

## Venus Bay 27-31/12/21<sub>v1</sub>



Venus Bay is a small beach township located in the Gippsland area, west of Wilson's Promontory, and 170ks from Melbourne. As well as a number of surf beaches, there are several interesting walks in the area.

### **Executive Summary:**

- 4 nights accommodation (check-in is 4pm Monday 27<sup>th</sup> December) staying in various rental houses in the Venus Bay area (generally a maximum of 2 per bed room, mix of single, double & bunk beds)
- Accommodation cost for 4 nights is \$203 (+ \$10 trip fee for non-members).
- Due to Covid, car pooling is to be "avoided where possible" (this may change by December). Please advise if you require transportation at the time of booking, as this isn't guaranteed. Also please advise if you are prepared to provide transportation.
- You need to provide or purchase your meals. There is an IGA in Venus Bay, and there will be a group meal at a pub or similar for the 30/12 (attendance optional)
- Full day walks are Point Smythe coastal walk; Walkerville-Cape Liptrap; & Fish-Creek/Hoddle/Mt Nicoll circuit. There will be an optional ½ day walk on the last day.

### **Accommodation**

Accommodation comprises staying 4 nights (27-31/12) in 4 different rental houses in Venus Bay area (multiple houses are required to cater for the number of participants). Bedrooms will consist of a mix of single, double, and bunks, with 1-2 people allocated per room. Double beds will be preferentially allocated to couples. Room allocations & house locations will be provided prior to the trip.

Note that the houses are not adjacent, & are spread across the 2 residential sections of Venus Bay. This is due to the high demand & limited options for this period (even when booked 9 months in advance).

Note the some of the houses require bringing your own linen. This will be indicated in the room allocation.

## **Cost**

The accommodation cost is \$203 for the 4 nights plus trip fees i.e. a total cost of \$213 for non-members. Payment is made via the YHA Bushwalking web site.

Your place is only fully secured once the trip payment is made. Payment is required as the hostel becomes full or the trip date approaches, whichever occurs first. You will be sent a reminder when payment is required, and given a minimum 7 day grace period. After this time, your position will be passed on to others if payment has not been made. To avoid potential disappointment, payment should be made as soon as possible.

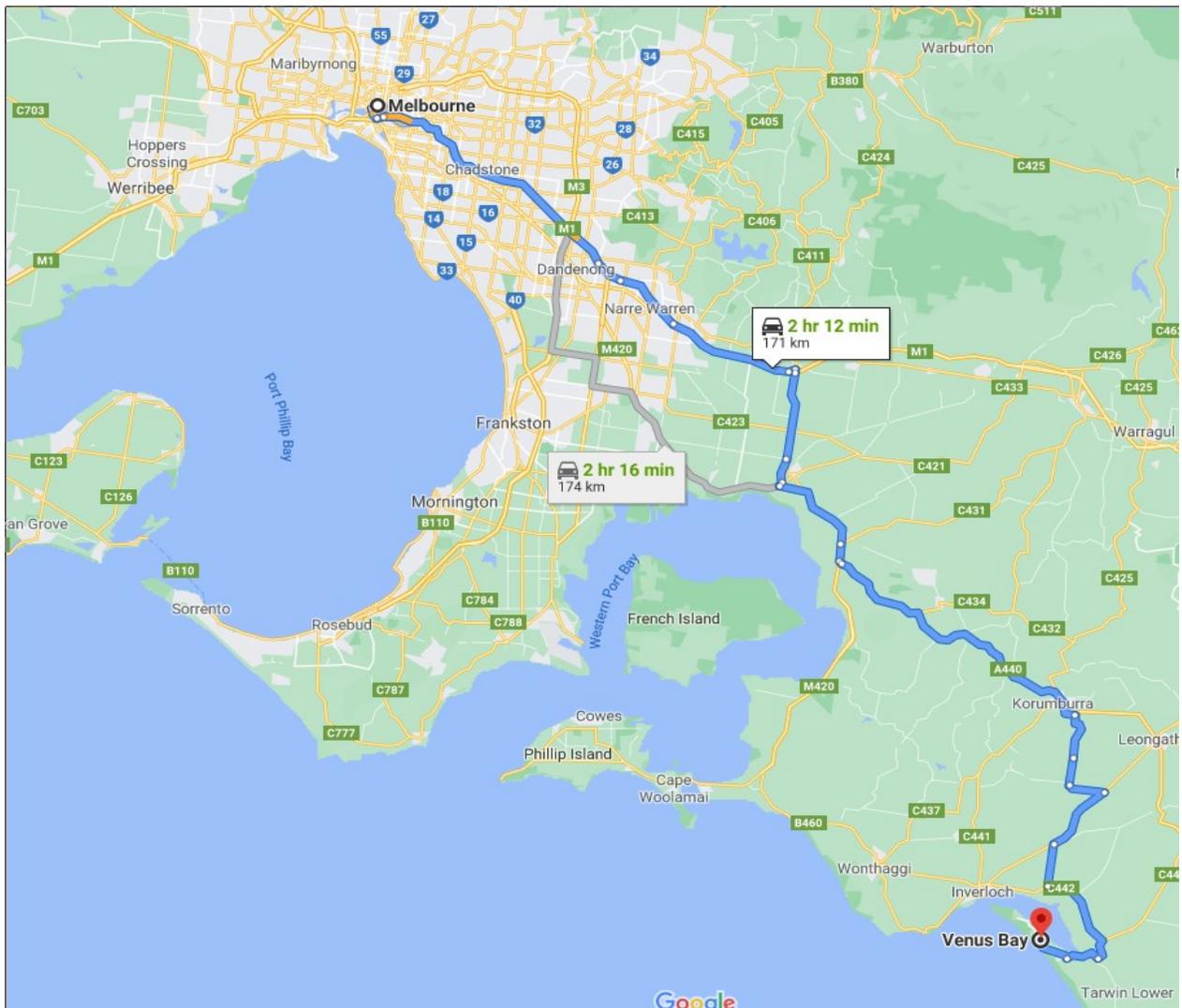
There will also be transportation costs for passengers. The maximum permissible is \$0.30/km (+ tolls) divided by the total number of people in the car.

## **Getting there**

Due to Covid, the preference is for everyone to make their own way to Venus Bay. Please advise if you require a lift (not guaranteed) or are prepared to give a lift (no obligation). At the time of writing, the expectation is that the passenger sits in the back, & everyone wears a mask. (These rules may be relaxed by December.)

Head towards Leongatha following the South Gippsland Highway. The shortest option is to turn off & travel through Korumburra South via the back roads to Venus Bay (the turn off is before Leongatha). An easier but slightly longer option is Leongatha → Koonwarra → Tarwin Lower → Venus Bay.

The towns are quite small after Korumburra and Leongatha. It is recommended to refuel (and resupply if necessary) in Leongatha.



## **Itinerary**

The planned program is set out below. However, this may change due to various reasons (weather, group inclination, etc).

The initial 9am meeting point for the walks will be one of the houses whereupon car pooling will be coordinated.

### Monday 27/12

Arrive late afternoon or early evening

### Tuesday

Day: A semi circuit walk from along the Smythe Coastal reserve. This is a moderately easy coastal walk with beach walking. (13km, 4hr).

### Wednesday

Day: Walkerville to Cape Liptrap lighthouse. This involves beach walking, rock hopping & scrambling, and a final short but steep climb through scrub to the lighthouse area. (15km, 5h. Requires car shuffle. Some sections require low tide [2pm].)

### Thursday

Hoddle Mountain Trail (Fish creek-Mt Nicoll circuit walk). This walk starts in Fish Creek, follows the Great Southern Rail Trail before circling through Mt Nicoll & Lavers Hill and back to Fish Creek. (17km, 6hrs [full circuit], or 11km with a car shuffle)

### Friday

A ½ day walk before returning to Melbourne. Some options:

- Waratah Bay semi-circuit walk via beach & forest
- Sandy Point circuit walk (7.3km. Note: 35km easterly drive from Venus Bay).
- Return Inverloch beach walk (arbitrary length)

### **Meals**

You will need to bring or purchase your own breakfast, lunch and dinner. There is only an IGA supermarket in Venus Bay. There will be an optional group dinner for Thursday at a nearby pub or similar.

### **WHAT TO BRING (non-exhaustive)**

- towel & linen
- breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, nibbles, drinks (tea, coffee, etc)
- wet weather & hot weather gear (sun hat, sun glasses, water bottles, sunscreen, etc)
- appropriate footwear & walking gear (eg. day pack, water, etc)
- book, games, etc (in case of wet weather or rest day)
- torch, camera
- earplugs (in case of snorers)
- insect repellent (if desired)
- swimwear & beach towel