

3. Mornington Peninsula

This picturesque destination offers great winery/golfing tour experiences, as well as eco-tourism, adventure and wildlife. Swim with the dolphins, enjoy a winery horse-back ride or dive on famous shipwrecks. Go bushwalking through the national and state parks or link coastal walks and board walks through the wetlands. Meander through fruit farms, craft markets, grand gardens or sample the gourmet delights at wineries, restaurants and street cafes. With its style and sophistication, waterfront vistas, restaurants and cafes with world renowned chefs, olive groves and u-pick strawberry farms, the Peninsula's love affair with wine and food is obvious. The region is also noted for its historic homes and gardens and has been a retreat for artists for more than a century.

There are also majestic coastal walks past dunes, beaches, cliffs and lighthouses.



4. French Island

French Island National Park is a true paradise. Accessible only by 30 minute passenger ferry ride, French Island is a haven of peace and serenity. About 70 permanent residents, many of them descendants of the first settlers, have made the fertile soils in the southern half of the Island productive farm land, but the less disturbed northern part has now been declared French Island National Park, covering about two-thirds of the island. The 11,100ha park contains environments ranging from mangrove salt marsh areas to open woodlands and plays home to an equally diverse range of wildlife. Explore the park at leisure by bus or bike or on foot, using the network of public roads and management tracks. There are whole day, half day and shorter walks and rides starting at Tankerton Foreshore Reserve. See chicory kilns, spot some of the large population of koalas or long-nosed potoroos or simply enjoy the peace and quiet.



For further information

Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre
895 Phillip Island Tourist Road, Newhaven
Phone: 1300 366 422

Email: piinfo@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Cowes Visitor Information Centre
Cnr Thompson Avenue & Church Street
Email: covesinfo@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Wonthaggi Visitor Information Centre
Watt Street, Wonthaggi
Phone: 1300 854 334
Email: woninfo@basscoast.vic.gov.au

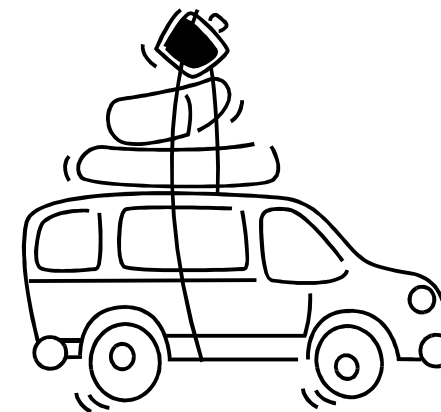
Inverloch Visitor Information Centre
16 A'Beckett Street, Inverloch
Phone: 1300 762 433
Email: invyinfo@basscoast.vic.gov.au



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Tours for Bass Coast & Surrounds

Half day & full day Itineraries



www.visitbasscoast.com

Half day tours:

2. Wineries

There are a number of wineries and vineyards scattered throughout the rolling hills of the hinterland and along the coast. These wineries produce a range of quality wines – each with their own complex and distinct bouquet and flavours. Bold chardonnays and pinot noirs predominate, however vineyards are also planted with sauvignon blanc, traminer, reisling, pinot gris, cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc, merlot, malbec and shiraz. Often at the wineries offering cellar door experiences there is the likelihood of the host being the winemaker.

3. Hinterland

Explore the Country-side: tour through the hinterland and you will appreciate the diversity of this area which is characterized by lush, green rolling hills with spectacular views over the coastal plains. It complements the area's reputation as a place of natural beauty. Relax and take time to smell the fragrant bush scents and listen to the bird calls amidst the tranquility of the forest. You'll find small, family owned vineyards and wineries, scattered throughout the picturesque rolling hills. The area's reputation for fresh produce and fine wine is on show and you can sip and taste to your heart's content. Rural roads meander around the hills where you can stop for a break in one of the rustic villages or just enjoy the views to the coast across farmlands and forest

4. Bunurong Coastal Drive:

There are few short sections of coastline in Australia that can claim the heritage, natural interest and scenic beauty of Victoria's Bass Coast. From the windswept dunes of Kilcunda, along the sandstone cliffs of the Bunurong Marine and Coastal Park, to the serenity of Anderson Inlet at Inverloch, this great sweep of coastline engages the visitor for every one of its forty kilometers. The Marine Park boast 17 km of rugged sandstone cliffs, rocky headlands, sandy coves, rock pinnacles and stacks can only be partially appreciated from the car window.



Spend a little time and stop at one of the several cliff top car parks to truly appreciate the views and inhale the clean, salt tinged air. Two kilometers west of Kilcunda the Mouth of the Powlett River breaks through the dune country to reach Bass Strait. This is a peaceful location of extensive salt marshes that supports a large population of wetland birds. Short beach walks can be enjoyed at The Caves, Eagles Nest and Flat Rocks.

1. Get Close to Nature

This region is a favorite destination for nature lovers where they can find the complete experience: sandy beaches, tranquil wetlands and unique wildlife experiences. Phillip Island is home to the Little Penguins that parade up Summerland Beach each night. Australian fur seals can be seen frolicking and playing around Seal Rocks and koalas can be viewed at close range from an elevated boardwalk. A leisurely drive amongst the many forests and heathlands is sure to provide you with a close encounter with some of the many native animals that inhabit the region, such as wombats, kangaroos, wallabies, possums, echidnas and numerous reptiles.

The region is significant for migratory birds with more than 100 species being either residents or visitors to the coastal wetlands.



5. Rail Trail and Coastal Walks

Explore Bass Coast on foot or by bike. Take an easy stroll or tackle a challenging coastal track – there are walks and bicycle rides to suit every fitness level. Trails follow sandy tracks that wind along rugged cliff tops overlooking magnificent views of Phillip Island and the ocean and along the cliffs from San Remo towards Kilcunda, with detours leading to small deserted beaches accessible only by foot or boat. The rail trail is the only coastal rail trail in Victoria. The landscape varies from the rugged coastline at Kilcunda, to flat farmland and coastal bushland.

Day trips:

1. Wineries

Bass Coast wineries form part of the Southern Gippsland Wine Trail. The wine trail takes you to Cellar Doors in Victoria's southern-most wine region. When you visit this region, you will enjoy traveling through the picturesque country-side seeking out the many small, family owned vineyards and wineries.

You will find wines that will lead you to ponder the individual vineyard sites and seasonal differences between vintages. You will taste wines and meet winemakers with real character. You may find wine makers tending the vines, checking on the wine barrels, filling bottles or sticking on labels ... and always ready to pour you a wine. Gippsland's rolling hills and spectacular coastline provide a spectacular back-drop. You'll love the way the wines exhibit the spiciness inherent in cool climate fruit. Come & try our classic varieties: pinot noir, cabernet sauvignon, shiraz, chardonnay, reisling, sauvignon blanc and more! You can't miss the complex, fruity bouquet, the intense palate and the long finish which will keep you coming back for more.

2. Penguins to the Prom

Surrounded by some of the best swimming and surfing beaches in Victoria, Phillip Island has a reputation as a coastal getaway. You can also discover the majestic coastal scenery as you travel the Bunurong Coastal Drive between the townships of Kilcunda and Inverloch on your way to Wilsons Promontory National Park.

The Prom is the southern most point of the Australian mainland and is famous for its flora and fauna, wild ocean beaches, rugged mountain landscapes and serene coastal views.

The Prom is popular with nature lovers and has a number of walking tracks varying in distance and difficulty.

