



天堂之旅

Road to PARADISE

Once a quaint fishing village on Victoria's Great Ocean Road, Lorne is now a sophisticated mecca for fine dining, luxe architecture and Mediterranean-style relaxing.

WORDS
BETH ANDERSON

To drive the Great Ocean Road is to experience one of nature's greatest gifts; twisting and winding along the Victorian coast, the legendary route stretches 243 kilometres along a precipice of breathtaking rock formations, sparkling bays and lush rainforest, passing a scattering of quaint seaside villages along the way.

While each place imparts its own unique charm, there is one gem that stops visitors in their tracks: the resort town of Lorne, 47 kilometres into the Great Ocean Road and less than two hours' drive from Crown Entertainment Complex in Melbourne.

From its idyllic location, perched between the sapphire waters of Loutit Bay and the Otway Ranges,

Lorne is accessible as a day trip from Melbourne but is best enjoyed over an extended stay.

Renowned for its arresting scenery, the town offers a holistic holiday experience, its many walking tracks and fishing sites catering for nature lovers, and its vibrant café strip, golf course and galleries accommodating the culturally inclined.

Lorne today is certainly a different place to the tiny outpost of more than a century ago, when the Great Ocean Road was merely a dream and the south-west coast of Victoria was accessible only by sea or treacherous bush track.

The town now projects an almost Mediterranean ambience, where the pace is slow and a lunch with family and friends can carry on well into the night. As soon as you arrive, you will fall under its

過去曾經是維州大洋路上一個古雅的漁村，今日的洛恩鎮 (Lorne) 已經成爲一個時尚的美食、華美建築和地中海式度假的勝地。

在大洋路上駕車馳騁可體驗到大自然的偉大恩賜；這著名的公路全長243公里，繞著彎曲綿延的維州海岸，沿途有壯觀的嶙峋懸崖、耀目的海灣和蒼翠的雨林，還有疏落的古雅海濱村落。

雖然沿途景點都各具風格，但最引人入勝的要算度假勝地洛恩鎮，在大洋路上行駛47公里即可到達，距離墨爾本的 Crown Entertainment Complex 不足兩小時車程。

洛恩鎮風景秀麗，座落於羅提特灣的蔚藍海水和奧特威山脈之間，從墨爾本出發可以一天來回，但如可多逗留一下就更能盡情遊玩。

除了迷人的景色外，當地更是一個全方位度假勝地，有多處的步行徑和釣魚地點，正合大自然愛好者，又有滿街繽紛的咖啡店、高爾夫球場和畫廊，為愛好藝術文化者而設。

今日的洛恩鎮和一個多世紀前的偏遠小村落相比真是天淵之別，在當年，大洋路只是一個夢想，維州西南岸只有經海路或險峻的荒野路徑才可抵達。

現在鎮上瀰漫著近乎地中海的格調，節奏悠閒，可以和親友慢慢享用午餐直至晚上。在剛抵達的一刻，你就會立刻被陶醉，日以繼夜樂在其中。

經常到洛恩鎮度假的建築師羅伯·米爾斯最了解這裡的魅力。他在鎮上找不到一間可供大批遊客一起享用的沙灘度假屋，於是決定自己興建。結果建成 Ocean House，是一座建在僻靜林木坡上的三層高度假屋，海灣的景色一覽無遺。



The wraparound terrace at Lorne's Ocean House, comprising day beds and outdoor seating, provides a summertime haven
Photo: Richard Powers



Featuring natural tones and ocean views, the living area provides a tranquil space for guests
Photo: Richard Powers

spell, the days melding together to offer an ongoing succession of pleasures.

Architect and long-time Lorne holidaymaker Rob Mills is all too familiar with the town's intoxicating power. After a fruitless search for a beach house that could be enjoyed by large groups, he was inspired to build his own. The result is Ocean House, a striking three-storey retreat that rises from a secluded woodland slope and offers uninterrupted views across the bay.

In building Ocean House, Mills's main objective was to create a wilderness experience for guests. And he has done it with stylish aplomb.

While staying true to the idea that a beach house should provide an ocean outlook, he gave equal window space to the forest of eucalypts at the rear. "I spend as much time looking at the forest view as I do at the ocean," he says. "It's the height of the living room in particular that makes you feel as if you really are in the treetops."

While it would be easy to spend many hours gazing at either landscape, the house is a veritable labyrinth to explore, with many captivating and innovative elements: tunnelled staircases with walls of polished concrete; an open-plan timber and glass pavilion, complete with fireplace and cinema screen; bedrooms shaped like sleeping berths in a ship's hull; and a turret-like rooftop terrace accessed via a winding outdoor balustrade. The latter space has

proved particularly popular with guests as it's the perfect place to bask on day beds in the afternoon sun or enjoy an outdoor bath in the evening, with the lights of the town pier glittering in the distance.

Comprising several entertaining areas, Ocean House is designed for culinary celebrations, or guests can venture out to the many eateries spread along the coast. Conveniently situated a 15-minute drive from Ocean House, a la grecque restaurant is considered one of the best. Husband and wife team Kosta and Pam Talimanidis are celebrated as much for the relaxed and welcoming ambience of their restaurant as for their stylish Greek-influenced fare, such as sumptuous chargrilled octopus or braised cuttlefish.

Less than an hour away, near the popular tourist town of Apollo Bay, Kosta's brother Chris is the proprietor of yet another local institution: Chris's Beacon Point Restaurant.

For just over 30 years, this award-winning establishment has impressed visitors with its unique vantage point, perched in isolation high among the trees. A leisurely lunch here, spent feasting on fresh local produce – mouth-watering *mezze* followed by ocean trout fillets with a herb and pistachio crust and finished with a selection of baklavas and Greek syrup sweets – epitomises all that the region inspires: taking the time to slow down, relax and lose yourself in the beauty of your surroundings.

With pleasures such as this, the Great Ocean Road is one journey you will never wish to end. [L]

www.oceanhouse.com.au
www.alagrecque.com.au
www.chriss.com.au

米爾斯建造Ocean House的目標是要讓客人體驗郊野的風味。結果建成的度假屋是既優雅又自然。

既然是沙灘屋當然不乏觀賞海景的條件，他又利用了一半的窗戶來展現背面的桉樹林。“我對樹林和海洋的景緻同樣欣賞”他說。“客廳的高度令人感覺悠然置身叢林之上。”

單是欣賞兩面的風景都足以消磨多個小時，但度假屋本身也是一座名副其實的迷宮可讓你探險，有不少引人入勝又富創意的設計：擦亮水泥牆壁包圍的隧道樓梯；木材和玻璃築成的開敞式亭閣，還兼備火爐和電影院銀幕；形狀有如船上艙位的臥室；還有經過曲折的露天欄杆進入的塔樓式屋頂平臺。這平臺特別受住客歡迎，最適宜躺在長沙發上享受午後的陽光，或在黃昏來一次露天沐浴，有遠處海港的燈火相伴。

Ocean House 有多個舉行宴會的地方，正是為喜慶宴客而設，住客又可以外出光顧沿岸林立的餐館。距離 Ocean House 只有十五分鐘車程的 a la grecque 餐廳可算是首選之一。這家餐廳由夫妻檔哥斯達和帕梅·泰利曼尼迪斯主理，同時以抒情和賓至如歸的格調以及精緻的希臘菜色馳名，包括豪華的炭燒八爪魚和紅燒墨魚。

在離開這裡不足一小時的遊客勝地阿波羅灣附近，哥斯達的兄長克里斯也開了另一家地道餐廳：Chris's Beacon Point Restaurant。

在剛超過三十年的日子裏，這座屢獲殊榮的度假屋以獨特的有利位置高踞在叢林上面，令遊客嘆為觀止。在這裡悠閒午膳，飽餐新鮮土產——令人垂涎三尺的希臘式前菜，再來一度香菜開心果酥皮鱈魚柳，還有多種款色的果仁蜜餅和希臘糖漿甜品——真正代表了當地的精神：放慢節奏、鬆弛和在優美的環境中進入忘我境界。

這般的享受，任何人都希望大洋路上的旅程永無止境。 [L]



Local delicacies, such as chargrilled crayfish, are menu favourites at Chris's Beacon Point Restaurant