



**WE DRIVE YOU
SINCE 1992**

GREAT OCEAN ROAD & S/AUST RIVERLAND

with Ezi Drive Coaches



NEW TOUR

11 Days / 10 Nights - with Mary and Brian

Tour Departs Sunday 20 October - Wednesday 30 October 2013

Tour Inclusions:

- Pick up from your home, transport and return (Sydney Metropolitan Area)
- Luxury Coach Travel Seatbelts & Restroom
- 11 Nights Minimum Three Star Quality Motel Accommodation
- 10 Three Course Dinners with Choices & All Fully Cooked Breakfasts
- Lunches Days 2, 6, 7, 8 & 9
- All Entry Fees and Guides as per Itinerary.
- Escorted tour

Tour Highlights:

HMAS Otway Submarine Museum; Kerrisdale Mountain Railway; Hume & Hovell Cricket Ground; National Wool Museum; Cruise Port of Geelong; Geelong & Bellarine Peninsula Highlights; Fort Queenscliff Museum; Great Ocean Road Highlights; Warrnambool Highlights; Spirit of Warrnambool Cruise; Historic Port Fairy; Dartmoor Tree Sculptures; Umpherston Sinkhole; Blue Lake & Valley Lakes Crater; Pinnaroo Mallee Heritage Museum; Lock 3; Mallyons On The Murray Bush Cafe & Gallery; Morgan Museum; Havenhand Fruit Chocolates; Banrock Station; Olivewood Estate; Morning Tea Cruise; Renmark Highlights; Ruston Rose Gardens & Car Museum; Barmera Highlights; Cobdogla Steam Museum; Napper Ruins; Overland Corner Hotel; Varapodio Estate; Hay Internment & Prisoner of War Camps Interpretive Centre; Rusconi's Marble Masterpiece & more.

Tour Fee including GST:	Members	\$2739.00 per person, twin share
	Non Members	\$2789.00 per person, twin share
	Single Supplement	\$620.00

Minimum loading 20 passengers booked and paid by Thursday 15 August 2013

For information and bookings phone: 02 4774 9700

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Please note that itinerary is subject to change without notice.

The Itinerary

Day 1: Sunday 20 October - Home Port / Wangaratta

Dinner

This morning we **pick you up from home** and begin our drive down into Victoria to explore the wonders of the Great Ocean Road. We make our way into Holbrook where we visit the **HMAS Otway Submarine Museum**. Holbrook's unique link with submarines began during WW1 when the town's forefathers believed Germanton was no longer an appropriate name. Lt. Norman Holbrook's name hit world headlines for the most daring underwater raid in the war. On December 13 1914 Holbrook (Royal Navy) made a hazardous journey through the Dardanelles to torpedo and sink the Turkish battleship Messoudich. He was the first naval VC winner of WW1 as well as the first submariner to get the medal. After our tour we cross the border at Albury and continue onto Wangaratta to check into our motel before dinner.

Overnight Wangaratta: Wangaratta Gateway 03 5721 8399

Day 2: Monday 21 October - Wangaratta / Geelong

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

After breakfast we travel down through **Benalla to Kerrisdale** arriving at the scenic **Kerrisdale Mountain Railway and Museum** offering 360 degree panoramic views across the valleys. After morning tea we enjoy an intriguing tour of the live steam museum, railway workshop, carriage sheds and of course a ride on the MM Locomotives. We then move on to **Strath Creek** where we visit the picturesque **Hume and Hovell Cricket Ground** to hear Don's engaging poetry recitals ranging from the stirring "The Man from Snowy River" to the humorous "Sonia Snell". After lunch we can take a walk through the rose beds with over 200 roses, including the fragrant Don Bradman roses and browse through a selection of homemade chutneys and sauces in the gift area. After leaving Strath Creek we continue to **Geelong** to check into our accommodation before dinner.

Overnight Geelong: Mecure Hotel Geelong 03 5221 6844

Day 3: Tuesday 22 October - Geelong / Bellarine Peninsula

Breakfast & Dinner

This morning we visit the **National Wool Museum** on the Geelong Waterfront and discover the past, present and future of the Australian Wool Industry. Around this area, we can see some of the old bluestone buildings classified by The National Trust, keeping residents and visitors always mindful of the city's heritage. We then enjoy a **delightful morning tea cruise on Corio Bay and the Port of Geelong** covering the maritime and industrial history of the waterfront. We are then joined by our local **Geelong Guide** before setting out on a **sightseeing tour of Geelong** and the **beautiful Bellarine Peninsula**. We stop at the **Fort Queenscliff Museum**, one of Victoria's most important heritage sites and one of the largest and best preserved forts in the country showcasing over 150 years of Australia's heritage. Later in the day we settle back at our motel before dinner.

Overnight Geelong: Mecure Hotel Geelong 03 5221 6844

Day 4: Wednesday 23 October - Great Ocean Road / Warrnambool

Breakfast & Dinner

This morning we start one of the world's most famous drives as we begin our drive along the Great Ocean Road. We travel down through **Anglesea** and **Aireys Inlet** to the very popular village of **Lorne** where we enjoy a break to stroll the shops of the tourist hamlet. We then continue across through **Apollo Bay** and the **Otway Ranges to Lavers Hill**. To the west of the Ranges the Great Ocean Road rejoins the coast and runs the full length of **Port Campbell National Park**. This stretch of road on either side of Port Campbell is the most exciting part of the Great Ocean Road. It is here we find the **Twelve Apostles** – huge pillars, which loom out of the surf, carved over time by the fury of the southern ocean. We stop at **Loch Ard Gorge**, the site of a tragic shipwreck in 1878 when 50 or more people on board lost their lives as the iron hulled clipper Loch Ard came to grief against the rocks. We stop for lunch in Port Campbell before travelling on to **London Bridge** or what is left after a dramatic collapse in 1990, part of this famous landmark disappeared into the sea. Other formations along this stretch of coast are the **Crown of Thorns** and the beautiful **Bay of Islands**. We arrive in Warrnambool late afternoon and check into our motel before dinner.

Overnight Warrnambool: Downtown Motel 03 5562 1277

Day 5: Thursday 24 October - Warrnambool / Mount Gambier

Breakfast & Dinner

After breakfast we are joined by our **Warrnambool Guide** and enjoy the **highlights of Warrnambool**. From Flagstaff Hill we begin our tour which takes in Whalers Inn, Lady Bay, Middle Island, Thunder Point Coastal Reserve, Wollaston Bridge, Cannon Hill and Granny's Grave. After our tour we venture to the historic **Hopkins River Boathouse**, which was built over 100 years ago. We board the **Spirit of Warrnambool** for our morning tea cruise along the Hopkins River with full river commentary. After our cruise we travel across to the delightful little township of **Dartmoor** to view the magnificent **tree sculptures** dedicated to the local veteran's experiences in the war. The trees were initially planted as **The Avenue of Honour** on Saturday 7 September 1918. The trees, Atlantic Cedars, commemorated 60 World War One servicemen and nurses from the Dartmoor District. Some of the sculptures are The Nurse, Sad News, The Boy at War, At Arms, Three Services, Over The Top, Rest in Peace, Parting and The Game to name a few. After arriving into Mount Gambier we take a wander around the terraced gardens of **Umpherston Sinkhole** and drive around the rim of the crater of the famous **Blue Lake**. We pass the spot where Adam Lindsay Gordon jumped his horse over the cliff edge of the lake. Our drive takes us down into the **Valley Lakes Crater** taking in its breathtaking scenery. Later in the afternoon we arrive in Mount Gambier and check into our motel before dinner.

Overnight Mount Gambier: Quality Inn Presidential 08 8724 9966

Day 6: Friday 25 October - Pinnaroo / Loxton / Barmera

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today we travel up to the Riverland of South Australia as we make our way up through Bordertown, Pinnaroo and Loxton. After a morning tea stop at Bordertown we stop in **Pinnaroo** for lunch and to view the **Mallee Heritage Museum** for an insight to the harshness of life in the Mallee, the tough early pioneers and the determination of the community to succeed. After a comfort stop in Loxton we arrive in **Barmera** late afternoon and check into our lakeside accommodation before dinner.

Overnight Barmera: Bamera Lake Resort Motel 08 8588 2555

Day 7: Saturday 26 October - Morgan / Waikerie

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

This morning we make our way down to the Murray River and the **picturesque Lock 3** where we meet up with the **Lock Master** who will pass on the **history** of the **Lock systems** and river flows and passage of the river traffic. We then make our way towards Morgan via **Mallyons on the Murray Bush Cafe and Gallery** for morning tea. Enjoy the scenic location overlooking the River Murray whilst enjoying a delicious morning tea in the award winning cafe. Browse through the gallery which offers a large range of local paintings, craft and organic jams and sauces. Proprietors Nick and Rita encourage visitors to take a walk around their NASAA Certified Organic property.

Day 7 continued:

When in season fresh produce is available for sale. We then make our way into Morgan stopping at **Morgan's Historic Museum** consisting of the **Living History Museum, River History Museum and Railway Museum**. Early life in the Morgan area is the theme. This encompasses the farming activities, riverboat trade with the railway linking Morgan to the seaport of Adelaide and the pumping station for the Morgan to Whyalla pipeline. The display is further enhanced by a large timber wharf structure complete with wool bales and other items of cargo once carried by the river steamers. We then enjoy a picnic lunch by the water's edge before enjoying the self guiding **Heritage Walk**, a must do. Our last stop for the day is at **Banrock Station Wine & Wetland Centre**, which features a wonderful cellar door and restaurant complimented by scenic walking trails around magnificently restored wetlands with story centres, information huts and bird-hides where we can view abundant wildlife. The Cellar Doors and Restaurant provides the perfect place to relax and enjoy the food and wine which showcases the outstanding produce available in the region, complimented of course by a glass of great Banrock Station wine. Later in the day we return to our resort to relax before dinner.

Overnight Barmera: Bamera Lake Resort Motel 08 8588 2555

Day 8: Sunday 27 October - Barmera / Cobdogla

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

This morning we are joined by our local guide as we make our way to Loveday to take in the history of the **3 POW Camp and 3 wood camps**. Camp 9 - **Loveday Internment Camp** comprised Camp HQ, 40 buildings and a compound rectangular in shape, including a hospital. The compound was able to hold 1000 persons and produced seed, tomatoes, wood, pyrethrum, flowers, pigs, poultry and soap. It commenced operating on the 12th August 1940. The first Italian prisoner arrived on 11 June 1941 and other internees consisted of Japanese and Germans as well as Italians. Our next stop is the **Cobdogla Steam Museum** offering a minefield of history and heritage, the museum features the worlds only working Humphrey Pump. With the focus being centred on early irrigation history and steam powered engineering principals, there is also a **1906 Bangal Train** offering rides through the extensive landscaped grounds and vineyard. Incorporated are dioramas depicting the regions development from pre-white settlement through to the early years. After a cuppa from the coach we travel around the lake taking in the history of **Napper's Ruins** which was once a hotel known as the **Lake Bonney Hotel** and which was built for the former workers of the Cobdogla Station. The building consisted of 11 rooms that included a bar and a dining room that could sit 12 people and was often used as a dance room. Interpretive information about the ruin is located at this historic site. We then venture across to the **historic Overland Corner Hotel** which has certainly lived an interesting life since it was built in 1859. One of the oldest buildings in the Riverland, this hotel's history includes being visited by bushranger Captain Moonlight and his gang (who are alleged to have locked the lone police constable in a cell, shod their horses using government gear and then retired to the hotel for refreshment); been a major camping and refreshment point for overlanders on their journey from New South Wales to Adelaide; was a stagecoach post for Cobb and Co and today is still a great place for a beer. Oh and don't forget to ask the staff about the ghost while enjoying lunch at the hotel. This afternoon we enjoy a **highlights tour of Barmera** before enjoying some free time for some retail gratification. We then make our way back to the resort for dinner and entertainment supplied to top off our wonderful stay in the Riverland of South Australia.

Overnight Barmera: Bamera Lake Resort Motel 08 8588 2555

Day 9: Monday 28 October - Renmark / Mildura

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today we make our way towards **Renmark** calling at the **historic Olivewood Estate** situated on the outskirts of town. A grove of old olive trees and date palms planted in 1890 by Charles Chaffey, the man behind Olivewood Estate, beginning the story of Renmark's transformation and that of the entire Riverland regions irrigation and settlements. Constructed of logs, Olivewood was built in 1889 and still looks slightly out of place compared with the town's other buildings. After our tour we make our way down to the river and board our **River Rambler Morning Tea Cruise** on the waters of the mighty Murray River with expert commentary on the history to present day life along the waters bordering Renmark. After our cruise we are joined by our local guide for a **Highlights Tour of the river township** before enjoying a **light lunch at Ruston Rose Gardens**. Following lunch there will be time to stroll through the colourful and fragrant rose gardens. We can also discover the historic racing and classic car display, wander around the gift shop and purchase some freshly cut flowers. This afternoon we travel across the South Australian border and into Mildura where we check into our accommodation before dinner.

Overnight Mildura: BW Boulevard Motor Inn 03 5023 5023

Day 10: Tuesday 29 October - Mildura / Wagga

Breakfast & Dinner

This morning we cross the Murray and enjoy a stop at **Varapodio Estate Cellar Door**. Here we enjoy an informative tour of the **Olive Grove** and processing facility which covers the irrigation, harvesting & pruning of the olive tree as well as the processing of fruit into extra virgin olive oil. After our tour we enjoy morning tea and also taste the award winning olive oils at the "Cellar Door". Also available are olives, salad dressings, olive oil mayonnaise and a range of olive oil cosmetics and soaps. They also stock a wide array of other locally produced products such as Murray Salt, Outback Almonds, Woolshed Pantry preserves, Coffee Que (locally roasted coffee), local dried fruit and Just Go Nuts pistachios to name a few. We then continue through Balranald to Hay for the chance to purchase lunch before visiting the **Hay Internment & Prisoner of War Camps Interpretive Centre**. Over 6,000 German, Italian and Japanese civilian Internees and Prisoners of War (POW) were kept in three Prison Camps at Hay between 1940 and 1946. They were guarded by over 600 members of 16th Australian Garrison Battalion. The 'Dunera Boys', 1,984 German Jews and other refugees from Nazi occupied Europe, were the first internees of British Government WWII policy and arrived in Hay on 7th September 1940. The museum houses exhibits, photographs, stories and music about experiences of internees, POW's and townfolk. After leaving Hay we continue through to Wagga and check into our motel before dinner.

Overnight Wagga: Country Comfort Premier Motel 02 6921 6444

Day 11: Wednesday 30 October - Wagga / Home

Breakfast

This morning we depart Wagga and begin our drive back home enjoying a comfort stop for morning tea at Gundagai where we stop at the Tourist Centre viewing the magnificent **Rusconi's Marble Masterpiece**. The famous dog on the tuckerbox was sculptured by the late Frank Rusconi, but it certainly isn't the most impressive example of the work of this exceptionally skilled artisan on exhibition in the Gundagai district. In fact it is this one attraction, not to be missed, at Gundagai which is a unique cathedral-in-miniature containing 20,948 individual pieces of marble, every piece cut, turned and polished by hand. Rusconi's Marble Masterpiece which is a replica of the altar of Saint Maries Cathedral in Paris, took the late Frank Rusconi (who died in 1964) 28 years of his spare time to build in order to showcase the diversity and beauty of New South Wales marble. After leaving Gundagai we continue our journey home enjoying a lunch stop in Goulburn before **dropping you home late afternoon** after an enjoyable time away exploring Southern Australia with Mary & Brian.