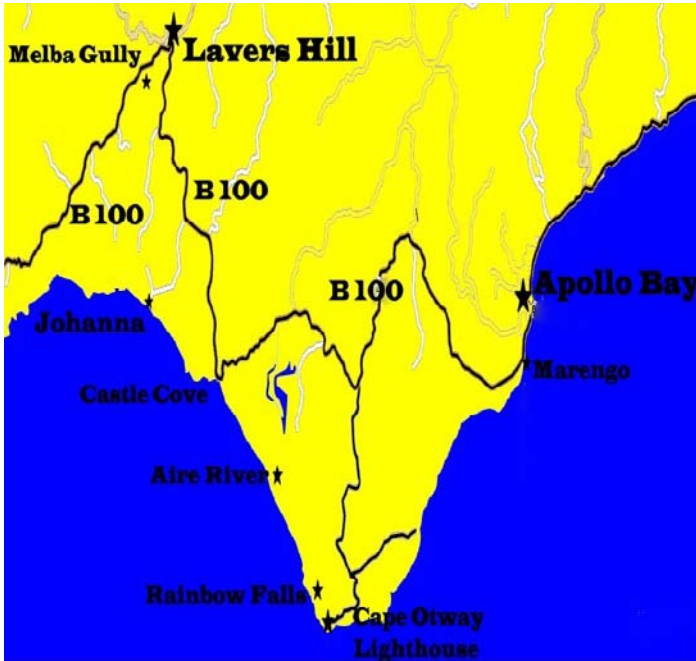


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Great Ocean Road Virtual Tour
Travel Notes

Apollo Bay to Lavers Hill



Distances (km)(Travel Times minutes)

Apollo Bay to Lavers Hill 47.9(50)

Apollo Bay to Mates Rest 16.8 (17)

Apollo Bay to Castle Cove 33.1(34)

Side Trips

Apollo Bay to Cape Otway 31.6 (42)

Apollo Bay to Aire River Turn 24(24)

Apollo Bay to Binns Track (falls)13.6(14)

Distances Start from Service Station



Distances on this section start from service station entering Apollo Bay and end at T intersection coming into Lavers Hill. The Great Ocean Road follows the coast at sea level for 2.8 km then climbs (past Marengo) rapidly away from the coast into the forests of the Otway Ranges.

In the winter months and early spring it is worth stopping at the car parks approximately 2 kilometres past Apollo Bay as Southern Right Whales can often be seen frolicking close to the coast here. There is a slow vehicle turn out 3.6 kilometres past Apollo Bay and viewing areas at 5.8, 7.1 and at 9.2 kilometres past Apollo Bay. Binns Track is on the right 13.6 kilometres past Apollo Bay. This track takes you up to the top of the Otway Ranges at Beach Forest and gives access to an excellent waterfall tour (see below on side trip). 16.8 kilometres past Apollo Bay an excellent short board walk through a section of rainforest is available at Mait's Rest. (Allow 45 minutes for the walk). A further 3.7 kilometres on from Mait's Rest the Cape Otway Light House Road turns off to the left (See Side trips) The Great Ocean Road continues on through the forest for a further 3.3 kilometres before descending back to open country on the Aire River flood plain. (Take the left turn 3.3 kilometres passed the Cape Otway Road for a side trip to the mouth of the Aire River.)

The Great Ocean Road skirts around the Aire River Flood plain before climbing up to Castle Cove lookout 33.1 kilometres passed Apollo Bay. It is worth stopping for 5 minutes to take in the view. Johanna Beach turn off is a further 5.5 kilometres past Castle Cove. This is a beach for advanced surfers and is often used when Bells Beach has no surf. After Castle Cove the Great Ocean Road climbs back into forest and follows along a spur before climbing up into Lavers Hill. There are a few sea views along this section.

SIDE TRIPS

Binns Track (For full details see things to do and see Apollo Bay/Lavers Hill)

Binns track gives you access to excellent waterfall tour but is a dirt road and can be a bit rough. This road is used by logging trucks so exercise care. It is only worth doing if you are staying overnight in the area as it will take a full day. It gives access to Hopetown Falls, Beachamp Falls, Triplet Falls and Little Aire Falls. It is 14.3 km to the turn off to Hopetown Falls and another 4.1 kilometres to Beachamp Falls turn off and another 1.5 kilometres to the small township of Beech Forest. The turn off to Triplet Falls is a further 4.8 kilometres past Beach Forest.

Walking Times to Falls

Hopetown Falls car park is located 0.5 kilometres off Binns Track and the falls can be viewed from upper viewing platform that is 2 minutes from the car park. The lower viewing platform is accessed from a steep track and stairs and takes around 40 minutes return.

Beachamp Falls car park is located 2.1 kilometres off Binns track and the walk takes around 60 minutes return and includes a steep steel stair case down into the falls.

Triplet Falls carpark is located 4.8 kilometres off the Beach Forest Laver Hill Road and the walk to the Triplet Falls takes around 1 hour return and **Little Aire Falls** takes around 2.5 hours return. Triplet Falls road passes the Otway Fly treetop walk at 3.6 kilometres from Beach Forest Lavers Hill Road. It is a private tour with an entrance fee.

Cape Otway

Cape Otway is located 12.9 kilometre from the Great Ocean Road. The Cape Otway Road passes through forest open farmland and coastal heath before arriving at the Cape Otway Lighthouse. Koalas are often seen in the coastal forest just past the cattle grid (8 kilometres from Great Ocean Road) that crosses the Cape Otway Road The light house is leased to private operators and costs money to tour it but can be viewed and photographed from a lookout located on the Great Ocean Walk.

The Great ocean walk can be accessed from the back of the free car park at Cape Otway and takes around 15 minutes return. Rainbow Falls a 5 hour walk can also be accessed from this walk. If you decide to do the tour of the lighthouse the views from the lighthouse are spectacular but only on a very clear day. To do this side trip allow approximately 70 minutes extra travel time (not including the lighthouse tour).

Mouth of the Aire River

The turn off to the mouth of the Aire River is 22.5 kilometres past Apollo Bay. The road is relatively narrow and becomes dirt after 2.6 kilometres. Continue and make turn to the right 4.5 kilometres after leaving the Great Ocean Road. This section of the road is very narrow and can be quite rough. A further 800 metres on you will come to the first camping ground on the Aire River.

A further 300metres on you will come to a bridge that crosses the Aire river. (If you have a four wheel drive vehicle continue on straight ahead to drive to the mouth of the river. This is best done at low tide.) Cross the Aire River and follow the road. If you are a little adventurous you can rejoin the Great Ocean Road by taking the Sand Road to Castle Cove a distance of 5.2 kilometres from bridge. Generally travel at less than 40 kilometres per hour. This loop is a total distance of 10.8 kilometres from leaving the Great Ocean Road to rejoining it compared to 7.6 kilometres staying on the Great Ocean Road. The loop takes around 22 minutes to drive without stopping.



Sand Road