

HIKING JOURNEY

# Wilson's Prom & Tarra Bulga Adventure

6 DAYS



**WALKABOUT**  
GOURMET ADVENTURES

## Journey Overview

Join us to explore one of Australia's most outstanding National Parks, Wilson's Promontory and Tarra- Bulga. "The Prom", so called by its many admirers, is the most southerly point of mainland Australia. The park encompasses magnificent coastal and mountain scenery. Over 700 species of native plants exist, providing a perfect habitat for the prolific wildlife. Kangaroos, koalas and wombats are just a few of the many native inhabitants. Emus, rosella, kookaburras and cockatoos can be seen almost everywhere. The only way to really experience The Prom is on foot. Our walk highlights some of the park's most beautiful areas. We pass through a variety of vegetation from bush to luxuriant, moist fern gullies. These harbour magnificent white sandy beaches washed by spectacular rolling surf. Tarra – Bulga NP is a cool temperate rainforest with lush fern gullies, towering mountain ash and ancient myrtle beech trees and is home to the superb lyrebird.

**Day 1** We stop shortly after the turnoff to Phillip Island and discover the spectacular George Bass Coastal Walk near Kilcunda.

**Day 2** We spend the day at Wilson's Prom NP where we walk to Whisky Bay, Lilly Pilly Gully, Tidal River, Pillar Point and Squeaky Beach.

**Day 3** We discover the secluded Cape Liptrap Coastal Park close to where we are staying with a stunning coastal walk from Sth Walkerville to Waratah Bay.

**Day 4** We venture back into The Prom and walk out to spectacular Tongue Point and we have the opportunity to see one of the most beautiful beaches at the The Prom, beautiful Fairy Cove.

**Day 5** We drive up into the Strzelecki Ranges stopping at Tarra-Bulga NP to experience its magnificent shady fern lined creeks, luxuriant tree ferns, giant mountain ash and ancient myrtle beech. In the afternoon we visit the Clarke family farm for a stroll around the property and afternoon tea.

**Day 6** On our final day we have a leisurely start before driving to Waratah Hills Winery for our final celebratory lunch. In the afternoon we join the Sth Gippsland Hwy for our return journey to Melbourne.

## Journey Itinerary



### DAY 1

#### Melbourne - Kilcunda - Inverloch – Walkerville

We depart Melbourne at 9.30 a.m.

#### **RADISSON ON FLAGSTAFF GARDENS**

**380 William Street, Melbourne**

**Phone +61 3 9322 8000**

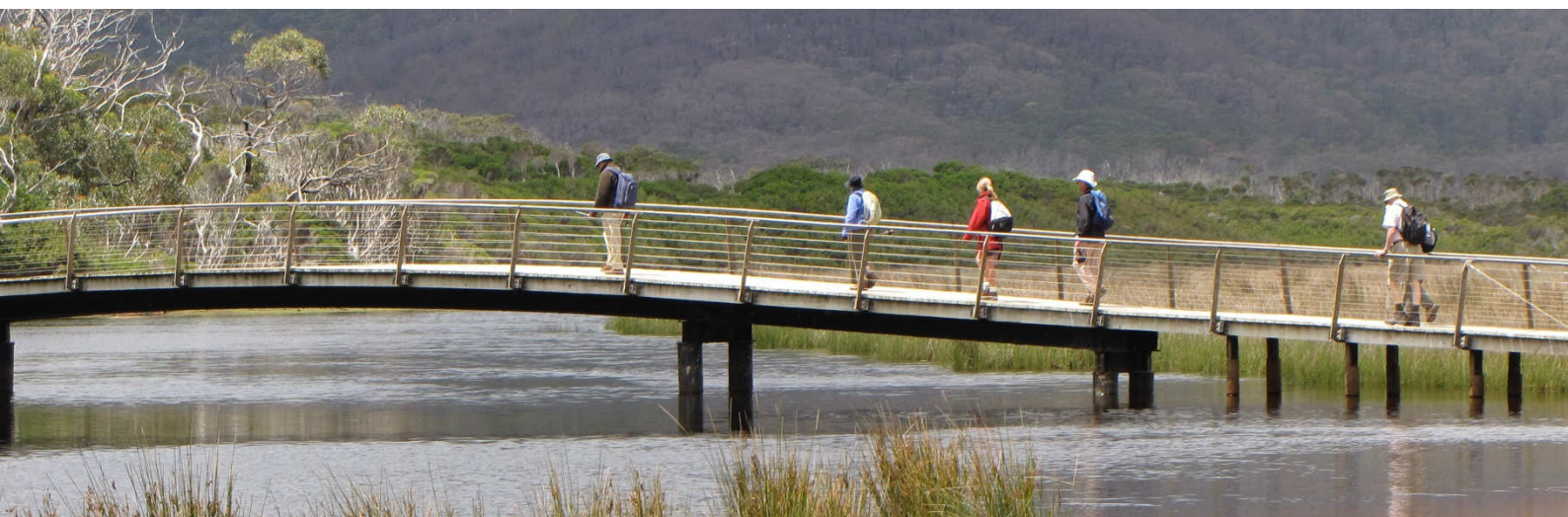
and make our way to the outskirts where we join the South Gippsland Hwy before connecting to the Bass Hwy. At Cranbourne we stop for a coffee and some morning tea. After Bass we get a glimpse of both Phillip Island and the lesser known French

Island. Shortly after we arrive at the small coastal township of Kilkunda where we have our first picnic lunch. This quiet coastal village is located on a treacherous stretch of water known as Bass Strait. In 1797 George Bass set sail from Sydney in a 9-metre whale boat to prove the existence of a strait between Tasmania and the Australian mainland. On this epic voyage Bass made the first discovery of a natural harbour on the southern mainland coast – Western Port Bay. We begin our walking holiday on the spectacular George Bass Coastal Walk which offers panoramic views from the cliff tops rising high above the pounding surf of Bass Strait. Apart from the obvious scenic beauty of the area there is also another historical aspect as well. For thousands of years the Bunurong Aboriginal tribe lived here as evidenced by their middens which may still be found in the sand dunes along the Walk. Our lovely coastal path leads us towards Half Moon Bay. The views from here are superb –with the pounding surf of wild Bass Strait below and the lush rolling hills of West Gippsland.

In the early afternoon we arrive back at our minibus in Kilkunda where we continue travelling along the Bass Hwy to Wonthaggi and Cape Paterson. We stop for a break to purchase our provisions for our picnic lunches and then continue on to Eagles Nest we have a short break and learn about the Bunurong Marine National Park. After passing through Inverloch we continue via Venus Bay and then onto our accommodation on the coast overlooking magnificent Waratah Bay and Wilsons Promontory. In the evening enjoy a delicious dinner and experience the fresh local produce which the South Gippsland region is so renowned – succulent seafood, Australia's best dairy products, superb meats and crisp vegetables. Tasty Gippsland farmhouse cheeses are also a perfect complement to the excellent local wines which are now produced in the area.

 **3 HOURS**

 **BEAR GULLY COTTAGES**



## DAY 2

### Wilson's Promontory National Park

After our delicious healthy breakfast, we depart for Wilson's Promontory National Park. The Prom, as it is affectionately known, was first reserved for a National Park back in 1898. Today it is certainly one of Victoria's most popular National Parks and it includes some of the most spectacular walking areas in Australia. It covers over 50,000 hectares and has an amazing variety of vegetation - eucalypt forest, rainforest, woodland and heath and coastal scrub. Such a diverse natural community is a haven for wildlife. Over 30 kinds of mammals have been recorded plus 180 types of birds. It is a botanist's paradise with more than 700 native plant species. We follow the road through the park to Lilly Pilly Gully where we stop for our first walk. This is a gentle introduction to a warm temperate rainforest featuring some wonderful examples of giant tree ferns set in a beautiful ferny glade. After our easy walk we continue onto the settlement of Tidal River - home of the National Park headquarters. Before we set off on our next walk, we break for our picnic lunch next to Norman Bay. In the afternoon our walk takes us beside Tidal River and out to Pillar Point and then onto the Beautiful Squeaky Beach. This walk allows you to experience some of the most pristine beaches in the park combined with some interesting coastal plant communities.

The headlands are characterized by huge outcrops of granite boulders with breathtaking views over Norman Bay and Norman Island. This is a particularly beautiful walk in the late afternoon sun as the soft light reflects over Waratah Bay and Cape Liptrap in the distance. We retrace our steps back to Tidal River where we join our minibus and return to our lovely accommodation overlooking Waratah Bay. After a day of exploring we can now sit back, relax and enjoy another delicious dinner.

**4 HOURS****BEAR GULLY COTTAGES**



## DAY 3

### Cape Liptrap Coastal Park

After a lovely breakfast today's walk begins from the idyllic "Magic Beach" at South Walkerville. This beautiful half-moon beach was the inspiration for the much loved children's classic Magic Beach by well-known local author Alison Lester. Today South Walkerville boasts a small coastal holiday community and is a popular spot for fishermen and boating enthusiasts. However, it wasn't always such a sleepy little hollow. Between 1875 and 1926 there was a bustling port here supplying quick lime to the Melbourne building industry. At its peak the Walkerville lime kilns supported around 80 workers and their families. Today the kilns are in ruins, but there are still many reminders of the past including the remnants of the kilns in the cliffs and the formation of tramways which were once used for hauling firewood to the kilns and the small hilltop cemetery. Apart from this more recent history there is also a long heritage of Aboriginal occupation in the area. The Brataualung clan of the Kurnai people

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occupied the Cape Liptrap and Waratah Bay areas for over 6,000 years! Sometimes ancient middens are still visible when walking along this stretch of coastline.

From here our walk takes us onto North Walkerville which has one of the "best kept secret" camping grounds in Victoria. After a short break we continue along the shores of Waratah Bay to the small seaside township which has a permanent population of only 56 - very much a quiet and secluded beach side community . This magnificent bay stretches all the way south to Wilson's Promontory and west to Cape Liptrap. In the hinterland behind the wide sandy beach of Waratah Bay is the strikingly beautiful Cape Liptrap Coastal Park. Cape Liptrap is a narrow peninsular formed by the spine of Hoddle Range running out to sea. It consists of steep cliffs of folded marine sediments flanked by rock pinnacles and wave cut platforms. Waratah Bay was named after a ship by the same name which anchored here for repairs in 1855.

After a relaxing picnic we retrace our steps back along the coast - weather permitting it might be nice to have a quick swim at Magic Beach or explore some of the rock pools at the southern end. We return to our lodge for some afternoon tea where we can then relax before we meet up for an aperitif and another delicious dinner.

 **5 HOURS**

 **BEAR GULLY COTTAGES**



## DAY 4

### Wilson's Promontory National Park

This morning we return to Wilson's Promontory National Park. At Darby River we begin our walk towards Tongue Point. The track initially climbs uphill through coastal bushland until we reach a saddle where we are rewarded for our climb with spectacular views south west towards Shellback Island and to Shallow Inlet to the North. As we descend towards the coast the vegetation changes - casuarinas and windswept heathlands become more prominent. Soon we shall be able to view one of the prettiest beaches in the National Park - Fairy Cove, particularly so at low tide. Fairy Cove is 250 metres of open beach with crystal clear water, giant rock formations, rock pools and wildlife. Our trail continues beside the coastline before entering a narrow peninsular which leads us to a spectacular headland of weathered granite boulders - a wonderful setting for our picnic lunch. Once again we have amazing views out to sea towards Norman Island and to the Glennie Group in the south and the imposing Skull Rock. In the afternoon we slowly retrace our steps back to Darby River where we rejoin our vehicle. Just after Darby River is a perfect spot to view many of the native animals which inhabit the Prom. If we are lucky, we should see kangaroos and emus grazing and perhaps even a koala sleeping in a Manna Gum. We continue the drive back to our accommodation where another delicious dinner awaits us.

 **5 HOURS**

 **BEAR GULLY COTTAGES**



## DAY 5

### Yarram – Tarra-Bulga National Park – Clarke Family Farm – Mirboo North

This morning we travel to the lovely rural town of Yarram located on the South Gippsland Hwy where we stop for a coffee and short stroll. From here we head inland along the Tarra River and into the Strzelecki Ranges. At the Tarra Valley picnic area, we stop for our first walk into the Tara Bulga NP – we meander through a rainforest gully beside a trickling stream to Cyathea Falls. The ancient myrtle beech trees provide a canopy above the delicate tree ferns, lichens and moss. We rejoin our vehicle again and follow the road up into the hills past towering mountain ash trees and gigantic tree ferns. At Balook we stop at the Tarra Bulga Visitor Centre which has lots of history about the early settlers here and the establishment of the National Park. The park was created in 1904, one of the earliest reserves of cool temperate rainforest in the world. We take a walk over Corrigan's Suspension Bridge which stretches through the rainforest canopy affording spectacular views of the lush fern gully on the forest floor below. Keep a look out for the Superb Lyre Bird which calls this park home. After we have our picnic lunch under the towering mountain ash gums we make our way down to the Clarke family farm located in the Upper Flynn's Creek Valley in Callignee. My father and grandfather cleared the land here in 1936 where they established a dairy farm which they operated until 1976 then changing to beef farming which we still do today. After we have a stroll around the farm we return for some afternoon tea and then make our way back to our lodge at Bear Gully via Mirboo North and the Grand Ridge Road.

 **3 HOURS**

 **BEAR GULLY COTTAGES**



## DAY 6

### Walkerville - Waratah Hills Winery – Melbourne

After a leisurely morning we leave our lovely accommodation and travel to Waratah Hills Winery. We enjoy a tasting of their delicious wines before having our final celebratory lunch in their lovely vineyard garden. In the afternoon we travel on the South Gippsland Hwy to Leongatha and Korumburra. This lush South Gippsland countryside is home to some of the best dairy farms in Australia. Near Lang Lang we rejoin the Bass Hwy again and continue on to Melbourne. The approximate arrival time in Melbourne is 6.00 pm.



# Journey Accommodation

Bear Gully Coastal Cottages, Walkerville

**NIGHTS 1 - 5**



## Journey Notes

### PRICE INCLUDES

- Experienced guide.
- Pick up at 9.30 am in Melbourne on Day 1 and drop off at approximately 5.30 pm in Melbourne on Day 6.
- Twin share accommodation for 5 nights, breakfasts and dinners each evening and the final celebratory lunch on Day 6.

### NOT INCLUDED IN TRIP COSTS

Picnic lunch on Day 1-5 (guests will have the opportunity on Day 1 to buy provisions for the next 5 picnic lunches and store in their room fridge), evening drinks and in between meal snacks, personal clothing, laundry, medical expenses and items of a personal nature.

## **WHAT TO BRING**

Day pack, 1.5 litre water bottle, walking boots, waterproof raincoat, sunhat, bathers, sunscreen and insect repellent. Walking poles will also be handy. As we are restricted with the amount of luggage, we can carry in our vehicles please ensure that your CASES DO NOT EXCEED 20 KG's per guest.

## **PRE-WALK PREPARATION**

We suggest that prior to your walking holiday you prepare yourself to obtain a level of fitness that will allow you to enjoy your walking holiday.

This, of course, is dependent upon your existing fitness level. Remember, the fitter you are, the more you will enjoy the holiday!

- Start with some short walks which include stairs or hills and increase the length of walks over a couple of months.
- We suggest you carry a backpack with water, camera, jacket, snacks, etc. to assist you with your preparation and allow you to get used to the extra weight on your back.
- We also ask that your boots are comfortable and well-worn in.
- Perhaps enjoy some walks through our local national parks and over uneven surfaces to gain confidence with your boots or new walking shoes.

## **PLEASE NOTE**

Single rooms can usually be arranged for a supplement. Please ask us for details. We shall endeavour to match people together if they would like to share a twin room with another guest to avoid paying the Single Room Supplement.

However, as this is not always possible 'single' clients will have to pay the supplement.

All Walks during the 5 days are optional. Guests can choose to have a free day whenever they like.

The walking pace on the walking holiday is leisurely.

Guests do not have to be experienced; however, a good level of fitness is necessary.

## **CONTACT**

Guide: Graeme Clarke

Tel: 0458 955 272

# Get in touch and book your journey today.

 **0461 277 612**

 **info@walkaboutgourmet.com**

## Follow the journey.



### Quality Practices

Committed to exceeding your expectations with great customer service and the highest standards of quality practices, Walkabout Gourmet Adventures complies with the National Tourism Accreditation Program (ATAP).



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