

GREAT OTWAY EXPERIENCE

Specialists
in Outdoor
Education
Programs



Fully inclusive programs!
3 days, 2 nights
+ activities
from

\$200



Accommodation
@Cape Otway Ocean Lodge
ACA Accredited
Sole Occupancy
Fully Catered



- Transport
- Bush Camping
- Raft Building
- Kayaking to the Seals
- Canoeing
- Fishing
- Surfing
- Snorkelling
- Horse Riding
- Mountain Bike
- Bush Riding
- Hiking the **Great Ocean Walk**
- Koori Walks
- Lightstation Tours
- Team Building Activities

A '**Great Otway Experience**' provides exceptional educational and recreational experiences in coastal environments. Our activities include:

- *Raft building*
- *Kayaking trips to the Marengo Marine Sanctuary*
- *Mountain Biking*
- *Surfing / Body Boarding lessons*
- *Snorkelling ,encompassing the reef watch program*
- *Fishing*
- *Rock Pool Rambles*
- *Horse Riding*
- *Canoeing / Kayaking along the Aire Heritage River*
- *Bush educational programs*
- *Aboriginal history walks and Bush Tucker*
- *Lighthouse Tours*
- *Team Building activities*

All activities promote safety, goal setting, responsibility, self-esteem, confidence, leadership, challenges and adventure!

'Great Otway Experience' is based in the **Great Otway National Park** on the South West Coast of Victoria, and works with groups Australia-wide. Our focus is to immerse people in this rich and dynamic coastal landscape. Through varied, fun and educational experiences, we aim for participants to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of this unique coastal environment.

Through discussions with teachers and students Great Otway Experience will help you plan school your excursion from **single 2-hour activities** to **fully catered 4 night, 5 day packages**. We are able to come up with a tailored outdoor experience that will meet all your desired outcomes, utilising competent and experienced guides and instructors. Please contact us to discuss your itinerary and any curriculum requirements for your year level.

Examples of packages and pricing:

3 Days/ 2 Nights
\$200 per person

From \$200 per person,' Great Otway Experience' will provide a fully catered program with accommodation in the accredited Cape Otway Ocean Lodge, mixed with a selection of camping in the Great Otway National Park. Four activities, equipment, instructors and guides are all-inclusive. (Transport from Melbourne can be arranged if required).

5 Days / 4 Nights
\$ 470 per person

From \$450 you will experience the majority of all our listed activities on our fully catered 5 Day / 4 night program. Students will be split into appropriately sized groups with their starting points at different locations, experiencing the same activities, campsites and accommodation. We utilise the campsites of Blanket Bay, Parker Hill and Aire River located in the Great Otway National Park, as well as the private campsites such as "Camel Yards", "Scout Camp" and the Upper Aire River. Each group will be assigned an experienced Leader that will guide the students through the whole program. For relevant parts of the program, a specialised 'Activity Guide' will be responsible for running the activities. Equipment, instructors and guides are all-inclusive. (Transport can be arranged from Melbourne if required).

Individual Activities Available

(Prices quoted independently based on group numbers)

Raft Building and Fishing at Blanket Bay

This activity is one of our most popular, set in the pristine environment of the Great Otway National Park. Each group has to work together building a raft using kayaks and wood.

Teamwork is the key to this activity, to build, paddle and steer the raft. You may even catch some fish with our hand reels. This is a highly enjoyable activity, which requires problem solving, fitness and enthusiasm!

Wetsuits, PFDs (life jackets) and all equipment included.

Sit-on-top Kayaking to the Seal Colony

This excursion is great fun & everyone will enjoy this exciting activity. Our aim is to ensure that all students work as a team, paddling together to steer the kayaks in the right direction.

We offer an educational talk whilst out at the seal colony, giving the students an insight to this unique marine environment.

Everyone will have a great time catching the waves back to shore and the students will have to work together, steering through the white water, to avoid getting wet!

Wetsuits, helmets, PFDs (life jackets) and all equipment included.

Canoes / Kayaking along the Aire Heritage River

The Aire River contains the **greatest number of platypus** per unit area of any water in Victoria, and is listed as a heritage river with several significant species of fauna and flora. Aire River drains the western side of the southern Otway ranges, one of the highest rainfall areas in the state. It is the least modified of the larger rivers in the Southwestern Region.

This adventurous kayaking trip begins at the Great Ocean Rd and ends at the Aire River Campgrounds, taking in the Lower Aire River Wetlands. The wetlands cover 84ha including Lakes Horden, Craven and Costin, which have been recognised in the directory of nationally important wetlands.

The Aire River also has a rich cultural history waiting to be discovered.

Wetsuits, PFDs (life jackets) and all equipment included.

Harbour / Barham River Introduction Kayaking

We recommend this activity for young or less experienced paddlers, (age 13 and under). It is a great introduction to sit-on-top kayaking. The harbour and the Barham River offer confined sheltered water to learn and practise paddling skills. Once the students' skills have been honed they can progress to the more challenging kayaking trips.

Wetsuits, PDFs (life jackets) and all equipment included.

Snorkelling & Reef Watch Program

Increase your confidence in the water whilst experiencing the underwater world!

85% or more of marine life, in southern Australia's waters, are found nowhere else in the world.

Victoria has an amazing diversity of different habitats along its coastline. Join our instructors checking out the seagrass meadows of the Apollo Bay Harbour or head down to Blanket Bay. Here you can view kelp beds, rocky reefs and sandy bottoms, as well as the different animals and plants that live there.

Students can also take part in gathering coastal data, by participating in the Victoria Reef Watch program. Your data will lead to better management and protection of our fascinating but vulnerable marine communities.

Wetsuits, snorkels, masks, fins and hoods are provided.

Surf Lessons

Our aim is to get all students on their feet during the first lesson, to boost confidence in the water, and to really have some fun as a group.

Our qualified instructors encourage the students to cheer each other on, and we get as wet as you do by constantly giving instruction & pushing students onto the waves!

The students will be introduced to the 'surfers rules', regarding water safety and awareness and courtesy towards fellow surfers.

Full length wetsuits, safe soft 'G' Boards & instruction Included.

Mountain Biking

Get away from the water but don't get away from nature and the action. Let us take you down hill and cross-country with our mountain bikes. There is more than one route that we can offer you in the Great Otway National Park and surrounding area. With qualified guides what better way to see some of the most spectacular rain forest that the Otways have to offer. Let us take you along scenic trails that pass through lush fern forests and then open up to spectacular views as you ride towards the ocean.

All transfers bikes and helmets included.

Horse Riding

Horse rides are conducted at Bimbi Park located on the Cape Otway. They cater for all ages and levels of ability. Rides are carefully graded. There are experienced horses, qualified instructors, and safe trails and approved safety helmets. The sandy soil of the region makes for good riding even after rain.

You can ride along marvellous beaches, amble through lush expanses of forest and long the cliff tops at sunset. Rides also take you to Cape Otway Lighthouse, scenic lookouts and some of the pretty bays that dot the Otway coastline.

All rides are strictly programmed and led by an accredited leader, Rides are graded, Suitable footwear is required, Helmets supplied and compulsory

Fishing

Fishing is great fun for the students and a great way to learn about some of the marine life found in Southern Victoria. Fishing can either be done as an adjunct to other activities such as raft building at Blanket Bay, (utilising hand reels). Another option is to fish the sheltered waters of Apollo Bay Harbour (with rods supplied by Great Otway Experience). From February through to May it is not uncommon to find squid in large numbers taking shelter in the harbour. If you are unlucky enough not to catch anything, resident bullnose rays will keep you entertained. If your budget allows we are able to charter a surveyed purpose built fishing boat on your behalf*.

*Included rods or hand reels, tackle, bait and instruction. *Chartered boat is not included in packages*

Team Building Exercises

'Great Otway Experience' is able to facilitate team-building exercises. Our instructors have many years of experience in running activities that challenge your group to think and work together. Run your own "mini" survivor, which will challenge the group to band together to get through a series of tasks.

Included instructors and all equipment.

Rock Pool Rambles

Enjoy a rock pool ramble along our spectacular coastline. The Otway, with its spectacular rocky shores, is an ideal place to observe the amazing diversity of our marine life. Get close up with the many familiar and not so familiar animals of the coast and discover what adaptations these animals and plants have made to survive this constantly changing environment. Rock pool rambles can be tailored to meet curriculum requirements.

Sites include; Marengo, Shelly Beach, Blanket Bay, Point Franklin and Cray Fish Bay

Great Ocean Walk

Experience sections of this newly built outstanding coastal walk. Walk through open forests to rocky platforms along rugged coastal heathland into sheltered beaches. The Great Ocean Walk provides a challenging and diverse experience along some of Australia most spectacular and pristine coastline. Rich with wildlife and human history, the park protects a unique eco-system with over 60 threatened species habitating this unique area. You may see kangaroos, wallaby's, echidnas and koalas, alongside parrots, cockatoos, eagles, owls and seabirds. From the many coastal lookouts you may see dolphins, or from June till September, migrating whales. Our experienced guides will accompany your group on a fascinating walk rich in shipwreck history and beautiful coastal views.

Guided Bush / Indigenous History Walks

Learn to identify edible plants, roots and berries. Discover the beautiful environments of the rock pools. What did the Aboriginal people use to treat wounds or cuts? Our local Koori guides can show you one of the major gathering places of the local indigenous people who inhabited this part of the coast long ago. How did they make their tools? What did they eat and where did their food come from? How did they live in this often-inhospitable environment?

Discover the majestic blue gum forest, fern gullies, unusual rock formations and rare plants. We will also show you the Otway's mudstone formations, fresh water springs and surrounding pristine beaches. **Let us know where your curriculum interests lie and we can suggest a meeting place to commence your walk.**

Cape Otway Lightstation Tours

Students participate in "A taste of the Cape" guided educational tour of the Lightstation. Guides take students through a chronological history of the site covering geology, vegetation, emigration and marine history of the region, the shipwrecks of Bass Strait. Students will also learn about the development of telegraph and maritime communications, the lonely life and hardships of Light Keepers families, construction of the Lightstation and surrounding buildings and operation of the light.

Included entrance to the lightstation and activities.

Our Aims & Objectives

The aims of all our camps are to explore the diversity of environments that exist along the Southwest coast of Victoria, and promote a deeper understanding of the coastal environment and its geographical, biological, and cultural history. Whilst enjoying our activities 'Great Otway Experience' aim for students to improve their technical skills as well as considering their safety and that of the group when recreating in coastal environments. We hope at times to create an atmosphere for reflection allowing students to investigate their place in the group, school, family and society as a whole.

Cape Otway Ocean Lodge

The lodge is situated on 100 coastal acres neighbouring the Otway National Park, and is built on environmentally friendly principles using solar and wind generated electricity. Enjoy native vegetation like the she-oak, manna gums (favourite of the koalas) and banksias, as well as isolated beaches, kangaroos, and bird life in abundance.

Three interconnecting wings built in a U shape, enclose a paved sunny courtyard adjacent to the spacious, covered gas BBQ area. Both accommodation wings have their own spacious bunk style facilities, toilets and showers, as well as 3 separate double bedrooms. The third wing contains the kitchen and dining area which seats up to 48 people, yet retains an intimate atmosphere for smaller groups. A large wood fire, recreation room with pool table, games, TV, video and DVD player, complete the picture. (A wide selection of books and videos are also available for general use.)

Cape Otway Ocean Lodge is available for sole occupancy, for large and small groups.

About Us

Accreditation

We are fully accredited members of Tourism Alliance, Geelong Otways Tourism, Otways Tourism, Apollo Bay Chamber of Commerce & Reef Watch.

Cape Otway Ocean Lodge is a fully accredited Australian Camps Association member.

Insurance / Permits

'Great Otway Experience' / Apollo Bay Surf & Kayak has a ten million dollar public insurance policy and we have current permits for all of the activities we offer.

Our staff

Our company policy is to employ staff who have a passion for their job whilst preserving the environment in which they work. They are friendly, experienced, qualified and place your safety above their own.

Payment

A 20% deposit is required when booking any trips, which is non refundable upon cancellation. Payments are made on invoice at the end of the program. Payments terms are 14 days please.

Testimonials

“A professional approach, enthusiastic staff, friendly with the kids”

St Leonard's College, Brighton East

“The activities are great for our boys. Treating them as young adults you helped them to really enjoy the experience”

St Joseph's College, Melbourne

“Outstanding activities and staff.”

Aries Campus

“Diverse activities run by good natured instructors who related well with kids”

Woodleigh School, Baxter

“Easy going and relaxed with an emphasis on having fun...great introductions of activities.”

St Bridgets, Horsham

Our aim is that you are SAFE at all times, have FUN & LEARN new skills which will be with you for life!