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12 Apostles from Melbourne: A Perfect Road Trip

Jun 18, 2018 | 5 min read



Perhaps the most iconic and memorable sight on [Australia's Great Ocean Road](#), the striated pinnacles of rock jutting out of the sea along the coast from [Melbourne](#) are a fitting testament to the natural beauty [southern Australia](#) has to offer. A 12 Apostles Melbourne roadtrip is a classic way to explore this area of coastline.

Although only seven apostles can be seen today, a series of viewing platforms connected by wooden boardwalks wind their way around the cliff tops for the closest possible experience. Arrive as the sun sinks below the horizon and you'll get not only phenomenal photographic opportunities, but also the chance to watch penguins returning from the waters after a day's fishing to burrows beneath the main visitor lookout.

QUICK GLANCE

Distance: 275 kilometers from Melbourne

Best time to visit: All-year round. The highest temperatures and almost guaranteed clear blue skies can be found in the summer months of December to February, but they also draw the biggest crowds. Spring (September – November) and autumn (March – May) are cooler and less crowded, while winter (June – August) are the quietest months but have the greatest risk of moody skies and rain.

Entrance fee: None

Other attractions to visit nearby: The Great Ocean Road itself is on the Australian National Heritage List. There is an almost endless list of beaches to stop off at and enjoy the fresh air; Torquay and Lorne beaches are just two. Surfers should check out the waves on Bells Beach. Other attractions include the lighthouse at Split Point, the Carisbrook Creek pebble towers, and the waterfalls of Great Otway National Park.

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QUICK GLANCE

12 APOSTLES MELBOURNE ROADTRIP

MELBOURNE TO GREAT OCEAN ROAD

GOOD TO KNOW

BEST DESTINATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

Kangaroo Island: An Overview
An epic Australian adventure awaits, but not ...

The West MacDonnell Ranges: A Hiker's Paradise
Taking an adventurous the A ...

Top 10 Places to Go in Sydney
Sydney is Australia's gateway to the wo ...

Best Places to Visit in Southern Australia
Southern Australia is a destination of variet ...

Top Places to Visit in and Around Melbourne
Melbourne is a city with surprises around eve ...

14 Best Places to Visit in Australia

A little way beyond the 12 Apostles check out the village of **Port Campbell**, and the rock formations in the vicinity known as London Bridge and The Grotto. Head inland on your return to Melbourne to explore Australia's biggest volcanic plain.



The London Bridge is another attraction to witness near the Great Ocean Road.



Great Otway National Parks has some incredible waterfalls.

12 APOSTLES MELBOURNE ROADTRIP

The Melbourne to 12 Apostles roadtrip can easily be completed as a **day trip**. The 4-hour, 275 km journey is never short of mesmerizing seascapes as you follow the Great Ocean Road west.

Melbourne to Great Ocean Road



Leaving the suburbs of Melbourne head south-west around Port Phillip Bay towards the town of Geelong on the M1. Continue on to the coast at Torquay on the B100. After a total travelling time of around one hour and twenty minutes, this is where the spectacular Great Ocean Road begins.

Full of winding bends that hug the coast, much of the land the Great Ocean Road crosses is protected national park or wildlife reserve, giving you a sense of the flora and fauna of this corner of the Australian continent. The lighthouse at Split Point, where there's a café for refreshments, offers grand views over the clifftop route the Great Ocean road takes. Two platforms at the end of a short walk offer the best views. It's roughly 1.5 hours from Melbourne.

A man made attraction can be found at Carisbrook Creek, where thousands of 'towers' of pebbles piled on top of one another have been created by passing motorists to become a marvel of its own. Meanwhile Great Otway National Park, roughly 200 km from Melbourne, has some magnificent waterfalls.



sunburned land
where sac ...



Best Destinations in the Australian Outback

Exploring the Australian outback is a must-do ...



Top Things to do in Hunter Valley

A short two hour drive north of Sydney is a v ...



Flinders Ranges: Travel Back in Time

Located in the Outback in South Australia, Fl ...



Top 10 Things to Do in Cairns

Cairns, in Northern Queensland, Australia, is ...



Uluru Rock Tour: Visit the Red Center

One of the more fascinating moments of your l ...

THINGS TO DO IN AUSTRALIA



11 Things to do in Darwin, Australia's Northern Territory

As the capital of Australia's Northern Territory, Darwin is a ...



Uluru-Kata-Tjuta National Park

Along Lasseter Highway is a magnificent sands ...



Best Places to go Diving in Great Barrier Reef

Diving in the Great Barrier Reef is a once in ...



Best Places to go Scuba Diving in Sydney

Did you know that there is fantastic scuba di ...

ACTIVITIES IN AUSTRALIA

Great Ocean Road to 12 Apostles



The best time to view the 12 Apostles is either at sunrise or sunset.

From Great Otway National Park, drive 52 km to Princetown. Just 6 km away from the 12 Apostles, this small coastal village is home to a new boardwalk for viewing birds and kangaroos that inhabit the salt flats there. It also connects the town with a lovely picnic area should you want a further break from driving.

You then reach the jewel in the crown of any Great Ocean Road's one day tour – the 12 Apostles themselves. Sunrise and sunset provide the broadest spectrum of colors over the seven remaining apostles, shaped by the wind and waves over centuries. The 1.1 km Great Ocean Walk follows a route from the south side of the 12 Apostles Visitor Center to beach level, the only place where a further two low pinnacles of rock known as Gog and Magog are visible.

Continue a little further west along the Great Ocean Road and you'll quickly reach the beautiful coastal town of Port Campbell. Head to the High Viewpoint for spectacular views over the town and the local river as it makes its way to the ocean. Nearby you'll find the rock formations of London Bridge arch, Loch Ard Gorge with its azure blue waters and two beaches, and The Grotto.

12 Apostles to Melbourne

To return to Melbourne by an alternative route, take the meandering inland road. A shorter distance of just 240 km, it takes a little less time at around 3 hours, giving you more time at the 12 Apostles. But more than that, it gives you the opportunity to take in additional sights, such as Australia's largest volcanic plain and the extinct volcano Mount Elephant, or even to extend your trip to undertake the 53 km long Ballarat Skipton Rail Trail walking route that passes through forest, rolling hills and historic goldfields. Who knows, you might find something glinting in the earth by your feet.

GOOD TO KNOW

- Should you not wish to drive yourself, there are plenty of tour companies that offer tours to the [12 Apostles from Melbourne](#) Easily arranged in the city, [prices start at around USD 102*](#).



12 Best Places to Go Diving in Australia

What's on your bucket list? If diving a ...



Best Places to Surf in Australia

Australia has a long history as one of the be ...



Hiking in Australia: The Best Trails

Australia's well-endowed landscape is filled ...



8 Best Beaches for Surfing in Sydney

With more than 100 beaches in the vicinity, S ...



Whale Watching in Sydney: All you need to know

Each year, whales migrate up Australia' ...



10 Best Places to Go Hiking around Sydney

The area that surrounds Sydney is packed with ...

NATIONAL PARKS IN AUSTRALIA



A Guide to Park

Situated close to the idyllic beaches of the ...



Kakadu National Park: An Overview

Kakadu National Park is an amazing 3.2 millio ...



A Guide to Purnululu National Park

Discover one of Australia's greatest em ...



6 Best National Parks in Australia

Australia is an incredible destination

- You can also opt for a [multi-day tour](#) and visit the Grampians National Park in Adelaide along with the 12 Apostles.
- Whatever time of year you visit, dodge the crowds by arriving early or staying late when light conditions are also at the best for sublime photography.
- The kiosk that comprises the 12 Apostles Visitor Center is open from dawn to dusk, while the toilets, platforms and lookouts are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- If you find yourself at the 12 Apostles at dusk await the parade of penguins that stroll across the beach from the waves for a night of safety in their burrows.

The 12 Apostles Melbourne roadtrip along the Great Ocean Road is a part of the Australian visitor experience as much as gazing out over Sydney harbor or cuddling a koala. Encompassing some of the finest ocean scenery the country has to offer, the 275 km route ends at the 12 Apostles — a panorama that simply takes the breath away.

that I ...



Top 10 Things to Do in Flinders Chase National Park

Located on Kangaroo Island, Australia, Flinders ...



Inspiring Things to Do at the Blue Mountains

A stretch of silky-green tall trees perched o ...

BEST TIME TO VISIT AUSTRALIA



Best Time to Visit Sydney



13 Fun Things to Do in Ubud

Jul 5, 2018 | 124 views | 9 min read



Having gained fame as a setting for the film *Eat, Pray, Love*, [Ubud](#) is recognized by many as [Bali's](#) cultural heart. A flourishing crafts center boasting hundreds of shops and studios selling everything from antique wood carvings to locally-made jewelry, it sits in the cool mountains just an hour north of the island's airport. Also home to spectacular landscapes and fascinating historic and cultural sights, you'll find a huge number of things to do in Ubud. The 13 on our list are open daily.

1. ADMIRE PURI SAREN AGUNG ROYAL PALACE

Customize your trip with a local travel expert in Indonesia.

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1. ADMIRE PURI SAREN AGUNG ROYAL PALACE

2. SHOP TILL YOU DROP AT UBUD ART MARKET

3. MARVEL AT TEGALLALANG RICE TERRACES

5. UNEARTH HISTORY AT GOA GAJAH ELEPHANT CAVE

6. ENJOY A KECAK DANCE PERFORMANCE

7. STRETCH YOUR LEGS ON THE CAMPUHAN RIDGE WALK

8. TAKE THE PLUNGE AT TENGUNGAN WATERFALL

9. RELAX AT PURI TAMAN

Ubud's royal palace finds itself right at the heart of town even two centuries after its construction. Free to visit, not only is the site a brilliantly-preserved example of traditional Balinese architecture, but also one set within an amiable setting amid lush gardens that acts as a repository for Balinese arts from literature to dance. The palace's performing stage, itself ornately decorated with guardian statues, hosts nightly performances by beautifully-dressed dancers and gamelan orchestras — a xylophone-like instrument that is the undisputed sound of the island.

Good to know: The palace has dance performances everyday starting from 7:30 pm. The ticket for the dance performance is priced at IDR 100,000 (roughly USD 7*).

Visit the Royal Palace along with other highlights of Ubud on [this day tour](#).

2. SHOP TILL YOU DROP AT UBUD ART MARKET



The Ubud Art Market has many locally crafted souvenirs that you can buy.

Just across the street from the royal palace you'll find another Ubud attraction, its art market, or Pasar Seni. The colorful stalls are a great place to check out locally-produced handicrafts as well as to pick up some souvenirs to take back home, with most of the goods on sale produced in the neighboring villages of Pengosekan, Tegallalang, Payangan and Peliatan. Take your time to get to know the stall holders and you'll find everything from beautifully-decorated silk scarves and lightweight shirts, to woven hats and baskets by way of wooden-carved statues and even kites.

Good to know: Visit the market early morning when the shops have just opened and the shopkeepers are willing to sell their items at better bargain rates.

3. MARVEL AT TEGALLALANG RICE TERRACES

Even if you don't visit nearby Tegallalang village to witness its crafty men and women at work, you should make the short drive north of Ubud to take in the spectacular rice terraces of the village. One of the island's most sublime landscapes, the terraces are a centuries-old irrigation system set among the area's green valley slopes and palm forests.

Good to know: A local elder and farmer who owns the land is very welcoming, offering a refreshing green coconut drink and happy to pose for photographs for a small fee. You will often find him by the entrance gate to the rice terrace.

Take a cycling tour around Bali and visit Ubud and the Tegallalang Rice Terrace on [this 8 day tour](#).

INDONESIA THINGS TO DO



12 Things To Do in Jakarta

As the capital of Indonesia, Jakarta is a spr ...



Pura Tanah Lot: The Sea Temple

The coastal temple Pura Tanah Lot is located ...

BALI TRAVEL TIPS

a little piece of seclude ...



10 Places to Visit in Bali in 2018

Planning a trip to Bali, but not quite sure w ...



10 Ways Travel can Improve Your Health and Happiness

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TREKS AND HIKES IN INDONESIA



Mount Batur Hike: Conquer an Active Volcano

Mount Batur is one of the most popular hikes ...



10 Mighty Indonesian Volcanos to Hike: Ready for the Challenge?

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Mount Rinjani Trek: Everything You Need To Know

Towering over the beautiful Indonesian island ...



Mount Agung Hike: Reach the Highest Point in Bali

Mount Agung is the highest mountain in Bali a ...



Top 10 Hiking Trails in Bali

Bali is perhaps best known for its

4. PLAY WITH OUR PRIMATE COUSINS AT UBUD MONKEY FOREST



Spend some time with these furry friends on a visit to the Sacred Monkey Forest

Ask a local what to do in Ubud, and they'll probably point you in the direction of Ubud Monkey Forest, one of several places in Bali known for its population of inquisitive long-tailed macaques. With males sporting fabulous moustaches, and both sexes bearing Mohican-like tufts of fur on the tops of their heads, these grey monkeys are much more photogenic and endearing than their coat color might suggest. Also known as the Sacred Monkey Forest of Padangtegal village, this community-led project is a place of scientific research and spirituality, with intricately-carved temples half-engulfed by forest within the grounds.

Good to know: Do not carry water bottles or food items out in the open where it is visible to the monkeys. They are known to snatch such items from the visitors and can get aggressive if confronted.

Go on a day tour to the Sacred Monkey Forest and Tanah Lot temple with [this tour](#).

5. UNEARTH HISTORY AT GOA GAJAH ELEPHANT CAVE

Although you won't find any elephants at Goa Gajah, the site is still one of the top things to do in Ubud since it is one of the region's most important and spectacular archaeological sites. Just six kilometers from the center of Ubud, south of Bedulu village, visitors are able to explore temples and a bathing pool as well as the eleventh-century cave richly-decorated with rock-wall carvings inside and out.

Good to know: Adult tickets cost 15,000 rupiah (roughly USD 1*).

Opening hours are 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

6. ENJOY A KECAK DANCE PERFORMANCE



The Kecak dance performances take place in the evenings usually at sunset.

INDONESIA TRAVEL TIPS



10 Indonesian Beaches That Are Amazing Year-Round

Indonesia is known for its beautiful scenery, ...



12 Indonesian Foods You Must Try

Indonesia is a foodie heaven — yes, we& ...



13 Best Places to Visit in Indonesia

Indonesia is a truly vast country. With an ar ...



Visiting Komodo Island in 2018

Komodo Island in Indonesia is probably best k ...



15 Best Indonesian Islands to Visit

Made up of more than 17,500 islands that stre ...



6 Breathtaking Beaches in Lombok

Walk into any crowd and mention Indonesia and ...



10 Most Beautiful Waterfalls in Indonesia



12 Best Things to Do on Lombok Island

It was the waves that first attracted tourist ...



6 Best Things To Do on Gili Trawangan

Lying 30-minutes off the northwest coast of L ...



Gili Islands: An

Located just off the northwest coast of Lombo ...



Flores Islands: Places To Visit

It's not hard to see why Flores Island ...

There are several places to watch the intricacies of Kecak dance performances unfold around Ubud, but one of the best and most authentic is in the village of Junjungan. A 60-strong chorus of male villagers provide a backdrop of haunting chants while performers tell the stories of the Hindu epic, Ramayana through dance. All 150 families in the village take part in the nightly performances, with proceeds from the 75,000 rupiah (USD 5.50*) admission going to the upkeep of the village temple.

Good to know: Junjungan's Kecak Dance is performed every Monday starting from 6:30 pm.

If you're looking for a solo journey through Bali and Ubud, try this [Beautiful Bali tour](#) and enjoy the Kecak dance, a highlight of the tour.

7. STRETCH YOUR LEGS ON THE CAMPUHAN RIDGE WALK

There's no better way to take in the fresh air of Ubud than by following the path along the free Campuhan Ridge Walk. An easy hike with a metaled path, it enables you to momentarily escape the hustle and bustle of the town center and replace it with the region's famed undulating hillside vistas. Beginning at Pura Gunung Lebah temple complex by the Campuhan River, it stretches nine kilometers.

Good to know: The best time for the walk is closest to sunrise or sunset when the climate is at its coolest and the views at their most remarkable.

8. TAKE THE PLUNGE AT TENGUNGAN WATERFALL



Visiting this waterfall makes for an easy and pleasant day trip.

Just 30 minutes from Ubud along roads passing through traditional villages dotted with paddy fields, Tengenungan Waterfall is framed by dense green foliage and boasts an impressive volume of tumbling white water throughout the year. The footpath to the falls from the car park also has impressive panoramic views over the valley and allows visitors to reach the plunge pool at its base for a cooling swim.

Good to know: It costs 10,000 rupiah (or less than one US Dollar*) to visit the falls. The waterfall can get quite crowded so make sure to arrive early.

Take a tour around two of Bali's beautiful waterfalls [with this tour](#).

9. RELAX AT PURA TAMAN SARASWATI TEMPLE

1. ADMIRE PURI SAREN AGUNG ROYAL PALACE
2. SHOP TILL YOU DROP AT UBUD ART MARKET
3. MARVEL AT TEGALLALANG RICE TERRACES
4. PLAY WITH OUR PRIMATE COUSINS AT UBUD MONKEY FOREST
5. UNEARTH HISTORY AT GOA GAJAH ELEPHANT CAVE
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This beautiful water temple is located in the center of Ubud, off the main Jalan Raya road behind the fittingly-named Café Lotus. The grounds before the temple feature ponds filled with the pink blossom of water lotus, and entering its precincts you'll instantly forget the hubbub of market stalls and tuktuks you've left behind. Instead, embrace the serene simplicity of the temple and its reliefs honoring the Hindu god of knowledge and the arts.

Good to know: Entrance is free, but requires a sash and sarong around the waist like other temples in Bali.

10. DELIGHT IN THE BIRD AND REPTILE PARK



One of the most popular residents of the park are the Komodo dragons.

A great family attraction, the Bali Bird and Reptile Park lets visitors stroll around two hectares of fine tropical gardens housing more than 1000 exotic birds from Indonesia and around the world. Several bird species take advantage of the climate to roam free on open tree perches or in the ponds that weave through the park, while the main attraction of the adjoining reptile park is undoubtedly the Komodo dragon, otherwise only found on the tiny Komodo Island.

Good to know: Admission costs USD 23.50* for adults. Children aged 2-12 enter at half price.

11. ENJOY A CULTURED AFTERNOON AT BLANCO RENAISSANCE MUSEUM

The mighty sculptures that mark the entrance to Blanco Renaissance Museum have become an unofficial landmark and should be on any list of things to do in Ubud. Rising several stories, they are the brainchild of the now-deceased Philippine-born artist Don Antonio Blanco who used them to decorate his home and studio. Located on a hilltop overlooking the serene Campuhan Valley, the museum collection includes paintings, collages and illustrated works of poetry.

Good to know: Admission costs 50,000 rupiahs (USD 4*), with guided tours available.

The museum is open everyday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

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12. INDULGE YOUR SWEET TOOTH AT THE POD CHOCOLATE FACTORY AND CAFE



Get your hands on the in-house chocolate molding workshop at the factory.

Australian Tony Garritt founded Pod in 2010 as a means of producing chocolate where the raw ingredients are grown. The result are bars that were cocoa pods just a few days before. Using organic and sustainable farming methods, visitors can see for themselves how the chocolate is made, as well as trying out the result in the café. Across the river from Ubud in Carang Sari village, entrance costs 95,000 rupiah (USD 7*).

Good to know: You can mould your own elephant shaped chocolates at the factory.

13. EXPLORE ART OLD AND NEW AT AGUNG RAI MUSEUM OF ART

The Agung Rai Museum of Art (or ARMA) has sought to both preserve and evolve Balinese art for more than twenty years. The collection of works by Balinese, Indonesian and foreign artists ranges from traditional to contemporary. Among the historic pieces are Kamasan paintings on tree bark, and the only works on the island by Javanese artist Raden Saleh. A special place in the museum is also kept for German artist Walter Spies, who moved to Bali in the 1920s.

Good to know: Entrance costs 80,000 rupiah (around USD 6.00*).

Bali's cultural hub, Ubud is artistic, creative and yet also serene. Things to do in Ubud range from exploring its history and cultural traditions to discovering its natural landscapes and wildlife. All in all, Ubud is not to be missed on any Bali schedule.

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Marino Ballena National Park

Jun 27, 2018 | 5 min read

You can't truly say you've been to [Costa Rica](#) – the self-styled 'rich coast' – without having explored at least some of its shoreline. And those that have been there would claim you can't boast of having explored the Costa Rican coast if you haven't visited Marino Ballena National Park. A nature lover's and activity seeker's wonderland, the park offers swimming, diving, and snorkeling, as well as a fantastic sense of the country's natural beauty.

Marino Ballena is where rainforest sweeps down to long stretches of perfect white sand, and where the warm crystal clear waters are home to idyllic paradise islands and the largest coral reef system on Central America's [Pacific Ocean coast](#). Marine visitors arrive from far and wide, with humpback whales coming all the way from [Hawaii](#) and Alaska to join the dolphins that are sensible enough to remain resident throughout the year.

MARINO BALLENA NATIONAL PARK FACTS

Visitors per year:	140,000
Area:	55 sq km, of which just 1 sq km is on land
Entrance fee:	USD 12* per person for foreign nationals
Permits:	There is no camping or overnight stays permitted within the parks boundaries, but the town of Uvita is just 1 km away
Common animal sightings:	Whales, dolphins, howler monkey, sloths, toucans, pelicans, sea turtles, marine iguanas, tropical fish, corals
Best time to visit:	December to May is the dry season and the best time to visit. This is also the time for humpback spotting. Travel between June and November can be hampered by the wet season's rain adversely affecting untarred roads and paths.

Highlights

- › Take a boat trip to Ballena Island and Las Tres Hermanas, The Three Sisters islands
- › Watch dolphins and whales from the soft sands of the park's beaches
- › Relax on perfect white sand beaches
- › Swim and snorkel over Central America's largest coral reef
- › Spend the night just 1 km away in Uvita

Lowlights

- › More popular than it once was, you'll need to arrive early to have the beaches to yourself
- › The whale tail sandbar is only accessible for walking on at low tide before it disappears beneath the waves

Customize your trip with a local travel expert in Costa Rica.

WALKING

SWIM AND SNORKEL

BEACHES

TURTLE NEST TOURS

GOOD TO KNOW

NATIONAL PARKS IN COSTA RICA



Rincón de la Vieja National Park: An Overview

Rincón de la Vieja is one of the most ...



Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve: Explore the Rainforest

Imagine yourself in Costa Rica and you might ...



7 Best National Parks in Costa Rica

In Costa Rica, a "walk in the park" means put ...



Tortuguero National Park: An Overview

Discover a world where diverse ecosystems flo ...



A Guide to Manuel Antonio National Park

Looking for a quintessential Costa Rican adve ...



A Guide to Arenal Volcano National Park

A trip to Costa Rica just wouldn't be c ...



Corcovado National Park: Things to Do

Created in the 1970s in response to widesprea ...

Marino Ballena National Park is the best place in Costa Rica, and one of only a handful anywhere in the world, where it is possible to observe whales and dolphins without having to take to the water (though boat trips are easily organized for closer encounters). A number of species of dolphin, including the popular common and bottlenosed varieties, can be spotted throughout the year. Humpback whales visit the park's waters to calve from December to April (the dry season) and scientists believe that these waters could well be one of the few places humpbacks mate too. More occasional visitors include false orcas and pilot whales.

Visit the Park's Islands

Whether you choose to visit sedately by motorboat or more adventurously by kayak (not for the faint hearted!) you shouldn't miss the opportunity of exploring Ballena (in other words, Whale) Island or Las Tres Hermanas, The Three Sisters. Lying 3 km offshore, the islands are an important nesting site for boobies, pelicans and frigate birds. Beneath the waves the islands are a great place to try out snorkeling and witness the colorful underwater world of tropical fish and corals, while the island beaches are also known to be a nesting site for various species of sea turtle.

Walking



Walk from the Whale's Tail to the coast for a fun experience.

Walking along the national park's beaches is another simple yet rewarding experience, especially when the water recedes far enough at low tide to allow you to walk out to Punta Uvita Tombolo, the Whale Tail, a sandbar that stretches out from the shore like a whale's fluke and led in part to the national park's name.

Check out [this tour](#) in Costa Rica with a stop at Uvita and opt for a walk through Marino Ballena National Park.

Swim and Snorkel

Even if you don't make it out to the islands or onto a boat to explore further afield, the warm waters of the national park are also a great place to splash about with friends and cool off. The waters just off the beaches offer some fine diving opportunities, particularly at low tide. If you fancy this, make sure you speak to the park's rangers about the safest places to take the plunge while avoiding the strongest currents and possible riptides.



With its pristine wilderness and excellent ec ...



Arenal Volcano Hike: The Best Trails

Arenal Volcano is one of the most spectacular ...



8 Great Destinations for Honeymoon in ...

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ACTIVITIES IN COSTA RICA



Whitewater Rafting in Costa Rica: The Best Rapids

Whitewater rafting in Costa Rica is a thrilli ...



Adventures in Costa Rica

Costa Rica is officially the happiest place o ...



Top Things to Do in Cahuita

Cahuita, Costa Rica is a quaint, unique villa ...



Fishing in Costa Rica: Where to Find the Best Catch

Costa Rica consistently takes the lead as one ...



Best places to view wildlife in Costa Rica

A visit to Costa Rica is likely to be a ...

PLACES TO VISIT IN COSTA RICA



La Fortuna Waterfall: Everything you need to know

Central Costa Rica's famous La Fortuna ...



Top Things to Do in San Jose.

Beaches



The beaches have perfect white sand.

Many believe Ballena Beach in Costa Rica to be one of the region's finest. Thanks to their location within the boundaries of the park, the beaches of Marino Ballena are clean and rubbish-free. The lack of hunting means it's possible to get up close and personal with their land-living residents too. Ballena Beach is one of four, and as good as any other to swim, take a stroll or even take to the saddle for a horseback ride. The others are Playa Uvita, Pineula and Colonia.

Turtle Nest Tours

Olive Ridley and Hawksbill turtles can be seen burying their eggs in the sand on night visits to the beaches between May and November, with the largest numbers usually arriving with the waning moon in September. It's an amazing experience, especially when you find yourself alone on the beach as the turtles drag their heavy bodies ashore.

GOOD TO KNOW

- The park is open every day from 8 am – 4 pm. Since there are no overnight facilities the majority of visitors stay in hotels in the Uvita area just north of the park boundary.
- The park is located on Costa Rica's Pacific coast, in the province of South Puntarenas, about 3 hours from San Jose by road.
- The park is home to 18 coral species, 85 marine species and a great many land species too, including howler monkeys and marine iguanas.

Whether you're looking to escape for the day or for a few days, the landscapes and seascapes of Marino Ballena National Park, as well as the chance to catch sight of a calving humpback whale, makes a visit an unmissable experience for any adventure seeker or nature lover.



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