

# South Australia's Three Peninsulas

Departs 24th July 2022

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## **SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S THREE PENINSULAS TOUR WITH WHALE WATCHING IN THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT WHALE NURSERY**

If you look at a map of the coastline of South Australia, you will see that it has three significant peninsulas.

The smallest, Fleurieu Peninsula, is crammed with great dining and wining destinations (it hosts the famous McLaren Vale wine region). It also has a great maritime history, once being the centre of the 1800s Murray River paddle steamer industry. The region boasts incredible natural features, including the Coorong National Park and the Murray Mouth (where the Murray River enters Lake Alexandrina and onto the Southern Ocean).

The middle sized peninsula, which is similar in shape to the boot of Southern Italy, is our wonderful Yorke Peninsula. The Yorke is known for broad acre farming of high quality grains including barley, the key ingredient for making beer. The other feature of the Yorke Peninsula is its magnificent coastline. At the “foot” of the Yorke boot lies the scenic Innes National Park. We take advantage of this beautiful coast, staying in stunning beach houses with uninterrupted views over the water to Kangaroo Island. Every Australian should visit this spectacular national park at least once.

The final and largest peninsula is our famous Eyre, known for its amazing seafood and a rugged west coast. It is also known for adventure tourism where you can swim with dolphins, seals, and Great White sharks. We will stick to the more genteel pursuits of eating oysters and tuna, complemented with walks along the deserted white beaches of the national parks and coastlines. Our journey around the Eyre ends at the Great Australian Bight where we will be in time for the annual whale migration season. Each year, Humpback and Southern Right whales (and other marine beauties) head to the upper reaches of the Bight to calve and nurse their young before they head back into the Southern Ocean.

On our Three Peninsulas Tour, we will explore all three peninsulas and feast off the local produce. Our tour begins and ends in Adelaide.



**Day 1, Sunday 24th July  
Fleurieu Peninsula — Middleton**

Morning flight to Adelaide aiming to arrive in the late morning or early afternoon local time. Please have your lunch on the plane. You will be collected at Adelaide Airport by Bill. Load up the van and head to the Fleurieu Peninsula (approx 1hr). We will have the afternoon exploring the McLaren Vale



wineries. First stop is d'Arenberg Winery and a visit to the Alice in Wonderland-like d'Arenberg Cube. Each of the five levels of the Cube have been carefully designed

to entice and excite the senses including features such as a wine sensory room, a virtual fermenter, a 360 degree video room, and many other tactile experiences. Explore the Alternate Realities Museum, located on the ground floor, and view the many art installations on display. Our visit will include a tasting. If there is interest we will visit another winery en route to the beach town of Middleton. Book into our award-winning accommodation at the Beach Huts. Welcome

dinner tonight is at the Elliot Hotel in Port Elliot. Overnight at the Beach Huts at Middleton. **D**

**Day 2, Monday 25th July  
Fleurieu Peninsula — Middleton**

Today is a boat day with two very different boat cruises. This



morning we will board the Big Duck for a 1.5hr tour which will enter the Southern Right Whale breeding sanctuary of Encounter Bay and to view these majestic animals from the waterline. The number of whales seen is highly variable year-to-year, and whale sightings cannot be guaranteed however, you are likely to see seals, sea lions and dolphins. When whales are present we stop near Pullen Island to look for Long Nosed Fur Seals. The tour then ventures through Horseshoe Bay towards Bashams Beach where the whales can be seen basking in the warm shallow water which provides the perfect conditions for giving birth to calves. The marine mammal permit allows us to Whale Watch up to 300m away from these amazing creatures. After our whale adventure we head up the coast a

little to Goolwa for a Spirit of the Coorong lunch cruise to the Murray Mouth. We cruise downstream from the port of Goolwa along the historic wharf and towards the Goolwa Barrage. Travel through the lock chamber, down to sea level and spot a few lazy fur-seals lounging about. We then meander along the waterways of the Coorong, following the last kilometres of the Murray River to the Murray Mouth and the its opening to the Southern Ocean. We will have our farewell dinner BBQ tonight at our accommodation at the Beach Huts. *B/L/D*



**Day 3, Tuesday  
26th July  
Yorke Peninsula  
— Foul Bay**

Breakfast in the communal garden kitchen at the Beach Huts at 7.30 am and be packed

and ready for departure at 8.30. Today we start our journey to the Yorke Peninsula. We take the scenic route through the Adelaide Hills wine region stopping at Strathalbyn for a free-time stroll the historic main street and then on to Hahndorf for another free-stroll along the main street. Hahndorf is a contemporary village in the Adelaide Hills, proud of its German heritage still visible in its streetscapes. We will have an early lunch in Hahndorf. After lunch we continue on to the Yorke Peninsula. The Yorke Peninsula is Australia's premier barley growing region. Our accommodation for the night is at the multi award-winning Yondah Beach House and Seafire Beach House. These properties are stunning architecturally designed deluxe beach houses with sweeping views over the coastline and across to Kangaroo Island. Privately located on 150 oceanfront acres on the wild southern coast of beautiful Yorke Peninsula, these beach houses are all about seclusion, space and simple elegance. We will have our evening meal at the beach houses. Note. the beach houses are separated by a 200m track. . *B/L/D*



**Day 4, Wednesday 27th July  
Yorke Peninsula — Innes National Park**

Today we will have a day trip to Innes National Park. We will breakfast at the beach houses and be ready for departure at 9 am. Innes National Park is at the very bottom the Yorke Peninsula. Innes National Park is famous for its spectacular coastal landscapes, rugged cliffs and sandy beaches. There are ruins, shipwrecks and lighthouses to discover, and beaches and wildlife to enjoy. We will spend the day exploring the coastline and doing short walks. We will take a picnic lunch to enjoy at a deserted beach with stunning white sand and turquoise waters (or a more sheltered area depending on the weather). On the way back to Yondah and Seafire we will stop at Marion Bay

Tavern to freshen up before heading back to our accommodation for dinner. *B/L/D*

**Day 5, Thursday 28th July  
Yorke Peninsula**

Yondah and Seafire are too beautiful to leave empty during the day so today we will have a rest day staying at the beach houses. Sleep in, eat, drink, walk along the cliffs and the beaches, take extra naps, read a book or play a board game. For the rest-less we can take an afternoon coastal scenic drive. We will have all meals at the beach houses. *B/L/D*

**Day 6, Friday 29th  
July  
Eyre Peninsula —  
Port Lincoln**

In winter they cut the ferry service linking the Yorke Peninsula with the Eyre Peninsula to 1 per day. The remaining service is one that is not a friend of those who like to sleep in. We need to be up at 6 am, have a quick breakfast and on the road just after 6.30 for our 2 hour drive to Wallaroo to catch the ferry for our 2 hour sea voyage across Spencer Gulf to Cowell on the Eyre Peninsula. (9.30 departure). On arrival at Cowell we will disembark and drive on to Port Lincoln stopping along the way at one of the beach holiday towns to buy lunch from the local country bakery. 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 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. We focus on eating seafood while we are on the Eyre. Dinner tonight will be a seafood dinner Fumo 28 where the menu showcases the Eyre Peninsula's premium produce, serving only locally-caught and farmed seafood on the menu (options are available for non seafood eaters). *B/L/D*



**Day 7, Saturday 30th July  
Eyre Peninsula — 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'll return to Port Lincoln and reward ourselves with a late lunch at Peter Teakle Wines' Line and Label

restaurant located at the winery. The winery has great views over the vines and surrounding district. We return to our accommodation in the mid afternoon. The rest of the day is free time including time to find yourself supper if you are still hungry after our long lunch. *B/L*



**Day 8, Sunday 31st July**  
**Eyre Peninsula — Port Lincoln**

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 to sample the supremely 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. Dress warmly, this tour is 3.5 hours. The tour 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). Your tour guide will be the oyster farmer who will happily share knowledge about oyster farming, its history and local knowledge of the area and explore the Coffin Bay water ways. The waders have in-built boots, so just bring a pair of socks to wear, and dress for the weather, in winter a wind proof jacket, beanie and scarf are a good idea. 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. Although it will be too cold for a

swim we can walk along the coastline and enjoy the rugged beauty of the area. Seafood dinner at Sarrins the restaurant in the Port Lincoln Hotel overlooking Boston Bay. Menus change seasonally but Sarrins pay homage to the freshest local produce including oysters and the region's famed tuna if in season. *B/L/D*



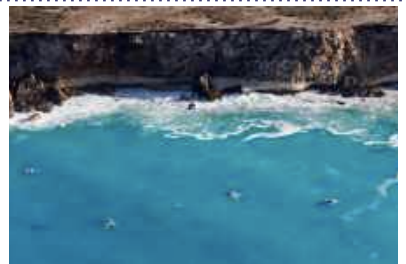
**Day 9,**  
**Monday 1st**  
**August**  
**Eyre Peninsula —**  
**Streaky Bay**

Today we have another big drive to Coorabie Farmstay on the edge of the Great Australian Bight. We will have a few stops along the way including at Cummins Lookout (where we can see an osprey's nest (the osprey is an endangered species) perched on a rugged pinnacle, and again at Locks Well Beach for a coffee break and where we soak up the spectacular views over the Great Australian Bight. If we are ahead of schedule we can squeeze in a quick stop at Talia Beach and walk along the pathway to the Woolshed Cave. If we are lucky we will be able to observe the sea-lions along with New Zealand Fur seals dozing in the sun on the beach and rocks. We may even see playful young pups learning to swim or scampering along the beach. 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. Young seal-lions play and frolic in this aquatic reserve protected by the offshore reefs. The scenery along this section of the Great Australian Bight is rugged and spectacular. 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. After lunch we drive onto Ceduna for another coffee break and then Coorabie for the next two nights. *B/L/D*




**Day 10,**  
**Tuesday 2nd**  
**August**  
**Eyre Peninsula –**  
**Coorabie – Whale**  
**Watching**

After breakfast we will head to Foul Bay in the Great Australian Bight for our whale watching boat tour. Each year Southern Right whales leave their feeding grounds in the sub-Antarctic region and



migrate north to give birth in warmer waters. In June and July most of the whales you will see are adults. You may be lucky enough to observe these 70 tonne mammals mating (look for groups rolling around on the surface). By late August you can commonly see the mothers swimming along the cliffs with their young calves at their side. At this time there are often 100 or more whales in the area. By the time the whales leave in October the calves have grown and have become strong enough to join their mothers on the long migration south. The Head of Bight is one of the most significant places for an unparalleled opportunity to view the large numbers of Southern Right whales to congregate in large numbers and give birth in a semi-protected environment. The Great Australian Bight is home to an abundance of endangered, vulnerable and protected species of marine mammals and oceanic bird life including: Southern Right Whales, Humpback Whales, Common Dolphins, Bottlenose Dolphins, Australian Sea Lions, New Zealand Fur Seals, Little Penguins, Albatross, White Bellied Sea Eagles. We return to Coorabie for dinner and the night. **B/L/D**

 **Day 11, Wednesday 3rd August**  
**Eyre Peninsula — Coorabie to Port Augusta**

Today is another longish drive across the top of the Eyre Peninsula to Port Augusta. We leave the coast and travel through some real outback settlements and landscapes.




Breakfasted, packed and on the road by 7:30 am. Our first break is at Ceduna and then Pildappa Rock (a wave-like granite formation - similar to Wave Rock

in WA) where we will have a picnic lunch weather permitting. After lunch we drive on and have a short break at Kimba (the midway point between Australia's east and west coasts). Then on to Port Augusta for an overnight stay. **B/L/D**

 **Day 12, Thursday 4th August**  
**Port Augusta — Clare Valley — Mintaro**

After breakfast we will visit the beautiful Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens. Then a much shorter drive on to the heritage listed village of Mintaro in the Clare Valley where we will stay in slate cottages for the next two nights. It is very picturesque with many photo opportunities. If there is interest we can stop at a winery along the way for a tasting. Our dinner tonight will be at the village pub, the Magpie and Stump. **B/L/D**

 **Day 13, Friday 5th August**  
**Clare Valley — Mintaro**

This morning we visit historic Martindale Hall (the classical Georgian-Italianate mansion which was used as the school in the film Picnic at Hanging Rock). Built in 1879–80 for Edmund Bowman Jr. at a cost of £30,000 it has 32 rooms and boasts a large cellar of 7 rooms. Edmund surrounded the home with a polo ground, a racecourse, a boating lake and a cricket pitch where the English 11 played at least once.

From Martindale Hall we will travel to either Koerner wines (awarded Young Gun winemakers in



2021) or Pikes Winery where we will sample a collection of their finest. You will be guided through a series of wines learning about the vineyards where the fruit is sourced and the unique approach to crafting these world renowned wines. We then have a long lunch at either Reilly's Winery or the multi award winning Watervale Hotel. If you are still hungry head over to the Magpie and Stump to get yourself supper. **B/L**

**Day 14, Saturday 6th August**  
**Departure**

After breakfast at our accommodation we will head to Adelaide airport for a late morning flight (about 2hrs). **B**

**IMPORTANT: The accommodation on this tour will offer the best level of comfort available. We offer a unique hospitality experience in regional Australia. All properties have been hand selected by our local ground operator Bill of Outback Beds. This is in keeping with our overall philosophy and intention to support tourism in these areas. If you are joining the tour as a single traveller and purchase a single supplement, you will receive your own room. However, on occasions, you may need to share a bathroom with other travellers. On some occasions, twin/double travellers may also need to share a bathroom. We trust you will be understanding in these circumstances.**



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.