

South Australia's Three Peninsulas

Departs 21st November 2023

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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, Tuesday
21st November
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. Next is a visit to Penny's Hill Winery and distillery. The Penny's Hill cellar door is located on the historic 'Ingleburne' property between McLaren Vale and Willunga. The property was first settled in 1846 by Thomas Overton was a private school from 1848. Now we drive on to the beach town of Middleton. Check into our award winning accommodation at the Middleton Beach Huts. Our

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

**Day 2, Wednesday
22nd November
Fleurieu Peninsula
- Middleton**

This morning, breakfast will be on the beach front at Kuti Shack. After breakfast we will have a short walking tour of Victor Harbor.



Once a strategic port for the exporting of the Golden Fleece, Victor Harbor is a popular holiday spot for South Australians (it is also known as the agapanthus capital of the world or South Australia's Florida). We will take a walk across to Granite Island keeping our eyes peeled for the colony of fairy penguins. The afternoon is free to explore Middleton, read, walk or have a game of tennis at the Beach Huts. A light supper will be provided at our Beach Huts accommodation. *B/L/D*

**Day 3, Thursday 23rd November
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. For lunch we will stop at the Mt Lofty Ranges Winery with stunning views over the Adelaide Hills. After lunch we continue on to the Yorke Peninsula stopping along the way at Sunny Hill Distillery if

it is not a production day for a guided tasting and to soak up their views from the deck. Sunny Hill is a paddock to glass establishment, distilling their gins and whiskeys from the grains that they grow surrounding the distillery. 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 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 by the sea. We will have our evening meal at the beach houses (the beach houses are separated by a 200m track). **B/L/D**



 **Day 4, Friday
24th
November
Yorke Peninsula -
Foul Bay**

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 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, Saturday 25th November
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, Sunday 26th November
Eyre Peninsula - Port Lincoln**

Up early at 6 am, with a quick breakfast and on the road just after 6.30 am 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 seafood and serving only locally-caught and farmed seafood on the menu (options are available for non seafood eaters). **B/L/D**



**Day 7, Monday 27th November
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,
Tuesday 28th
November
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 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. 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 16 km 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 local produce including oysters and the region's famed tuna if in season. *B/L/D*




 **Day 9,
Wednesday
29th November
Eyre Peninsula -
Streaky Bay**

Awake, packed, breakfasted and ready to hit the road by 8.30 am. Today we start our journey

to the rugged west coast of the Eyre Peninsula. But first we will have a stop for the seafood lover. We will have a behind the scenes guided tour at 11 am at the Fresh Fish Place Factory, a multi fish species processing factory in Port Lincoln. Learn about the diverse local fishing and aquaculture industries, observe how the fishermen's catch is received, packed and stored. View the many and varied species of the day. See how we open oysters, peel prawns, clean squid and witness the famous King George whiting being filleted at high-


speeds. The tour includes a tasting of the renowned Coffin Bay oysters, in-house smoked fish and brined mussels, squid, octopus and scallops. After lunch we start out journey to Streaky Bay. There are a few interesting places to stop along the way including the Ellistown Coastal Trail and Lock's Well Beach which reveal yet more dramatic coastline of the Eyre Peninsula. More and different seafood is harvested at Streaky Bay including green lipped mussels and abalone (both seasonal). Accommodation at the Streaky Bay Motel and Villas. Dinner will be at a local restaurant, Fish Fix or the Streaky Bay Hotel. *B/L/D*

 **Day 10,
Thursday 30th
November
Eyre Peninsula –
Coorabie**

This morning we will explore the rugged coastline around Streaky Bay and visit the only permanent



colony of Australian sea-lions on mainland Australia at Point Labatt. Point Labatt Conservation Park offers a unique opportunity to observe these rare and endangered marine mammals from a viewing platform on the cliffs, 50 metres above the beach. You will also be able to observe the sea-lions along with New Zealand Fur seals dozing in the sun on the beach and rocks. If we're lucky 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. We return to Streaky Bay for a lunch at the Bayfunktion Café following the Westall Way touring route. The scenery along this section of the Great Australian Bight 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. We return to Streaky Bay for a lunch at the Bayfunktion Cafe before driving on to Coorabie for a two night stay. We will have a break at Ceduna along the way. *B/L/D*

 **Day 11,
Friday 1st
December
Eyre Peninsula –
Fowlers Bay**

This morning we travel the short distance to Fowlers Bay. Our tour will be taking in the rugged



cliffs and magnificent little coves of Point Fowler. You're likely to see the playful interactions of Australian Sea Lions. Fowlers Bay 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. In this interactive and informative cruise, you'll (expectedly, hopefully) see pods of whales, discover the fascinating yet brutal history of Fowlers Bay, learn about Whale Baleen Plate, hold some very rare Ambergris and listen to realtime underwater acoustics - sing along to the Humpback Whale Song if you know the tune. We have lunch at Fowlers Bay and in the afternoon if we have been unlucky spotting whales or want to see more then we will head further west along the coast to the Head of Bight whale observation deck. Alternately we can have a rest afternoon or do a short tour to Lake



Macdonnell. The lake is famous for its half pink half green water. High in salt concentration, the lake gives the impression of a salmon pink lake on clear days. One side of the causeway is Pink

Lake, the other side is Green Lake and further down over the small bridge is the Blue Lake. The Pink Lake is caused by salt loving algae called *dunaliella salina* and bacteria called halobacteria that secrete carotenoid red pigments, that turns the water bright pink. These unique waters are why the Lake is also known as Watermelon Avenue. Back to our accommodation at Coorabie Farm.

B/L/D



Day 12, Saturday 2nd December Port Augusta – Clare Valley

Today we have a long drive as we commence our return journey east with a couple of nights in the Clare Valley along the way. It is over 800 km but we will have a number of breaks along the way. 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 to stretch our legs at the beautiful Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens. Then on to Mintaro and our accommodation and dinner at the Magpie and Stump pub. **B/L/D**

Day 13, Sunday 3rd December 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 Pikes Winery or similar where we will sample a collection of their finest, accompanied by a small tasting plate of local produce.



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. If you are still hungry head over to the Magpie and Stump to get yourself supper. **B/L**

Day 14, Monday 4th December 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.