



• Otways Heart of the Great Ocean Road •

Kennett River Koala Walk

*Koala Spotting along
the Grey River Road.
A 45 Minute drive/walk.*

Otway Trails

Look for the other Trail Notes in the series. Copies of these notes are downloadable from the following websites: www.visitotways.com
www.visitapollobay.com
www.otwaycoast.com

Look for the Otways trails symbol:



When walking in the Otways make sure you follow these simple tips:

Sudden and extreme weather changes are common in the Otways, so carry practical all-weather clothing and remember that your mobile phone may be out of range. Always carry water, food, matches and a torch in case of emergency. Take note of signs and landmarks. Advise someone of your intended location and estimated time of return.

Respect the environment and stay on marked paths. Do not damage vegetation or disturb wildlife. All native animals and plants are protected. No fires, including barbecues, can be lit on a day of total fire ban.

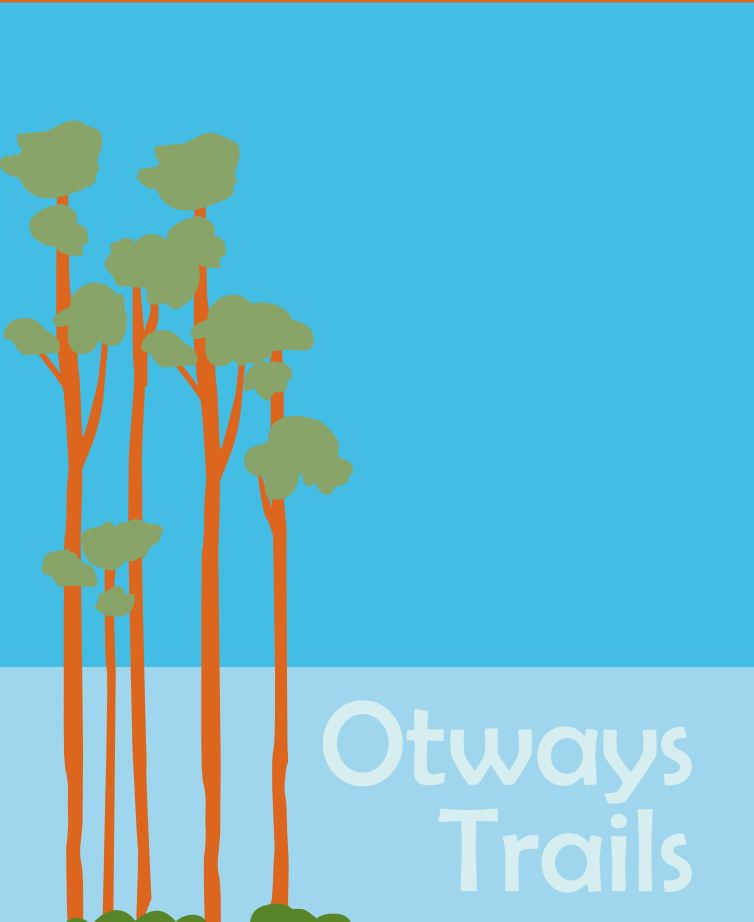


Great Ocean Road Visitor Information Centre

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Kennett River Koala Walk

*Koala Spotting along
the Grey River Road.
A 45 minute drive/walk*

Relax and enjoy the peace and beauty of the Angahook State Park as you wind your way along the Grey River Road through koala popular gum forest and into the dense Otway Rainforest.

Many of the minor (unsealed) roads through the tall forest of the Otway Ranges provide an enjoyable detour from the Great Ocean Road. These roads are not built for speed or comfort and are not suitable for driving in wet weather, when they may become wet and slippery. However, the roads will take you into the heart of this region's natural beauty.

It is a good idea to take binoculars with you. Journey along the Great Ocean Road to the small hamlet of Kennett River. Turn into the Grey River Road, not far from the Café and Camping Ground.

Between one and two kilometres along the road, pull over and walk up or down hill, spotting the koalas in the gum trees. If you are lucky you may spot some at lower levels and in the spring, mother's with their babies.

If you continue along the road for approximately 6km. You will notice how the forest becomes taller and the undergrowth much denser. Prominent in these wet forests in the south are tall Blue Gum, Mountain Ash, Messmate, Manna gum and Mountain Grey Gums. The dense understorey includes Blackwood Wattle, Kangaroo Fern and Rough Tree fern.

At the Grey River Reserve, you will cross a small bridge into a beautiful clearing surrounded by splendid tall tree specimens. Here is a barbecue, toilet facilities, an information board to help you identify the vegetation and a 30 minute forest walk.

You may return to the Great Ocean Road the way you came or continue on to join the Benwerrin /Mt Sabine Road (best in dry weather and 4WD).



Koala Facts

They are basically solitary animals, living within a favoured area or home range normally less than 3 hectares in size.

Koalas communicate with one another by marking trees with scent or through calls such as bellows, snarls and screams.

Male Koalas live for about ten years, with females surviving for up to five years longer.

Adult Koalas can weigh between 4 and 14 kilograms depending on their sex and where they are from. Males are up to 50% heavier than females.

PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB KOALAS IN THEIR NATIVE HABITAT



Their lethargic lifestyles enable them to survive on the relatively low energy diet of eucalypt leaves.

Koalas spend as much as nineteen hours of every day sleeping. *ZZZZZzzz*

Birth occurs thirty-five days after successful mating.



Koalas will move several kilometres in search of mates or more food.

Although they prefer the leaves of just a few eucalypts, koalas have been seen eating or sitting on more than 120 different kinds of eucalypts and nearly 40 non eucalypt tree species.

Although twins are occasionally reported, a single young is the most common.

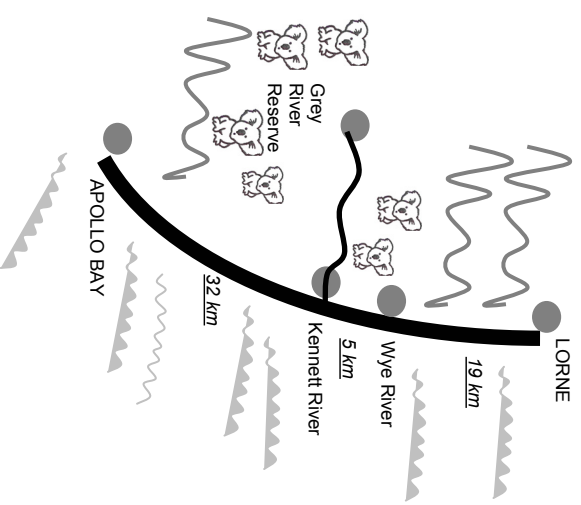


Koalas get their water from rain droplets, moisture on leaves and from eating leaves. They occasionally drink from streams and ponds and have been seen swimming.

Cubs are weaned when 12 months old but remain with their mothers before moving away and establishing their own home range.

At birth young koalas weigh about 500 milligrams and measure less than 2 centimeters from head to tail

The breeding season coincides with the warmer spring and summer months



(Acknowledgement - Bill Phillips "Koalas, the little Australians we would all hate to lose")