



GIPPSLAND  
**TRAVEL**

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## **PROUD MARY MURRAY RIVER CRUISE**

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

### **Fully escorted by Linda Sharpe**

#### **Sunday, 3 April**

**(D)**

This morning our coach will depart Warragul for Melbourne Airport for our flight to Adelaide. Gippsland Travel's Linda Sharpe is escorting the tour and will be there for you to assist with check in.

On arrival in Adelaide, we will enjoy a sightseeing tour of Adelaide, before continuing on to the **Adelaide Botanical Gardens**. Here we will enjoy a picnic box afternoon tea provided by Cafe Fibonacci, with time to wander through the beautiful gardens.

It is then only a short distance to Murray Bridge to be welcomed aboard the Proud Mary at 7pm by the friendly **Proud Mary** crew.

Having settled into our comfortable, river-view cabins, we can get together in the Dining Room and enjoy a pre-dinner drink before a delicious hot supper is served. As we cruise, Proud Mary's powerful floodlights illuminate the shore. This is an excellent opportunity to see the river environment from a different perspective and may allow us to view some of the nocturnal wildlife, especially birds such as night herons, owls, and coots. Later the Proud Mary ties up at our overnight mooring, for a night of peace and tranquility in the Australia bush.



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## Monday, 4 April

(B L D)

At 8am this morning, the Proud Mary departs Sunnyside and continues upstream. We pass huge lagoons teeming with birdlife. During floods, these inland lagoons were so immense that, in the early riverboat days, captains could not find true channels. In the early 1900s, riverboat captains planted willow trees along the banks to clearly mark the main river channel. Today these willows provide the perfect haven for the prolific birdlife.

This morning we will enjoy a delicious buffet breakfast while cruising through Mypolonga, Wall Flat, Caloote and Ponde.

Mid-morning and the Proud Mary arrives in picturesque Mannum, inhabited prior to white settlement by the Narrartie aboriginal tribe. The name Mannum can be translated as "the place of many ducks".

Here we'll board a waiting coach for a history tour of this small township that has played a significant role in the development of South Australia. Captain William Randell launched the first paddle steamer, the "Mary Ann", on the Murray River in 1853. On the tour, we will re-trace the colourful history of several pioneering families whose efforts shaped the successful development of this region. Our tour includes a visit to the Mannum Dock Museum in Mannum, where there is a fascinating collection of historical memorabilia.

We depart Mannum and lunch is served aboard as we cruise upstream past Younghusband, Teal Flat, lovely Lake Carlet, Bowhill, Purnong and onto Walker Flat.

Tonight, the Proud Mary moors at Walker Flat. The bird and wildlife here is prolific, including wallabies, wild ducks and bush turkeys. The towering cliffs are superb and provide a majestic backdrop to the tranquility of cruising Australia's most famous river. This evening is "Australia Night" and dinner will feature the use of some traditional bush foods such as emu, kangaroo, damper bread and fresh water crustaceans, with flavours of lemon myrtle, wild bush tomatoes and quandongs.



This evening we join an expert ecologist for a Nocturnal Discovery Tour. This tour provides an insight into the abundant local wildlife, including South Australia's fauna emblem, the Southern Hairy Nosed Wombat. These delightful creatures are found only in a limited area on the western side of the river. It's rare to see them in the wild but we'll board a coach to take us to their warrens and hopefully see one or two active in the evening light, as well as other nocturnal wildlife.



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## **Tuesday, 5 April**

**(B L D)**

At 7:45am the Proud Mary departs Walker Flat and continues upstream. We pass the town of Wongulla where, some fifty years ago, men found the fossil of a 20-million-year-old shark.

We enjoy another hearty breakfast while cruising through Wongulla, Nildottie and Big Bend. We view some magnificent scenery and Big Bend is famous for its soaring ochre cliffs.

This morning we can join the Captain in the Dining Room for a complete run-down on the story of Murray River including its history, current water usage practices and the ecology of this vital water source. You can also watch a video about the famous 1956 floods that devastated the area.

Late morning the Proud Mary arrives at the pioneering township of Swan Reach. The settlement was originally the port of the large Portree Sheep Station and was settled as a township in 1899. We disembark Proud Mary and with a local guide visit Costa Brothers Almond Farm. The almond industry is the fastest growing horticulture crop in Australia. We also visit the Swan Reach Museum which is housed in the original school building that was built in 1917; the museum's collection focuses on the history of education and the social history of the area.

We rejoin the Proud Mary for another delicious lunch, perhaps featuring Natural and Kilpatrick oysters and Roast Chicken, as we depart Swan Reach and cruise through the shallows to Blanchetown.



In the late afternoon the Proud Mary secures at Blanchetown, site of the Lock and Weir No 1. The river is dammed by 13 locks built to facilitate the early riverboat trade. Water cascades over the lock creating an excellent feeding place for birdlife. Pelicans and dozens of species of water birds can be seen diving in the water to feed.

It's a wonderful experience to watch as you relax with a quiet drink.

Tonight, enjoy a delicious roast dinner with all the trimmings finished off with one of the home-style desserts Proud Mary's chefs are famous for. Our evening cruise takes us to our overnight mooring spot of Sugar Shack, which is part of the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve, an astronomer's paradise. The unpolluted skies and isolation from artificial light sources make the park one of the best places on earth to gaze at the stars. Our Captain will steer closer to the bank this evening so we can take full advantage of the LED floodlights that illuminate the towering river redgums and perhaps watch the possums as they scamper through the branches. The river takes on a wonderfully moody and atmospheric quality at night providing a magical backdrop.

### **Wednesday, 6 April**

**(B L D)**

This morning we will wake up in one of the most unspoilt and picturesque areas of the River Murray. Make sure you head out on deck to immerse yourself in the surroundings and experience the peace of the riverside environment.

Choose from another Full English Buffet breakfast, or perhaps you might like a lighter Continental option this morning. The choice is yours.

This morning provides another unique experience with an absorbing ecological walk around Sugar Shack. We'll discover the importance of flood plains to the river system. The history of the area began in 1840, when explorer Edward John Eyre established a village named Sturt after the famous explorer navigator.

Next, we cruise downstream towards Swan Reach, passing magnificent lagoons teeming with birdlife, awesome cliffs reaching for the sky and spectacular scenery as far as the eyes can see. Throughout our cruise we can listen to the informative commentary that occurs from time to time about the history of the areas you pass through and the boats that used to work there.



In Swan Reach, we can disembark and stretch our legs if you feel inclined and have a wander around this lovely town. You might like to call into the Hotel, built around the original Swan Reach Station Homestead, and admire the views of the river and the collection of historical photos that are on display around the building. This afternoon the vessel ties up alongside the towering cliffs of Big Bend, the tallest anywhere along the River. A highlight of our expedition is a small boat cruise through the lagoons and inlets, led by expert ecologist.

There are some 320 species of birdlife in this area and, with the aid of binoculars and the well-informed guide, we will study at close range the prolific birdlife and wildlife of the region including kangaroos, wombats, emus, echidnas and goannas. The flat-bottom boat allows us to get right up to the riverside cliffs to see nesting birds and examine the geology of the landscape including the many exposed fossils.

This evening delivers another rewarding experience... a traditional Aussie barbeque and eaten under a canopy of stars amidst the restful sounds of the nearby river. Afterwards, enjoy an evening's entertainment around a blazing campfire, provided by our resident musician.



### **Thursday, 7 April**

**(B L D)**

Early this morning, the Proud Mary departs Big Bend and heads towards Ngaut Ngaut.

After another delicious breakfast we disembark at Ngaut Ngaut Aboriginal conservation site for a tour of one of the oldest archaeological digs in Australia. This is one of the definite highlights of the cruise. Take the boardwalk to the site of ancient aboriginal rock art where a local indigenous guide will explain their meaning and significance. Ngaut Ngaut was a major meeting place for the tribes of the area and we'll see where they prepared and cooked food at a ceremonial site that dates back thousands of years. The view from the top of the cliffs is astonishing with vistas that stretch for miles in every direction.

Mid-morning, we get together in the Dining Room to view an interesting and informative documentary that traces the Murray River from its source high in the Snowy Mountains right to its entry to the sea in the Coorong. The documentary explains the intricacies of the river environment and why the Murray is one of the great rivers of the world. We'll learn about Australia's greatest river landscapes and the people that call the River home while we cruise through Krohns Landing, Sabaruma and Walker Flat.

Lunch is served while we cruise through Bowhill, Teal Flat, Younghusband and Pellaring Reach. It's a wonderfully relaxing afternoon. Time to lay back and enjoy the peace that surrounds you as you watch the changing views glide by.

Later afternoon we arrive at Mannum. Take the opportunity to enjoy some free time in this delightful town or rest up ahead of the Captain's Dinner this evening.

We will gather in the Dining Room to enjoy a complimentary champagne or cocktail prior to our culinary highlight, the silver service Captain's Dinner, a five-course menu of choice featuring mouth-watering dishes based on modern Australian cuisine. Enjoy the food, wine and atmosphere as the Captain visits every table and chats. It's a chance to dress up a little and enjoy a gorgeous formal dinner.



## Friday, 8 April

(B L D)

After breakfast this morning we depart Mannum and cruise through Ponde, Caloote and Wall Flat to Woodlane. We arrive at Woodlane to board the waiting coach for Reedy Creek Environmental Park. This was an important gathering point for local Aboriginal tribes as it provided a continuous source of water throughout the year. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended and don't forget to take along your cameras, as Reedy Creek is very picturesque indeed, especially when the waterfalls are flowing.

We return to Proud Mary for a delicious smorgasbord lunch as we cruise through Mypolonga, Sunnyside, Mundurra and Willowbanks.

This afternoon there will be more spectacular scenery before the vessel ties up once more in Murray Bridge, the Captain and crew bid farewell before we disembark at 4.00 pm for our transfer by coach from Murray Bridge to the ATURA ADELAIDE AIRPORT HOTEL, *or similar*, for an overnight stay. Dinner tonight will be at the hotel.

## Saturday, 9 April

(B)

There is time this morning to enjoy breakfast at your leisure before we check out by 10am and take a short walk from the hotel, via the direct walkway, to the Adelaide Airport Domestic Terminal. We depart Adelaide at 11.35am on a Virgin flight, arriving in Melbourne in the early afternoon. We will be met and transferred back to Warragul by coach, arriving approximately 3.30pm.



- *The Proud Mary has recently undergone refurbishment to ensure your stay with us is as comfortable as possible.*
- *All the cabins have river views and are equipped with individually controlled air-conditioning for year-round comfort. Cabins are non-smoking and open onto balcony areas. All river view rooms have a private ensuite, double or twin beds, air-conditioning / heating and tea and coffee facilities.*
- *Each cabin has a private ensuite, hair dryer, tea and coffee making facilities and is serviced twice daily.*
- *The Proud Mary ensures your safety while cruising by providing lifejackets in all the cabins and placing life buoys on all decks around the vessel.*
- *You can order a drink and venture out onto the Proud Mary's spacious open decks or enjoy the intimate lounge and dining areas. The Captain's commentary may spark an interest to peruse the vessel's resource centre and learn more from one of the many books available on board.*
- *Tea & coffee making facilities are also available in the dining area so passengers can enjoy a cuppa while browsing through the souvenirs available for purchase.*
- *Bikes and canoes are available free of charge to enable our passengers to explore at their leisure any spectacular mooring locations or to discover the backwaters. For those who like a spot of fishing, reels and baits are also available.*
- *The Wheelhouse is open to all passengers to visit at any time. You can see first-hand how the boat is run, ask questions of the Captain and even take the wheel yourself if you'd like to.*



## PROUD MARY MURRAY RIVER CRUISE 3th – 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**TOUR COST:**                      **\$3399 per person on a twin share basis**  
**\$1585 single supplement**

### INCLUSIONS

- Personally escorted throughout tour by Gippsland Travel Senior Consultant, Linda Sharpe  
*\*In the unlikely event that Linda is not available to escort all or part of the tour, she will be replaced with a well-trained tour escort.*
- Private coach transfers between Gippsland and Melbourne
- Return economy airfares and taxes
- All airport arrival and departure transfers
- Hotel accommodation with private facilities in Adelaide
- River View Cabin on Proud Mary
- All main meals onboard Proud Mary
- Excursions while on Proud Mary including:
  - Lagoon cruises; Reedy Creek Gorge nature walk; Almond Farm;
  - Australian themed bush barbeque; Night cruising; Ecological walks;
  - Explore ancient archaeological sites
  - Comprehensive sightseeing as per itinerary and admission fees where applicable
- Total meals as per itinerary: **17 meals:** 6 Breakfasts (B), 5 Lunches (L), 6 Dinners (D)
- Complimentary water throughout tour
- Gippsland Travel hat or cap; luggage strap; water bottle; hand gel.
- End of tour journal showcasing your time on the tour.
- Porterage (one suitcase per person)
- **ALL tipping** of waiters/restaurant staff at included meals throughout the tour
- **ALL tipping** of guides and drivers

**NOTE:** Bookings for the Proud Mary for 2022 are selling fast and we can only hold our additional cabin allocation until Friday 30 November 2021.

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

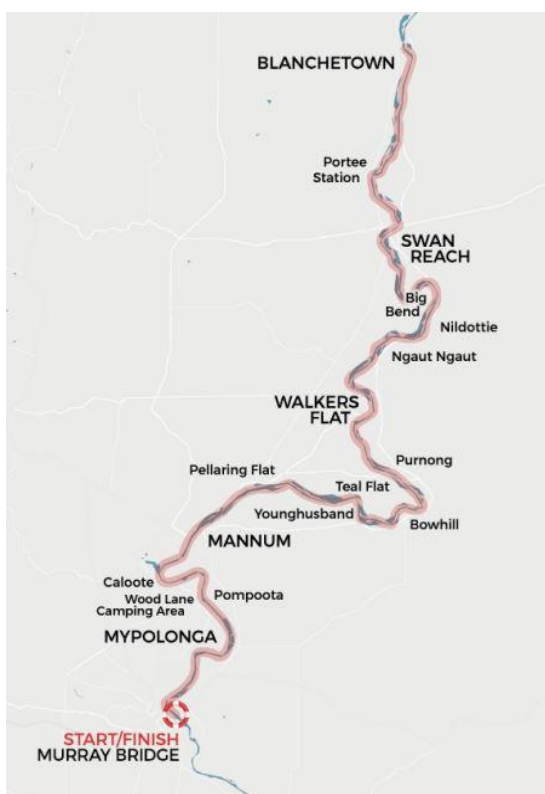
Deposit:	To register interest & secure place on tour	\$500 per person
Balance of payment	Due on or before Friday, 28 January, 2022	

To register your interest and secure a place on this tour, a \$500 per person deposit is applicable, which then becomes non-refundable.

## YOUR TOUR LEADER:

Linda Sharpe (nee Owen) has worked her entire travel career with Jacquey at Gippsland Travel, starting fresh out of travel college in 2003. She has travelled extensively overseas and within Australia during this time but there is still plenty left for her to explore.

*"Having helped Jacquey escort her Poland Group in 2017 and after escorting a Kimberley Cruise Group in 2018 I am really looking forward to taking this group on the Proud Mary and exploring more of the Murray River" - Linda*



## EXCLUSIONS

- Comprehensive Travel insurance. It is a condition of our tours that comprehensive travel insurance is in place at the time of final payment.
- Expenses of a personal nature like laundry, telephone charges, alcoholic beverages, medical expenses, and transfers/sightseeing or meals not included in inclusions.
- Any optional tours or activities other than those specified in the itinerary

## CANCELLATION FEES

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing to Gippsland Travel Centre and cancellation fee charged cannot be credited to another booking.

Cancellation date	Cancellation fee
Cancellation received after full deposit has been paid	\$500pp
Cancellation received on or after 28 January 2022	100% of tour cost

If you cancel for any reason the above charges may come in effect.

Covid Refund Policy: Once full payment has been made and the tour cannot operate due to State border closures due to COVID-19 restrictions, any funds paid will be transferred to the rescheduled tour.

## GIPPSLAND TRAVEL ESCORTED TOURS TERMS & CONDITIONS

### INTRODUCTION:

This contract is governed by Gippsland Travel Centre Pty Ltd and all members of the travelling parties as listed on your itinerary.

Gippsland Travel Centre acts as the agent selling and coordinating products on behalf of a third-party travel supplier/s. A separate contract with the supplier/s will apply and will be governed by the supplier's Terms and Conditions. Gippsland Travel cannot guarantee the performance of any third-party supplier/s. Gippsland Travel may receive fees, commissions, gifts or financial incentives from third party supplier/s under this contract.

### COVID POLICY

If the tour cannot operate due to COVID-19 state border closures and restrictions, the tour will be rescheduled and any funds paid will be transferred to the new tour date.

Due to the ongoing and evolving Covid-19 situation in Australia we have been advised by our suppliers that all guests must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19. Fully vaccinated means that there has been at least 14 clear days from the second dose and the date of our departure.

Those who have a medical exemption from receiving the Covid-19 vaccine can still travel. Guests will be required to show a Covid-19 vaccine medical contraindication prior to our departure.

### LATE BOOKINGS

Higher deposit payments are required for late bookings. A guarantee of full payment is required at the time of booking for all bookings received within 4 weeks of departure.

### BOOKINGS SOLD ON A SHARE BASIS

Bookings may be accepted on a share room basis on the proviso that the person requesting the share reservation agrees that while every effort will be made to match suitability of the passengers there is no guarantee that a share room can be provided. If a share room is not available at the time of final payment, either the single room alternative, at an additional cost, or the cancellation conditions detailed in your itinerary will apply.

### UNUSED PORTION OF THIS TOUR

We regret refunds will not be given for any unused activities of this tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation or transfers.

### HEALTH & FITNESS

A minimum level of fitness is required to be able to participate on a Gippsland Travel Tour, you are required to at least:

- Be able to walk at least 1 hour on uneven surfaces without the use of any walking aid (walking stick for stability is acceptable)
- Walk up multiple flights of stairs and short, steep hills
- Stand for 20 minutes without needing to sit down, often in hot/humid climates
- Carry your own hand luggage / handle your own suitcase when portage is not supplied eg. at airports.
- Get on and off various modes of transport without assistance, including small boats. Assistance will be offered where necessary.

Passengers must inform us of any medical conditions which may affect your ability to participate in the tour.

At our discretion we can exclude you from a tour or any activity we consider that you are unable to safely participate in that tour or activity or if we consider your participation may place the safety of other guests at risk.

You will be requested to supply a letter from your doctor indicating your prescription medication and your reason for taking it, which shall be carried in the event of an emergency. This information will remain confidential and can be supplied in a sealed envelope.

## ITINERARY CHANGES and ITINERARY VARIATIONS

Gippsland Travel reserves the right to amend the hotels, itinerary and excursions if deemed advisable or necessary due to adverse weather conditions, road conditions or other unforeseen circumstances. Any necessary alternative arrangements will be made to a similar standard.

Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of Gippsland Travel make it necessary to change airlines, hotels or amendments to daily activities. We will inform you of any changes as soon as they occur.

## GENERAL CONDUCT

Gippsland Travel reserves the right to remove a traveller from a tour if they are acting in a way that interferes with the general operation of the tour or compromises the general enjoyment of the tour by other travellers in any way

## FORCE MAJEURE:

Force Majeure means the occurrence of an event that is beyond Gippsland Travel's reasonable control and which could not have been reasonably prevented by Gippsland Travel. Force majeure includes, but is not limited to: acts of God, accident, riots, war, terrorist act, epidemic, pandemic, quarantine, outbreaks of infectious disease or any other public health crisis, civil commotion, breakdown of communication facilities, natural catastrophes and natural disasters (including but not limited to flooding, fire, earthquake, landslide), adverse weather conditions, high or low water levels; government directed travel restrictions or omissions, changes in laws or regulations, national strikes, explosion, generalised lack of availability of raw materials or energy, nuclear or other industrial accident causing environmental pollution or contamination; change in law, meaning, enactment, amendment (including repeal) in the law or administration of any law in Australia or any jurisdiction or territory relevant to the booking contract, which includes changes in statute, regulation, determination, by-law, declaration, licence and the common law as applicable from time to time.

For the avoidance of doubt, Force Majeure shall not include (a) financial distress nor inability of either party to make a profit or avoid a financial loss, (b) changes in market prices or conditions, or (c) a party's financial inability to perform its obligations hereunder.

In the event that a Force Majeure is declared, the customer will be bound by the third-party supplier/s Terms and Conditions, if applicable.

## LIMITATION OF LIABILITY:

Subject to Australian Consumer Law, Gippsland Travel does not accept any liability in contract, tort or otherwise for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or inconvenience caused by a third-party supplier/s over who we have no direct control. Gippsland Travel is not liable for Force Majeure or any other event which is beyond our control or which is not preventable by us.

## GOVERNING LAW

These booking conditions are governed by the law in force in Victoria, Australia.

## TERMINATION OF BOOKING CONTRACT OR CHANGE OF TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS DUE TO FORCE MAJEURE

If Gippsland Travel, in its reasonable opinion, considers that any Force Majeure event prevents Gippsland Travel (whether directly or through its employees, contractors, subcontractors and agents) from lawfully or safely providing any products or services subject of the booking contract with you, Gippsland Travel may immediately by written notice; (a) terminate the booking contract (in whole or part of); or (b) change your travel arrangements as reasonably practicable to ensure your safety and invoice for any additional costs.

If you are eligible for a refund once a booking has been cancelled, the balance less any non-refundable amounts will be forwarded to you once received by Gippsland Travel from the third-party supplier/s.

Gippsland Travel is not responsible for any delays of refunds from the third-party supplier/s. Refunds from third party supplier/s can take in excess of 6 weeks. Refunds will be processed as per original form of payment.

Travel insurance policies may provide cover for cancellation fees subject to their terms and conditions.