VISIT VICTOR HARBOR

CONNECT WITH NATURE, ART AND CULTURE ON THIS FOUR DAY, THREE NIGHT ESCAPE

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FEEL IT CALLING



FEEL THE CALLING OF VICTOR HARBOR'S ART AND CULTURE SCENE

Connect with nature, art and culture on this four day, three night escape to Victor Harbor.

Victor Harbor is more than a destination – it's a feeling. A destination that proudly showcases its expression of creativity and community. Where the wild call of the ocean meets the hum of a rich culture; where breathtaking landscapes inspires artistic energy.

Just a little over an hour's drive from Adelaide, your time here is about wonder, indulgence, and grounded authenticity as you immerse yourself in the arts, discover local talent, and experience a region alive with creativity and heritage.



Acknowledgment of Country

Visit Victor Harbor acknowledge that the Ngarrindjeri and Ramindjeri people are the Traditional Owners of our beautiful lands and surrounding waters. We recognise and respect the cultural connections the past, present and future Traditional Custodians have. We are committed to working with the Ngarrindjeri and Ramindjeri people, supporting their role as custodians of their lands and helping ensure the future prosperity and cultural enrichment of the community.



DAY ONE

Morning: The journey begins

Set off from Adelaide and let the journey be part of the experience. Take the scenic route through the Adelaide Hills, winding through picturesque Stirling and Hahndorf, and stopping for a coffee in Strathalbyn. Or, head through Mount Compass, where a pause at Pasta Chef offers the perfect excuse to savour a scoop of house-made artisanal gelato – an ideal holiday morning tea treat. It's just a little start for the wonders that lay ahead.

Lunch: A culinary escape at Lost Phoenix Farm

Nestled among the rolling hills just minutes outside of Victor Harbor, <u>Lost Phoenix Farm</u> is a true local gem. Here, dining is an experience – unfussy yet undeniably special. It's seasonal, creative and best shared. Sample thoughtfully crafted dishes and take in sweeping valley views.

Before you leave, visit the on-site distillery <u>Cut</u> <u>Hill</u>, where handcrafted small-batch whiskey, gins, and vodkas showcase the eclectic spirit of the region in liquid form.







Afternoon: Settle in and explore the arts

Victor Harbor offers a stay for every kind of traveller. Whether it's a luxurious B&B perched on a secluded hillside or a simple, soulful tent with ocean views, you'll find a place to truly unwind.

Stay: Restful Retreats

In Victor Harbor, each night is an invitation to a restful journey, a preamble to tomorrow's adventures. Choose your refuge and let the magic of the night weave dreams of days yet to come. Book an entire house for a group stay, opt for individual rooms in a cozy hotel, or reside in one of many retreats just walking distance apart.

Let the serenity of the Old Coach Road Estate whisper secrets of seclusion and peace, offering a large private escape into tranquillity. Venture into nature at one of Victor Harbor NRMA Beachfront Holiday Park's glamping tents, where luxury meets the raw beauty of the crashing waves. Let Wren House be your anchor, or drift into dreams in your own hotel room at McCracken Country Club. For those whose heart yearns for some seclusion, the luxe abodes of Nest & Nature at Esca, nestled in the rolling hills, awaits to envelop you in its elegant arms.



Luxury B&B

The <u>Old Coach Road Estate</u> provides an elegant retreat, complete with breathtaking views over Victor Harbor and Granite Island, open fireplaces, and a master suite designed for effortless relaxation.

Glamping by the ocean

The <u>NRMA Beachfront Holiday Park</u> Glamping Tents bring luxury to the outdoors, with stylish safari tents featuring heating, private bathrooms, and open-air bathtubs.





<u>Wren House</u> is an architectural delight, offering a cosy yet refined stay with an outdoor bath, hillside views, and a private deck retreat for sunset drinks and views of the Hindmarsh River.

Resort-style comfort

<u>McCracken Country Club</u> blends leisure and indulgence with an 18-hole golf course, a lap pool, and panoramic valley views.

A private escape in nature

<u>Nest & Nature</u> at Esca offers a stunning modern offgrid hilltop villa experience, nestled in nearby Inman Valley, with premium amenities and handy hiking trails.











DAY ONE CONTINUED

Once settled, immerse yourself in the town's vibrant creative scene.

Stop by the <u>Visitor Centre</u> to orient yourself, pick up an Art Trail brochure, then take a leisurely walk through town, admiring public art pieces like Marijana Tadic's <u>Phosphorescence</u>, Nicole Black's <u>Telstra</u> <u>Exchange Building Mural</u> or the old railway turntable's quirky blue sheep.

Make time on your stroll to visit the <u>Coral Street</u> <u>Art Space</u>, a dynamic hub showcasing local talent, Ngarrindejeri arts, and fostering creative connections. It also stands as the South Australia's first permanent First Nations gallery, offering a home for Ramindjeri and Ngarrindjeri artists, including Ramindjeri artist Cedric Varcoe and Ngarrindjeri artist Amanda Westley.





Sunset and dinner: The Bluff beckons As the day winds down, nature takes centre stage. <u>The Bluff</u> (Kongkengguwarr / Longkuwa) rises above the coastline to the southwest, offering panoramic views that shift with the light.

Grab fish and chips from a local favourite – try the <u>Original Fish Shop</u> or <u>Rumbelows</u> <u>Takeaway</u> – and enjoy from The Bluff's new designated viewing platform, from where you can also enjoy the artwork that tells Ngarrindjeri dreaming stories.

For those looking to stretch their legs, take on the 800 metre Bluff Summit Trail, a short yet rewarding climb to a breathtaking lookout.

Or, if adrenaline is what you seek, head to the Bluff earlier in the afternoon and lean into the thrill of <u>Off the Bluff Abseiling</u>. Suspended 97 metres above the ocean, you'll descend the rugged cliffs with nothing but stunning coastal views stretching before you. Run by Surf & Sun, this two-hour experience promises exhilaration and an entirely new perspective on Victor Harbor's wild beauty.





DAY TWO

Morning: A coastal awakening

Start the day with breakfast at <u>The Causeway</u> <u>Café</u>. Nestled in the heart of town, this welcoming spot is perfect for people-watching while enjoying a coffee made just right. Their menu offers something for everyone, with plenty of vegetarian options and fresh ingredients.

Then, it's just a few steps to the Granite Island Causeway, where the mainland meets the sea. Stroll across the newly built causeway, drinking in the sweeping ocean views, or experience a piece of history by boarding the <u>Victor Harbor</u> <u>Horse Drawn Tram</u>, pulled by gentle Clydesdales.



As you travel along to the Causeway, marvel at the longest integrated Aboriginal artwork in Australia, where you can soak in the evocative story of Kondoli told through the artwork of five local Indigenous artists, with 11 characters and connecting motifs etched into the 650 metre walkway. For those looking for a more enriching experience, book an immersive Ngarrindjeri-led experience with <u>Kool Tours</u> for a deeper connection to Country.



Once on <u>Granite Island (Kaiki)</u>, let nature guide your footsteps.

The island's ancient granite boulders, splashed with vibrant orange lichen, stand in contrast to the ever-changing blues of the ocean. Follow the trails to scenic lookouts where the waves crash against the cliffs below, and from June to October, keep an eye out for majestic whales migrating along the coast.

The island is more than a natural wonder – it's a place of deep cultural significance, with Ngarrindjeri and Ramindjeri stories woven into the landscape.

As you leave the Causeway, stop at the sculpture of <u>Ngurunderi</u>, one of the great Ngarrindjeri Creation ancestral beings. The Ngurunderi Creation story is specific to the area the Ngarrindjeri and Ramindjeri call Pultung (Victor Harbor), Kaiki (Granite Island) and Longkuwa (The Bluff).





Lunch: A flavourful pause at the Larder Kitchen

After a morning immersed in nature, return to the township and enjoy a leisurely lunch at the <u>Larder Kitchen</u>. This local eatery serves up fresh, modern Australian cuisine, where bold flavours meet premium local produce. Whether it's crispy five-spice pork belly bites or a seafood linguine bursting with prawns, pipis, and mussels, every dish is a celebration of the region's culinary excellence.



Afternoon: A creative glimpse

Begin your afternoon at the <u>Victor Harbor</u> <u>Regional Gallery</u>, nestled within a historic bakery in the town's railway precinct. Operated by a co-operative of local artists, the gallery showcases an impressive range of works, and each month a featured artist is highlighted, providing a fresh perspective on the thriving art scene in Victor Harbor. Whether you're keen to purchase or simply appreciate, the gallery offers an inspiring glimpse into the creative community of the south coast.



Dinner: An evening at Siam Seaside.

As the day draws to a close, discover a new treasure in the heart of Victor Harbor – <u>Siam</u> <u>Seaside</u>. This Thai restaurant blends traditional craftsmanship with creativity, offering an unforgettable Asian dining experience in a space inspired by a vintage train station. Enjoy handcrafted cocktails beside the historic Cockle Train railway, then indulge in expertly prepared Thai dishes that harmonise spice, sweetness and citrus.

With the scent of lemongrass and coconut still lingering in the air, take a final stroll to admire <u>Connection</u>, a striking public art piece by local artist Matt Turley. Inspired by the steam locomotive, Turley's work symbolises the beauty of individual parts coming together in harmony - much like a community. This thoughtful sculpture not only pays tribute to Victor Harbor's railway heritage but also creates a sense of place, reminding us that connection is at the heart of progress. Whether by day or under the glow of evening lights, *Connection* is a piece worth pausing for.





DAY THREE

Breakfast: Qahwa

Start your day with a delicious breakfast at <u>Qahwa</u>, a specialty coffee roastery renowned for its expertly crafted brews and fresh, wholesome meals.

Nestled along the picturesque Victor Harbor foreshore, this beachside café exudes a laidback coastal charm that invites you to slow down and savour the moment. Treat yourself to a velvety flat white or a bold long black, made from beans roasted in-house, paired with a nourishing breakfast bowl or a good-forthe-soul bacon and egg roll.

Sit beneath the open skies, breathe in the salty sea air, and if you're up for it, play an impromptu game of beach volleyball.



Morning: Explore the Encounter Bikeway With breakfast done, it's time for a scenic adventure along the <u>Encounter Bikeway</u>. Head to Spinway to rent a bike and set off along this stunning 30-kilometre trail that hugs the coast and connects Victor Harbor with the charming seaside towns of Port Elliot, Middleton, and Goolwa. The path weaves through a mix of coastal views and historic landmarks, inviting you to pause at freestanding lookouts and take in panoramic views of the Southern Ocean. Capture the beauty through your lens - with landscapes like this, every angle is picture-perfect. Don't forget to tag @VisitVictorHarbor on Instagram or Facebook!

The sea breezes and coastal beauty will leave you feeling invigorated, grounded, and inspired.

Lunch: Whalers Seaside Dining

After your morning of cycling and sightseeing, make your way back to Encounter Bay and settle in for lunch at <u>Whalers Seaside Dining</u>.

This popular eatery, perched on the water's edge at Encounter Bay, sits near the historic <u>Whaler's Well</u> that celebrates art and culture with striking Corten steel sculptures, also created by Matt Turley. His works - depicting a whale, whalers, and a try pot - pay tribute to Victor Harbor's rich history and early European settlement, seamlessly blending storytelling with craftsmanship.







DAY THREE CONTINUED

Afternoon: Choose your adventure

After an energising morning on the bikeway and a leisurely lunch by the sea, it's time to dial up the excitement. Test your skills or rev your engine, the choice is yours – so pick your path and get ready for an unforgettable adventure.

Axe Throwing & Escape Rooms at Chop It

Release your inner lumberjack with a fun-filled old-meets-new axe-throwing session, at South Australia's top-rated activity (over 800 positive Google reviews and counting). Owner and local legend, Baz, is a keen supporter of local artists and craftspeople, so don't forget to check out the unique wall displays while you're there.

<u>Quad Biking at Waitpinga Farm</u>

Take a guided quad bike tour across 400 acres of rolling farmland, with breathtaking ocean views and possible sightings of native wildlife. No experience necessary – just a thirst for adventure!







Dinner and live music

As the day winds down, immerse yourself in the laid-back ambiance of Victor Harbor's local pub scene. Choose from four beloved watering holes – the <u>Victor</u>, the <u>Crown</u>, the <u>Grosvenor</u> or the <u>Anchorage</u> – each offering its own take on a classic pub meal, from hearty schnitzels to locally sourced seafood. Grab a frothy, settle into a comfy seat and soak up the talents of the live music.

Live music adds another layer of magic, with local artists serenading you under the coastal skies. Mellow rhythms and soulful melodies fuse seamlessly with the ocean views, turning your evening into a magical blend of good food, fresh sea breezes and rhythmic creativity.

If you're craving a slower pace and a charming piece of Victor Harbor history, step back in time at the <u>Victa Cinema</u>. With its stunning art deco architecture, this iconic heritage-listed cinema offers a memorable cinematic experience. The building's vintage design, complete with intricate detailing and mid-century vibes, transports you to a bygone era.



DAY FOUR

Morning: Sunrise at Kings Beach

Begin your final day with a sunrise walk at Kings Beach, where rugged cliffs meet the wild expanse of the Indian Ocean. As the first rays of dawn paint the sky in hues of pink, gold, and amber, breathe in the crisp coastal air and let the grounded calm of early morning wash over you. Feel the soft sand underfoot as you wander along the shoreline, taking time to savour the hush before the world fully wakes.

Breakfast: Nino's

After your sunrise escape, warm up at <u>Nino's</u>, a Victor Harbor institution established in 1974. Known for its crowd-pleasing menus, it's the perfect spot to enjoy a hearty big breakfast while admiring <u>Phosphorescence</u>, a striking sculpture by artist Marijana Tadic.

Made from colored plexiglass and stainless steel, the artwork dazzles by day and transforms at night with computerised lighting, evoking the luminescent glow of jellyfish and other sea creatures.





Mid-morning: Shopping and souvenirs

Before heading home, take some time to wander through Victor Harbor's charming boutiques. Stop by <u>Raw Bulk Wholefoods</u> for road trip snacks or gifts (don't miss the green juice and chili cashews), then visit <u>Charlie & Jack</u> for South Australia's most beautifully curated selection of houseplants, artisan pottery and homewares, capturing the essence of coastal living.



Lunch: Swagman Country Dining experience On your way out of Victor, stop for a lunch of native-inspired cuisine at the Swagman Country Dining, located at Softfoot Farm.

Here, every dish tells a story, with ingredients like kangaroo, wattleseed, and finger lime coming together in deliciously inventive ways. Enjoy ethically sourced meals roasted over red gum timber while taking in the stunning valley views.

This 600-acre farm also offers opportunity to get up close and personal with a herd of friendly alpacas, to learn about the farm's nature conservation projects and to explore their unique museum of Australian studio pottery.

DAY FOUR CONTINUED

Afternoon: A scenic drive home

As a scenic farewell, discover the self-guided <u>Whale Art Trail</u> starting off at Kleinigs Hill Lookout along Hindmarsh Road. Whether you're exploring the full trail or just making a quick stop on the way home, Kleinigs Hill isn't just about the views - it's an open-air tribute to culture, storytelling, and reconciliation.

Meet <u>Kondoli the Whale</u>, a striking public artwork that embodies the deep connection between the Ramindjeri and Ngarrindjeri people of Victor Harbor. Created in the late '90s, this powerful piece was brought to life by lead artist Lyn Walsh and a team of Indigenous artists, weaving traditional stories into a modern landmark.

As Victor Harbor fades into the distance, you'll feel its gentle call – a whisper of wild beauty, creative energy, and memories that linger long after you leave.



Hunting for more inspiration?

Wander over to <u>Visit Victor Harbor</u> for a diverse mix of local secrets, spirited itineraries, our <u>blog</u> <u>posts</u> and everything else you need to plan your next coastal escape.





Victor Harbor Visitor Centre 1800 557 094 visitorcentre@victor.sa.gov.au <u>www.visitvictorharbor.com</u> 2 Railway Terrace, Victor Harbor, South Australia Open 10am - 4pm every day except Christmas Day



TRIP PLANNING

Time your travel to catch Victor Harbor's creative pulse

From the wild imaginations of local makers to the spirited passion of seasoned artists, Victor Harbor's creative scene is on full display at three unmissable events:

- <u>Victor Harbor Artisan Market</u>: Held on select Sundays throughout the year, this eclectic market brings together handthrown ceramics, hand-crafted jewellery and more – each piece reflecting the welcoming warmth of this coastal community.
- <u>Annual Victor Harbor Art Show:</u> Renowned as Australia's largest outdoor exhibition, every January Warland Reserve provides a breathtaking backdrop for works that capture both local charm and celebrated innovation.
- <u>The Winter Whale Fest</u>: A month-long Festival throughout June celebrating the arrival of the Southern Right Whales on the Fleurieu Peninsula. Immerse yourself in the magic of the marine world firsthand, and participate in a range of educational and cultural experiences.



Best coffees in town

Missing your local coffee spot? There are plenty of java joints that capture the essence of Victor Harbor – one cup at a time. Here are just a few:

- <u>Qahwa:</u> House-roasted brews by the water and a laid-back, beachy vibe - don't miss their velvety flat white.
- <u>Raw Bulk Foods</u>: Sustainably sourced beans and wholesome treats served in an eclectic, health-focused setting.
- <u>Nino's:</u> A local institution that's been pouring love since 1974, and the best spot for an odd-hours coffee.
- <u>Planted:</u> A grounded haven, offering artisan brews to the town's co-workers.

Bringing the kids?

This itinerary is designed for a child-free escape, but why not mix in some fun activities at these kid-friendly spots:

- <u>South Australian Whale Centre</u>: Families can discover the wonders of the deep, explore the heritage-listed railway building, and learn more about Victor Harbor's marine treasures. And for those with an artistic eye, the stunning whale mural on the wooden floor is sure to captivate.
- <u>Chop It Axe Throwing</u>: Chop It Axe Throwing offers a family-friendly experience with rubber axes for kids, making it perfect for a fun family throw-off. Plus, Escape It, located on-site, will challenge the whole family to work together in a thrilling and interactive environment.

