

ADELAIDE & UPPER MURRAYLANDS

The Indian Pacific & PS Murray Princess

Itinerary

DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY: Sydney, Board the Indian Pacific

Your adventure begins as the Indian Pacific pulls away from Sydney's Central Station at 3.00pm. As the train winds its way through the breathtaking Blue Mountains, a sumptuous dinner accompanied by an array of fine wines is served. After dinner, feel free to relax with a nightcap, before heading off for a restful night's sleep. (B,L,D)

Overnight: Indian Pacific, Gold Service

DAY 2 - THURSDAY: Broken Hill, Adelaide

Arrive early this morning at the 'Silver City' that is Broken Hill for your choice of Off Train Excursions that encompass the mining and cultural history or the unexpected oasis of art. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast back on the train to continue west. Relax and take in the views and before lunch is served as the Indian Pacific enters the southern tip of the spectacular and ancient Flinders Ranges. Arrive at Adelaide's Parklands Terminal this afternoon at 3.15pm. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Your hotel is located on North Terrace, close to Rundle Mall shopping and Adelaide's cultural precinct. (B,L)

Stay: overnight at the Mercure Grosvenor Hotel, Adelaide

DAY 3 – FRIDAY: Board Murray Princess

Your morning is at leisure in Adelaide until your 2.00pm coach for your scenic transfer from the Mercure Grosvenor Hotel to Mannum, situated on the Murray River.

Mid-afternoon the PS Murray Princess departs historic Mannum, birthplace of the Murray River trade and communication, and heads upriver while you enjoy a Welcome Dinner. 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. The on-board entertainer provides music for the night owls. (D)

Stay: 7 nights aboard PS Murray Princess

DAY 4 - SATURDAY: Murray River Cruise

Daybreak and time for the keen photographers to be out to capture the special light and the morning movement of wildlife. Prolific birdlife includes pelicans, wrens and swans. This morning, your discovery vessel awaits for a wildlife tour. Travelling in small, personalised groups, explore the maze of the river and the birdlife is amazing. Watch for darters, herons and egrets feeding along the river's muddy edges. If you choose to stay on-board, you may wish to partake in a game of bocce or compete in the fishing challenge before cruising upriver to Swan Reach and Sugar Shack Conservation Park. After dinner, enjoy being entertained by the talented crew. (B,L,D)

DAY 5 – SUNDAY: Murray River Cruise

Continue cruising upriver this morning as you enjoy breakfast and pass through one of 13 locks which maintain the flow and levels of water. Arrive at the township of Blanchetown where you will be transferred by coach to the Riverland town of Waikerie. Enjoy some free time here before travelling to Banrock Station Wine and Wetland Centre near Kingston-On-Murray. Enjoy a delicious buffet lunch followed by a DVD presentation and wine tastings. Mid-afternoon, travel to Cadell where the PS Murray Princess will be waiting. This evening the vessel will be secured at Wilson's Sandbar and after dinner, enjoy the on-board entertainment. (B,L,D)

DAY 6 – MONDAY: Murray River Cruise

After breakfast, join the First Officer for a talk in the Sturt Dining Room as Murray Princess continues cruising upriver to Qualco. From here, the Captain will turn the vessel around and begin the cruise downriver. Following lunch, arrive at Caudo Vineyard to enjoy cellar door tastings and a tour of the gardens & orchards. This evening the vessel arrives at Morgan where you'll enjoy dinner. (B,L,D)

DAY 7 – TUESDAY: Murray River Cruise

During the 1800's, Morgan was the home port of hundreds of paddle steamers which carried cargo and passengers up the Murray-Darling River system. This morning hop ashore to see this historic town. The restored wharf precinct captures the early river trading days and the town's museums bring to life the stories of the paddle steamer era. Back on board, continue cruising downriver. This afternoon the vessels moors opposite to the township of Blanchetown for the overnight anchorage. As the last rays of sun fade, join a guided tour of Burk Salter Boutique Winery and enjoy wine tasting at the cellar door, which is fitted out with beautiful red gum wood bars. After dinner, join all the fun and excitement, and participate in the "Murray River Cup". (B,L,D)

DAY 8 – WEDNESDAY: Murray River Cruise

After breakfast cruise to picturesque Swan Reach. The town was first settled in the 1850s and 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 the guided 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. On arrival at Sunnydale, it's all ashore for the Woolshed Show as we recreate typical Australian woolshed history. Later 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. (B,L,D)

DAY 9 - THURSDAY: Murray River Cruise

After an optional Bush Tucker Breakfast (additional cost) or a bush walk with the Captain, Murray Princess slowly cruises downriver past magnificent cliffs scoured by the river over millions of years. 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. Then return to the vessel to cruise downriver to Younghusband. Along the way, adventure seekers can also take a speedboat ride. Tonight the Captain and his officers host a spectacular Farewell Captain's Buffet Dinner. Dress up and dance, if you wish. (B,L,D)

DAY 10 – FRIDAY: Murray River Cruise

This morning leave Younghusband and head back to Mannum. After breakfast it's time to say farewell as PS Murray Princess arrives at the Mannum Wharf. Board your coach for your transfer back to Adelaide and your hotel. (B)

Stay: 2 nights at Mercure Grosvenor Hotel, Adelaide

DAY 11 – SATURDAY: The Barossa

Travel by small coach and enjoy a food and wine journey to South Australia's premium wine region, the Barossa. Take time to sample some of the Barossa's finest wines and gourmet food that makes this wine region so special. You'll enjoy morning tea, wine tasting at small boutique cellar doors, and a delicious Barossa style platter lunch. (L)

DAY 12 – SUNDAY: Adelaide

Depart Adelaide today at your own arrangements.