

14-day Eyre Peninsula & Murray Princess Tour

Saturday 24th February to Friday 8th March 2024



What an adventure we have in front of us! We are off to South Australia to explore Port Augusta at the top of the Spencer Gulf, the Eyre Peninsula – often known as the "Forgotten Corner" – and the Clare Valley. Then a real treat! We are booked on the Murray Princess for a cruise from the historic river port of Mannum. Step aboard the grand old lady of the river and into a bygone era. A fundamental part of Australia's heritage was founded in the proud tradition of the paddle steamers on Australia's greatest river. Equal to any trade route in the world, the Murray was the lifeblood of the pioneers who lived in the driest continent on Earth. The Murray's banks form protected lagoons for a myriad of bird and animal life including sulphur crested cockatoos nesting high in towering sandstone cliffs. Along the way we will cruise past majestic Red Gums forests, stark Box Tree flats and massive white sand bars forming island retreats.

Day 1 (D): Heading Off (Saturday 24 February 2024)

Once the coach is loaded and we have everyone on board we head off on our 2-week adventure to **South Australia**. Sit back and enjoy the ride as we make our way south along the Pacific Highway and then into the Blue Mountains and through to **Bathurst** for our first night on tour. (Meal inclusions: Dinner in the motel)

The Mantra Bathurst – 1 night



Day 2 (BLD): Bathurst to Hay (Sunday 25 February 24)



Our morning stop is at **Cowra** - the town that was made famous by the POW Camp located here during WWII and the renowned "Cowra Breakout". We learn about more about through a hologram at the local Visitor Centre before visiting the **Cowra Japanese Gardens and Cultural Centre**.

Designed by internationally renowned landscape architect Ken Nakajima, the 5-hectare gardens feature wooden bridges, two large ponds and a stream cascading

into waterfalls just waiting to be explored. Lunch is in West Wyalong before the drive out west to Hay. Our afternoon stop is at **Goolgowi**. Goolgowi is often referred to as the "Crossroads to the Outback". It's a relatively new town with settlement occurring in the 1920's when the Mid-Western Highway and the railway encouraged development. We stop



here for an afternoon tea and, at the **Goolgowi Hall** we can view the district's tribute to the pioneers of the area. A large wall hanging was designed and completed by ladies of the district to provide a tribute to those who helped pioneer the land and turn it from miles of mallee scrub into areas of agriculturally abundant land. Dry land farming is done in the immediate vicinity of Goolgowi, with irrigated cropping to the southwest of the town. **Hay** in Far Western NSW will be our overnight stop. (*Meal Inclusions: Breakfast & dinner in the motel/Picnic lunch*)

Bishops Lodge 379 Moama Street, Hay Tel 02 69933003– 1 night

Day 3 (BLD): The Hay Plain (Monday 26 February 24)



What a vast country Australia is. Here in Hay, there is an impressive Regional Gallery called **Shear Australia – the National Shearers Hall of Fame**. We have allowed some time for an inspection and morning tea before heading west across the Hay Plain. It will take about 90 minutes to cross – its flat, remote, and fascinating. On the western side of

the Hay Plain is **Balranald** – a town first settled in the 1840s, on the site of a fording place of the Murrumbidgee River. Balranald gained importance during the riverboat days as a service port for the wool industry. We stop here for a Club Lunch

before pushing through to Mildura. Our afternoon stops include **Robinvale** just over the Victorian Border and **Euston** – a great place to stretch our legs and get a close-up view of the Murray River. (*Meal inclusions: Breakfast & dinner in the motel/Club lunch*)

Best Western Chaffey International 244 Deakin Avenue, Mildura Tel 0350235833 – 1 night



Day 4 (BLD): SA's Riverland & Mid North (Tuesday 27 February 24)



From Mildura we travel into South Australia's Riverland Region. Our morning stop is at the **Overland Corner Hotel**, just to the north of Lake Bonney. With the arrival of European settlement Overland Corner, located halfway between Adelaide

and Mildura, became a major stopover point for drovers taking stock from New South Wales to the Port of Adelaide. We will look at the historic pub and enjoy some morning tea before pushing onto **Morgan** and then **Burra** for lunch. Copper from Burra's "Monster Mine" saved South Australia from bankruptcy in the 1840's. It was the largest metal mine in the country employing 1,000 people. Cornish and Welsh miners flocked to Burra to work for the South Australian Mining Association, and some set up homes in dugouts hewn out of the banks of the Burra Creek. The town has been classified by the National Trust. Our overnight stay is at **Peterborough** (*Meal inclusions: breakfast & dinner in the motel/Pub lunch*)

Roundhouse Motel 25 Queen Road, Peterborough Tel 08 86512078 – 1 night

Day 5 (BLD): To the "Forgotten Corner" (Wednesday 28 February 24)



This morning we travel through the Southern Flinders Ranges, through Port Augusta at the top of the Spencer Gulf and onto the **Eyre Highway** to **Kimba** at the top of the Eyre Peninsula. It's surrounded by endless wheat farms growing golden in the sunlight, which was the inspiration behind the concept for the silo art we will see here. It took artists 26 days to complete using 200 litres of paint, over

five and a half silos. After lunch we travel down to **Tumby Bay** where there is more Silo Art – this time an interpretation of two boys jumping off the Tumby Bay Jetty. The inspiration for the silos comes from the artist Martin Ron and his assistant Matt Gorrick, who spent some time in the area before painting the silos. They said the initial idea came from seeing people dive off the jetty into the ocean, even joining in the sport themselves. Time permitting, we will take a detour to **Coffin Bay** before checking into our overnight accommodation is at the **Port Lincoln Hotel** – a 4-star hotel located on the foreshore of sparkling Boston Bay. (Meal inclusions: Breakfast & dinner in the motel/Light lunch)



Port Lincoln Hotel 1 Lincoln Highway, Port Lincoln Tel 08 86212000 – 1 night

Day 6 (BLD): Port Augusta/Port Pirie (Thursday 29 February 24)



A guide will meet us on the coach this morning for an introductory tour of **Port Lincoln**. We then tour north along the coast with a stop at **Cowell**. The "star" of the art here is local identity Lionel Deer and his camel Diamantina. Mr Deer is best known in the Cowell community for bringing his camels to the Cowell Christmas Pageant for over 30 years. Lionel represents much of what the fabric of Cowell is

made of. He is a descendant of early settlers and from a large farming family. He spent many of his years working as a shearer and loves his football. Our lunch stop is at Port Augusta at the **Wadlata Outback Centre** before the short drive to Port Pirie – our base for the next two nights. (Meal inclusions: Breakfast & dinner in the motel/Café lunch at Wadlata)



John Pirie Motor Inn Warnertown Road Port Pirie Tel 0886324200– 2 nights

Day 7 (BD): The Yorke Peninsular (Friday 1, 2024)



We head to the **Yorke Peninsula** this morning to spend time in three towns – **Kadina, Moonta** and **Walleroo**, collectively known as the "**Copper Triangle**". Our first stop is in **Kadina**, at the **Farm Shed Museum and Tourist Centre** for a chance to uncover the discovery of minerals that put the Yorke

Day 7 (BD): The Yorke Peninsular (Friday 1, 2024)

continued



Peninsula on the world map. "Kadina's Story" is a photographic display depicting the history of the Peninsula's largest and most important town and the agricultural display tells of the evolution of farming machinery which forms the basis of the National Dryland Farming Interpretive Centre. Next, we visit **Moonta**, known as Australia's little Cornwall. Copper was discovered here in 1861

attracting many Cornishmen miners and their centuries old mining methods. Spending some time at the **Moonta Mines Museum** we'll hear how the district produced so much copper the wealth generated exceeded all other mining in the state. There is also an interesting display of an entire 1900 classroom being left as though the teacher only departed a few minutes ago. Settling into our train seats, we take a ride on the **Moonta Mines Tourist Railway** which departs from a station just outside the museum. Relive life in Moonta as we pass the historic landmarks of the former mining operations, including the reservoir and tunnel within Ryans Tailings Heap. Finally, we visit the pretty coastal town of **Wallaroo**, where we visit the **Wallaroo Heritage and Nautical Museum** before returning to **Port Pirie** (Meal inclusions: Breakfast & dinner in the motel)



Day 8 (BLD): The Pichi Richi Rail (Saturday 2 March)



We have a cracker of a day planned today! We begin with a stunning ride along the **Pichi Richi Railway** (subject to timetable) to the historic town of **Quorn**. Watch gum-lined creeks, bluebush-studded hills and ancient rocky outcrops roll past at the relaxed pace of years gone by. All trains use historic steam or diesel locomotives or railcars or immaculately

restored timber carriages some more than 130 years old. Once we disembark we make our way to **Teas on the Terrace** for a relaxing lunch. From here we make our way into the **Clare Valley** – our base for the next two nights. (Meal inclusions: Breakfast & dinner in the motel/Light lunch at Quorn)

Clare Country Club White Hut Road, Clare Tel 088842 1060 – 3 nights

Day 9 (BL): Clare Valley (Sunday 3 March 24)

We have a leisurely day planned. One of the most enjoyable things you can do in the Clare Valley is have lunch at a winery – and that's what we are going to do today - at the **Skillogalee Winery**. The word "Skillogalee" comes from Celtic origins and the old stone cottage that we'll be dining in was built in 1851 by a Cornish miner. Look out on the cottage garden and the vines while enjoying a Vine Pruners lunch including a local glass of wine! (Meal inclusions: Breakfast in the motel/Winery lunch/Dinner own arrangements & cost)



Day 10 (BLD): The Murray Princess (Monday 4 March 24)



This afternoon we will be joining the **Murray Princess** for our 4-night cruise but before we head to the departure point at Mannum we want to look at **Bungaree Station** which is just north of Clare. This merino sheep station, established in 1841, is still run by the

descendants of the original founder, G.C. Hawker as an efficient mixed farm. Consequently, Bungaree Station is not a museum, but rather a living record of rural Australia since 1841. We take a guided tour with a member of the family who will give us wonderful insight into 19th century station life. We will visit such sites as St Michael's Church and Cemetery, the Homestead gardens, and the Station Store. Re-joining the coach, we travel south via Kapunda to Mannum – the birthplace of the Murray River trade and communication. This afternoon we board the **Murray Princess** and head upriver (north) whilst enjoying our pre dinner drinks and welcome dinner. As we cruise under floodlight to our overnight mooring at **Caurnamont**, we 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. (*Breakfast in the motel/Light lunch at Bungaree Station/Dinner on board*)

Outside Cabin PS Murray Princes – 4 nights

Day 11 (BLD): Murray Princess Cruise (Tuesday 5 March 24)

Daybreak is time for the keen photographers to be out capturing the special light and 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 join a guided tour of **Burk Salter Boutique Winery** and surrounding vineyard 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**". A race not quite like any other! (*All meals provided*)



Day 12 (BLD): Swan Reach & Sunnydale (Wednesday 6 March 24)



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 we can enjoy an ale or cappuccino overlooking the Murray River (additional

cost). Join the **guided walking tour** and visit the Swan Reach Museum (gold coin donation 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

Day 12 (BLD): Swan Reach & Sunnydale (Wednesday 6 March 24)

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. Often there are kangaroos, wombats, foxes, bats, and owls. *(All meals provided onboard)*



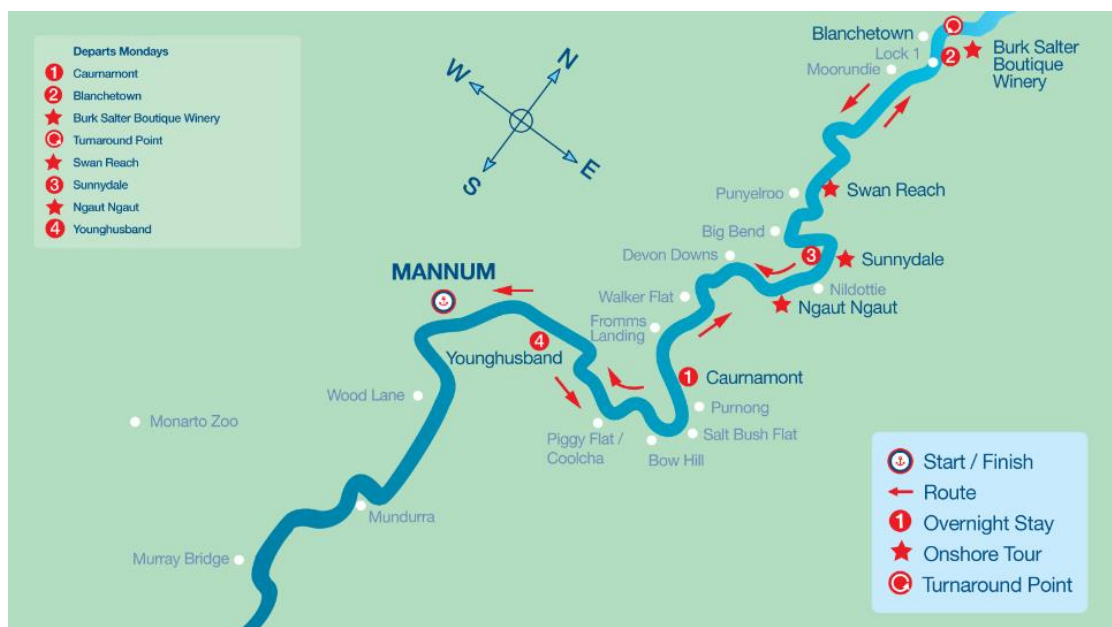
Day 13 (BLD): Younghusband (Thursday 7 March 24)



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, the Captain and his officers host a spectacular **Farewell Captain's Buffet Dinner**. Why not dress up and dance!! *(All meals provided onboard)*

Day 14 (B): Mannum Home (Friday 8 March 24)

We leave Younghusband and head back to **Mannum**. After breakfast we reluctantly say farewell as we arrive at the Mannum Wharf. What an adventure! Our coach transfer takes us all the way to the **Adelaide Airport** for our flight back to Sydney with a connection to **Port Macquarie**. There is time once we are at the airport to pick up lunch and stretch our legs, wandering through the airport shops before departure. *(Meal inclusions: Breakfast)*



\$5,195 pp twin | \$1,540 s/sup \$600 deposit pp plus Adelaide – Sydney – Port Airfare \$434 pp

Tour Inclusions

13 nights' accommodation as per the itinerary
13 cooked breakfasts, 12 x 2 course dinners/buffets & 11 lunches
Cowra Visitor Information Centre (Day 2)
Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre – group entry & guided tour (Day 2)
West Wyalong Service & Citizens Club - Club lunch (Day 2)
Goolgowi Hall – visit (Day 2)
Goolgowi Ex-Serviceman's Memorial Club - afternoon tea (Day 2)
Shear Outback - entry & morning tea (Day 3)
Balranald District Ex Servicemen's Club - Club lunch (Day 3)
Sightseeing stops at Robinvale & Euston (Day 3)
Overland Corner Hotel - morning tea (Day 4)
Royal Exchange Hotel - pub lunch (Day 4)
Whyalla Visitor Centre (Steelworks) – 90-minute steelworks tour (Day 5)
Hotel Bayview – pub lunch (Day 5)
Silo Art stops at Cowell and Tumby Bay (Day 5)
Port Lincoln Hotel – porterage (Day 5)
Guide - Renae's Tours - locally guided tour of Port Lincoln (Day 6)
Kimba Gateway Hotel - pub lunch (Day 6)
Workshop 26 - country shopping experience (Day 6)
Iron Knob VC (Day 6)
Wadlata Outback Centre - entry (Day 7)
Pichi Richi Rail – one way Port August to Quorn (Day 7)
Teas on the Terrace - light lunch (Day 7)
Clare Country Club – porterage (Day 7)
Farm Shed Museum and Tourism Centre (Day 8)
Moonta Mines Museum – entry/Miners Cottage (Day 8)
Moonta Tourist Railway – 50-minute train ride (Day 8)
Wallaroo Heritage & Nautical Museum – entry & self-guided tour (Day 8)
Skillogalee Wines - Vine Pruners Lunch included glass of wine (Day 9)
****PLEASE NOTE****
Dinner has not been included tonight at Clare Country Club – OWN ARRANGEMENTS
Bungaree Station – tour/morning tea/lunch (Day 10)
Captain Cook Cruises - Mannum – 4 nights / 5-day river cruise inclusive of meals
Coach parking at Mannum during the cruise
Air – Adelaide/Sydney/Port Macquarie – **TO BE ADDED** (Day 14)

Please Note

Travel Insurance is not included but recommended.
Price is based on a minimum of 30 paying passengers.
Itinerary may need to be re-costed if minimum numbers are not achieved.

For more information or to book.

Phone 02 6583 3330

Email admin@portbus.com.au

Website <https://www.portbus.com.au>

Book Online <https://events.humanitix.com/eyre-peninsula-murray-princess>

All times are approximate only and are subject to change without notice.