



**TOUR COSTS
(Per Person)**

**Twin/Double
NZD\$8,400.00**

**Single Supplement
NZD\$1,850.00**

MURRAY RIVER TOUR

Tour Departs: 16 March 2021
Tour Length: 16 Days

After many very successful years of operation, we are delighted to be able to again offer this very special and unique tour to one of the most exciting and picturesque regions of Australia. The Murray River, at over 1600 miles long, is Australia's largest river and has played a major role in the settlement and development of inland parts of Australia. Mark Twain compared it favourably with the mighty Mississippi when he visited in the 19th century and the river was once a bustling highway with many paddle steamers plying its length carrying produce and people to and from the settlements along its banks. Those days are long gone, but the river region is still a hive of activity and interest with lush farmland, orchards and vineyards contrasting with the red outback at their doorstep.

The itinerary will show you the Murray region as we spend 5 days cruising downstream on our charter vessel, stopping at points of interest en route and overnighting at country hotels and motor inns at the settlements along the river. The cruise vessel for the 2021 tour will again be the modern and fully equipped "Spirit of the Murray" with its spacious upper deck providing the perfect vantage point as the boat passes towering cliffs, sleepy lagoons and Red Gum forests. Add to this, the beauty and grandeur of the Great Ocean Road between Adelaide and Melbourne, the wonderful wine growing region of South Australia, close to the picturesque city of Adelaide and the excitement and vitality (and wonderful shopping) of Melbourne and you have a great tour waiting for you.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ Melbourne - city of parks and gardens
- ❖ Sovereign Hill Historic Village, Ballarat
- ❖ Echuca, with guided tour of the river port
- ❖ Mildura gateway to the Murray River
- ❖ 5 days / 4 nights cruising the Murray River downstream on the "Spirit of the Murray"
- ❖ Adelaide, the wine capital of Australia
- ❖ Great Ocean Road between Adelaide and Melbourne
- ❖ "Spirit of Coorong" eco-cruise on Lake Alexandrina
- ❖ Naracoorte with visit to the World Heritage Fossil Cave
- ❖ Penola & St Mary McKillop Centre
- ❖ Warrnambool & Lorne overnight spent at these coastal towns

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Friday 26 March**Adelaide – Barossa Valley Tour****(B.L)**

Another great day today as we set off for the Adelaide Hills, through a patchwork of orchards and vineyards to the town of Hahndorf, one of the most popular towns in the area originally settled by German immigrants in 1839. The town retains much of its Germanic heritage and is home to some of the regions finest cellar doors. Then, we travel across to the world famous Barossa Valley, the heartland of the Australian wine industry which retains much of its diverse European cultural heritage. Time for a lunch and some wine tasting before returning to Adelaide later this afternoon.

Saturday 27 March**Adelaide – Coorong Cruise – Naracoorte****(B.L.D)**

A full day today, but a lovely one and another tour highlight. We travel to Goolwa where we join the “Spirit of Coorong” for a 4 hour discovery cruise into the wilderness of Coorong National Park where shallow lagoons and waterways are home to over 200 species of water birds. We enter the mouth of the Murray River through the Lock in the Goolwa Barrage. Stops are made during the day for a guided walk across the Younghusband Peninsula to view the Great Southern Ocean. Lunch is served on board. At the conclusion of the cruise, we rejoin our coach for the journey via Kingston, a town on the coast and the home of the “Big Lobster,” and then it’s up to Naracoorte for our overnight stay.

Sunday 28 March**Naracoorte – Mt Gambier – Warrnambool****(B.D)**

This morning we visit the World Heritage Victoria Fossil Cave where we can see many beautiful calcite crystal decorations and the partially excavated fossil deposit. Then we travel on to Penola to visit the town and the Mary MacKillop Penola Centre and schoolhouse, where Saint Mary MacKillop founded the religious order, The Sisters of St Joseph in 1866. Time for lunch and then travel to Mt Gambier, famous for its Blue Lake which changes colour dramatically each year. We continue via the coastal towns of Nelson, Portland and Port Fairy to Warrnambool on Lady Bay where we spend the night.

Monday 29 March**Warrnambool – Lorne via The Great Ocean Road****(B.D)**

This morning we visit Flagstaff Hill which is a recreated 19th century coastal port, built around the original lighthouse and fortifications. The Great Ocean Road starts from here and we travel to Port Campbell and continue on past some of the Great Ocean Road’s most famous and scenic coastal attractions: the rocky (but broken) platform of London Bridge, the Loch Ard Gorge, Gibsons Steps and the most celebrated attractions, the Twelve Apostles. We travel along the coastline from Apollo Bay, considered to be the most picturesque section of the Great Ocean Road, with the highway carved into sheer cliffs that drop away into the ocean and arrive at Lorne where we overnight.

Tuesday 30 March**Lorne – Melbourne****(B.D)**

Lorne is a very popular beach tourist resort town. Cafes and boutiques line the main foreshore, creating a Mediterranean feel to the area. Then it’s down along the Surf Coast, past some of the finest swimming and surfing beaches in Victoria. This evening, let’s enjoy dinner together for the final time on tour.

Wednesday 31 March**Melbourne – Home****(B)**

Time to say our farewells on the final day of our tour as we are transferred back to Melbourne Airport to connect with flights home.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**BOOKING CONDITIONS:**

Deposit of NZD\$1,000.00 per person is due upon confirmation of the booking.
Final payment date: Friday 15 January 2021.

COSTS INCLUDE:

Economy Class air travel from Auckland, Christchurch or Wellington.
Airport/government/airline/security charges and taxes
(as at 01/05/2020)
First Class hotel accommodation in Melbourne and Adelaide & comfortable motor inns and country hotels elsewhere
Meals as indicated in the itinerary
First-Class air-conditioned coach transportation for all touring
Sightseeing and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary
Baggage handling of one suitcase per person
Gratuities and tips to local guides, coach drivers and cruise staff
Fully escorted by a Maher Tours Leader (subject to minimum numbers)

COSTS EXCLUDE:

Items of a personal nature such as laundry, room service etc
Any meals and sightseeing tours not specifically mentioned
Travel Insurance (assistance and advice will be offered)

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