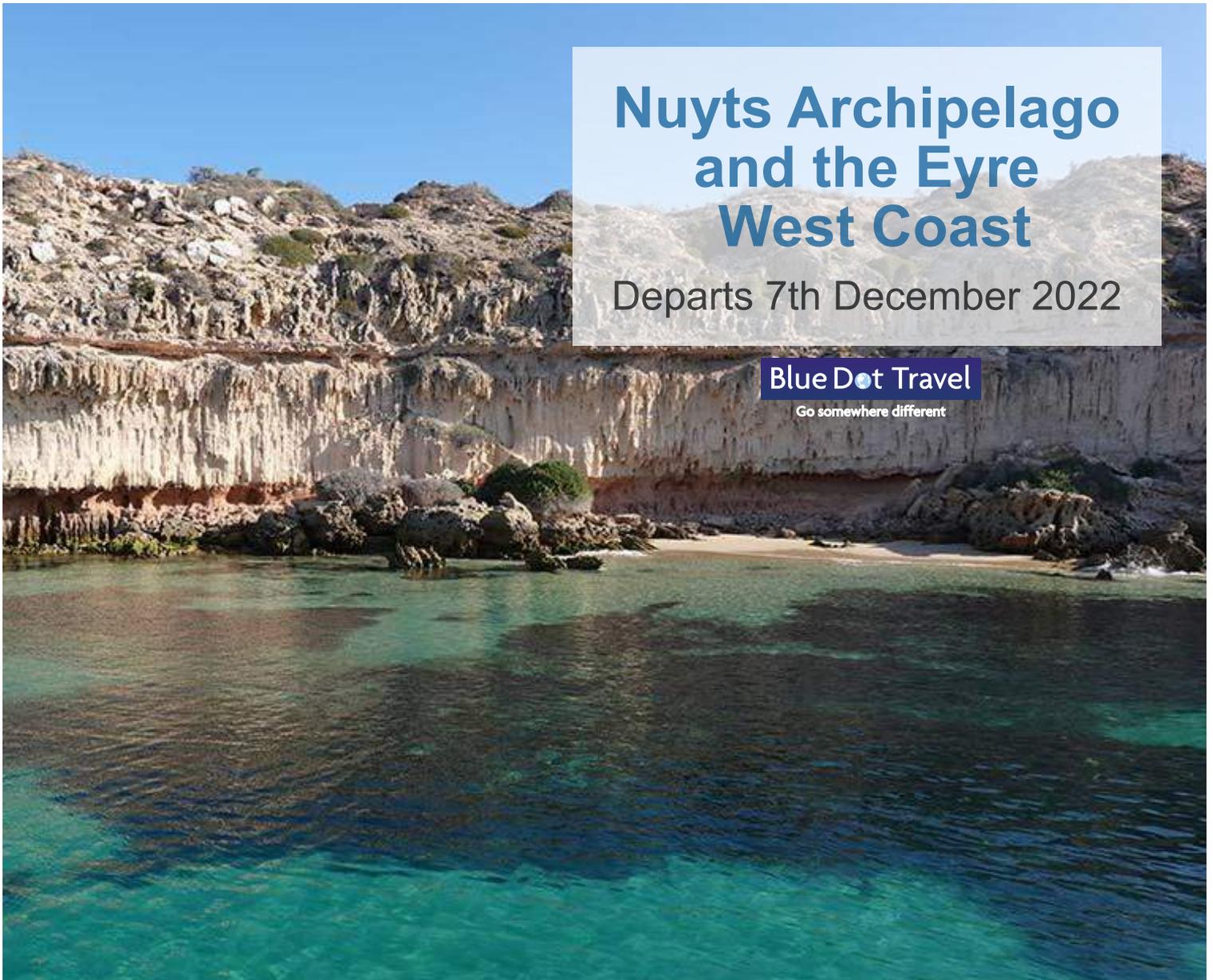


Nuyts Archipelago and the Eyre West Coast

Departs 7th December 2022

Blue Dot Travel

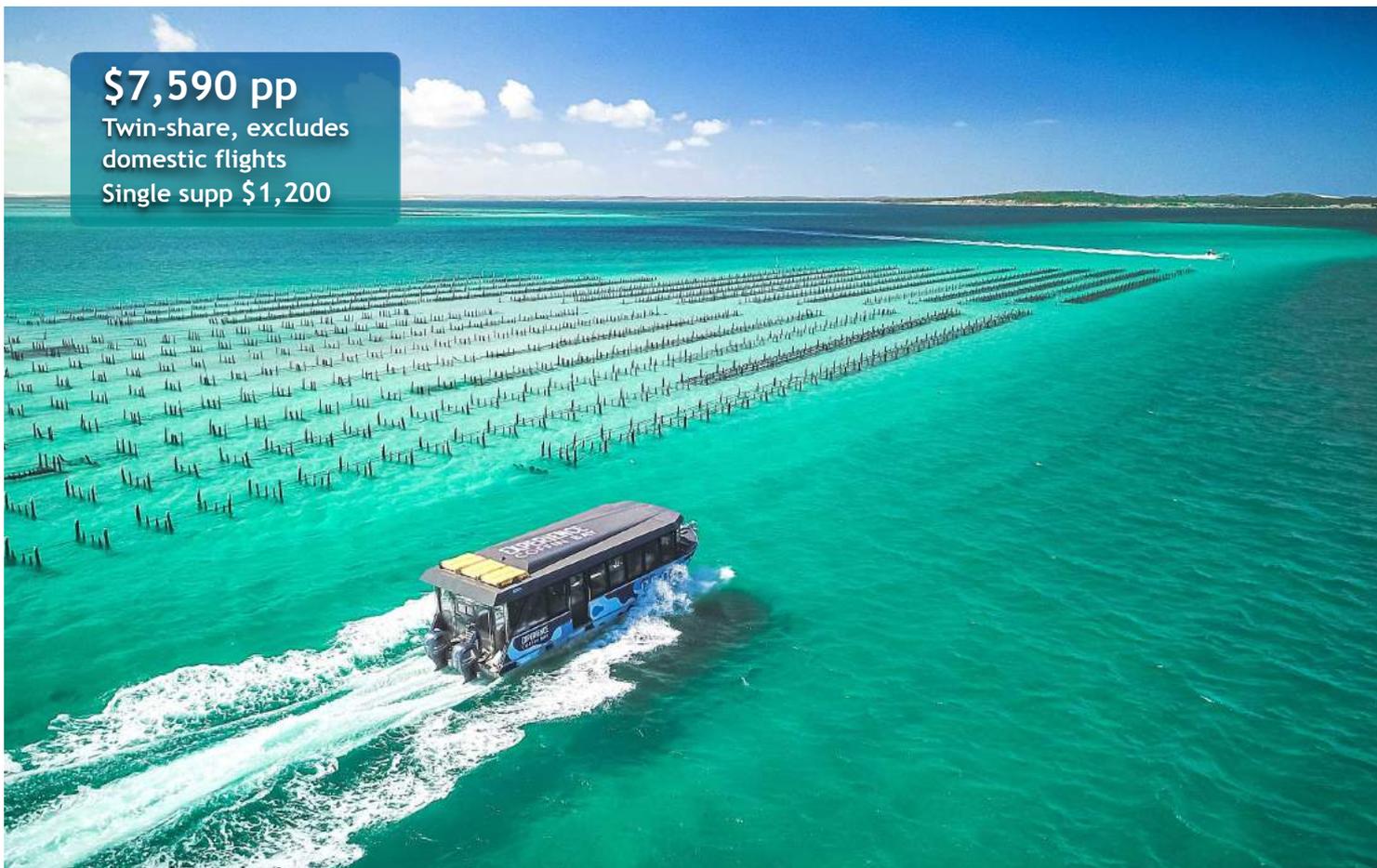
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NUYTS ARCHIPELAGO AND THE EYRE WEST COAST

The largest peninsula in South Australia is the famous Eyre, known for its amazing seafood and rugged coast. Located just far enough away from bustling city life to retain its pristine beauty, natural environment and solitude, the Eyre Peninsula West Coast offers an experience which will surprise and delight. The West Coast is known for its spectacular marine parks and dramatic coast, boasting a number of wildlife encounters where you are able to get in the water with dolphins, seals, or perhaps even Great Whites (!). The Eyre is South Australia's wide blue sky country. Sublime national parks dot the coastline, along with world-class surf breaks and low-key holiday towns, thinning out as you head west towards the Nullarbor Plain.

Eyre Peninsula's West Coast is an uncrowded and uniquely different place to explore. Country charm and community pride prevail, along with a desire to showcase the region as an undiscovered travel destination. The major towns of the region make an ideal base for exploring the pristine ocean and rugged coastline. Departing from Port Lincoln, we will follow the Elliston Coastal Trail west along the Great Australian Bight.

Our journey around the Eyre begins in Port Lincoln and stretches to Ceduna, from where we embark on a supported expedition to the protected Nuyts Archipelago Conservation Park. The Park is a marine conservation area located 25 kilometres south-east of Ceduna. The land first received protected status as a fauna conservation reserve proclaimed 16th March 1967. Our remote island-hopping adventure will have us stepping onto footprint free beaches and observing foreshores with a plethora of wildlife. On our three night expedition, each day we will explore different islands, beaches, and reefs, enjoying the unique wildlife and vegetation. For avid bird watchers, the Nuyts Archipelago is a sanctuary for a variety of birdlife. The nights are like no other, lying in the comfort of your double swag, on a beach 60 km from the coast, with a million stars lighting up the dark sky.

Our tour begins and ends in Port Lincoln.



**Day 1, Wednesday
7th December
PORT LINCOLN**

Fly to Port Lincoln via Adelaide. For the next three nights we will stay at the Port Lincoln Hotel overlooking Boston

Bay. Port Lincoln and more broadly the Eyre Peninsula is known as the seafood capital of Australia. Port Lincoln is renowned for its outstanding Southern Bluefin tuna, King George whiting, Spencer Gulf king prawns and Southern Rock lobsters. Port Lincoln is home to a very large tuna fishing fleet. Your flights should arrive in the mid afternoon. We will take an afternoon walk around the tuna fleet harbour to stretch our legs after our flights. We focus on eating seafood while we are on the Eyre. Dinner tonight will be a seafood dinner Del Giorni's, an award-winning cafe restaurant on the foreshore of Port Lincoln, overlooking Boston Bay. Del Giorni's owners are committed to showcasing Eyre Peninsula's premium seafood and serving only locally caught and farmed seafood on the menu (options are available for non seafood eaters). *D*

**Day 2, Thursday 8th December
PORT LINCOLN**

Awake, breakfasted and ready to explore at 9.00 am. Today, we will take a drive along the Whalers Way Scenic Drive. Whalers Way is privately owned land on the tip of the Southern Eyre Peninsula approximately 32 km from Port Lincoln that offers some of the most spectacular, accessible and dramatic coastal views in the state. It is an explorer's wonderland of cliffs, blowholes, crevasses, caves and golden beaches.



We head back into town for a quick lunch at the Fresh Fish Place before taking an afternoon trip to Port Lincoln National Park. Here, we will explore the vast sand dune system, rugged offshore islands and secluded white sandy beaches. The willing and able can will head off on a hike to the top of the ridge for spectacular views of the coast line while the unwilling can wander the beach for an hour. There is a lovely sheltered beach if you want to swim. We'll return to Port Lincoln and reward ourselves with dinner at Peter Teakle Wines' Line and Label restaurant located at the winery. The winery has great views over the vines and surrounding district. *B/L/D*



**Day 3, Friday
9th**

**December
PORT LINCOLN —
COFFIN BAY**

Awake, breakfasted and ready to explore at 8.30 am. Today we have a

trip to Coffin Bay. Coffin Bay is a pretty coastal holiday area with beautiful bays and beaches. The highlight of Coffin Bay is the ruggedly spectacular Coffin Bay National Park and the spectacularly delicious Coffin Bay oysters. The oyster industry in South Australia was started not long after the colony was first established. Native Angasi oysters were wild harvested and taken to Adelaide for sale. Overfishing caused the decline in catches and the and the cessation of the industry by the late 1800s. In the late 60s Japanese Pacific Oysters were introduced and the industry was rekindled. This morning we are joining Experience Coffin Bay Tours for their 10 am trip out on the water to the oyster farms. This tour is 3.5 hours and is chilled and relaxed. You will experience all the beauty of the pure and pristine coast line, spot seals at "The Brothers" islands and enjoy the dolphins if they appear along the way. The bay is surrounded by the Coffin Bay National Park on one side and farming land on the other. We motor out in the new boat approximately 16km out to the oyster lease at the entrance to the Coffin Bay water way. You will up close see the vastness of the prime oyster growing area of the world famous Coffin Bay oysters. At the oyster farm we learn about farming the oysters and pluck fresh ones to open and enjoy. Can't get any fresher than that. If you would like to immerse yourself in the experience then the option to walk around in the water on the farm in waders (waders are provided but bring a towel) you can also swim off the boat. Our tour guide will be the oyster farmer who will happily share knowledge about aqua-farming, its history and local knowledge of the area while exploring the Coffin Bay waterways. After the tour we will head to Coffin Bay National Park for a look at the spectacular coastline. The beaches throughout Coffin Bay National Park are truly epic. We will visit Almonta Beach and the practically named Point Avoid. Walk along the coastline and enjoy the rugged beauty of the area. Seafood dinner tonight at Sarrins the restaurant in the Port Lincoln Hotel overlooking Boston Bay. Menus change seasonally but Sarrins pay homage to local produce including oysters and the region's famed tuna if in season. **B/L/D**



**Day 4, Saturday 10th December
PORT LINCOLN — STREAKY BAY**

Today after breakfast we start our journey to Streaky Bay (300 kms) via the rugged west coast of the Eyre Peninsula. There are a number of interesting stops along the way including Mt Dutton Bay Woolshed. At

Mt Dutton Bay we will visit the State Heritage Listed Mt Dutton Bay Woolshed museum (c1875), which includes private collections of shearing, farming and fishing memorabilia. There is also a café and gallery where we will have lunch. At Elliston we will follow the Elliston Coastal Trail which reveals yet more dramatic coastline of the Eyre Peninsula. We will visit the stunning Talia Beach and walk along the pathway to the magnificent Woolshed Cave. Overnight at the Streaky Bay Motel. We will also have dinner at Drift on the waterfront or similar. **B/L/D**



**Day 5,
Sunday 11th**

**December
NUYTS
ARCHIPELAGO**

Pack up and head to the raw natural beauty of Nuyt's



Archipelago for three nights of camping. St Francis Island is 60 kilometres from Streaky Bay, with the 3-4hr journey there forming part of this unique experience as we all try to catch tuna and other seafood for our dinner.

The archipelago was named in 1802 by Matthew Flinders after Dutch diplomat Pieter Nuyts, who was the senior official of the Dutch East India Company on the ship Gulden Zeepaert ("The Golden Seahorse"). Visitor numbers are tightly controlled by the SA National Parks and Wildlife Service. Our group will be the only people on the islands, in fact the Parks Service only let one group on per month. This is a very rare opportunity. Needless to say, this remote island-hopping adventure will have you away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, stepping onto the footprint free white sandy beaches which fringe the islands of the archipelago. For avid bird watchers, the Nuyts Archipelago is a sanctuary for a variety of pelagic wildlife. This expedition aims to capture the nesting and mating season of the short-tailed shearwaters, of which St Francis Island alone has a population of over 273,000 pairs. The islands boast a huge array of marine wildlife which seek sanctuary on the dramatic foreshores and bays. St Francis island is home to over 276,000 pairs of Short-Tailed Shearwater birds. Also found on the island are white-faced storm-petrels, pied oystercatchers, penguins, rare Cape Barren geese, southern brown bandicoots, endangered brush tailed bettongs, rock parrots, and many other protected or vulnerable species. Your nights will be like no other. You will be lying in the comfort of your swag, on a beach 60 km from the coast, gazing at billions of stars in the night sky. The Nuyts Archipelago experience offers something that is completely unique, raw, and full of surprises. Meals and swag camping style accommodation on the island and the seafood we collect or catch each day will be a feature of the meals. **B/L/D**



 **Day 6,
Monday 12th
December
NUYTS
ARCHIPELAGO**

We will continue our exploration of the archipelago. This is a flexible tour and

we go at the pace of our passengers on board, with an understanding of their fitness levels and interests. We'll visit many of the islands by boat in the archipelago including St Peters Island, Goat Island, Evans Island, St Francis Island, Massilon Island, Fenelon Island, Cannan Reef, Franklin Islands (protected - no land access), each day returning to our base camp at St Francis Island. Meals and camping style accommodation on St Francis Island. **B/L/D**

 **Day 7, Tuesday 13th December
NUYTS ARCHIPELAGO**

We will continue our boat trips and walks on the archipelago. Each day's itinerary will depend on the conditions on the islands. On our daily expeditions you can expect a range of activities including swimming with dolphins, sea lions, blue grouper, reef snorkelling, fishing, cliff jumping, coastal nature walks, exploring ravines, eating fresh food, bird watching. Meals and camping style accommodation on the island. **B/L/D**

**Day 8, Wednesday 14th December
NUYTS ARCHIPELAGO – STREAKY BAY**

One last swim or hike before we pack up and depart Nuyts Archipelago by boat. We will be back in Streaky Bay by mid afternoon. Afternoon at leisure. Accommodation is back at the Streaky Bay Motel and Villas. Dinner will be at the Streaky Bay Hotel or Fish Fix. **B/L/D**



 **Day 9,
Thursday
15th December
STREAKY BAY**

This morning we visit Baird Bay. This is one of the few places you can swim with both sea

lions and dolphins. Nicknamed "the puppies of the sea" sea lions are quite playful. Pups are born every eighteen months; mid-winter one year, then mid-summer the next. Pups weigh around 7kg at birth. They depend entirely on their mother's milk for the first year. After that they start chasing and occasionally catching fish. At about four weeks of age, baby sea lions take to the sea for the first time, sometimes with help from their mothers. We take a

small boat out to Jones Island and see the sea lions in their natural habitat. After finding a safe spot to moor the boat we jump in the water and let the sea lions swim to us. The experience is all about letting these wild animals be in charge.

After a picnic lunch at Baird's Bay will follow the coastal touring route taking 2-3 hours with stops and which will bring us back to Streaky Bay. The scenery along Westall Way Loop Scenic Drive is rugged and spectacular. Stop along the way for some amazing photo opportunities. Like many stretches of the Eyre Peninsula coastline, this is a significant breeding habitat for raptors such as the southern osprey, white-bellied sea eagle and peregrine falcon. Our accommodation again is the Streaky Bay Motel and Villas and dinner will be at the Streaky Bay Hotel or Bayfunktion. **B/L/D**

 **Day 10, Friday
16th December
PORT LINCOLN**

Drive to Port Lincoln stopping off at Murphy's Haystacks and spectacular Locks Well Beach for a picnic lunch and



optional swim. Murphy's Haystacks is a large natural rock formation which makes an exceptional stop-off point to take photographs and enjoy the landscape. The high cliffs at Lock's Well Beach gives a great vantage point for spectacular views over the Southern Ocean. There is some easy time in the afternoon. Stay at Port Lincoln Hotel and dinner at Fumo. **B/L/D**

**Day 11, Saturday 17th December
DEPARTURE**

End of tour and return home flying from Port Lincoln to Adelaide then on to your destination. If you want to stay the day in Port Lincoln and travel home in the late afternoon, then for the super adventurous, this morning you can also arrange an optional cage dive with the white pointer sharks. We are happy to help you book this optional tour. **B**



Icon indicates a day where there is **moderate physical exertion**. A basic level of fitness is required: eg. A trek over 'mostly flat' terrain or climbing several flights of steps without the support of handrails or elevators.



Icon indicates a day where there is a **particularly active section**. A good level of fitness is required: eg. A longer trek over non-groomed, uneven terrain, or ascending to reach a panorama. May also include exposure to higher altitude. **An alternate activity may be offered if you choose to sit out an active section.** Please call - we are happy to discuss each tour in more detail.