

GREAT SOUTHERN TOURING ROUTE



www.greatsoutherntouring.com.au

BOTANICA WORLD DISCOVERIES

For those seeking a specialist garden tour along the Great Southern Touring Route or other Australian destinations we recommend Botanica World Discoveries. The Victorian Homesteads, Gardens and Mansions tour follows the Great Southern Touring Route and provides special access to gardens that will inspire and delight those with 'green thumbs and the love of gardens.'

www.botanica.travel



An advertisement for Flight Centre. It features a scenic view of the Twelve Apostles rock formation at sunset. On the left, there's a circular logo with the text 'WORLD'S #1 TO AUSTRALIA' and a map of Australia. Below it, the text 'YOUR LOCAL AUSTRALIA EXPERTS' is displayed. In the bottom right corner, there's a portrait of a flight attendant. The bottom of the ad has a red banner with the Flight Centre logo, a Trustpilot rating of 'Excellent' (5 stars), and the text 'Based on over 16,500 reviews on Trustpilot'. It also includes the phone number '0800 188 4586' and the website 'flightcentre.co.uk'. A small location pin indicates 'TWELVE APOSTLES, GREAT OCEAN ROAD'.

AUSTRALIA'S WILDLIFE WONDERS



FLIGHT CENTRE®



WILLIE WILDLIFE SCULPTURES
"THE WORLD'S FINEST BIRDBATHS"
Made in Ocean Grove, Australia

Great Southern Touring Route
AUSTRALIA



MEET THE ARTIST

Australia's Great Southern Touring Route is widely regarded as the 'journey of a lifetime'. This road trip captures the essence of Australia particularly the wildlife encounters to be experienced along the way.

In a unique partnership between Great Southern Touring Route and Willie Wildlife Sculptures the amazing wildlife and dramatic landscapes are paired together and presented as joint heroes. Will Wilson's sculptures of our wondrous native animals and birds inspire the traveller to explore and there is no better place to do this than the Great Southern Touring Route. From coastal cliffs, pristine beaches to ancient rainforests and mountain ranges the diverse protected landscapes of the Great Southern Touring Route are not only spectacular but also the home of a dazzling variety of birds, sea creatures and native animals.

The skilful hands of Will Wilson captures the shape and form of these Australian native animals but also give an insight into their personality and character. Willie Wildlife Sculpture gallery is located in The Hive Ocean Grove on the Bellarine Peninsula.

This guide is a celebration of art and wildlife as nature unfolds at every turn along this iconic Aussie road trip.

www.williewildlifesculptures.com.au

www.thehiveoceangrove.com.au

KOALA

For some the Koala is the quintessential Australian native animal with its round open face, predominant nose and fluffy ears. Mother Koala's carry their young ones (joeys) on their back and they can be found in the eucalypt forest of Cape Otway and other stops along the Great Southern Touring Route.



Front cover image: Echidnas, sometimes known as spiky anteaters, are the only living mammals that lay eggs. Together with the Platypus they are the last surviving monotremes. Echidnas have a long and sticky tongue that they use to feed on ants and termites. Its spikes are a very effective defence mechanism and they curl into a ball when they feel under threat.



PLATYPUS

The Platypus is a shy, semiaquatic, furry mammal with a duck's bill, webbed feet and a paddle tail. So extraordinary is this small animal that when it was first presented in the United Kingdom accusations were made of sticking together other animals to make a new species. Lake Elizabeth in the Otways provides a rare chance to see platypus in the wild. Even if you fail to spot these elusive early risers, to experience this remote lake is reward enough.

SEA HORSE

Geelong's waterfront sparkles with quirky art work bollards, a circling art deco promenade, twirling carousel and a busy restaurant strip. Corio Bay with its marina, piers and sea grass meadows is an ideal habitat for sea horses and sea dragons.

PELICAN

Now a wonderful bird is the pelican. None more so than the Australian Pelican with magnificent plumage and that massive colourful beak. They can be spotted along the Barwon River estuary also the location of a wonderful Boat House restaurant.



WOMBAT

Wombats are often referred to as bush bulldozers. These short legged, muscular marsupials live in underground burrows but come out onto the forest floor to graze. With their characteristic waddle and 'cuddly' appearance they have become one of the most loved Australian native animals. They can be found in the aptly named Wombat State Forest located near Daylesford.

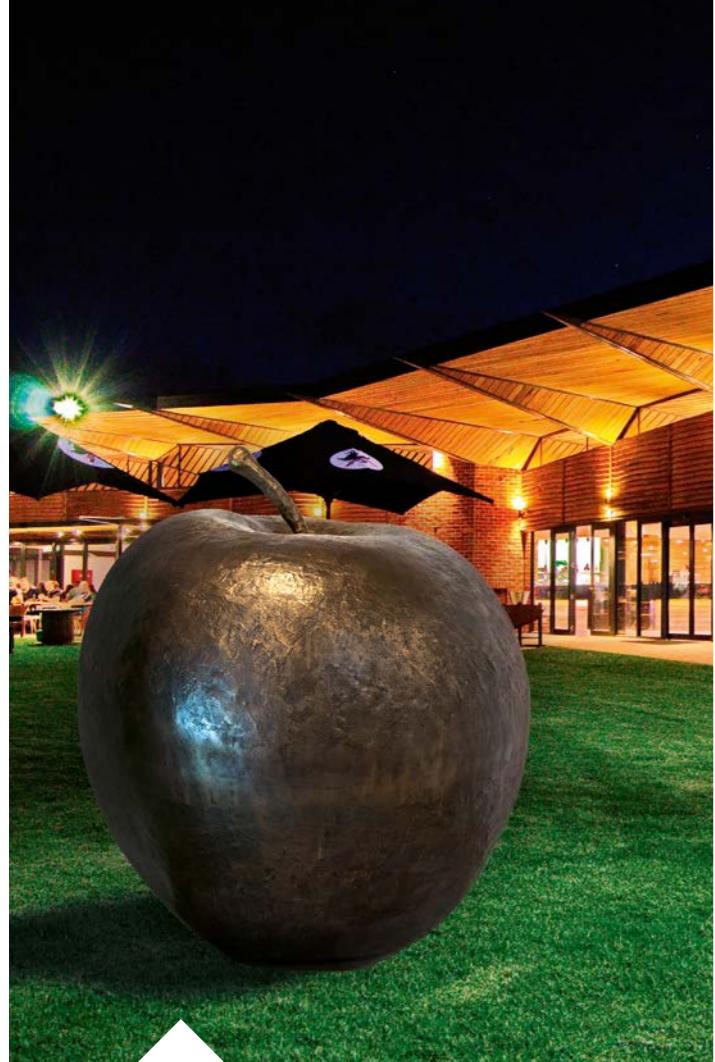
PACIFIC BLACK DUCK

Lake Wendouree is an artificially created shallow lake in the heart of the city of Ballarat. It was the official rowing course for the Melbourne Olympic Games held in 1956. Today it remains a popular sanctuary for ducks, swans and swamp hens. Pacific Black Ducks are numerous on Lake Wendouree as they feed on seeds and aquatic plants. The female Black ducks often raise two broods a year.

COCKATOO

Sulphur Crested Cockatoos can best be described as mischievous. They are extremely intelligent and can be very loud, particularly as they like the company of others. The raucous screech of these very attractive birds can be heard right along the Great Southern Touring Route, but always visible and heard in the coastal village of Lorne.





APPLE

It's the fresh apple sweetness that give Flying Brick Cider its golden straw colour and fine delicate bead. Made from different cider apples the range is extensive but always paying homage to the apple as the star. Named after the Black Cockatoo of the Bellarine Peninsula, The Flying Brick. Flying Brick Cider House is a-buzz year round with new and seasonal ciders.



SUPERB FAIRY WREN

The male superb fairy wren is known for its brilliant blue head and collar plumage. The female wren is dull in colour by comparison but full of energy and more numerous than their fancy partners. Wrens can be discovered right along the Great Ocean Road including the ancient remnant rainforest of the Otways.

KOOKABURRA

The Australian Kookaburra is the largest members of the kingfisher family and is recognised for its song that sounds like someone with a manic laugh. The laughing Kookaburra is well known in the 'merry-merry king of the bush' kids' song and called the 'bushman's clock' for often laughter is heard in the early dawn and dusk. They can be seen and heard in the extinct volcano at Tower Hill Wildlife Reserve.



BROLGA

Brolgas are large grey cranes with a featherless red head and grey crown. They are famous for their elaborate courtship dance and can be found on the grass land plains and wetlands surrounding the Grampians National Park. Their height and 2.4 metre wing span make them very elegant and very distinctive.

AUSTRALIAN WEDGE TAILED EAGLE

The Australian Wedge Tailed Eagle has special significance to the aboriginal people of Australia. Known as Bunjal, the creator deity, it can often be seen soaring over the You Yangs Regional Park located on the ancient volcanic plains between Melbourne and Geelong.

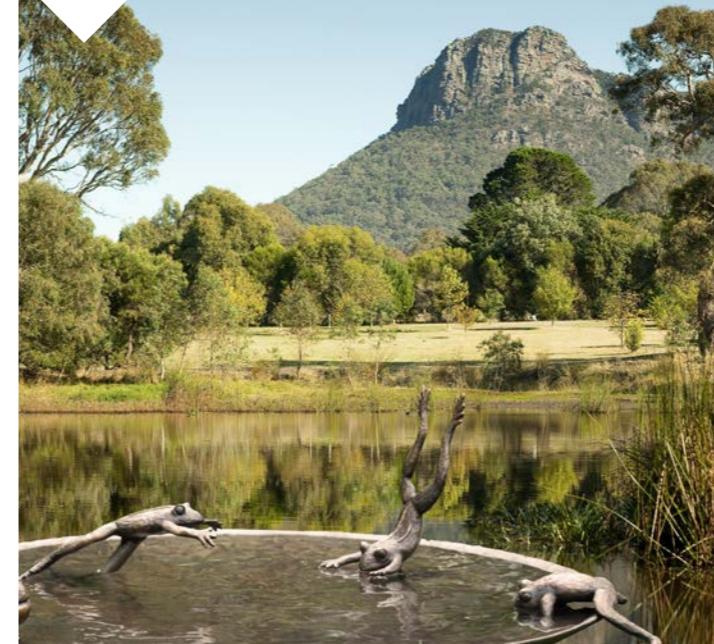


RAINBOW LORIKEET

It is understandable that visitors get excited when they see the Rainbow Lorikeet. They are unmistakable with their bright red beak and colours of the rainbow plumage. You often hear their distinctive calls in Halls Gap, the heart of the Grampians National Park.

FROG

Even for frogs it's all about location. What a setting these frogs live in surrounded by ancient River Red Gums and the spectacular Grampians mountain range. Little wonder they are jumping for joy.



DOG

The Bellarine Peninsula has several designated dog beaches for owners and their best mate, doggies to run, swim and roll in the golden sand.

