

Kangaroo Island & the Great Ocean Road

Saturday 9th to Monday 18th March 2024



Kangaroo Island, because of its variety and abundance of wildlife, has often been described as a "zoo without fences". Kangaroo Island's first official settlers arrived in July 1836 aboard the Duke of York. For the first free settlement in Australia, Kingscote was dogged by the lack of water and suitable building timber. After 4 years it was abandoned in favour of Adelaide. Today Kangaroo Island is one of Australia's best known and loved holiday destinations. After suffering from serious summer fires, the resilient tourism industry is up and running again and welcoming visitors to their special place. Most of the local infrastructure was spared. Unfortunately, the Flinders Chase Visitors Centre was destroyed along with some properties at the western end of the Island but mostly KI is open for business and would welcome your visit.

In the second half of our tour, we explored Victoria's Shipwreck Coast and the Great Ocean Road. The Great Ocean Road is one of the best coastal drives in the world! Built to honour the servicemen and women of World War One, the road extends more than 300 kilometres along some of the best coastal scenery this country has to offer. We visit Warrnambool on what is called the "Shipwreck Coast" and then explore the southern coast along the Port Campbell National Park and the Otway National Park. Join us on this stunning tour to two of Australia's iconic destinations – Kangaroo Island and The Great Ocean Road.

Day 1 (LD): Heading Off (Saturday 9 March 24)

Welcome to our 10-day tour to **Kangaroo Island** and the **Great Ocean Road**. This morning we transferred to Port Macquarie Airport for our flight to Sydney with a connection through to **Adelaide**. Our **Port Bus Touring coach** will be there to meet us and for the transfer to our Adelaide CBD hotel (*Meal inclusions: Welcome Dinner*)

Rockford Adelaide 164 Hindley Street Adelaide Tel 08 8211 8255 – 1 night

Day 2 (BD): To the Island (Sunday 10 March, 24)

Today our travels take us to **Strathalbyn**. High Street is well known for its antique shops set amongst some of the most historic buildings in South Australia. This is the perfect place to browse amongst the ambience of early South Australian settlement. Our morning tea stop is at the **Strathalbyn Soldiers Memorial Gardens** in the centre of Strathalbyn. This lawn area is beautifully presented with gardens of roses and enhanced by the historic features of the War Memorial and Rotunda. It is no wonder Strathalbyn is known as the prettiest town in South Australia! We continue to the historical township of **Goolwa** (an aboriginal word meaning "elbow").



The Murray River Foreshore at Goolwa

Situated on the bend in the Murray, near the mouth of the river, Goolwa initially grew with the developing trade along the Mighty Murray. The Murray mouth silted up and large ships were unable to get up to Goolwa, so a railway line, the first in the state, was built from Goolwa to nearby Port Elliot. In the 1880's a new railway line to Adelaide spelt the end for Goolwa as a Port Town! From Goolwa we make our way across to **Victor Harbor** (or "Victor" as the locals call it). Victor was originally a whaling centre with three whaling stations in the mid-1900s. An estimated 400 southern right whales arrived at Encounter Bay each season. Unfortunately, these magnificent mammals were destroyed, and it is only in the last 20 years they have returned to the bay in increasing numbers. We have some free time in the town centre to buy lunch.

Then it's onto **Cape Jervis** in time for the late afternoon ferry service. It takes just 40 minutes to complete the crossing to **Penneshaw**. Our accommodation is in the small village of **American River** to the east of Kingscote - an ideal base from which to explore **KI** (*Meal inclusions: Breakfast and dinner in the motel*)

Mercure Kangaroo Island Lodge, American River Tel 08 85537053 – 3 nights



Day 3 (BLD): Kangaroo Island (Monday 11 March 24)

There are two major wildlife areas we have planned to visit today – **Seal Bay** and the **Flinders Chase National Park**. Our first appointment is at the famous **Seal Bay** for a 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 seal pups as they rest on the beach. We then head towards the southwestern end of Kangaroo Island – the area most affected by the recent fires. This afternoon we visit the **Flinders Chase National Park, Remarkable Rocks, Cape du Couedic** and **Admirals Arch** where we can see close a colony of **New Zealand Fur Seals** who live in the sea and the rocks just below us. At Rocky River we should see plenty of Cape Barren Geese and maybe a Tamar Wallaby or two. *(Meal inclusions: Breakfast & dinner in the hotel/Picnic lunch)*



Restaurant at Mercure KI Lodge, American River, Kangaroo Island

Day 4 (BLD): KI – Natural Produce (Tuesday 12 March, 2024)

We have planned to visit a number of small and unusual Kangaroo Island attractions today. This morning we will visit two unique ventures - 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. The 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 is **Emu Ridge Eucalyptus Distillery** where we take a product tour. Lunch today is at the **Emu Bay Lavender Farm** – a farm gate cafe set amongst rows of Lavender. Here they make and package an extensive range of lavender products on site. The cafe is famous for its oversized lavender scones and handmade ice cream!! (*Meal inclusions: Breakfast & dinner in the motel/Light lunch*)

Day 5 (BLD): The Adelaide Hills (Wednesday 13 March 24)

This morning, we make our way back to **Penneshaw** to connect with the mid-morning ferry service to **Cape Jervis** (departs at 10.30am). Once back on the mainland, we travel to the small seaside village of **Normanville** for a light lunch. From here we head into the **Mount Lofty Ranges**. We enjoy a stop in **Hahndorf**, Australia's oldest surviving German Settlement. There will be time for a walk to explore the various cafes and gift shops or perhaps a beer at the German Arms before the short drive to Murray Bridge for our overnight stay. (*Meal inclusions: Breakfast & dinner in the motel/Light lunch*)

Bridgeport Hotel, 2 Bridge Street Murray Bridge Tel 08 85322002 – 1 night.

Day 6 (BLD): To the Southeast (Thursday 14 March, 24)

We are off to **Mount Gambier** today – about 350ks to the Southeast. We will stop at **Naracoorte** for lunch before a visit to the **Mary MacKillop Centre** in **Penola** - home of the Blessed Mary Mackillop. The town was established in the mid eighteenth hundreds and has a colourful history. Fortunately, a lot of this history has been preserved and is on display along Petticoat Lane. At the **Mary MacKillop Interpretative Centre**, there is a special story to be heard as we wander through the Centre, the School House, and the Church, set around a reflective pool adding stillness and peace to this special site. (*Meal inclusions: Breakfast & dinner in the motel/Light lunch at Naracoorte*)

Presidential Motel 154 Jubilee Highway West, Mount Gambier Tel 08 8724 9966 – 1 night

Day 7 (BLD): To the Shipwreck Coast (Friday 15 March, 24)

After breakfast we look at the **Blue Lake** – the largest of the many crater lakes in the area. Between November and April, the steely grey waters of the lake changes to a brilliant blue, almost overnight. There are many theories about why this occurs, but scientists continue to be baffled by this yet to be explained phenomenon. From here we travel to Portland, via Nelson. We have arranged for a local guide to show us around before lunch and then the afternoon drive to **Port Fairy** and onto **Warrnambool** (*Meal inclusions: Breakfast & dinner in the motel/Light lunch in Portland*)

Mid-City Motel 525 Raglan Parade Warrnambool tel 03 55623866

Day 8 (BLD): The Great Ocean Road (Saturday 16 March 24)

Today we will be spending some time along the western section of the **Great Ocean Road** – in fact we will drive the full length of the **Port Campbell National Park**.



The dramatic coastal scenery on either side of the town of Port Campbell will be a highlight of our journey. Have your camera ready as we approach the **Twelve Apostles** – a group of magnificent rock stacks rising from the Southern Ocean. We also see London Bridge, Brown of Thorns, and the beautiful Bay of Islands. Our next stop is in the forests of the **Otway Ranges** as we arrive at the spectacular **Otway Fly**. The amazing tree top walk is the longest and highest canopy walk of its kind. There is a stunning walk from the visitor's centre, so wear some comfortable shoes. From here it's a short drive to Apollo Bay. From here we continue east along the Great Ocean Road through Wye River to Lorne and Anglesea. Just beyond here is **Bells Beach** which hosts the Rip Curl Pro Surfing Classic - an annual event which attracts competitors from all over the world. Next stop is **Torquay**. Torquay Victoria, like Torquay Devon (UK) is a popular holiday destination. Its beaches have been modelled on those of England with wide grassy foreshores and large shady trees lining the coast. Torquay has long been associated with the surfing industry.

This is evident with the number of manufacturers and retailers of surfing related goods that line the main highway through the town. We will take a drive along the Esplanade to see the main town beach and onto the **Point Danger Lookout**. From here there are good views back towards the town centre and west towards the main surf beach. We then transfer to **Geelong** for our overnight stay (*Meal inclusions: Breakfast & dinner in the motel*)

Rydges Geelong Cnr Gheringhap & Myers Streets Geelong Tel 03 52236200

Day 9 (BLD): Albury & the Northeast (Sunday 17 March, 24)

We travel north this morning to **Benalla** for lunch at the Golf Club. Early afternoon we meet our locally based guide and set off to see the impressive **street art** in the area. Artists from around the world were brought together to paint murals on bare walls, some over three stories high. Heading north our afternoon tour showcases the three new silos that have recently been completed in the townships of **Goorambat, Devenish, and Tungamah**. All are quite different from each other, but all have brought many visitors to the region. Whilst in the small community of Goorambat we're also given the opportunity to see the "Sophia" mural in the Uniting Church, painted by the Melbourne-based artist Matt Adnate. We then travel through to **Wangaratta** and onto **Albury** for our final night on tour. (*Meal inclusions: Breakfast & dinner in the motel/Club lunch*)

Quality Siesta Motel 416 Wagga Road Albury Tel 02 6025 4555

Day 10 (B): Heading Home (Monday 18 March, 24)

An earlier start today and not too many stops as we travel back to **Port Macquarie**. It will be quite a long day on the road but what a trip it has been! (*Meal inclusions: Breakfast in the hotel*)

\$4,465 pp twin | \$1,069 s/sup

\$300 deposit per person is due by 1st September 2023

Balance is due by 1st February 2024.

Tour Inclusions

10 nights' accommodation as per the itinerary
10 cooked breakfasts, 10 x 2 course dinners & 9 lunches
QantasLink – Port Macquarie/Sydney (Day 1)
Qantas (or Virgin) – Sydney/Adelaide (Day 1)
Local sightseeing (Day 2)
Spirit Australia Cruises - Coorong Discovery Cruise with lunch (Day 2)
Lady Bay Hotel – picnic lunch (Day 3)
SeaLink KI – return pax to KI (Day 3)
SeaLink KI - return coach to KI (Day 3)
Seal Bay - guided beach walk (Day 3)
Flinders Chase National Park (Day 3)
Emu Bay Lavender Farm (Day 3)
Lloyd Brothers Wine & Olive Co. – winery lunch (Day 4)
Steam Ranger / Cockle Train – one way Victor Harbour to Goolwa (Day 5)
Corio Hotel – pub lunch (Day 5)
Free time in Hahndorf (Day 5)
Naracoorte Hotel Motel – lunch (Day 6)
Mary MacKillop Penola Centre (Day 6)
Aquifer Tours Blue Lake Pumping Station –guided tour (Day 7)
Guide - Lynne Jones (Day 7)
Richmond Henty Hotel – lunch (Day 7)
Great ocean Road – sightseeing (Day 8)
Sovereign Hill – entry (Day 9)
Creswick Woollen Mills - guided tour (Day 9)
Sightseeing at Hanging Rock (Day 9)
Quality Hotel Wangaratta Gateway – picnic lunch (Day 10)
Submarine Museum, Holbrook (Day 10)
Karuah RSL Club – club lunch (Day 11)

Please Note

Travel Insurance is not included but recommended.

Price is net and 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/ki-gor>

Please read our T&Cs before booking | times and venues are all subject to change without notice.