

Day 5 Friday 11 April

Swan Hill to Echuca

After breakfast you travel to historic Kerang on the Victorian Murray, the ancestral home of the Wemba- Wemba Aboriginal people. Here you visit the Kerang Historical Society Museum for a guided tour and morning tea as well as seeing some of the town's grand heritage buildings and the Lester Smith Lookout Tower for panoramic views. Continue to Cohuna for lunch. Cohuna is situated on the picturesque banks of Gunbower Creek, a diversion of the Murray. Gunbower Island is internationally recognized as a wetland of significance as a breeding ground for water birds and native wildlife. After lunch you drive to Echuca and visit the fabulous Port of Echuca Discovery Centre, before boarding the authentic PS Pevensy steam paddle wheeler for a river cruise. Echuca has a long and proud tradition of building and restoring paddle steamers, with more than 100 paddle steamers having been built here. Check in to your motel for the night and perhaps take a stroll and dinner with your tour leader at a local eatery.

Overnight Echuca
Breakfast • Morning Tea



Day 6 Saturday 12 April

Echuca to Horsham

Just out of Echuca today you visit historic Rochester on the banks of the Campaspe River. Pause here to see the outstanding silo art painted by artist Jimmy Dvate depicting native wildlife including a stunning Squirrel Glider, brilliant Azure Kingfisher and a Platypus. Continue to historic Castlemaine in the Victorian Goldfields via Goornong, Axedale and Harcourt, arriving in time for a leisurely lunch stop and browse. Explore Castlemaine's rich heritage admiring its gracious public buildings, ornate architecture, wide streets and old world shops. In Maryborough in the afternoon you visit the historic railway station and main street precinct before stopping in lovely Ararat, also a former gold mining town. It is picturesquely located within a rich pastoral, wine and fruit growing district with rolling hills and views all the way to the Grampians. A number of elaborate heritage buildings grace its streets and there is a beautiful Botanical Garden. Continue to Horsham to overnight and share a farewell dinner.

Overnight Horsham
Breakfast • Dinner



Day 7 Sunday 13 April

Horsham to Adelaide

After a hearty buffet breakfast you turn homewards towards the South Australian border via Dimboola and the tiny township of Kaniva with its gorgeously painted silos. Artist David Lee Pereira has painted a hobby falcon and orchids in deep bold colours on to these silos. Serviceton which was once an important border post where train crews and engines were changed between the Victorian and South Australian Railways, and Wolseley, also a by-gone railway town are next en-route before stopping over the South Australian border for lunch at leisure in Bordertown. In the mid afternoon you pause at the Coonalpyn silos which were the first silos painted in South Australia in 2017. Here artist Guido van Helten was given creative license to produce what he considered would best reflect the spirit, identity and culture of the local community. He chose to depict five Coonalpyn school children all aged between five and six years old on to the giant silo canvass and titled it Hope for the Future. You arrive back in Adelaide at the WEA Centre in the late afternoon.

Breakfast



ALONG THE MURRAY



E&OE



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07-13 APRIL 2025



...enriching lives through cultural exchange

**Goolwa Murray Mouth & Coorong • Wellington • Murray Bridge
Blanchetown • Wakerie • Berri • Renmark • Loxton • Mildura
Orange World Mourquong • Robinvale • Swan Hill • Kerang
Cohuna • Echuca • Castlemaine • Ararat • Horsham**

Join your revered historian tour leader Dr Denis Binnion AM on this delightful cultural tour along the beautiful River Murray. Days are filled with cruising and exploring local history, heritage museums and architecture, rural life and culture; never far from the peace and tranquility of the mighty Murray. Relax on a Spirit of the Coorong cruise, a Captain Proud lunch cruise and the PS Pevensey paddle steamer on the Victorian Murray, taking in the serenity, graceful birdlife, townships and river boats of a by-gone era. Trace tiny hamlets on the Victorian silo art trail where phenomenal art has breathed life and colour into forgotten places creating what might be the world's largest outdoor gallery. Visit the exceptional Pines Historic Home, take a tractor ride on an orange orchard on the NSW side of the river, explore proud and thriving communities and marvel at the incredible Swan Hill Heartbeat of the Murray Sound & Light Laser show. Enjoy quality accommodation including the stylish Bridgeport Hotel in Murray Bridge, good breakfasts and some delicious meals and morning teas, spacious coach touring and a wonderful combination of experiences, discovery and leisure time.

Tour Leader: Dr Denis Binnion AM is an experienced historical tour leader for WEA Travel's cultural and heritage tours to all corners of Australia. With a keen interest in geography, local heritage and history, he is a dedicated and friendly leader.

Tour Includes: Full escort; Comfortable coach travel with approx. 2 seats per person; All hotel & motel accommodation for 7 nights in quality properties; All meals as per itinerary; All transportation; All tours & sightseeing including River cruises as per itinerary; Extensive travel notes



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Day 1 Monday 07 April

Adelaide to Goolwa Murray Mouth & Murray Bridge

Depart by comfortable coach from the WEA Centre this morning for Goolwa on our beautiful south coast where you board the Spirit of the Coorong. Cruise around the Murray Mouth and the upper reaches of the Coorong National Park where Ngarrindjeri have crafted red bark canoes and farmed the fish, plants and animals of the river system for many thousands of years. Commentary and morning tea is provided. In the afternoon you travel up stream to Wellington, a small settlement and at the junction of some of Australia's largest fresh water lakes including Lake Alexandrina. It has an historic courthouse and a ferry crossing which dates back to 1839 when it was the only point at which to cross the Murray. Continue via the dairy farming communities and fertile floodplains of Jervois and Woods Point to Murray Bridge where you check in to the award winning and luxurious Bridgeport Hotel. A welcome dinner is arranged for you this evening.

Overnight Murray Bridge
Morning Tea • Welcome Dinner



Day 2 Tuesday 08 April

Murray Bridge to Berri

After buffet breakfast at the Bridgeport you have some free time in the centre of Murray Bridge before boarding a Captain Proud Paddle Steamer for a three hour lunch cruise on the picturesque lower Murray. Unwind and enjoy the tranquility the river instills and its natural beauty, towering sandstone cliffs, graceful water birds and wildlife. After lunch you cross the River and bypass Mannum to the tiny settlement of Younghusband, named

after William Younghusband a British merchant, banker, politician and director of the Younghusband Co. shipping company which served agricultural properties and towns along the entire length of the river. Continue north to Blanchetown to see Lock and Weir Number One, the River Murray's longest weir at just over 168 metres which includes a navigable pass and a sluice. There is also a break in Wakerie before arriving in Berri and checking in to your hotel for two nights.

Overnight Berri
Breakfast • Lunch



Day 3 Wednesday 09 April

Around the Riverland

This morning you drive to Barmera and visit the old Napper Bridge Hotel ruins on the northern shores of Lake Bonney. The hotel was built by William Napper in 1860 and served as a vital stopping point on the overland route used by interstate cattle drovers known as the overlanders, before trains and trucks surpassed them. Next you drive to Loxton on the sharp bend of the river for some free time in the town and to visit wonderful Pines Historic House for a guided tour and lunch on the property. The home is steeped in history, beautifully maintained and surrounded by lovely gardens. After lunch you drive to the Renmark Rotary Lookout for panoramic district views and to Angove's Winery sales which has lots of local produce for sale as well as wines. There is time to wander Renmark's town centre and picturesque riverfront before returning to Berri.

Overnight Berri
Breakfast • Lunch

Day 4 Thursday 10 April

Berri to Swan Hill

Your first stop today is Paringa, gateway to the South Australian silo art trail. The large-scale art work here sees artist Jack Fran capture the colours of the Riverland, its identities and connection to the river as a lifeline and place of beauty and leisure. Cross to Victoria for a lunch break in Mildura then visit Orange World at Mourquong on the NSW side of the river where you enjoy a tractor ride and educational tour on the orange orchard industry and a juice. Return to Victoria at Robinvale to visit its special Anzac War Memorial Park. Robinvale was part of the post war soldier settlement scheme and the town also has a warm twin town relationship with Villers-Bretonneux in France. Arrive in Swan Hill and settle in to your motel before heading out to see the spectacular Heartbeat of the Murray Laser Light Show on the banks of the river.

Overnight Swan Hill
Breakfast

