

**MAKE THE  
MOST OF  
YOUR STAY**

# WELCOME TO THE OTWAYS

Thankyou for choosing to stay with Otway Retreats. We hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing time here. Unpack your bags and stay a while.

Otway Retreats manage holiday homes on behalf of property owners. We aim to offer a diverse range of accommodation from romantic escapes, family getaways, glamping experiences or pure indulgence and luxury. Our bespoke approach to holiday management means that we aim to provide you with the upmost care during your stay with us.

Life is an adventure in Apollo Bay with protected bays to swim, endless Great Otway National Park trails to blaze and a hearty meal of local food and wine waiting for you upon return. Base your Great Ocean Road holiday in Apollo Bay and explore nature's big backyard.

This guide has been compiled to assist you with information relating to your stay and also provide you with some of our local recommendations on places to see and explore in the region.

If you require any assistance during your stay, please contact us on 0437 375 774 or (03) 5237 7101 or email [hello@otwayretreats.com.au](mailto:hello@otwayretreats.com.au)



OTWAY RETREATS

## WHAT'S IN YOUR AREA



### **WELCOME TO THE OTWAYS FROM OTWAY RETREATS**

#### **APOLLO BAY**

Apollo Bay is where the action is if you are after a stroll down the main street to enjoy boutique shops, cafes and restaurants.

The foreshore leads onto the main beach which is relatively safe for children to swim, especially if you head to the boat harbour and play in the sandy part where it is protected from the waves.

Apollo Bay beach is relatively safe for children, especially in the sandy part of the harbour

There is also the iconic Great Ocean Walk for those who are up for it! This starts at Apollo Bay and is designed as a step on, step off walk so you can do different sections. It's ideal if you have two cars and can manage a car shuffle; leaving one car at the finish point. (Remember to check tide times for the sections that include beach walking). The trail head of the walk is located in the carpark right next to the "information centre" which is also worth a visit if you want information on local tours and brochures on things to do.

#### **MARENGO**

Marengo is about a 2 minute car trip from Apollo Bay and offers a beachy relaxed setting and is the ideal family holiday destination. The Marengo nature reserve is located on Ferrier

Drive, Marengo and offers a place to see a diverse range of local flora and fauna. The best place for swimming is the main Marengo beach which kids usually enjoy exploring due to the many rock pools. The waves here are usually relatively small and if you look out to sea you can see the seal colony sitting on the rocks.

#### **SKENES CREEK**

Skenes Creek is located about a 5-8 minute drive from Apollo Bay and offers a place which is more suited to surfing depending on the swell, the waves can get bigger here so children should make sure they are supervised in the water or swim in the gentle waters of Skenes Creek which runs along the beach into the ocean.

During May-October we often get many whale sightings in and around Skenes Creek between the Skenes Creek beach and back to Marengo so keep an eye out when you are driving to and from town along the coast as they are frequently spotted!

#### **FORREST**

Located around 40 minutes from Apollo Bay. Forrest is a much loved little town famous for its world class mountain biking, hiking, fishing, wildlife watching, beer, food, wine and pure relaxation – the list of things to do in Forrest is long. Head to the Forrest Brewery, enjoy walking the old Tiger rail trail, hire a mountain bike or visit the nearby Stephensons Falls.

## CAFES & RESTAURANTS.

We have put together a list of some of our favorite places to dine in the area, whether you are looking for a cafe and great local coffee, the freshest local produce & seafood or a cosy warm fireplace to enjoy a wine, take advantage of our local knowledge on some of the best places to eat & drink.



### HELLO COFFEE - APOLLO BAY.

Located in the industrial estate (Oak Avenue, Apollo Bay) Hello Coffee offers award winning coffee roasted in house, you can purchase their coffee beans in store. They also provide good quality well priced meals, snacks and cakes. Open breakfast and lunch.

### BAY LEAF CAFE - APOLLO BAY.

Located on Apollo Bay's main street with outdoor seating, Bay Leaf offers quality meals, good coffee and a nice atmosphere.

### RAWR BAR - APOLLO BAY.

Located in the main street Rawr Bar specialises in delicious raw & vegan food, its ideal if you fancy a juice or smoothie. The "Rawr Bar" also offer range of snacks, meals, salads, golden lattes, medicinal mushroom lattes, raw desserts and juices.

### LA BIMBA - APOLLO BAY.

Located above the bakery on the main street "La Bimba" produce high quality fresh food showcasing some of the local produce grown and harvested in the region. The views from the dining room over the water are stunning. They have a good wine list and everything on the menu is delicious, especially the fish!



### THE BREWHOUSE - APOLLO BAY.

If you want something casual the "brewhouse" offers a selection of craft beers, good quality pub food, a beer garden, warm fireplace and local music on the weekends. This is the pub most of the locals go to.



### CASALINGO - APOLLO BAY.

For delicious Italian "Casalingo" is the go to place with authentic Italian food and a nice dining room.

### THE BAKERY - APOLLO BAY.

The Apollo bay bakery on the main street is famed for its "scallop pies" they do a good range of pastries, breads, delicious cakes and coffee.

### CHRIS' - SKENES CREEK.

Overlooking Bass Strait on Skenes Creek Road, set high in the Otways above the Great Ocean Road, Chris's Beacon Point Restaurant and Villas has become a Mecca for gourmet travellers. His personal approach to hospitality has made him one of the best-loved characters in the region and his passion for the food of Southern Europe combined with the freshest and purest produce has made his cuisine world famous.



### **BRAE - BIRREGURRA.**

Set on a hillside on a 30 acre organic farm, Brae is a contemporary restaurant that has won an endless amount of awards and chef's hats due to the quality of the food here. If you are after fine dining, this is the place to visit. Since its beginning, in December 2013, Brae farm has been managed using regenerative farming techniques to restore the land. Organic principles are employed to produce seasonal vegetables, stone fruits, citrus, nuts, berries and olives for organic extra virgin oil from an established grove of more than 100 trees. An ever-changing set menu utilises produce from Brae's own vegetable plots and fruit orchards. Located in Birregurra, meals are by degustation set menu and are \$220 per person plus \$125 for matched wines.

### **BESPOKE HARVEST - FORREST.**

Bespoke Harvest is open for lunch Thursday to Monday, and dinner on Friday & Saturday night. The menu features fresh seasonal produce sourced from our garden and local farms. Start with our own fresh baked bread and local olive oil, choose from a selection of starters to share with friends, and explore our unique local harvest menu. Local beer & wine offerings complete the dining experience.

### **THE LIGHTSTATION - CAPE OTWAY.**

Housed in the original Assistant Lightkeepers Residence (1858) the Cape Otway Lightstation is great for a tasty lunch, morning or afternoon tea. Enjoy freshly baked scones with a pot of tea or coffee while taking in the views of the Light and Bass Strait. Cape Otway Lightstation is the oldest surviving lighthouse on mainland Australia.



### **FORREST BREWING CO. - FORREST.**

Forrest Brewing Co. is a small sibling owned microbrewery combined with a relaxed dining hall. Equal parts microbrewery, eating place and mountain biking hang-out. This five-year old business has established a reputation for good food and great beer in the tiny Otways village – Forrest

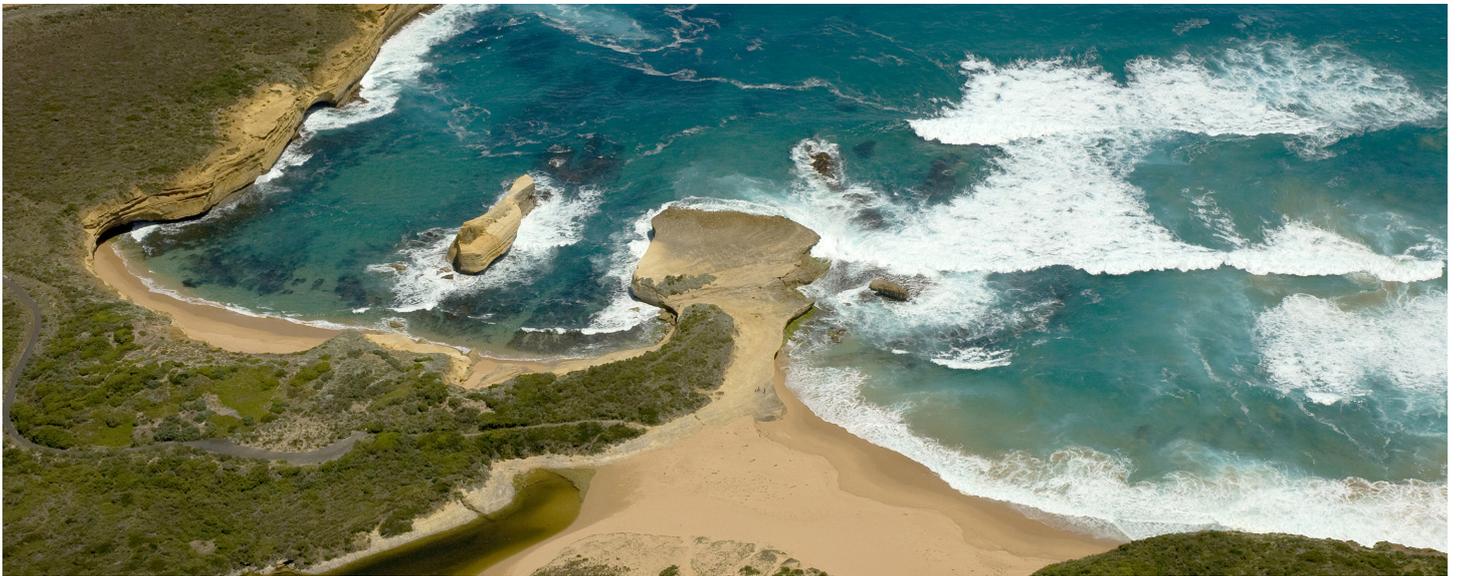


### **FISHERMANS CO-OP - APOLLO BAY.**

Situated overlooking the Apollo Bay Harbour, the Apollo Bay Fishermens Coop is the best place in town for fish & chips and a stunning array of locally caught seafood including flake and crayfish.

### **PLATYPI CHOCOLATE - FORREST.**

Platypi Chocolate is another great reason to visit Forrest. Their range is playful, locally connected, with a touch of luxury and decadence. Try a hot chocolate, a fabulous coffee, tasty lunch or jump straight to the delicious desserts and chocolates, all hand made on site. Sit amongst the trees and birdlife and spoil yourself a little!



## **NATURAL ATTRACTIONS.**

### **MARRINERS LOOKOUT - APOLLO BAY.**

Located in Apollo Bay, Marriners lookout is a located along a short but fairly steep gravel track. Views can be enjoyed from just driving up Marriners Lookout Road however if time permits a walk to the lookout will not disappoint. Enjoy spectacular expansive views overlooking Apollo Bay, Marengo and east to Cape Patton. This is a beautiful spot for a picnic. It is also a popular location for paragliders to take off if the conditions are right.

### **LAKE ELIZABETH - FORREST.**

Located just a 10-minute drive from Forrest, Lake Elizabeth is a jewel of the Otways. The lake, its tranquil surroundings and picturesque walking tracks and hiking trails should be near the top of every visitor's list of things to do in Forrest. If you're up for a day-long adventure, you can walk or bike to Lake Elizabeth from Forrest's township. Lake Elizabeth really is an idyllic Otways rainforest experience not to be missed.

### **HOPETOUN FALLS - BEECH FORREST.**

Located in Beech Forrest, soak up the spray as the Hopetoun Falls plummet 30 metres into the Aire River in the Great Otway National Park. Take in the view from the upper platform, or descend some 200 stairs leading through glades of tree ferns to the base of the falls. The platform here has a bench perfect for taking in the views and resting the knees

### **TRIPLET FALLS - BEACH FORREST.**

Located in Beech Forrest, the Triplet Falls is one of the iconic visitor sites in the Great Otway National Park. Nestled amongst the ancient forests of Mountain Ash and Myrtle Beech, you will discover three distinct and impressive cascades flowing through shady rainforests and glades of mossy tree ferns. This beautiful area is set in the ancient forest and provides views into the lower cascades and the majestic main falls. A small picnic area is also available for visitors to relax and enjoy the beautiful surrounds.

### **THE REDWOODS - BEECH FORREST.**

Located along the Aire Valley Road in Beech Forrest, this picnic area is a delightful place to stop and enjoy a picnic or just a short stroll into the forest. The Californian Redwood forest (Sequoia trees), were planted alongside the river in 1939. This unique forest is enchanting and is an experience that you will not forget. There are two picnic tables located out in the open near the forest and pit toilets are also available nearby.

### **WHALE WATCHING - ENTIRE COAST.**

Whales can be sighted between June and October all along the Great Ocean Road including Lorne, Wye River, Apollo Bay, Marengo, Portland and Warnambool. Come within 100 metres of these beautiful mammals as they swim close to the shore and can be seen from a the road and most beaches.



### **THE APOSTLES - PORT CAMPBELL.**

The iconic golden cliffs and crumbling pillars of the Twelve Apostles can be found 7km east of Port Campbell. They are protected by the Twelve Apostles Marine National Park which covers 7500ha and runs along 17km of stunning coastline. As well as the above water beauty the park protects some of Victoria's most dramatic underwater scenery. Spectacular arches, canyons, fissures, gutters and deep sloping reefs make up the environment below the waves. A helicopter is the ideal way to view this icon and can be arranged from Apollo Bay Airport (Telford street).

### **GREAT OCEAN WALK - APOLLO BAY.**

The Great Ocean Walk is Victoria's premier long distance walk, hugging the dramatic coastline between Apollo Bay and the landmark Twelve Apostles near the Great Ocean Road stretching over 100km. It offers a great variety of contrasting habitats, historical interest points, wildlife and beautiful remote beaches to explore. It starts in Apollo Bay so if you feel like a nice walk it's a great track to walk along.

### **MELBA GULLY - LAVERS HILL.**

Known as the Jewel of the Otways, Melba Gully is one of the wettest places in the state. The gully has prolific plant growth and is a dense rainforest of Myrtle Beech, Blackwood and Tree-ferns, with an understorey of low ferns and mosses.

Perhaps the most unusual inhabitants of the area are the glow worms, which can be seen at night along the walking tracks.

### **MAITS REST - MARENGO.**

A spectacular rainforest boardwalk for all groups. Located very close to the Great Ocean Road, west of Apollo Bay this walk is enjoyed by many and children marvel at the size of the trees especially the magnificent 300 year old National Trust registered Myrtle Beech tree. Keep a look out for the Black Otways Carnivorous Snail which is found here. At night you can visit this location with a torch to view the glow worms – nature's own fairyland!

### **PARADISE PICNIC - APOLLO BAY.**

Known by the locals as "Paradise Picnic Area" due to the natural beauty of the location. Drive down Barham River Road and around half way along you will find the picnic area. Cross the road to sit beneath the huge tree ferns and enjoy the serenity at the banks of the river.

### **MARRINERS LOOKOUT - APOLLO BAY.**

Marriners Lookout is a short drive or a long walk to the northern outskirts of Apollo Bay up Marriners Lookout Rd. It is about a 10 minute easy walk from the lookout carpark to a spectacular ocean, beach and town outlook. For those wanting a fairly strenuous workout, walk about 1.5 kms north from Apollo Bay along the beach or Great Ocean Road, then climb a steep hill along a surfaced road for another 1.5 km to the lookout track. This is also a popular take-off point for hang gliders, so you may have the added bonus of witnessing a launch.

## ADVENTURES & TOURS.

### MOUNTAIN BIKING - FORREST.

In the hills surrounding Forrest is a selection of challenging Mountain Bike Trails. The tracks were generally the remnants of redundant narrow gauge rail tracks used to transport timber, the tracks have been transformed to one of Victoria's favorite mountain bike destinations which showcase the natural abundance and beauty of the Otways.



### PLANET MUD - YEODENE

Offering a range of exciting and exhilarating activities to enjoy such as Paintball, Globberiding/ Zorbing and Segway®. Planet Mud Outdoor Adventures provide a high quality outdoor experience with the friendliest highly trained staff and the promise of a quality and fun experience to remember.

### SURF & KAYAK - APOLLO BAY.

Apollo Bay Surf & Kayak provide Surf Lessons and surf hire, Kayaking to the Seals and kayak hire, SUP (stand up paddle board) lessons and hire, Snorkelling hire, Body Board & Mountain Bike Hire. They also run 4 day surf programs for children aged 5-12 over summer.

### OTWAY HARVEST TRAIL - OTWAYS.

As if the Otways aren't feast enough for the senses, the Otway Harvest Trail indulges foodie whims with fine local produce and wining and dining options. Follow the trail to discover the best fresh produce at farm gates and provedores, wineries and breweries. Enjoy meals and views along the trail or stock up on local riches to take back home.



### OTWAY FLY - WEEAPROINAH.

Otway Fly Treetop Adventures takes your rainforest experience to new heights in the lush surrounds of the magnificent Otway Ranges. Whether you're soaking up the breath-taking birds-eye view of the rainforest on the Treetop Walk or soaring through the leafy treetops on the awe-inspiring Zipline Tour, there's something for the whole family to enjoy. Located in Weeaprounah along Phillips Track.

### E-BIKE TOURS - BEECH FORREST.

Otway e bikes is a fantastic genuine Eco-Tourism operator located in Beech Forrest, offering couples, families and small groups guided e-bike tours, where guests ride electric-power assisted bicycles on the magnificent 'Old Beechy Rail Trail' from Beech Forest. There is no licence required, very comfortable and easy to ride offering cycling without the huff and puff. Travel leisurely and effortlessly through natural regenerating rainforest and take in stunning 360 degree views along the glorious Otway ridgeline on the purpose built trail. There are e-bikes for kids and trailers for toddlers so the whole family can engage





### **LIVEWIRE PARK - LORNE.**

Visit Australia's most electrifying adventure park. Unplug, recharge and set your senses alight with the beauty of the Great Ocean Road whilst zip lining, roller coasting, climbing, exploring and wandering through this world class adventure experience. Home to the Shockwave Zip Coaster, epic ropes courses and the treetop canopy circuit; experience nature supercharged.

### **APOLLO BAY AVIATION - MARENGO.**

Apollo Bay Aviation is a well established scenic flight and charter company based at Apollo Bay, Victoria (Marengo) on the Great Ocean Road. Apollo Bay Aviation offers you the chance to experience one of Australia's most famous scenic flights to the world famous 12 Apostles via the Shipwreck Coast and Otway Rainforest, by your choice of either helicopter or aeroplane. Drive the iconic Great Ocean Road to Apollo Bay and fly the rest with Apollo Bay Aviation.

Other destinations such as King Island and Tasmania are also available

### **HORSE RIDING - CAPE OTWAY.**

Bimbi Park Camping & Caravan Park on Cape Otway serves as a unique horse riding venue. Trail rides include some stupendous Otway scenery with rides on wild untouched beaches, along coastal cliff tops, through stunning bushland and to spectacular river lookouts. Rides are affordable and suitable for all age groups and levels of skill. Available over Victorian School Holidays and other peak times. Bookings essential.

### **TREES ADVENTURE - YEODENE.**

Come and experience breathtaking flying foxes and navigate your way through the native bushlands of the Otways! Comprising 23 Flying Foxes and over 80 Challenges, there are easy courses for those scared of heights to courses for the extreme thrill seeker! Suitable for age 4yrs+, there's something for the whole family to enjoy. Equipment and safety training are provided before you take off on a self-guided experience through the trees.

### **MINI GOLF/CLIMBING - CAPE OTWAY.**

Climb Bimbi Park's state of the art Rock Climbing Tower. It has 4 auto-Belay systems, a timer on each climbing station and cameras mounted on the top that take pictures of climbers. Suitable for all ages and skill levels. Or enjoy the 18-Hole Mini Golf course. Available over school holidays and other peak times.



### **FISHING CHARTERS- APOLLO BAY.**

Apollo Bay Fishing & Adventure Tours offer fishing and scenic adventures for the whole family. With their exciting inshore fishing excursions you can have the chance to catch flat head, snapper, sharks and even tuna. All tours and relaxing cruises depart from Apollo Bay. Whether you are on your own or in a group – all are welcome, no experience necessary. Large safe vessel with all amenities. Keep your catch and all gear supplied.



## **PLACES TO VISIT.**

### **TARNDIE WOOL SHOP- WARNCOORT.**

Visit Tarndie Heritage Sheep Farm in Woorncourt and discover a long Australian story all to do with sheep. Uncover bespoke yarns in the Woolshop – naturally coloured and hand-dyed yarns made with 100% Polwarth wool grown on the farm, relax over a great coffee in the Courtyard, or in the newly refurbished Studio Café or take a self-guided ramble around the Farm Walk and see how a working sheep farm operates, and find glimpses into the Homestead's past.

### **THE LIGHTSTATION - CAPE OTWAY.**

Built in 1848, the lighthouse is located in Cape Otway and is perched on towering sea cliffs where Bass Strait and the Southern Ocean collide. Climb to the observation deck at the top of the lighthouse to enjoy breathtaking views of the dramatic coast and waters. Surrounded by the rich habitats and abundant wildlife of the Great Otway National Park, spend a whole day exploring the Whale Interpretive site, the Indigenous Cultural Centre, our historic Telegraph Station and a secret World War Two Radar Bunker.

### **OTWAY HERBS - APOLLO BAY.**

Offering an array of herbs and stunning plants, Otway Herbs is a nursery located on top of the Wild Dog Valley (wild dog road) and is a great place to go and stock up on plants whilst you are in the area.

### **KARMIC GOAT SOAPS - APOLLO BAY.**

Karmic Goat Soapworks is nestled in the Wild Dog valley in Apollo Bay (wild dog road), fringed by rainforest and traversed by the pure waters of the Wild Dog Creek, which feeds from virgin rainforest sources. Their products are unique, original and distinctive and are of uncompromising quality. Visit the farm shop to view the range of fresh goat's milk soaps manufactured by hand on the farm, with a variety of Essential oil and Fragranced types to select from.

### **RED ROCK GALLERY - CORROROKE.**

The Gallery exhibits the work of local and Victorian artists and is based in Corrorooke. The Gallery reflects the charm of its rural location, whilst preserving this historic space for artwork display. The Gallery provides diverse exhibitions of artwork and aims to develop supportive and professional networks within and beyond the region. It is staffed and managed by local artists and community members to provide opportunities for established, new and emerging artists to exhibit their work in a supportive, professional environment.

### **GORGE - COORIEMUNGLE**

GORGE Chocolates was established in 2004 in the countryside just minutes from the 12 Apostles. GORGE Chocolates create delectable treats using Belgian chocolate, with over 40 different products they have something for everyone. Visit their shop to view the range of delicious products for sale.



### **APOSTLE CHEESE - COORIEMUNGLE.**

Just a short drive from the Twelve Apostles and the Great Ocean Road, Apostle Whey Cheese is a genuine paddock to plate operation. Apostle Whey Cheese offers visitors a unique experience whereby they can see all aspects of the operation – from the cows being milked at 4pm each day right through to the cheeses being hand made. Free cheese tastings are available every day of the year (except Christmas Day) with onsite sales and refreshments available while you enjoy the view over the farm.

### **MOORABOOLCHOCOLATE-BATESFORD.**

Just a short drive from Geelong, Moorabool Valley Chocolate houses a stunning tea room and chocolaterie. Relax in the dining room or the courtyard with a coffee and cake whilst enjoying the panoramic views overlooking the farm paddocks and grazing horses. The chocolates are carefully handmade onsite in the farmhouse kitchen.

### **BELLBRAE ESTATE - BELLBRAE**

Bellbrae Estate, the only vineyard on the stunning Great Ocean Road, is five minutes from the famous Bells Beach. Enjoy the wines, share a cheese platter, have coffee and browse a selection of local gourmet foods in a relaxed and beautiful setting. Family friendly, wheelchair accessible and with plenty of space for the kids to roam they cater for everyone; including wine tasting groups and wine functions.

### **BIRREGURRA ESTATE - BIRREGURRA.**

Nestled in historic Birregurra in Victoria's western district, Birregurra Estate Olives has over four and a half thousand olive trees. They grow a range of olives including Kalamata, Mini-Kalamata, Halkidikis, as well as delicious Cold Pressed Extra Virgin Olive Oil and Tapenades. Stop by to sample and purchase their stunning local produce

### **OTWAY ESTATE - BARONGAROOK**

Situated in the Otway Ranges only 10 minutes from Colac, Otway Estate offers something for everyone. Home to Prickly Moses Handcrafted Beer and Forbidden Fruit Ciders, as well as the Estates own range of wines, you are sure to find a favourite beverage during your visit. Offering a function centre is perfect for all sized events as well as spa accommodation. A great place to stop for lunch whilst you enjoy the local produce, wines and beers.

### **TASTE OF THE REGION - APOLLO BAY.**

Tastes of the Region is located behind the Brewhouse in McLaren Parade. Here they offer beer and wine tastings, along with a fantastic selection of local produce. Enjoy a paddle of 5 local Prickly Moses handcrafted beers or a tasting of 4 wines from the region. They offer a choice of three delicious produce platters. Talk to the knowledgeable staff about the beer making process, and browse from a selection of over 100 local, Australian and International craft beers.



### **FORREST BREWING - FORREST.**

The Forrest Brewing Company is located in Forrest and is a small scale brew-pub offering stunning craft beers and local produce. A great place to stop by and have a meal after exploring all that Forrest has to offer. The meals here are high quality and the beers are also hard to beat. A relaxed environment with indoor and outdoor seating.

### **GOSLING CREEK - MURROON.**

Located between Forrest and Deans Marsh, Gosling Creek flows from the Great Otway National Park through fern gullies and picturesque rolling countryside to the Barwon River. The vineyard is located on the northern slopes, where the maritime influences of Bass Strait make an ideal location for cooler climate grapes. Free BBQ and picnic facilities. Family and pet friendly. Free live and local music sessions on Sunday afternoons. Stop by and enjoy the wines on offer at the cellar door.

### **PENNYROYAL FARM - PENNYROYAL**

Pennyroyal Raspberry Farm is the oldest working berry farm in the south west of Victoria, within easy access of the famous Great Ocean Road. During the summer season, they have a full range of raspberries, cultivated blackberries and many other varieties available for “pick-your-own”, and the teahouse offers seasonally inspired lunches and snacks which you can complement with a glass of their award winning Crucible Cider, Perry or Berry Gins.

### **QDOS ARTS - LORNE.**

Qdos Arts is the epicentre of the vibrant arts scene in Lorne. What began as a studio, then a gallery, cafe and sculpture park to celebrate the visual, performing and gourmet arts has grown into a complete respite for creative souls with master classes. There is a cafe onsite.

### **GOR CHOC & ICE CREAM - BELLBRAE.**

Set on 15 acres of landscaped grounds, just over an hour from Melbourne, ten minutes from Torquay on the Great Ocean Road between Torquay and Anglesea, visitors to the stunning Chocolaterie have the chance to immerse themselves in a chocolate experience like no other. Free entry, open 9:00am – 5:00pm everyday (except Christmas Day). Free chocolate and ice cream tastings. Watch the art of chocolate making – from hand crafting to hand packing – and say hello to European Chocolatiers.



# THANK YOU FOR STAYING



**OTWAY RETREATS**

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