

Lakes, Caves & Silo Art Discovery

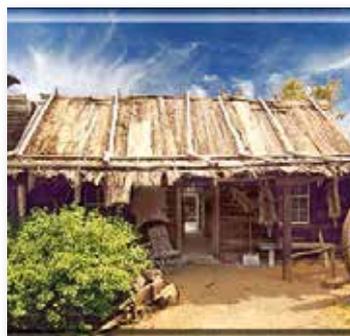
With Trade Travel

9 Days / 8 Nights

Tour Departs: Tuesday 07 September - Wednesday 15 September 2021



TRADE TRAVEL
Group & Private Tour Specialists



Day 1. Tues 07 Sep: Homeport - Batemans Bay - Eden

Lunch & Dinner

This morning after boarding our coach we begin our journey down to the Gippsland Lakes Region via the beautiful Sapphire Coast of southern New South Wales. Travelling south we pass through the Royal National Park and Illawarra before arriving in the small vibrant village of **Berry** which provides the perfect refreshment stop. Our travels then continue down into **Batemans Bay** where on arrival we are joined by our **local guide** before taking in the sights in and around **Batemans, Surfside, Batehaven and the Clyde River**. It's then only a short 10 minute drive to **Mogo for our lunch stop at Grumpy and Sweethearts**. Following lunch we continue down through Bega calling into **The Bega Cheese Heritage Centre** which is a great place to explore the world of cheese and learn about the history of dairying in the Bega Valley. From Bega it's down through Pambula and into Eden for check in at the Coachman's Eden. Once settled into our rooms we meet for drinks (own cost) and dinner in the Coachman's Restaurant and Bar.

Overnight Eden: Coachman's Eden

Day 2. Wed 08 Sep: Eden - Merimbula - Seahorse Inn

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

A scrumptious breakfast awaits us in the motel restaurant this morning before boarding our coach and making our way to the **Eden Killer Whale Museum** for a comprehensive guided tour with plenty to see and learn about pod leaders Stranger, Hooky and Cooper. Set on an enviable piece of real estate we'll also enjoy the view. From Eden it's a short drive up to Pambula stopping at the **Wheeler's Oyster Farm and Seafood Restaurant** for a **tour and lunch**. Discover the complete Sapphire Coast oyster story, from humble beginnings in 1927, to becoming a national name synonymous with the highest quality oysters, Wheeler's Oyster Farm is a cornerstone in the history of aquaculture on the Sapphire Coast. This afternoon we take a drive in and around **Merimbula's waterways, beaches, marina, parks and lookouts** before heading back down to our motel for a rest and time to freshen up. Late afternoon we are in for a special treat as we head to **Boydton** to the elegant **Seahorse Inn**. A luxurious boutique hotel, situated on the shores of Twofold Bay, commanding stunning views across the bay to Eden. As we enter the Seahorse Inn we are greeted with an ambience of old world charm, complimented by an aesthetically luxurious appeal. The newly refurbished Inn offers modern luxury combined with original detail such as hand-carved doors, stained-glass ornamentation, winding staircases, large open grates and attic bedrooms. The **Cocktail Lounge** provides the perfect place to begin our evening with a beverage before taking our place at the table in **Bettina's a la carte restaurant** for our dining experience. After a wonderful evening it's a short drive back up to our motel for a good nights rest.

Overnight Eden: Coachman's Eden



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Day 3. Thurs 09 Sep: Eden - Mallacoota - Lakes Entrance

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Breakfast over and check out complete it's on the coach as we make our way directly to **Eden's Main Wharf** for our fabulous **Twofold Bay Highlights Cruise**. Take in the stunning scenery and pristine bays and beaches plus highlights the history of this whaling port including Boyd's Tower, Seahorse Inn at Boydtown, Edrom Lodge and whaling station sites. The naval/multi purpose wharf, woodchip mill, mussel farms, Quarantine Bay and the fishing fleet are also viewed. On most trips the Cat Balou cruise encounters dolphins or seals. After our cruise we leave this beautiful part of the world and begin our drive down into Victoria to the delightful Gippsland Lakes Region. Arriving in Mallacoota we enjoy **lunch at the Mallacoota Hotel** and a tour of the **Operation Bunker Museum**, a WWII RAAF operations bunker that has been restored by the Mallacoota RSL. It is of considerable significance in the military history of Victoria as it was the headquarters of the RAAF coastal intelligence activity in the region as well as an important link in the chain of defence installations along the south east of Australia. Leaving Mallacoota we make our way back out to the Princess Highway then continue across through Orbost and down into Lakes Entrance for check in. After a freshen up we gather in the Espy Bar and Eatery for pre-dinner drinks (own cost) and then enjoy dinner.

Overnight Lakes Entrance: The Esplanade Resort & Spa

Day 4. Fri 10 Sep: Lakes Entrance - Buchan - Buchan Caves

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

For anyone who likes a walk before breakfast, take a stroll along the promenade to view the Avenue of Honour **Memorial Tree Statues**. The trunks of six trees that originally formed the Avenue of Honour have been preserved and turned into sculptures representing scenes from the World War One period. The sculptures represent a World War One soldier, a wounded soldier with a donkey, a World War One nurse, Simpson helping two wounded soldiers and a family waiting for their father. This morning we head out of Lakes Entrance and travel up to Buchan via **Nowa Nowa** stopping at **Mingling Waters**, which has a gallery displaying the renowned **Ramsdell Collection**. The collection comprises 35 unique wood sculptures featuring the amazing "RA" the Sun God, housed in the Pyramid. This 7 metre by 4-metre tree root grew on a limestone shelf on the banks of Lake Tyers. The root was cleaned of 2 tonnes of dirt and rock with dentistry tools and then hand sanded and hand polished. After leaving the gallery it's up to the small township of **Buchan** where our **guide will delight in showcasing his township, one of the oldest towns in Victoria**. Buchan is rich in pioneering heritage and was first settled by Europeans around the 1840's after East Gippsland explorer J.R. Wilkinson began the Buchan Station and Edward Bayliss started the Gelantipy Station. Following our tour, we have time to browse the information centre. **The Buchan Caves Hotel** is the perfect venue for lunch before we tour the **Royal Cave** situated in the **picturesque Buchan Caves Reserve**. The Royal Cave features beautiful calcite-rimmed pools, the formations are created by rain water seeping through cracks and dissolving some of the limestones. As each droplet comes through the roof it deposits calcite which crystallises in a small ring. We also pass through the stunning **Font of the Gods and Princess Royal Chambers** viewing many stalagmites and stalactites. After leaving Buchan we return to Lakes Entrance to our resort to refresh before dinner.

Overnight Lakes Entrance: The Esplanade Resort & Spa

Day 5. Sat 11 Sep: Lake Entrance - Metung

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today begins with a visit to **Nyerimilang Heritage Park and Homestead**, set amongst a rich variety of native and historic semi-formal gardens on a cliff top above the beautiful Gippsland Lakes. Catch a glimpse of how life was as we see the homestead, farm buildings and equipment preserved much as they were in days gone by. The land that is now Nyerimilang Heritage Park was first bought and built in 1884 and was used as a fishing and shooting holiday house. It's then down to the Post Office Jetty where we board our **Metung Lunch Cruise** on the delightful water ways of the Gippsland Lakes. Our cruise takes us through the Reeves Channel, Bancroft Bay and into Lake King, then around the shores of Metung arriving at the **Metung Hotel for lunch**. After a relaxing stop in Metung our return takes us around Rigby Island, Chinamans Creek and many of the other islands in the Gippsland Lakes which gives us a close up view of Kangaroos and other wildlife in their natural habitat. Our Skipper will give a full commentary on the history and nature of the Gippsland Lakes. We arrive back into Lakes Entrance with time to visit the **Griffiths Sea Shell Museum**, the display was established in 1962 and features over 90,000 items. On display is a 10 metre coral reef, aquariums, model railway room and a huge gift shop featuring shell and ocean gifts. After a busy day we return to the resort for dinner in the restaurant.

Overnight Lakes Entrance: The Esplanade Resort & Spa

Day 6. Sun 12 Sep: Paynesville

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today after breakfast we visit the beautiful town of **Paynesville**, our **guide and local historian Geoff Rawlings** will take us through the museum and also give us an insight into the historic journey from Marlo to Paynesville on the 16th of October 2016 and restoration project of the **Paddle Steamer Curlip 11**. We then take a guided tour of the area commonly referred to as **the 'boating capital' of Victoria**, with its magnificent location surrounded on three sides by lakes of over 350 square kilometres, which are fed by four major rivers. This area encompasses Paynesville, Raymond Island, Newlands Arm and Eagle Point and is home to the **unique Silt Jetties**. We farewell our knowledgeable tour guide and make our way to **Pier 70** for a delicious lunch overlooking McMillan Strait towards Raymond Island. After lunch we venture across to **Raymond Island** via ferry; where we will walk the short Koala track, experiencing the breathtaking views and nature at it's finest. The Island has a unique history as an early fishing station then as a small mixed farming community when the horses and cattle would be swam across to the island from Paynesville. After catching the ferry back to Paynesville we make our way back around to Lakes Entrance to our resort for a rest before dinner.

Overnight Lakes Entrance: The Esplanade Resort & Spa

Day 7. Mon 13 Sep: The Great Alpine Road - Hotham - Bright - Wangaratta

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Following breakfast and check out we leave the lakes area today and begin our scenic journey up along the Great Alpine Road which will take us across the top of the Victorian Alps.

Day 7. Continued

Our first stop is in **Omeo for morning tea and short tour of the historic park and museum.** From Omeo the **Great Alpine Road** takes us up through **The Alpine National Park** passing the alpine village of Dinner Plain and Hotham Heights before descending down through **Harrietville** stopping at **Granny`s Pantry**. Here we will enjoy a picnic lunch and catch up and have a chat with Brian and Jan Fleming who have created this little 'Piece of Paradise'. Granny`s Pantry creates the very successful Mountain Kasaundi branded spiced spreads, sauces and chutneys. Following lunch our journey continues across to Bright where we call into the **Bright Museum** situated in the **heritage listed old Bright Railway Station**. After free time exploring the shops and the natural charm of this delightful hamlet we continue across through the scenic Ovens Valley to Shepparton for check in and dinner.

Overnight Shepparton: Quality Hotel Parklake

Day 8. Tues 14 Sep: Silo Art Trail

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Our day today will take in the regions **new Silo Art Trail** as we make our way across to the **small township of Tungamah** where Broome based artist Sabrane has **created a celebration of Australian native birds on the three silos.** In the town of **Saint James** artist Timothy Bowtell has decorated the **GrainCorp silos with a mural of Sir George Coles,** the founder of Coles supermarkets who was a local to the St James township. Move onto **Devenish** where the war-themed **Silo Art depicts a WWI nurse and a modern-day army medic** - the latest work of art on the third silo is that of a **Lighthouse soldier and his horse,** which was unveiled on ANZAC weekend 2019 before a packed Anzac Day commemorative service. As part of the 2018 Wall to Wall festival, **Goorambat silos** were painted by famed iconic Melbourne street artist Jimmy Dvate, and depicts an endangered bird of prey from the area, **'Millibai' the Barking Owl.** New to Goorambat in April 2019 is a large mural of three working Clydesdales; Clement, Samuel and Banjo. They are owned by local horse property, Lavereen Stud, the mural was inspired by a photo by Bob Britcher. We then step inside the **Uniting Church** to view the **beautiful mural of "Sophia"** the female aspect of the Holy Spirit. While in Goorambat Jacqui and the folks at the **136 year old Goorambat Railway Hotel** provide us with lunch. Following lunch we visit **Benalla,** home to regional Victoria's stunning street art by various artists including Guido van Helten, Adnate, Rone, DVATE, Sirum, Kaff-eine and many more. Our **local Benalla guide** provides an insight into the world of international street art and the artists who created the artworks. **The Benalla Migrant Camp Photographic Exhibition** also provides an interesting stop, in operation for 18 years between 1949 and 1967, the camp is an integral part of post WWII migration to Australia. The site housed about 60,000 European and non-British migrants during its operation. In Glenrowan as we step through the back of **Kate's Cottage** we enter the **Ned Kelly Museum** and a replica homestead of the Kelly family. Follow the interpretive display through the museum which leads to the authentic replica of the **Kelly Homestead and Blacksmith Shed.** From Glenrowan it's a short drive back to our motel in Shepparton where we will have time to relax and freshen up for our final dinner on tour.

Overnight Shepparton: Quality Hotel Parklake

Day 9. Wed 15 Sep: Wangaratta - Homeport

Breakfast & Lunch

Today brings an end to a wonderful tour away together when after breakfast and check out we begin our drive up along the Hume Highway. Our comfort stops today will include **Holbrook** at the **Submarine HMAS Otway** and **Sub Cafe,** **Bowling** at the **Rollonin Cafe for lunch** and then again at **Pheasants Nest** before arriving back in Taren Point late afternoon after an amazing time away with Trade Travel.



Lakes, Caves, Mountains, Art Discovery



Tour Highlights:

Bateman's Bay Highlights; Bega Cheese Heritage Centre; Eden's Killer Whale Museum; Tour & Lunch Wheelers Oyster Farm & Seafood Restaurant; Cocktails & Dinner Seahorse Inn Boydtown; Twofold Bay Highlights Cruise; WW1 Operations Bunker Museum Mallacoota; Lakes Entrance Avenue of Honour Memorial Tree Statues; Ramsdell Collection Mingling Waters Gallery; Buchan Highlights Tour; Buchan Caves - Royal Cave Tour; Nyerimilang Heritage Park & Homestead; Gippsland Lakes Luncheon Cruise; Griffiths Sea Shell Museum; Paynesville Maritime Museum; Paddle Steamer Curlip 11; Unique Silt Jetties; Raymond Island; Omeo Historic Park & Museum; Victoria Alps Region & Mount Hotham; Granny's Pantry; Bright Museum & Heritage Listed Railway Station; Central Victoria Silo Art Trail - Tungamah, Saint James, Devenish & Goorambat; Sophia Mural Goorambat Uniting Church; 136 year old Goorambat Railway Hotel; Benalla Street Art Trail; Benalla Migrant Camp Photographic Exhibition; Kate's Cottage & Ned Kelly Museum; Submarine HMAS Otway; Rollonin Cafe plus more.

Tour Price Includes:

- Luxury coach travel
- 8 Nights quality accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch & dinner as per itinerary (25 Meals)
- All entry fees, cruise & guides as per itinerary

\$2698.00 per person Twin Share (Single Supplement \$544.00)

Tour cost based on minimum 30 pax

\$2798.00 per person Twin Share (Single Supplement \$544.00)

Tour cost based on minimum 20 pax

The tour prices valid for travel in 2021. Please note that the itinerary is subject to change without notice.

DEPOSIT \$200 per person due at the time of booking with completed booking form.

Final payment is due 15th June, 2021.

For information, bookings & travel insurance contact:

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