max 6 sites. \$29.00

SMALL-GROUP CAMPING AREAS on the Great Ocean Walk

There are four (4) camping areas with purpose-built small-group camp areas located at Elliot Ridge, Blanket Bay, Cape Otway and Aire River campgrounds. These sites suit walking groups of 13-18 people.

Note: A maximum limit of 18 people spread across 6 tent sites applies. Three people per tent and tent site. Elliot Ridge Campground has numbered campsites for booking; the other four Small-Group camping areas do not. NO GROUP CAMPING is permitted at the last three GOW hike-in campgrounds: Johanna, Ryans Den and Devils Kitchen.

High season is spring to autumn with an emphasis on school terms and group-use of facilities.

TIP: Groups of **more than 18 people** are advised to access the extensive **range of alternative accommodation and/or camping providers** who can host you nearby. **Off-Park Accommodation** link at www.greatoceanwalk.com.au

Cannot complete the Walk? – Please let us know if you pull out of the walk

To assist park staff to locate and contact people on the walk when emergencies occur and to ensure hiker safety, **it is important that you inform Parks Victoria** if you **do not complete** any section of your registered hike.

For your safety, and your role and responsibility in supporting efficient search and rescue, we recommend you **register your trip intentions** to aid emergency support- should the need arise.

Good examples of what can go wrong and how to avoid it are contained on this website.

A Trip Intention Form is advised for any hikers undertaking walking/hiking overnight

VICTORIA POLICE OUTDOOR INFORMATION SHEET – “Let someone know when you go”

For your safety please visit this website: www.police.vic.gov.au - Search: ‘Outdoor Information Sheet’

7. TERMS: Booking Terms and Conditions

Bookings terms and conditions – Parks Victoria, Great Ocean Walk www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay

- Prices are in \$AUD and include GST.
- Sites can be booked up to 12 months in advance of date of arrival.
- Full payment is required at the time when booking. No fee is charged for online booking.
- Telephone bookings will attract a fee; however, no charge applies for means tested concession card holders.
- Hikers are required to carry the confirmation letter when they walk to confirm designated tent sites.
- All bookings and payments are non-transferable.

Alterations to Bookings

- In the event of a request to alter bookings, Parks Victoria does not guarantee the availability of sites on the days requested.
- Subject to availability, alternative dates may only be re-booked by telephone by calling Parks Victoria.
- A telephone booking administration fee applies to alter bookings.
- Individual site telephone bookings fee \$10.00 and Group site bookings fee \$15.00

Cancellation/refund Policy

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

- 30 days prior - 50% cancellation fee applies.
- Less than 30 days prior 100% cancellation fee applies. No refund.
- No Transfers.
- 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. (electronic banking only)

8. **TRANSPORT: No car or only one car. Organise a pick-up or drop-off shuttle?**

This is a one-way, long-distance walk that can be broken into smaller walk segments. If you have only one or no vehicles, there are shuttle service providers. If you have one vehicle we recommend that you leave this vehicle at the end of your walk and get shuttled back to where you will be starting. This gives you the convenience and flexibility when walking towards your final destination. Mobile telephone coverage is not reliable along the walk.

Current shuttle services recommended by Parks Victoria are:

GOR Shuttle	Call. 0428 379 278
Walk 91	Call. (03) 5237 1189 or 0405 495 909
Timboon Taxi	Call. 0438 407 777
Christians Bus Company (V/Line)	Call. (03) 5562 9432

Public transport back to Apollo Bay is via **V/Line Bus Service** to Apollo Bay via the Great Ocean Road, stopping at **Prinetown** 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 Princes Highway. Similarly, this service is available for those travelling further west along the Victorian coastline.

Contact Christians Bus Company to book your trip on (03) 5562 9432

9. **PARKING: Where can I park my car?**

Your car safety remains your responsibility. Unsecured public parking exists in the Great Otway National Park at day-visitor carparks and camping areas.

NO DESIGNATED LONG TERM PARKING exists in the Apollo Bay and Marengo area. There are unsecured public car parks on the foreshore between Apollo Bay and Marengo. Be sure to advise police of your intent to leave a vehicle for any extended length of time beyond one day.

Parking may be available at **Prinetown Recreation Reserve*** for hikers completing the 'end' of the walk. You should confirm with the Prinetown Recreation Reserve caretaker **BEFORE** parking there. This is relatively secure parking and walkers can drop their packs off at their cars here before continuing the final 5km to end at the Twelve Apostles.

- ***Prinetown Recreation Reserve caretaker:** Call: 0429 985176

Great Otway and Port Campbell National Park's carparks are open to the public - at all times

- The Twelve Apostles carpark is not patrolled after hours.
- Hikers leave their vehicles in these areas at their own risk.
- Please remember to remove valuables and lock your vehicle.
- Advise police of your hiking intentions if parking a car for more than one day.
- It is NOT recommended that visitors use Gibson Steps carpark for overnight parking. (very small, no facilities)

TIP: It is strongly recommended that hikers plan and use the **shuttle services available**.

Alternatively: you will need to arrange your own pick-ups and drop-offs.

A number of private businesses provide secure parking.

Services and Tours. Visit www.greatoceanwalk.com.au

Please note: The Glenample Homestead (near Twelve Apostles) is **CURRENTLY CLOSED to public access**.

10. **FOOD: Can I purchase food along the way?**

Options for purchasing food along the walk route are very limited.

The historic Cape Otway Lightstation precinct (entry fees apply) includes caretaker's buildings, lighthouse and telegraph station displays and a café that serves light meals and refreshments during business hours.

The Lightstation entry station sells cold drinks and snacks to visitors choosing not to enter the historic area.

The Cape Otway Lightstation can be contacted on (03) 5237 9240.

Apollo Bay has supermarkets for comprehensive shopping needs and nearby villages are located at Lavers Hill and Princetown and Bimbi Park on Cape Otway.

TIP: Parks Victoria's licensed tour operators can provide a food and water drop-off service.

Follow the *Tours and Services* link www.greatoceanwalk.com.au

11. **CAMPFIRES: Can I have a campfire?**

Campfires are NOT permitted within Great Ocean Walk hike-in campsites at any time.

Campfires can be lit within the Great Otway National Park at **Blanket Bay and Aire River West car-based camping areas in the designated fireplaces provided.**

Campers in these areas must provide their own firewood from outside the National Park.

Total Fire Ban Days = no campfires, solid or chemical fuelled barbeques/stoves.

It is prohibited to light a campfire on a **declared Total Fire Ban** day in the **South West Weather District**, inside or outside tents, shelters or toilets. A portable gas stove is permitted to use for the sole purpose of meal preparation, providing it is in a stable position, in a 3m area cleared of flammable material, you have at least 10L of water immediately available and an adult is present.

For further information please call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226 for bushfire information and advice.

12. **SAFETY: BUSHFIRE - Your safety is your responsibility**

The Great Ocean Walk is in a high bushfire risk area. There is no safe place to shelter and survive a bushfire.

For your safety and your role and responsibility in supporting efficient search and rescue if required we recommend you register your trip intentions to aid emergency support- should the need arise.

VICTORIA POLICE OUTDOOR INFORMATION SHEET – “Let someone know when you go”

For your safety please visit this website: www.police.vic.gov.au and Search: 'Outdoor Information Sheet'

Prepare, Act and Survive

Your safety is your responsibility and you need to be aware of current Fire Danger Ratings.

The Great Ocean Walk is in a section of the Great Otway National Park and Port Campbell National Park are both located in the **South West Weather District**.

Fire Danger Declarations

For Total Fire Ban information, visit www.emergency.vic.gov.au, or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

During the fire season, over the warmer months of the year a **Total Fire Ban** day may be declared. On these days you must not light a fire and should stop any activity which might start a fire.

During periods of hot and windy weather, and in the event that a **Total Fire Ban** is declared, hikers should carry some food that does not need to be cooked.

Severe, Extreme or Code Red fire danger ratings

On high fire danger days, a rating of **Severe** or **Extreme** fire danger is applied. This means all walkers are advised to consider their personal safety while on their planned walking route. You need to know your planned escape routes as many sections of the walk have no safe refuge. (due to thick heathland and fuel-laden forest, steep cliffs or a combination of these).

Do not wait and see. Parks Victoria advises that leaving the park early under these predicted conditions is your best option, or if not safe to do so, to stay at safe beach access areas.

Code Red is a fire danger day rating that indicates the worst conditions for a bushfire. Leaving the park the night before is the safest option. Do not wait and see.

Most public areas of bushland, such as the Great Otway National Park, and the Great Ocean Walk **will be closed on days declared Code Red** fire weather predictions. It is your responsibility to be aware of fire danger ratings and to make a decision early – do not wait for an official warning or advice.

For information on fires in Victoria and general fire safety, please use these information contacts: (you may need to try several methods. All, except radio, rely on telephone or internet connections).

- VicEmergency website at www.emergency.vic.gov.au
- VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226
- 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.

The Planned Burning Program for the park and surrounds occurs in autumn and spring: The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) manage the areas Planned Burning program aimed at reducing the bushfire risk in Victoria's public land. 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 Great Ocean Walk website www.greatoceanwalk.com.au and can be found on the DELWP website www.delwp.vic.gov.au

13. SAFETY: DRINKING WATER: Is there drinking water available along the walk?

Hikers need to carry extra water in warm weather. There are rainwater tanks at the Great Ocean Walk hike-in campgrounds, which collect UNTREATED rainfall water. Due to the remote nature of the campsites, **Parks Victoria DO NOT guarantee rainwater availability at each campsite.**

Hikers are responsible for their own water requirements. Tank-rainwater, when present, can be treated in several ways such as filtering and boiling or adding sterilisation tablets. The Blanket Bay car-based campground has tap water which is also untreated rainwater - not suitable to drink unless treated.

Useful links: For further information on treating water visit: www.parks.vic.gov.au/water-make-it-safe-to-drink

TIP: There are a number of Licensed Tour Operators who provide options to have water dropped off or delivered ahead of your hike – visit <https://www.greatoceanwalk.com.au/tours-and-services/>

14. SAFETY: TIDES, BEACHES and UN-BRIDGED RIVER CROSSINGS – know the high tide times!

The Southern Ocean generates weather conditions that must be heeded to make safe hiking decisions.

All beach area's rock platforms and cliff-locked beaches may become impassable, or inescapable under extreme high-tide and/or large ocean swell. Conditions may change quickly.

DECISION POINTS SIGNS - at beach entry points on, or near, the Great Ocean Walk

DECISION POINTS are marked on the official *Great Ocean Walk Information Guide and MAP* at beach access points, and on-ground at the locations.

CAUTION: Milanesia (300m) and Johanna (2km) beaches are generally passable under normal tide and calm weather conditions - both have sections where beach-walking is required - if safe to proceed.

Wreck Beach (at Moonlight Head) are cliff-locked walking under a cliff-line and below the high tide mark. It can become dangerous or impassable at high-tide or with large ocean swell (wave surges). These conditions may not be easily observed from the cliff-top track prior to descending stairs to the beach. Parks Victoria recommend only walking this section at low tide. Make your choice and commitment with local tide-times. Note: For this location be sure to use the **Port Campbell tide-times**. www.bom.gov.au/marine/

Planning ahead using **tide-times** may save yourself a lot of inconvenience, disappointment and unnecessary walking late on your walk-day. You may even have to turn back. www.bom.gov.au/marine/

Local tide times: Note there is a **two-hour tide-time difference** between **Apollo Bay** and the **Twelve Apostles**. **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).

East of Moonlight Head -refer to the **Apollo Bay tide-times** (subtract 28 minutes from Port Phillip Heads times).

Swimming and beach walks and side trips – Great Ocean Walk www.bom.gov.au/marine/

Un-patrolled beaches are NOT recommended as safe for swimming - due to presence of ocean currents and rips. Beaches nearby to the Great Ocean Walk are generally remote with limited or no mobile phone signal or rescue vehicle access. If you swim on unpatrolled beaches you may die.

It is recommended to stay on the Great Ocean Walk route - rather than other beach routes nearby.

Un-bridged river crossings – Great Ocean Walk

Elliot, Parker and Johanna rivers are un-bridged and while usually small creeks they may become impassable after heavy rainfall, especially when combined with high-tide and ocean-swell conditions. www.bom.gov.au/marine/

It is essential you time these river crossings at low-tide, with low-swell surges and low floodwater levels.

Parker Inlet is an example of ocean meeting estuary. High tide and large wave swell can occur. Before you decide to cross un-bridged rivers, consider the water-depth, speed-of-flow and your group's physical capabilities. You may need to wait or turn back. www.bom.gov.au/marine/

For your safety and your role and responsibility in supporting efficient search and rescue if required we recommend you **register your trip intentions** to aid emergency support- should the need arise.

Good examples of what can go wrong and how to avoid it are contained on this website.

VICTORIA POLICE OUTDOOR INFORMATION SHEET – “Let someone know when you go”

For your safety please visit this website: www.police.vic.gov.au and Search: ‘Outdoor Information Sheet’

15. SAFETY: WILDLIFE - What wildlife should I be aware of?

The Australian bush (outdoors) is a natural place where wild animals, large and small, live freely. Watch where you walk, sit and stand. Pay attention and observe a wide variety of wildlife, both friendly and not-so-friendly on, or near, the track ahead. You may see koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas, many bird species including wrens, parrots, eagles and honeyeaters. In warmer weather, watch for reptiles such as lizards and snakes.

Walkers occasionally share the walking track with a variety of *potentially* dangerous creatures including snakes, spiders, ants, leeches, ticks and insects such as European wasps and honey-bees. Hikers with allergies to bites and stings need to ensure they carry appropriate medication.

All hiker parties should carry a basic first-aid kit and snake bite bandages.

Stay on the track, watch your step and be alert as snakes live here too! The park's diverse range of natural habitats is their home and you are the visitor. If you see a snake, quietly step back and wait if necessary, until they go away.

Leeches are harmless (but messy), painless slug-like blood-suckers. The resulting bite is tiny, but messy, causing blood to flow freely due to a chemical present. If you find a leech attached (they attach to you from overhanging vegetation) simply use salt or a hot match-head on their tail to prompt their release. Clean and disinfect the tiny bleeding wound. The bleeding will stop after a time.

At campgrounds, pack your food away securely to prevent it from being taken by foxes and other wildlife.

- Please do not handle or feed wildlife as it may harm their health, and you may be at risk of harm.
- Carry out the rubbish you carry in, as it can cause illness and injury to wildlife.

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

16. WHAT TO TAKE - Gear for all weather

Be Safe – Be Prepared: Coastal weather can change quickly. It can be unpredictable in all seasons.

Even if you are planning a multi-day hike or an afternoon walk, it is important to plan-in-advance and always be prepared for strong winds, heavy rain; as well as hot or cold weather throughout the year.

- **Un-bridged river crossings** - a large **water-proof bag** may be useful for keeping gear dry (inside your pack).
- **Carry protective clothing** such as a jumper, weatherproof jacket, hat and sunscreen.
- **Always wear sturdy footwear** with a good tread.
- **First Aid Kit** - for blisters, sunburn, stings and bites (especially if you have extreme reactions/allergies).
- **Drinking water** - treatment methods and what you may need to carry.
- **Radio:** A portable radio (not mobile phone/internet access) will give you immediate access to **Emergency broadcasting and updates** (e.g. fire and storm warnings and updates) including ABC Local Radio (including 774 on the AM band).
- **Food and Water** - Carry food, water and equipment for up to 15km per day if you are walking unsupported. Alternatively, you may consider linking your walk to nearby accommodation and service providers. Water is **untreated rainwater and not guaranteed** to be available at campgrounds. **Section 8 TRANSPORT** makes some suggestions about services available to assist with food and water.
- **Leave no trace - please ensure that you carry all your rubbish out with you.** Please do not deposit rubbish into the composting toilets as this stops the systems from working and staff then have to physically remove your rubbish by hand.

17. INTERNET/TELEPHONE: Is there mobile phone and internet coverage on the walk?

Mobile telephone coverage is intermittent along the Great Ocean Walk. Generally, this is at high points where there is little overhanging vegetation.

Known mobile phone reception areas (Telstra only) include; **Blanket Bay** beach area, above **Station Beach**, **Johanna Beach**, **Milanesia Beach at creek crossing**, **Ryans Den** campground, **Moonlight Head** and **Devils Kitchen** campground ocean-view areas.

18. PUSHING THE TIMELINE: 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 day is 25.1km.

Five night, six day walk – Great Ocean 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	Twelve Apostles	Elliot Ridge GOW Campground	Cape Otway GOW Campground	Johanna Beach GOW Campground	Ryans Den GOW Campground	Devils Kitchen GOW Campground	Skips Blanket Bay and Aire River Day 2 - 24.7 km Day 3 - 25.1 km

Six night, seven day walk – Great Ocean Walk

Starting Point	End Point	1 Location	2 Location	3 Location	4 Location	5 Location	6 Location	Comments
Apollo Bay Visitor Information Centre	Twelve Apostles	Elliot Ridge GOW Campground	Cape Otway GOW Campsite	Aire River GOW Campground	Johanna Beach GOW Campground	Ryans Den GOW Campground	Devils Kitchen GOW Campground	Skips Blanket Bay Day 2 24.7km
Apollo Bay Visitor Information Centre	Twelve Apostles	Elliot Ridge GOW Campground	Blanket Bay GOW Campground	Cape Otway GOW Campground	Johanna Beach GOW Campground	Ryans Den GOW Campground	Devils Kitchen GOW Campground	Skips Aire River Day 4 25.1 km

19. USEFUL contacts – Great Ocean Walk

Please Note: Mobile phone and Wi-Fi connectivity

You will 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 000 or another emergency mobile network by dialling 112 and pressing HELP.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police, Ambulance, Fire: **000**

Apollo Bay Police: (03) 5237 6750
Lavers Hill Police: (03) 5237 3200
Colac Police: (03) 5230 0000
Port Campbell Police: (03) 5598 6310

Apollo Bay Hospital: (03) 5237 8500
 RACV: 13 1111

For More Information

Great Ocean Walk www.greatoceanwalk.com.au
Bureau of Meteorology www.bom.gov.au/vic
 (Extreme Weather Events)
 Tide times (Marine and Coastal) www.bom.gov.au/marine
 VicEmergency Warnings & Incidents www.emergency.vic.gov.au
Parks Victoria Information Centre: Telephone 13 1963
 Parks Victoria www.parks.vic.gov.au
 Parks Victoria **Campground bookings:** www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay

Apollo Bay CFA: (03) 5237 6552
CFA Total Fire Ban Information: www.cfa.vic.gov.au

VicEmergency Hotline: Free call 1800 226 226

Visitor Information Centres

Apollo Bay	Great Ocean Road	(03) 5237 6529 or 1300 689 297
Port Campbell	26 Morris Street	(03) 5598 2500 or 1300 137 255
Colac	Cnr Murray and Queen Sts	(03) 5232 9541 or 1300 689 297
Lorne	144 Mountjoy Parade	(03) 5289 1152 or 1300 891 152

Car shuttle service:	Great Ocean Road shuttle	0428 379 278
	Timboon Taxi	0438 407777
	Christians Bus Co. (VLine)	(03) 5562 9432

Prinetown Reserve Caretaker 0429 985176

Go to the next pages for copy of,

VICTORIA POLICE TRIP INTENTIONS FORM – “Let someone know when you go”

VICTORIA POLICE OUTDOOR INFORMATION SHEET – “Let someone know when you go”

For your safety please visit this website: www.police.vic.gov.au and Search: ‘Outdoor Information Sheet’

19. VICTORIA POLICE TRIP INTENTIONS FORM



VICTORIA POLICE

TRIP INTENTIONS FORM

This form could save your life...

Fill it out before you leave home and ALWAYS leave it with someone reliable.

How to use this form...

Complete the relevant details on this form and leave it with a reliable friend, family member or responsible authority. The contact person you nominate will raise the alarm if you haven't returned and/or contacted them by the time indicated on the form.

Reporting Person

Name	Street Address
Telephone/s	Role (Organiser, Professional Staff, Group Leader, Instructor)

Don't forget - the Reporting Person MUST notify the Contact Person ASAP on return, or if delayed

Contact Person

Name	Street Address
Telephone/s	Nominated Search & Rescue Notification Time/Date (if applicable)

Note - Police WILL NOT initiate a search unless notified by the Contact Person.

Activity

<input type="checkbox"/> Bushwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> SCUBA Diving	<input type="checkbox"/> Climbing / Rappelling
<input type="checkbox"/> Flying	<input type="checkbox"/> Angling	<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating	<input type="checkbox"/> Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospecting
<input type="checkbox"/> Kayaking	<input type="checkbox"/> Four Wheel Driving	<input type="checkbox"/> Cross Country Skiing
<input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Bike	<input type="checkbox"/> Backcountry Skiing/Snowboarding
<input type="checkbox"/> Rafting	<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Biking	<input type="checkbox"/> Other(Specify)

Others with me are...

1	Contact Telephone/s	<input type="checkbox"/> Passenger <input type="checkbox"/> Participant	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional <input type="checkbox"/> Staff / Leader
2	Contact Telephone/s	<input type="checkbox"/> Passenger <input type="checkbox"/> Participant	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional <input type="checkbox"/> Staff / Leader
3	Contact Telephone/s	<input type="checkbox"/> Passenger <input type="checkbox"/> Participant	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional <input type="checkbox"/> Staff / Leader
4	Contact Telephone/s	<input type="checkbox"/> Passenger <input type="checkbox"/> Participant	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional <input type="checkbox"/> Staff / Leader

For extra names use an additional form or attachment. Remember medical considerations; allergies, recent/current illness, medication, dose, quantity on hand, duration, result without, student medical plan, etc.

Trip Intentions *Indicated map used and camp references will assist potential searchers.*

Day 1 (Date)	Additional Days
Day 2	
Day 3	
Day 4	
Day 5	

Consider escape plans. Indicate whether planned school activity, outdoor recreational activity or other.

Vehicle/Trailer/Aircraft/Vessel Description...			
Make/Model		Registration Number/s	
Left at (location)			
Vessel Length.....	Hull Colour	Deck Colour	
Engine Size	<input type="checkbox"/> Diesel <input type="checkbox"/> Petrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Inboard <input type="checkbox"/> Outboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Twin
Boat Name			

Equipment Carried...			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wet Weather Gear (Jacket & Overpants)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tent/Emergency Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio 27Mhz / VHF / HF	<input type="checkbox"/> Flares Carried
<input type="checkbox"/> Spare Warm Dry Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/> Matches (Waterproof)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Phone CDMA / GSM / 3 G	<input type="checkbox"/> Torch / Strobe
<input type="checkbox"/> Suitable Footwear	<input type="checkbox"/> Map / Chart & Compass	<input type="checkbox"/> Satellite Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Raft
<input type="checkbox"/> Food/Provisions (for.....days)	<input type="checkbox"/> GPS	<input type="checkbox"/> 406 Mhz Distress Beacon (EPIRB)	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Jackets
<input type="checkbox"/> Water	<input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit	<input type="checkbox"/> 121.5 Mhz Distress Beacon (ELT/EPIRB)	<input type="checkbox"/> Whistle

Form Information...

- This form can be obtained from any Police Station in Victoria (SAR intranet site).
- Police will not act as initial contact person

Important Safety Tips...

- Navigation skills are important; know how to use a map/chart & compass.
- Remember it can snow in the mountains even in summer, so be prepared.
- Check the weather report and ensure it is suitable for the safe conduct of your chosen activity.
- Ensure you have sufficient fuel and reserves.
- Lifejackets save lives.
- Only 406 MHz Distress Beacons will be detected by satellite from 2009.

Useful websites ...	
www.vicwalk.org.au www.marinesafety.vic.gov.au www.amsa.gov.au www.4wdvictoria.org.au	www.bsar.org.au www.snowsafesafe.org.au www.parkweb.vic.gov.au www.tripintentions.org

ENJOY YOUR TRIP BUT DO IT SAFELY

For All Incidents Requiring Search & Rescue Assistance in Victoria...

CALL 000 IMMEDIATELY