Lower Tarwin Valley Drive

A 122km loop drive through the varied and beautiful landscapes of the Lower Tarwin Valley.
The Lower Tarwin Valley Drive takes in some beautiful scenery and covers a wide range of different landscapes. From the sandy beaches of Venus Bay to the open plains of Buffalo and Stony Creek, the villages of Fish Creek and Koonwarra, and the rolling hills around Meeniyan and Dumbalk. The drive offers a back roads tour of this picturesque rural area.

### Travel Distances & Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Koonwarra – Dumbalk</td>
<td>17 km</td>
<td>30 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumbalk – Meeniyan</td>
<td>9 km</td>
<td>9 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeniyan – Stony Creek</td>
<td>2½ km</td>
<td>4 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stony Creek – Buffalo</td>
<td>14½ km</td>
<td>15 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo – Fish Creek</td>
<td>18 km</td>
<td>30 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish Creek – Tarwin Lower</td>
<td>29 km</td>
<td>40 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarwin Lower – Venus Bay</td>
<td>5 km</td>
<td>7 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venus Bay – Koonwarra</td>
<td>22 km</td>
<td>35 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong> (approximate, no stops)</td>
<td>117 km</td>
<td>2 hrs 50 mins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Explore... The Lower Tarwin Valley

The Lower Tarwin Valley Drive explores the dairy communities of Koonwarra, Dumbalk, Meeniyan, Stony Creek, Buffalo, Fish Creek, Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay. The drive takes you on a tour using the back roads, offering a slower pace to enjoy the spectacular rural scenery. Travelling the whole route is not essential; just start and finish the drive wherever you like. The drive is close to the A440 South Gippsland Highway and B460 Bass Highway, so is readily accessible. The route description begins at Koonwarra and travels in an Easterly direction.

Koonwarra – Dumbalk
Monthly farmers markets are held in Koonwarra’s Memorial Park at on the first Saturday morning of each month. The market was established in 2010 and offers seasonal, local produce. The Koonwarra Recreation Reserve (1st Right) have plantings of deciduous trees which provide excellent colours in Autumn. The 2nd bridge on Old Koonwarra–Meeniyan Road crosses the West Branch of the Tarwin River. Breathtaking views are on offer across the Strzelecki valley, which is mostly dairy farms. Take a detour on Mardan–Dumbalk Road (approx. 4km on the left (North) before you reach Dumbalk) for fantastic additional views across the valley.

Dumbalk – Meeniyan
Stop in Dumbalk for a stroll around the village. In the park opposite the store, the local history group has put together a display of photographs and there is also a map to get your bearings. Continue to Meeniyan, then stop in the township for a stroll and a chat with the locals.

Meeniyan – Stony Creek
Using the highway as a connector; head into the village of Stony Creek via Stony Creek Road. This quiet village is home to the Stony Creek Racing Club who host 6 thoroughbred race meetings each year. The Great Southern Rail Trail passes through the village.

Stony Creek – Buffalo
A playground with picnic and toilet facilities can be found at the former Buffalo railway station, where the rail trail meanders past the village.

Buffalo – Fish Creek
Driving into the hills offers some great views towards the Hoddle Ranges in the South East. Views to the North extend to the Strzeleckis and Dumbalk. Pause before turning from Whitelaws Track into Falls Road for great views across the valley to O’Grady’s Ridge (West) and the Hoddle Range (South East).

Fish Creek – Tarwin Lower
At Fish Creek, the drive crosses the Great Southern Rail Trail adjacent to the former butter factory (now private property). A short stroll on the trail through the park brings you to the former railway station, now home to the township’s community garden. Between Fish Creek and Tarwin Lower, you will cross over Amber Creek. On a clear day, you can see views across to Waratah Bay. Roadsides have significant remnant vegetation. Wedge-tailed eagles and wallabies are common in this area.

Buffalo–Tullaree Road crosses Fish Creek, which after rain becomes home to hundreds of black swans and ducks. A second bridge crosses the Tarwin River near Bright’s Road.

Take a detour Right (North) at Tarwin Lower Road and visit the former Woorayl Quarry site (about 250m on the left via P. Dunlops Rd), which is now a wetland home to a variety of waterbirds, wildlife and flora.

Tarwin Lower – Venus Bay
In winter months, watch for Cape Barren Geese in the paddocks. The Tarwin Lower Road travels beside the Tarwin River; with fishing platforms dotted along the river. Picnic areas include the long table at the northern end of Tarwin Lower township. Canoeing is popular in the river. A gravel walking/cycling trail joins the townships of Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay, travelling beside the Tarwin River, and adjacent to farmland. Venus Bay’s No.1 beach is patrolled by lifesavers from 26 Dec to 26 Jan.

Venus Bay – Koonwarra
5km from Tarwin Lower, opposite C Masons Road, is the Tarwin Lower Cemetery, home to native flora species including orchids. Koonwarra–Round Creek Road provides views across Leongatha South and to the Strzelecki Ranges (and Anderson’s Inlet if travelling in the reverse direction).
Start in the town of **Koonwarra**, 141km south-east of Melbourne.

1. Driving north, turn right into South Gippsland Hwy. About 200m east of Koonwarra on the South Gippsland Hwy, turn left into Old Koonwarra-Meeniyan Road. Travel along this road for approximately 4.9km (it will change to gravel after about 2.5km).

2. At the T intersection, turn Left into Meeniyan–Nerrena Road. Travel for 9.6km. At the T intersection, turn Right (East) into Meeniyan–Promontory Road. After approximately 9.6km, turn Right (East) into Dumbalk–Leongatha Road.

3. Turn right into Farmers Road. After 9km at the T intersection you have reached Meeniyan.

4. Continue on this road, which becomes Stony Creek–Buffalo Road (and changes to gravel).

5. Continue for 5.7km, then at the T intersection, turn Right (North) into Waratah–Buffalo Road. After approximately 5km, the road becomes gravel.

6. Turn left (South) into Harding–Lawson Road. Continue for 5.1km, the road becomes gravel.

7. Turn right (South East) into Stony Creek Rd, which takes you to the Stony Creek township.

8. Follow Falls Road into the Fish Creek township.

9. Return to the town of **Koonwarra** at the conclusion of your drive!

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**Directions**

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Safe Driving Tips

Country roads can seem quiet, but often carry large trucks and agricultural machinery. Wild and farm animals also frequent the area and may be on the road or roadside. Road conditions and surfaces can change quickly. While some roads within this route may be marked at 100km, sharp corners or road conditions make this speed unsuitable most of the time. Townships are marked at 50-60 km/hr.

More Information

Prom Country Visitor Information Centres

1800 630 704
South Gippsland Hwy, Korumburra
Cnr McDonald & Main streets, Foster

visitpromcountry.com.au

Download the Prom Country mobile app for an interactive version of the Lower Tarwin Valley Drive

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