

Cape Otway Lightstation

Bass Strait

Southern Ocean



Entry/Exit

Indigenous Cultural Site

Café Tours Accommodation Events Schools



Highlight of the Great Ocean Road

CAPE OTWAY LIGHTSTATION

Heart of the Great Ocean Walk

Travelling On? We Recommend:

otway fly tree top walk & café

flagstaffhill

Otway Estate Winery and Brewery

"Driving along, visitors get a real sense of heading to the southern edge of Australia"



Open daily 9am – 5pm (6pm Summer & Easter school holidays)
 Shipwreck Discovery Tours daily
 10am - 12pm & 2pm - 4pm
 Entry fees apply
 Accommodation & group tours available
 Cape Otway Lightstation, via Great Ocean Road, Cape Otway, Victoria
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www.lightstation.com

Welcome to Cape Otway Lightstation



WELCOME to Australia's most significant lighthouse. The light, which has been in operation since 1848, is perched on towering sea cliffs 80 metres above where Bass Strait and the Southern Ocean collide.

Experience the heart-pounding thrill of stepping out onto the lighthouse balcony for unforgettable views. Inside, marvel at the giant lead crystal lens, shipped from England, and valued at \$5 million.

For thousands of immigrants, Cape Otway was their first sight of land after leaving Europe or North America and many months at sea.

Hundreds of lives were lost in shipwrecks off Cape Otway, which led to the building of the Lightstation.

The iconic light is the highlight of the Great Ocean Road, but there's so much more to see in the Lightstation grounds.

There's a meticulously restored Telegraph Station, and a World War II Radar bunker.

You can immerse yourself in the extraordinary history of the lighthouse keepers, telegraph operators and World War II servicemen.

Watch whales at play, and soak up the natural beauty of the Cape for a few hours, a day, or stay awhile in the very first keeper's cottage.

To find us, take a short detour from the Great Ocean Road through the serene forests where you are guaranteed to see koalas.

A Telegraph Station
 In 1859 the Telegraph Station was built to house Australia's first submarine telegraph cable, which linked Tasmania and the mainland. When the cable failed, the building became a Lloyd's Signal Station, signalling passing ships and telegraphing the details to Melbourne. Between 1882 and 1933 it was a school, and accommodation for the Armed Services and lightkeepers' families. The restored Italian-style villa displays stories and photographs of the Lightstation families. Some say it is haunted.

B Flagstaff
 Children are invited to decipher today's message on the flagstaff. Lightstation staff will ensure they are entered into our competition to win a night's accommodation for their family at the heritage precinct.

C Frederick Valentich
 This plaque remembers the 20-year-old pilot who disappeared over Bass Strait while flying from Melbourne to King Island on October 21, 1978. Frederick and his Cessna aircraft flew over Cape Otway before disappearing without a trace. After reading the transcript of Frederick's last words with the Melbourne Flight Service many believe this story to be Australia's most credible UFO mystery.

D Weather Station
 "There's a Strong Wind Warning for Cape Otway to Wilsons Promontory," you'll hear the TV and radio weathermen say. Cape Otway is an important reference station for the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. The weather is recorded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with a weatherman reporting observations to the Bureau twice daily.

E Head Lightkeeper's House
 Back in 1857 the cottage was built from green sandstone from a nearby quarry. Now an ideal getaway for couples and families, it features four double bedrooms, open fireplaces, and stunning views. (Please respect house-guests' privacy.)

F Eric the Red Anchor
 Laden with exhibits for the Melbourne Exhibition, Eric the Red, travelling from America in 1880, struck the Otway Reef in a heavy fog. Four people lost their lives. (Please protect this relic by not standing on it.)

G Lighthouse & Beacon
 The narrow gap between Cape Otway and King Island, less than 90km, was so hazardous at least 18 ships were wrecked there. In 1835 almost 250 lives were lost when the convict ship Neva foundered off King Island. In another major shipping disaster, 399 immigrants perished when the Catarauqui was wrecked off King Island in 1845. Newspapers and the Legislative Council demanded lighthouses be built at the western approach to Bass Strait. The Cape Otway Lighthouse was built in 1848. Originally fuelled by whale oil, then kerosene and later electricity, it shone 48kms out to sea. The old light was decommissioned in 1994 and replaced with a close-by solar-powered automatic beacon. Visit the top of the Lighthouse, watch for whales and enjoy the views.

H Assistant Lightkeepers' Residence & Café
 Built in 1858, this cottage housed two assistant keepers and their families. Today it is a café, serving delicious, affordable snacks and meals. Stop off at the café to see a short documentary on the Lightstation's fascinating history. Toilets are located here.

I World War II Radar Bunker
 Discover Cape Otway's secret war history. The radar station was built in 1942 after the US steamship City of Rayville was sunk by a German mine off the Cape, in November 1940. This resulted in the first casualty of World War II for the USA.

J Radar Lookout
 This is a great vantage point for views and taking photographs of the lighthouse.

K Understanding Culture
 Appreciate local Aboriginal culture with a cultural display including artefacts. Learn about the traditional languages and totems of the Cape through artwork.



L Caring For Culture and Country
 Like most of the Victorian coastline, the Cape has been a living place for Indigenous people for thousands of years. Specific sites of activity from both the past and present are dotted all over the Cape. These places are all culturally and spiritually important to Aboriginal people today, both locally and regionally. Cultural heritage management and protection of the sites within the Lightstation Precinct is ongoing on behalf of all Victorians in keeping with both Aboriginal lore and the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

M Picnics
 Families are welcome to picnic in the Lightstation grounds.

N The Old Workshop
 Built in 1850 from rubble and sandstone, this is the earliest preserved keepers' quarters. The workshop now houses historic displays.

O The Manager's House
 Built in the 1970s this self-contained accommodation provides a great getaway for couples and families.

Join our daily Lightkeeper's Shipwreck Discovery Tour which includes an off-road adventure into the Great Otway National Park. Guides will share amazing stories of shipwrecks, survivors, daring pioneers and rugged conditions endured by lightkeepers. We regularly see koalas, wallabies, kangaroos, echidnas, and a variety of bird species. Tour includes morning or afternoon tea.

Thank you for visiting Cape Otway Lightstation. Email us your favourite picture of the Lightstation to keeper@lightstation.com. The best ones are featured on our website.

The Lightstation is a unique venue for special events, weddings, corporate and team-building days.

Children love the Lightstation's school activity program and Lighthouse Keeper's Quest. See www.lightstation.com for more details. Download our free KIDZONE activity pack - it's educational and fun.