

Tourist Drive 50

Murray Mouth and Coast Tourist Drive

The trip is about 73km. With time to enjoy the scenery, possibly a stroll along a beach or through a heritage area, allow yourself 3 hours. Petrol is available in Middleton, Goolwa and Victor Harbor.

Start your journey at the Goolwa Wharf, follow the brown Tourist Drive 50 signs. Goolwa wharf was once the centre of a thriving river and railway trade, transporting goods from River Murray towns by paddle steamer to Goolwa and then on to Port Elliot by train.



Drive up Porter Street, turn left into Hays Street and left onto Oliver Street. Left turn onto Barrage Road to Bristow Smith Avenue. Barrage Road offers beautiful river views. The parks along this road are ideal for picnics, with bird hides beside the river offering bird watching opportunities.

Alternatively continue along Barrage Road to reach the Goolwa Barrage. Pelicans and many other water birds are often found feeding and preening themselves in this area. You can walk out to the lock in the Barrage and view New Zealand Fur Seals.

Follow Bristow Smith Avenue to Beach Road and turn right.

Alternatively turn left at the end of Bristow Smith Avenue and travel 250m to Goolwa Beach and the boardwalk. Goolwa Beach is popular for surfing and cockling. The boardwalk offers panoramic river and coastal views.

Follow Beach Road to the roundabout, turn left onto Victor Harbor-Goolwa Road. Travel about 3km and turn left onto Boetcher Road. From the end of this road you'll be greeted with stunning coastal views of Encounter Bay, Middleton Beach and Basham's Beach popular for surfing, walks and observing Southern Right Whales (June-October).

Drive along Surfers Parade, turn right into Chapman Road, left onto Victor - Goolwa Road and drive through Middleton. On reaching Port Elliot, turn left into Strangways Terrace, travel to the end and turn right into The Strand, which is lined with historic buildings. Note the tiny Council chambers built in 1879.

Alternatively follow the signs to Horseshoe Bay – a very popular beach. Or turn left at the far end of Strangways Terrace and take in the spectacular views of Horseshoe Bay and the coastline.

At the end of The Strand turn left onto the Main Road, travelling about 3km to the Victor Harbor roundabout. Turn right and travel about 9km through hilly countryside. Turn right into Crows Nest Road, follow it through bushland and tree studded farmland, to the Flinders/Baudin lookout for views of the coast, Murray Mouth, Middleton, Goolwa, Hindmarsh Island and River Murray.

At the bottom of the hill turn left and follow Waterport Road back to Goolwa-Victor Harbor Road, driving back through Middleton, turn left onto Flagstaff Hill Road and at the very end-turn right and travel back to Goolwa.

Drive along Goolwa's main street and follow signs to Hindmarsh Island. Over the bridge, travel about 1km and turn left onto Captain Sturt Parade along the Murray's shores. Turn right into Monument Road, left into Randell Road, taking time to view the monument in memory of Captains Barker and Sturt who travelled down the Murray to its mouth. Drive for about 3km, turn right following the signs to the Murray Mouth. From Sugars Beach you can see the mouth of the River Murray, where the river meets the sea. This is the end of your journey. (Randell Road will take you back over the bridge to Goolwa).