"You can really see what is wonderful about Melbourne," said former consul general, and current U.S. Ambassador to Palau, Amy Hyatt. "It's funny how familiar Australia feels to Americans in terms of the culture. There is the same frontier spirit that we have in the U.S., the same can-do attitude, more of an optimistic view."

The quaint Victorian towns and pristine beaches that dot the road's 243-km (151-mile) stretch along Australia's southeastern coast are popular domestic vacation destinations and magnets for international tourists looking to take in some beautiful scenery. The Port Campbell area in particular is notable for its magnificent limestone and sandstone rock formations, including Loch Ard Gorge, The Grotto, London Arch and The Twelve Apostles.

With its wealth of natural and cultural treasures, it's not difficult to see why Australia's second-largest city and surrounding state are consistently rated by media sources as among the most livable places in the world.

"I really can't say enough good things about living here. It's so like the United States in many ways, and the ways that we're different are what makes the tour exciting," said Kimberly Furnish. "Australians are among the friendliest, most giving, wonderfully natured people I know. It will be hard to say goodbye to Australia."

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Australia At A Glance