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MURRAY RIVER CRUISE & KANGAROO ISLAND

Itinerary

DAY 1 - MONDAY: Arrive Adelaide, board Murray Princess

Arrive today in Adelaide. Make your way to the Stamford Plaza Adelaide Hotel, 150 North Terrace.

At 2.00pm board your coach for your scenic transfer from the Stamford Plaza Adelaide Hotel to Mannum, situated on the Murray River.

The PS Murray Princess departs historic Mannum and sails upstream. This evening moor overnight at Caurnamont. (D)

Stay: 4 nights aboard PS Murray Princess

DAY 2 - TUESDAY: 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, blue wrens and black 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 you moor near Salters Station for your overnight anchorage. As the last rays of the sun fade, you join a guided tour of Burk Salter's vineyard on the banks of the river and enjoy wine tasting at his cellar door. Tonight enjoy all the fun and excitement of the Murray River Cup. (B,L,D)

DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY: Murray River Cruise

After breakfast cruise downriver 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. Today it's 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 latte overlooking the Murray River. Join the guided walking tour and visit the Swan Reach Museum – a must for every visitor. Cruise downriver after lunch and take in the tranquillity as the landscape slides by or enjoy a lifestyle and info-cruising presentation. Next you arrive at Sunnydale. All ashore for the Woolshed Show as you recreate typical Australian woolshed history. Later you 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 by tractor and cart is available after dinner. (B,L,D)

DAY 4 - THURSDAY: Murray River Cruise

After breakfast the ship cruises slowly downstream past magnificent cliffs scoured by the river over millions of years. We reach Ngaut Ngaut Aboriginal Site, one of Australia's most significant archaeological locations, for a step back in time – tens of thousands of years. Stroll along a guided boardwalk to view ancient rock carvings and to learn about aboriginal history in the area. We return to the ship to cruise downriver to Youngusband. Along the way, adventure seekers can also take a speedboat ride. Tonight the captain and his officers host a spectacular farewell captain's buffet. Dress up and dance the night away. (B,L,D)

DAY 5 – FRIDAY: Disembark Murray Princess, coach to Adelaide

You leave Youngusband and head home to Mannum. From Mannum board the coach to return to Adelaide, where you will be dropped off at the Stamford Plaza Adelaide for your overnight stay. (B)

Stay: overnight at Stamford Plaza Adelaide (superior room)

DAY 6 – SATURDAY: Adelaide to Kangaroo Island

Early morning pick-up from your Adelaide hotel for a scenic coach journey to Cape Jervis, taking in the picturesque Fleurieu Peninsula with its vineyards, coastal views and rolling hills. On arrival, board the SeaLink Kangaroo Island ferry for the 45-minute crossing to Penneshaw on Kangaroo Island. Board your coach to your first stop, Clifford's Honey Farm, to enjoy an informative talk by the beekeeper, followed by tastings and a chance to sample homemade honey ice-cream and honey beauty products. Then travel on to Vivonne Bay Bistro located on a 260-hectare bush property, for a delicious two-course lunch.

After lunch, visit Seal Bay Conservation Park and enjoy a guided beach walk with a National Park ranger amongst a breeding colony of wild and rare Australian sea lions. Your tour will then visit another amazing wildlife attraction, the fascinating birds of prey in-flight demonstration, an interactive and educational display of native Australian birds and raptors. From here you will travel back to Kingscote to watch the pelican feeding and learn a little more about these fascinating and ancient birds. Your coach will return to your hotel for the evening. (L)

Stay: overnight at Ozone Hotel

DAY 7 – SUNDAY: Kangaroo Island to Adelaide

After your morning hotel pick-up, your second day of touring begins at Emu Ridge Oil Eucalyptus Distillery, an interesting bush-engineered eucalyptus distillery that makes the most of its environmental resources. After testing and tasting the eucalyptus products, travel to the centre of Kangaroo Island to the Parndana Wildlife Park where you can feed kangaroos, have your photograph taken with a koala, and take a guided tour of the park. Next, travel to Hanson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary to look for koalas nestled up in the eucalypts, followed a scrumptious two-course lunch at Kangaroo Island Wilderness Retreat.

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DAY 7 (cont.)

After lunch, travel to the most westerly part of the island and Flinders Chase National Park, one of Australia's largest and earliest conservation parks. One third of Kangaroo Island has never been cleared of natural vegetation and the thick eucalypt scrub is the habitat of many species of wildlife, much of which is uncommon or extinct on the mainland.

After a short stop at the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre, travel through the park and enjoy breathtaking views of its unique trees, plants and coastal scenery. You will be taken to the rugged southern coastline for a walk at Remarkable Rocks and Admirals Arch. Remarkable Rocks provide great photographic opportunities and stunning sea views. Admirals Arch boardwalk takes you down a rugged cliff face to reveal this spectacular arch, a natural nursery and safe haven for playful New Zealand fur seals. Watch them swimming and playing in the waves, or resting on the rocks.

There is also a possibility that you will see more kangaroos and wallabies as we travel to Penneshaw for the return ferry to Cape Jervis. At Cape Jervis board your coach to Adelaide, where you arrive at approximately 10.30pm. (B,L)

Stay: overnight at Stamford Plaza Adelaide

DAY 8 – MONDAY: Depart Adelaide

Depart Adelaide today on your onward journey.

Tour code: MR4KIADL2 / MPSS