

14 Day Bright Autumn Festival, Silo Art Trail & Great Ocean Road



The tour everyone has been waiting for...experience the beautiful changing colours of autumn when the leaves on the trees in Bright and surrounds create a magnificent kaleidoscope of Autumn colours: nature's palette of golds, reds, russet and siennas. Other exceptional tour highlights: Benalla's Wall Art, the amazing Silo Art Trail, the awe-inspiring Twelve Apostles and the Great Ocean Road, the 'Heartbeat of the Murray' Laser Light Show, The Grampians sightseeing, the National Wool Museum, Ballarat's Sovereign Hill and so much more. This tour is packed with spectacular scenery, magnificent works of art and fascinating history. We invite you to join us on this very special journey.

Departing: Wednesday, 28th April 2021

Fitness Level: M - Moderate

Meals: B = Breakfast, M = Morning Tea, L = Lunch, A = Afternoon Tea, D = Dinner

DAY 1 HERVEY BAY – ARMIDALE D

Wednesday, 28th April: Welcome aboard! With Wide Bay passengers on board make our way to Brisbane picking up passengers enroute. Interstate, Brisbane and Gold Coast passengers join at Brisbane Coach Terminal. Travel through the beautiful Scenic Rim over Cunningham's Gap to Warwick where we pause for lunch. Continue south to Glen Innes. Here we stop to explore the Australian Standing Stones, a national monument to Celtic people, past and present. At Armidale settle into our overnight accommodation. Stay All Seasons Motel Armidale.

Please note: The tour can divert through Toowoomba for passenger pick up/drop off.

DAY 2 ARMIDALE – DUBBO BMLD

Thursday, 29th April: Our journey continues south this morning through Werris Creek where we stop for morning tea, then on to Coolah for a delicious picnic lunch at the Black Stump Rest Area. Arrive in Dubbo mid-afternoon for a visit to the RFDS Visitors Education Centre before enjoying some free time in town. Stay Golden West Motor Inn.

DAY 3 DUBBO – ALBURY BMLD

Friday, 30th April: Enjoy a fun filled morning as we make our way along the scenic Banjo Paterson Way to view the imaginative sculptures on the 'Animals on Bikes Sculpture Trail'. Inspired by the residents of Cumnock in Central West NSW, 'Animals on Bikes' is a series of 45 creative sculptures created by local farmers, farmers' wives, Men's Sheds, bus drivers, preschool kids, playgroup mums - and anyone with an artistic flair! Arrive in Molong for morning tea, then on to the beautiful Cowra Japanese Gardens for lunch and time to soak up the peaceful atmosphere of this special place. Leaving Cowra, make our way to Gundagai for a photo stop at the 'Dog on the Tuckerbox', then on to Albury. Three night stay Quality Resort Siesta.

DAY 4 BRIGHT AUTUMN FESTIVAL BD

Saturday, 1st May: This morning head for Bright and the Autumn Festival. Capture some of the magic of the Kiewa Valley during our pleasant morning tour through Dederang and Tawonga. Time for a quick visit to the township of Mount Beauty, then up and over the mountain pass. Admire the view from Mt Bogong Lookout before ascending into Bright. The town will be adorned with golden autumn leaves and buzzing with excitement. Free time in the main street of Bright which has been converted into a market. Absorb the atmosphere and get a bit of lunch before the Grand Parade starts. Our big day in Bright must come to an end as we reboard our coach for a scenic tour via Myrtleford back to our accommodation.

DAY 5 ALBURY – BENALLA – ALBURY BMD

Sunday, 2nd May: A step back in time today as we explore the historic town of Glenrowan. Explore the Glenrowan Train Station, the site of Ned Kelly's last stand before a visit to the Glenrowan Tourist Centre. Relive the Kelly Gang's Stand through the brilliance of animatronics. Some free time in Benalla to purchase your lunch, then enjoy a sightseeing drive around Benalla's stunning wall art, created by very talented home grown and international artists. Finish our day with a drive to Goorambat to view the spectacularly painted silos before returning to our accommodation.

DAY 6 ALBURY – SWAN HILL BMLD

Monday, 3rd May: Fawelling Albury, travel the Riverina Highway to Deniliquin. Visit the Peppin Heritage Centre with its excellent displays and stories of the families who introduced the Merino sheep to the area. Onward to Swan Hill for some time at the Pioneer Settlement, Australia's first open-air museum, portraying life on the Murray. Tonight, after a delicious dinner get ready for the award-winning Laser Light Spectacular set on the banks of the mighty Murray River. 'Heartbeat of the Murray' uses water, light, laser, sound and special effects to transport you back in time 30 million years to tell you the story of the Murray. Moving forward in time the formation of the land, its people and their stories come to life in this state-of-the-art show. Stay Swan Hill Resort.

DAY 7 SILO ART TRAIL BMLD

Tuesday, 4th May: Get ready for a great day of spectacular sightseeing today as we travel the 200km Silo Art Trail, soon to become the country's biggest outdoor gallery. Have those cameras ready as we cruise from town to town and witness this innovative art project that sees renowned street artists from Australia and across the globe transform wheat silos into giant works of art. Starting in Patchewollock, we make our way south through Lascelles, Rosebery, Brim, Sheep Hills and Rupanyup, ending our wonderful day in Halls Gap. Stay Comfort Inn Country Plaza.

DAY 8 HALLS GAP – SKENES CREEK BMD

Wednesday, 5th May: Another day of scenic splendour as we explore the Grampian NP and the magnificent Great Ocean Road. Starting with an easy walk to the MacKenzie Falls Lookout for a spectacular view of the falls, then on to Boroka Lookout which provides more picturesque views. Onward to Warrnambool for lunch (own expense) before our exciting afternoon drive along some of the most spectacular coastal scenery in the world. As we explore the 'Shipwreck Coast' heading east along the Great Ocean Road, see the Bay of Islands, London Bridge and the Arch before arriving in Port Campbell where we visit the Twelve Apostles and the Visitors Centre. Continue along the Great Ocean Road to Skenes Creek. Stay Skenes Creek Lodge.

DAY 9 SKENES CREEK – BALLARAT BMLD

Thursday, 6th May: Our sightseeing journey continues along the Great Ocean Road this morning through Lorne and Anglesea before stopping at the National Wool Museum. Here the story of wool is brought to life – told by those who lived it and through the sights and the sounds of heritage machines weaving carpets and knitting socks. The museum is more than just wool. Here history, science, fashion, handcraft and art come together. Next, enjoy a delicious lunch followed by a brewery tour and beer tasting at Little Creatures Brewery before heading to Ballarat. Two nights Bell Tower Inn.

DAY 10 BALLARAT EXPLORING BMD

Friday, 7th May: Start our day with a visit to the Ballarat Botanical Gardens located on the western shore of the picturesque Lake Wendouree. Covering 40 hectares and divided into four distinct zones, the gardens are one of Australia's most significant cool climate gardens. Next, time to explore Sovereign Hill, an open-air museum town which depicts Ballarat's first ten years after the discovery of gold in 1851. Then, make our way to the Ballarat Wildlife Park which specialises in native Australian animals and a wide variety of exotic reptiles. After a big day we return to our motel.

DAY 11 BALLARAT – ECHUCA BMLD

Saturday, 8th May: Leaving Ballarat, head north to Bendigo to the Bendigo Pottery Interpretive Museum for morning tea and a demonstration by their skilled potters. Bendigo Pottery is Australia's oldest working pottery operating continuously since 1858. On to Echuca to board the elegant Paddlesteamer Emmylou, cruise along banks filled with swaying red gum trees, and enjoy a delicious lunch and intriguing commentary about the area's history. Finish our day with a visit to the unique and entertaining Great Aussie Beer Shed and Heritage Farm Museum. Stay Meninya Palms Moama.

DAY 12 ECHUCA – PARKES BMD

Sunday, 9th May: Head along the Newell Highway to Jerilderie for morning tea before continuing on to West Wyalong for free time to purchase your lunch. At Forbes enjoy a visit to McFeeters Motor Museum with their collection of veteran, vintage, classic, street rods and custom cars. Stay North Parkes Motel.

DAY 13 PARKES – MOREE BMLD

Monday, 10th May: After a leisurely breakfast it's off to the Parkes Observatory Visitors Centre. Marvel at the beauty of 'The Dish' in the viewing area, explore the astronomy and space science exhibition and discover the universe in the 3D theatre. After morning tea in the Dish Café continue north to Coonabarabran where we pause for a delicious picnic lunch then on to Moree. Stay Burke & Wills Motor Inn.

DAY 14 MOREE – HOME BM

Tuesday, 11th May: Our wonderful holiday is almost over, all too soon we are back in familiar territory with arrival in Brisbane mid-afternoon. Northbound passengers stay on board for arrival in the Wide Bay early evening.

Adult: \$4790 pp

Pensioner: \$4762 pp

Past Passenger: \$4748 pp

Single Supplement: \$1141 pp

Final Payment Due: 21st March 2021

Bookings Close on Wednesday, 14th April 2021