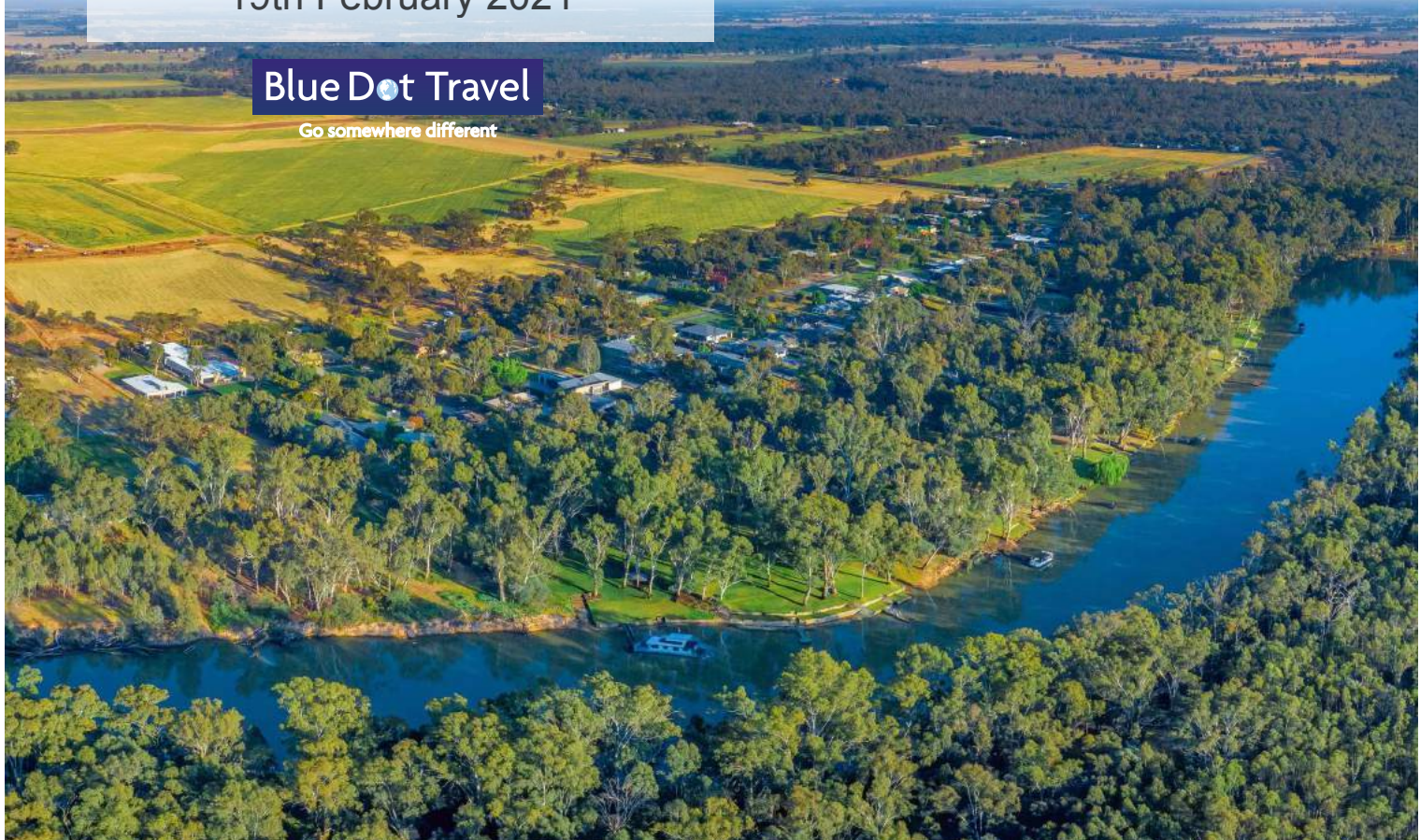


# Blue Dot's Murray River Boat Ramble

Departs  
19th February 2021

**Blue Dot Travel**

Go somewhere different





**\$3,950 pp**  
Twin-share



## **BLUE DOT'S MURRAY RIVER BOAT RAMBLE**

It's time to experience Australia's longest river, the mighty Murray.

Echuca (Victoria) and twin town, Moama (NSW) are lively towns, especially at this time of the year. The waterfront was home to paddle steamers carrying timber, grain, fruit, livestock and wool up and down the river. Today they carry people.

With the help of our good friends and boating professionals Trevor and Maggie Joyce, Blue Dot is offering a wonderful "Australiana" 10-day tour, hosted and skippered, taking in Echuca and the mighty Murray River. There are few experiences that match waking up on a boat on the Murray River as the morning mist clears. We will cruise the rivers tranquil waters, meandering along the its red banks dotted with gums. This special place will have you thinking you are the only person on earth. The majestic river warrants an entire week to reflect, explore and make memories.

The drive from Sydney to Moama/Echuca is about 8 hours. You may wish to stay overnight on the way (at own cost). From Melbourne, its less than a 3 hour drive. Your cars can be parked undercover in reserved parking. It would make sense to car pool where possible.



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## Day 1, Friday 19th February Echuca

Arrive into Moama and check in to the Bridges on Meninya Hotel (NSW side) where you'll stay for three nights. The hotel is about a 20-minute walk from the main part of Echuca. Each traveller will be provided with a free pass (in the form of a lanyard) to many of the main attractions in town including entry to the National Holden Museum, Echuca Historical Museum, the Whistle Stop Art Gallery, The Foundry Art Gallery, The Echuca Gin Distillery, a Tasting at St Anne's Winery and the Port of Echuca Guided Tour which takes tour visitors to the underground cellar at the Star Hotel. The can all be done at your leisure over the next few days. A welcome dinner is included. **D**

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## Days 2, Saturday 20th February Heathcote

After a leisurely breakfast, we'll depart for Heathcote, the region's premier wine-making district. The day will include a visit to the Jasper Hill Winery for a tasting and then we'll drive on to the Sanguine Hill Winery where you'll enjoy a light lunch and a tasting. We'll return to Echuca mid afternoon. **L/D**

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## Day 3, Sunday 21st February Echuca

Time to wander in and around Echuca. Use your lanyard to gain access to some of the main places of interest as listed above. Then, around lunch time, we'll take a boat ride on the Emmylou, an authentic steam driven paddle wheeler that will take you back to bygone days on the Murray. A light lunch will be served before Emmylou returns to port at 2.30. Dinner tonight is at the oldest pub in Echuca, the Henry's Bridge Hotel. Our chef and owner of Henry's, Paul Jarman, will treat you to some local delicacies and we'll provide live music to entertain you. The hotel was built in 1859 by Henry Hopwood, an ex- convict and one of Echuca's most enterprising characters from early colonial days. In 1850 Henry bought a small punt, which operated across the Murray River near the Campaspe Junction. Originally known as "Hopwood's Ferry" the name was changed to Echuca as the town grew. Henry worked to establish a town, which eventually had a major influence on the development of the great inland river system. He built the Bridge Hotel in 1859 and helped found the Riverine Herald in 1863. When he died in 1869 he left a thriving town where nothing had existed 16 years earlier. **L/D**



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## Days 4-10, Monday 22nd to Sunday 28th February Murray River Cruise

It's time to experience some of the most scenic sections of the Murray's 2,508 km length over 7 days. After a thorough briefing in the afternoon, we'll head East

on your luxury river boat. Picture yourself waking to the sounds of the birds on the mighty Murray, meandering along painting-like scenes during the day, and having G&T's – or a local chardy - on the upper deck before your local produce meal is prepared by the skipper. Over the next few days, you'll visit Perricoota Station, originally a sheep station, which then grew oranges from one horizon to the other. The packing shed on the river is now a function

center. The river boats will tie up at the front door of the packing shed for a dinner featuring cuisine by hosts Dean and Melissa Brooks and accompanied by local musicians. You will go overland via bus to the Torrumbarry Wier and Interpretive Centre and also explore the Barmah World Heritage listed Wetlands. Hosted by Benita Cox of Kingfisher Cruises, this area is home to 236 different bird species and 50 different mammals! The wetlands also support the biggest red gums in Australia. No visit to Australia's breadbasket would be complete without checking out a few local wineries. (And you don't have to drive home!). The last night will be on shore with dinner prepared by local chef extraordinaire Paul Jarvis. Your time on the river boat will be flexible, stopping at regular intervals. **Meals included whilst on your riverboat: 7 x breakfasts, 7 x dinners, 1 x lunch.**



### INCLUSIONS:

- 3 nights accommodation at the Bridges on Meninya Hotel (NSW side).
- 7 nights accommodation on a luxury river boat. Air conditioned with ensuite in each cabin, full kitchen facilities, BBQ. All vessels recently renovated. (Note, accommodation is available twin share or double only. .
- Undercover parking for your vehicle for your entire stay.
- Spa on the upper deck for those who dare. (Bring your swimmers).
- Stopping at vineyards, sheep stations and historical and cultural places of interest including the Barmah World Heritage listed wetlands, a dream destination for photographers and birders!
- Whilst on the river, all dinners and breakfasts are included. Dinners will be a combination of on-board BBQ's courtesy of your skipper (assistance will be sought from customers) and two on-shore meals including dinner at Perricoota Station plus a farewell dinner by chef Paul Jarman. There's also a pizza lunch included at The Cape Horn winery. (Other lunches will be collected along the way and are at your own cost).
- A skipper for each vessel and a tour host across the group. Each vessel has four double/twin cabins sleeping 8 travellers total including the skipper.

### Book with confidence!

#### Tour costs 100% refundable should borders close

Register your interest by email or phone. Availability is strictly limited on a first come basis.

To confirm your booking, we will provide you with a booking form which you will need to complete and send along with a deposit of \$500pp. If the tour is cancelled due to travel restrictions owing to government COVID-19 regulations, your deposit is fully refundable.

The balance of the tour cost is due December 1, 2020. If the tour is cancelled due to travel restrictions owing to government COVID-19 regulations, your final payment is fully refundable.

These notes should be read in conjunction with Blue Dot Travel's standard terms and conditions. Please visit our website [www.bluedottravel.com.au](http://www.bluedottravel.com.au)