

11 Day Murray River and Kangaroo Island Tour

19th February > 1st March 2023



Experience South Australia's favourite icons

Come explore the mighty Murray River and discover the unique wildlife and stunning scenery of Kangaroo Island



CT TRAVEL
Coolum Tours & Travel

11 days - Twin / Double pp \$5920.00
Single \$6970.00
Deposit \$500.00

inc Airfares -- Brisbane > Adelaide > Brisbane

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DAY 1: (D) COOLUM TO ADELAIDE

SUNDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2023

This morning we fly into **Adelaide** to start our fabulous 11 day holiday. Over the past couple of years, the City of Adelaide has seen major growth, historic **North Terrace** has been brought back to its glory days and the **Torrens River** precinct has come alive with the major renovations of **Adelaide Oval** and both **Rundle Mall** and **Victoria Square** have had major revamps. We take a brief sightseeing drive around Adelaide, then settle into our hotel for the night.

Adelaide Rockford, Adelaide | 1 night |
Dinner at hotel | Lunch own cost

DAY 2: (BD) ADELAIDE TO MANNUM

MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2023

We start our day travelling through the beautiful Adelaide Hills to the historical German township of **Hahndorf**, the oldest surviving German settlement in Australia. Our first stop is at **Beerenberg Strawberry Farm**, locally owned by a family originally from Prussia. You may not know but Beerenberg products can now be found in 24 countries, on major airlines and in more than 300 hotels! We meet our **local guide** who takes us on a gentle **walking tour** of discovery, where we learn about some of the unseen and historical areas of interest in Hahndorf. Then, take some leisurely time to explore the many shops and enjoy lunch at own expense before heading to Woodside for a visit to **Melba's Chocolate and Confectionery Factory**. We spend some time taking a look at the operation and to experience the old chocolate and confectionery making techniques. Make sure you try their Rocky Road! Going from sweet to savoury, next door is **Woodside Cheese Wrights** and here we sample some of the delicious locally made cheeses. Mid-afternoon we board the **PS Murray Princess** at historic Mannum, the birthplace of the Murray River trade and communication, and head upriver while you enjoy a Welcome Dinner. As we cruise under floodlight to our overnight mooring at **Caurnamont**, you may see nocturnal wildlife on the riverbank. Watch for kangaroos, hairy-nosed wombats, tortoises, egrets and many other species. Our on-board entertainer provides music for the night owls.

Princess Murray Cruises | 4 nights |
Breakfast & Dinner by PS Murray Princess | Lunch own cost

DAY 3: (BLD) MANNUM TO BLANCHTOWN

TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2023

Daybreak and it's time for the keen photographers to be out to capture the sunrise light and the morning movement of wildlife. Prolific birdlife includes pelicans, wrens and swans. Enjoy a leisurely morning and lunch cruising upriver to Blanchetown through one of 13 locks which maintain the flow and levels of water. This afternoon we moor opposite to the township of **Blanchetown** for our overnight anchorage. As the last rays of the sun fade, we visit **Burk Salter Boutique Winery** and enjoy wine tasting at the cellar door which is fitted out with beautiful red gum bars. After dinner, join us for all the fun and excitement, and participate in our "Murray River Cup".

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner by PS Murray Princess

DAY 4: (BLD) BLANCHTOWN TO SUNNYDALE

WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2023

After breakfast we cruise downriver to picturesque **Swan Reach**. The town was first settled in the 1850s, was originally the largest of five sheep and cattle stations in the area and is now home to native flower and fruit growers. The original Swan Reach homestead is now the Swan Reach Hotel where you can enjoy an ale or cappuccino overlooking the Murray River (additional cost). Join a walking tour and visit the **Swan Reach Museum** (gold coin donation at entry). Cruise downriver after lunch and take in the tranquillity as the landscape slides by. When we arrive at **Sunnydale**, it's all ashore for the **Woolshed Show** as we recreate typical Australian woolshed history. Later we visit the **Native Wildlife Shelter** where some of South Australia's most interesting native animals are cared for. And then of course, there is the great **Aussie Barbecue** – cooked and served in a bush setting on the banks of the mighty Murray River. An optional Nocturnal Tour (additional cost) in a comfortable purpose-built cart is available after dinner where you may see kangaroos, wombats, foxes, bats, and owls by powerful spotlights. Special stops along the way are included to view the spectacular night sky which is part of the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner by PS Murray Princess

DAY 5: (BLD) SUNNYDALE TO YOUNGHUSBAND

THURSDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2023

After an optional early morning Bush Tucker Breakfast (additional cost) or a bush walk with the Captain, the vessel cruises slowly downriver past magnificent cliffs scoured by the river over millions of years. We reach **Ngaut Ngaut Aboriginal Reserve**, one of Australia's most significant archaeological sites, for a step back in time – tens of thousands of years – for a **guided boardwalk tour** to view ancient rock carvings and to learn about Aboriginal history in the area. We return to the vessel to cruise downriver to **Younghusband**. Along the way, adventure seekers can also take a scenic tender boat ride. Tonight, join your fellow passengers for a delicious final night dinner and enjoy the evening entertainment.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner by PS Murray Princess

DAY 6: (BD) YOUNGHUSBAND TO MANNUM TO VICTOR HARBOR

FRIDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2023

We leave Younghusband and head back to Mannum. After breakfast we say farewell to the Murray Princess. From here we head off to the nearby **Monarto Safari Park** - a free range wildlife sanctuary. A guide will join us on the coach for a safari tour experience of the park. The zoo plays a major role, nationally and internationally, in breeding programs for rare and endangered species. We have lunch (*passengers' own expense*) before continuing on to **Victor Harbor**. Enjoy a ride on the historic **Horse Drawn Tram** across the Causeway to **Granite Island**. Feel the ocean breeze as the beautiful Clydesdale horses draw us along the jetty bridge. Enjoy free time to explore the rugged coastline or spot the little penguins that inhabit this island before checking in at your hotel.

McCracken Country Club, Victor Harbor | 1 night |

Breakfast by PS Murray Princess || Lunch at own cost | Dinner at hotel

From Victor Harbor it will take us just over an hour to travel to **Cape Jervis** at the foot of the **Fleurieu Peninsula** – the departure point for the Sealink Ferry Service to Kangaroo Island. It takes just 40 minutes to complete the crossing to Penneshaw. Once the coach is unloaded, we travel to the most eastern point of the island, the **Cape Willoughby Lighthouse**. Being the first lighthouse to be built in South Australia it has a rich maritime history and spectacular panoramic views across Backstairs Passage from the top of the lighthouse. There are 101 steps to navigate to the top if you wish, but the view from the ground is also pretty with excellent views of the remote island coastline. Once we have checked into our accommodation, enjoy a stroll along the beach or relax before dinner.

Mercure Kangaroo Island Lodge | 3 nights |
Breakfast and Dinner in hotel | Lunch at own cost

There are two major wildlife areas we have planned to visit today – **Seal Bay** and the **Flinders Chase National Park**. First up we meet our guide and head to Seal Bay for our chance to walk on the beach amongst the colony of Australian Sea Lions who live here all year round. It is an unforgettable experience to be guided by a National Parks Ranger, along the beach, within metres of the bulls, cows and sea pups as they rest on the beach. We arrive at the **Raptor Domain** for their free flight birds of prey demonstration and then have lunch. This afternoon we head towards the south western end of Kangaroo Island to **Flinders Chase National Park**. This part of the Island was devastated by the 2019 bushfires and most of the vegetation and local infrastructure was either lost, or badly affected. We will head directly to **Remarkable Rocks** and **Admirals Arch** and we can see first-hand the impact of the fires and the re-growth that has commenced. To conclude our day, we head back to Kingscote for the final night on Kangaroo Island.

Breakfast & Dinner at hotel | Lunch included

We plan to visit a few unique ventures today - run by some unique Kangaroo Island characters! The first one is **Clifford's Honey Farm** – home to Kangaroo Island's own population of Ligurian bees (the only pure strain in the world) producing 10,000 kilograms of delectable honey each year. Enjoy a tour and learn how these bees were imported in 12 hives from the Italian province of Liguria in the 1880s, and remain protected from other breeds of bee by the island's isolation. Next, we head to the **Emu Ridge Eucalyptus Distillery**, to learn all about this uniquely Kangaroo Island operation. Eucalyptus Oil distilling was once one of Kangaroo Islands major industries. It began in the 1880's, and was a supplementary income for the farmers clearing their land for sheep farming. In the 1930's it reached its peak with 48 stills employing over 600 people and over the eucalyptus distilling era there were around 100 stills on the island. Our final visit for the day is to **Emu Bay** for a visit to the **Emu Bay Lavender Farm** which eventuated from the dreams of its owners Maria and Tony when looking to diversify their property. They now have a viable venture that gives great pleasure to those who visit. We'll be given an informative **talk** and offered some **lavender ice-cream!**

Breakfast & Dinner at hotel | Lunch at own cost

All aboard for our Sealink ferry back to the mainland. Nothing is complete without a stop at one of South Australia's premier wine regions, *McLaren Vale*, known as the birthplace of the South Australian wine industry. Set amongst the gorgeous vines is *Shingleback Winery*, where we relax sampling some wines and enjoy a platter lunch. Our next visit is *Lloyd Brothers Wine & Olive Co.* Not only are they known for their wines, but an extensive range of Kalamata olives, extra virgin olive oils and pestos for tastings. They also have a unique olive-based body care products for purchase. Continuing to Adelaide for our final night of the tour.

Adelaide Rockford, Adelaide | 1 night |
Breakfast & Dinner at hotel | Lunch Shingleback Winery

What a fantastic holiday we've have! With our suitcases packed full of wonderful memories, we transfer to Adelaide Airport for our flight homeward. We arrive home with incredible memories from our South Australian adventure with new found friendships made along the way.

Breakfast at hotel | Lunch at own cost

Tour Inclusions

- 6 night's motel accommodation
- 4 nights on Captain Cook Cruise
- 10 cooked breakfasts (including on cruise)
- 10 dinners (including on cruise)
- 5 lunches
- Entry & Tasting at Beerenberg Farm
- Guided walking tour of Hahndorf
- Visit to Melba's Chocolate Factory
- Visit to Woodside Cheese Factory
- Monarto Safari Tour
- Horse Drawn Tram ride in Victor Harbor
- Return Ferry tickets on Sealink KI to Kangaroo Island
- Group visit to Cape Willoughby Lighthouse
- Guided Beach Walk at Seal Bay with National Park Ranger
- Entry to Raptor Domain including lunch
- Entry in to Cliffords Honey Farm including honey ice cream
- Guided tour of Emu Ridge Eucalyptus Oil Distillery
- Entry to Emu Bay Lavender Farm with lunch
- Tasting and platter lunch at Shingleback Wines
- Tasting at Lloyd Brothers Wine & Olive Co.
- Transfers to / from Brisbane airport *conditions apply

Accommodation

- Adelaide Rockford / 2 Nights
- Captain Cook Cruises / 4 Nights
- McCracken Country Club / 1 Night
- Kangaroo Island Seaside Inn / 3 Nights

PO Box 629
Coolum Beach
QLD 4573
ABN 31871210455



www.cttravel.com.au
tours@cttravel.com.au
07 53911648
0409 278 971