

# ITALY with a difference, MALTA & GREEK ISLANDS

Sunday 12 June to Sunday 10 July 2022

Personally escorted by Jacquey Turner

Starting in **Bologna**, we explore the less visited regions of **Italy**, along the Adriatic Sea to the heel of the boot, the Salento Peninsula. Taking in Bologna, Ascoli Piceno, Ostuni and Lecce before heading west to Matera, a Basilicata's jewel, a town built on carved caves. We reach the rugged Amalfi Coast with a visit to Naples.

**Malta** is a history-rich small archipelago in the Mediterranean Sea and one of the smallest countries in Europe. There is glorious variety in its small archipelago; prehistoric temples, fossil-studded cliffs, hidden coves, and a history of remarkable intensity.

Experience a **Greek Islands** cruise combining amazing destinations on a mega yacht with professional crew and exquisite cuisine. Each day, discover a new port of call, a hidden cove with crystal blue waters, a glimpse of ancient history and rich cultural diversity.



### Sunday, 12 June

### **DEPART AUSTRALIA**

We depart Gippsland for our evening flight from Melbourne to Bologna via Dubai. Departures are available from other Australian cities.

### Monday 13 & Tuesday 14 June BOLOGNA, ITALY

(B B L D)

We arrive in Bologna on Monday 14 June and will be met and transferred to our hotel, the GRAND HOTEL MAJESTIC, or similar, where we shall stay for the next two nights.

During the next couple of days our sightseeing will include walking tour of the historic centre, winding through the beaten paths frequented mostly by locals. From the Church of San Petronio in Piazza Maggiore to the Asinelli Towers, from the Ghetto to the hidden "Venetian canals" of Bologna, we will discover traditions, habits and anecdotes of this amazing city. We shall also visit the Sanctuary of Madonna di san Luca for views of the city. A highlight will be a visit to a local village.

### Wednesday, 15 June

### **ASCOLI PICENO**

(B D)

After breakfast we drive to Ravenna, known for the colorful mosaics adorning many of its central buildings, like the octagonal Basilica di San Vitale, the 6th-century Basilica di Sant'Apollinare Nuovo and the cross-shaped Mausoleo di Galla Placidia

We then head south along the coast to Ascoli Piceno, that lies at the confluence of the Tronto and Castellano rivers in the Le Marche region. Called the "City of Travertine" for the milk and honey piazza and facades, Ascoli's historic centre is an architectural gem.

Once home to over 200 spindly towers, almost 50 remain. The public squares clatter with activity, especially in the evenings, as folks settle in for a glass of wine, always with little offerings of food, or an Anisetta from the famous Anisetta Meletti, a place that's been pouring since 1870.

On arrival we shall check in to the PALAZZO DEL MERCANTI, or similar. Dinner tonight is included.





Thursday 16 Friday 17 & Saturday 18 June OSTUNI

(BBBLDD)

We depart Ascoli Piceno and head further south, right down into the "heel" of Italy and the Puglia region. Our hotel in Ostuni will be the HOTEL RELAIS SANT'ELIGIO, or similar, for the next three nights.

During our time here, we will visit Alborobello, famous for its trulli, whitewashed stone huts with conical roofs. These limestone dwelling are found in the southern region of Puglia and are remarkable examples of drywall (mortarless) construction, a prehistoric building technique still in use in this region.

We shall also explore Bari, a port city on the Adriatic Sea, and the capital of southern Italy's Puglia region. Its mazelike old town, Barivecchia, occupies a headland between two harbors. Surrounded by narrow streets, the 11th-century Basilica di San Nicola, a key pilgrimage site, holds some of St. Nicholas' remains.

Along with a cooking class at a local olive farm, we shall visit the picturesque fishing village of Polignana a Mare and spend time at Castel del Monte. When the Emperor Frederick II built this castle near Bari in the 13th century, he imbued it with symbolic significance, as reflected in the location, the mathematical and astronomical precision of the layout and the perfectly regular shape.

### Sunday 19 & Monday 20 June LECCE

(B B D)

Today we drive to Lecce with a detour to visit the charming harbour town of Otranto. Our accommodation for the next two nights will be at the RISORGIMENTO RESORT, *or similar*.

Bequeathed with a generous stash of baroque buildings by its 17th-century architects, the city has a completeness and homogeneity that other southern Italian metropolises lack. Indeed, so distinctive is Lecce's architecture that it has acquired its own moniker, barocco leccese (Lecce baroque), an expressive and hugely decorative incarnation of the genre replete with gargoyles, asparagus columns and cavorting gremlins.

We will make up our own minds on a walking tour and learn all about the craft of papier mache which Lecce is famous for.

# Tuesday 21 & Wednesday 22 June MATERA

(B B D)

We depart the "heel" of Italy and head to Matera.

Matera is a fabulous troglodyte town of prehistoric grottoes, cave tabernacles, abandoned hovels and Renaissance houses, all excavated into the luminous limestone tufa. The rock-cut cave dwellings known as the SASSI, date back to Byzantine times. With the help of a locally grown expert, we will learn the stories of old and new Matera. We discover an ancient cave dwelling which tells a tale of poverty, hardship and struggle, whose history is best immortalized in writer Carlo Levi's superb book "Christ stopped at Eboli", comparing the Sassi to Dante's Inferno. Today Matera contains some 3000 habitable caves. We visit a cave church-featuring medieval frescoes with their own legends.

There will be time at leisure to enjoy beautiful Matera. Our accommodation in Matera for two nights will be at the PALAZZO GATTINI, or similar.



### Thursday 23, Friday 24, Saturday 25 June NAPLES

(B B L D D)

This morning we drive to Naples with a visit to the amazing site of Pompeii on the way. Pompeii is a preserved ancient Roman city in Campania at the southeastern base of Mount Vesuvius. It was built on a spur formed by a prehistoric lava flow to the north of the mouth of the Sarnus (modern Sarno) River. Pompeii was destroyed, together with Herculaneum, Stabiae, Torre Annunziata, and other communities, by the violent eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 CE.

The circumstances of their destruction preserved their remains as a unique document of Greco-Roman life. Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Torre Annunziata were collectively designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1997.

On arrival in Naples we will check in to the GRAND HOTEL SANTA LUCIA, or similar.

During our time in Naples we will have a City tour of Naples and weather permitting, a day trip to Ischia, a volcanic island in the Gulf of Naples. It's known for its mineral-rich thermal waters. Hot springs bubble up at Maronti Beach, in the south. Roman remains lie beneath the sea floor at Cartaromana Beach. The beach has views of medieval Aragonese Castle, linked to Ischia by a stone bridge. Nearby the 18th-century Palazzo dell'Orologio houses the Sea Museum, devoted to Ischia's fishing tradition.



Sunday 26 Monday 27 Tuesday 28 Wednesday 29 June MALTA (B B B B L L L D D)

We say "arrivederci" to Italy as we fly to Malta. On arrival we shall be met and transferred to the GRAND HOTEL EXCELSIOR, *or similar*, where we shall stay for the next four nights. Welcome to the Maltese Islands.

We will start with a guided tour through the vibrant streets of Valletta. In the alleys of Valletta, we will discover the beauty and charm of the fortified city built by the Knights in 1566. We will enjoy fabulous views of the Grand Harbour and visit St John's Co-Cathedral including the Caravaggio masterpieces in the Oratory.

We will discover the Island of Gozo, on a full day tour with highlights being a traditional 'luzzu' cruise of the inland sea; we see the Xwejni Salt Pans, protruding out of the sea; a farm visit including wine and local food products tastings; and lunch at transformed little cottage with panoramic views of Mgarr Harbor, Fort Chambrey and the three sister islands.

Our full day 'Malta Sightseeing' will include the Megalithic Temples and Blue Grotto. We spend time in Mdina, the old capital city.. We shall also visit the Dingli Cliffs, part of the highest land mass in Malta, some 200 metres above sea level, with the Parish Dome dominating the skyline and quaint village with a perpendicular plunge in the Mediterranean Sea.

This Mediterranean paradise continues to fascinate food lovers thanks to its wide variety of traditional and local cuisines, which are influenced by other international kitchens as well, like the Italian as well as the North African one.

### Thursday 30 June ATHENS (B D)

Today we will have some time to explore Malta further before it it time to transfer to the airport for our flight to Athens. On arrival at the Athens Airport (El Venezelou) we shall check into the SOFITEL AIRPORT HOTEL, or similar, for an overnight stay prior to boarding our yacht tomorrow.

### Friday 1 July

### ATHENS - BOARD HARMONY V YACHT

This morning we will drive westwards, along the beautiful scenic coastal road to reach the Corinth Canal, which connects the Gulf of Corinth with the Saronic Gulf in the Aegean Sea.

We continue to Loutraki, the seaside charming village for free time to enjoy lunch by the sea before we drive to the marina in the mid-afternoon to board our floating home on the sleek, contemporary state of the art **Harmony V** for our 7-night/8-day Greek Islands cruise.

Once on board we shall enjoy a welcome drink and meet the crew and fellow passengers. We depart via Cape Sounion to Kea. There will be leisure time to explore Kea's tiny port, Korrisia, after dinner. Our ship departs Kea in the early hours for Delos. We overnight at sea.



### Saturday 2 July

### **DELOS - MYKONOS**

(B L)

(B D)

Today you can enjoy a morning tour to the unique archaeological site of Delos, antiquity's most sacred island before we travel onto the port of Mykonos, with a swim stop on the way. Your afternoon and evening are free to enjoy the island's cosmopolitan lifestyle. We overnight in Mykonos.

### Sunday 3 July SANTORINI (B D)

Today we will admire one of the unique volcanic islands worldwide where will visit the authentic Megalochori village. We will stop at the Red Beach surrounded by the volcanic rocks and continue to Profit Elias where we will see the whole island from all sides, an amazing point for photos.

We continue to Firostefani and Imerovili villages and end at Oia village on the northern part of the island overlooking the caldera and the Aegean Sea. We return to Fira, the capital, located on the top of the cliff where the island was cut of an old volcano. Enjoy walking in the narrow paths with various of amazing views to take photos. There will be time to explore Fira before heading back to the **Harmony V**.

## Monday 4 July CRETE (B L D)

After arriving in Rethymno port, we will meet our coach and guide for a tour in this area of Crete. We will head to Chania, a Venetian harbor city of the 14th century and known also for its waterfront taverns and shops as well as the 16th-century lighthouse with Venetian, Egyptian and Ottoman influences. We will then drive to the nearby Aptera, a Minoan city from the 4th century BC, and see the Theatre, the fortification and the arched roman cisterns. We continue to Giorgioupoli, a fishing village located where three rivers meet the sea. Here we will taste the Cretan cuisine and enjoy Cretan music. We return to Rethymno for a relaxing evening on board.

### Tuesday 5 July KYTHIRA (B L)

Time to relax before a late morning swim stop and afternoon arrival to Kythira, a less known island gem now fast becoming a favourite among visitors to Greece.

The evening is at leisure to visit the picturesque main town of Chora and experience the subdued charms of this peaceful island. We overnight in Kythira.



### Wednesday 6 July

### MONEMVASSIA -NAFPLION

(B L)

We have an early morning sailing to Monemvassia. Here we can discover a remarkable medieval fortified town, with time at leisure to explore the uniquely preserved Byzantine and Venetian architecture and experience the beauty of the natural setting. We depart for Nafplion in the early afternoon, with a swim stop on the way.

We arrive at Nafplion in the evening. The old quarter is charming, with narrow streets and characteristic period architecture. Impressive medieval fortifications can be seen in the port and crowning the hills above. We overnight in Nafplion.

### Thursday 7 July HYDRA (B D)

This morning there is an optional tour to Mycenae, the powerful walled palace of Agamemnon, the Homeric Achaean king. We depart in the early afternoon for the island of Hydra. On arrival there will be time at leisure to explore this picturesque port town. We overnight in port.

## Friday 8 July DISEMBARK YACHT – ATHENS - (B D)

Our time in the Mediterranean has come to an end and this morning we will disembark our ship and drive to Athens to visit The New Acropolis Museum where we will see the artifacts of the first Acropolis Museum from 1874 from Greek Bronze Age to Roman and Byzantine Greece.

On our tour today, we will see the ancient marble Stadium, The Zappion Hall, the former Royal Gardens, the Parliament House at the Constitution Square as well as Schliemans House and the Academy of Sciences and Arts. We will also see the old University building and the National Library and a few of the most beautiful new classical style buildings of modern Athens.

Then we will head towards the Sacred Rock of the Acropolis. There we will have the chance to admire all the masterpieces of architecture built during the time of Pericles/Golden Age of Athens in the 5th century BC. We will see the Propelea, the temple of Athenian Nike, Erectheon and the world-renowned Parthenon temples. From above, we will see the Odeon of Herod Atticus, the ruins of the ancient Athenian Agora as well as Mars Hill where St Paul addressed the members of supreme court of Ancient Athens.

Our accommodation overnight will be the DIVANI PALACE ACROPOLIS, or similar. We shall enjoy a lovely farewell dinner tonight.



Saturday, 9 July ATHENS – AUSTRALIA (B in-flight meal)

The tour has come to an end, however there will be some free time before we transfer to the airport for the flight to Melbourne via Dubai.

# Sunday 10 July ARRIVE AUSTRALIA (in-flight meal)

We arrive in Australia in late evening. Those arriving in Melbourne and travelling to Gippsland, will be met and transferred by coach back to Warragul.

### YOUR TOUR LEADER:

JACQUEY TURNER has more than 36 years' experience as a highly successful travel agent and tour guide. Jacquey's attention to detail and personal care ensures that everyone travelling in her group will have a most enjoyable holiday experience.

"I thoroughly enjoy escorting tour members to so many wonderful places in the world. The sights, sounds and history all contribute to a fabulous experience but most importantly it is the people that you meet and have the privilege of travelling with that has the most lasting



impression. We always have lots of fun and continue to enjoy the memories for many years."

# ITALY with a difference, MALTA & GREEK IS Sunday 12 June to Sunday 10 July 2022

**TOUR COST:** \$21,900 per person on a twin share basis \*\*

\$ 2,605 single supplement (excluding cruise)

Single supplement on cruise approx: \$1500 depending on cabin selected

\*\*Cost based on a category A cabin on the cruise.

Upgrade to Category P cabin on cruise: \$450 per person twin share Cabins will be allocated in order of receipt of confirmed registrations.

- **★**Upgrade to business class cost on application
- **★**Should you wish to extend your travel arrangements after the tour, please contact me to discuss further options.
- **★**Should you select to travel on flights other than the included group flights, or upgrade to business/first class, payment for the air fares will be required at the time of booking the flights.
- **★**Please note that a surcharge due to currency fluctuations may arise. If applicable, this will be confirmed prior to the balance of deposit being due.

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

To register interest & secure place on tour \$250 per person Initial deposit Balance of deposit Due by 30 November 2021 \$1750 per person Further payment \$3000 per person Due by 1 February 2022

Balance of payment Due by 11 March 2022 Information Night Thursday, 10 March 2022

Costs based on exchange rates prevailing on 4 November 2021.

The tour cost is based on a minimum of 16, maximum of 20 participants. In the unlikely event that this number of participants is not reached, Gippsland Travel reserve the right to cancel the tour. In this instance only, a full refund of all deposits paid will be refunded.



Category A Cabin





Category C Cabin (single occupancy)

Category B Cabin (single occupancy)

### **INCLUSIONS**

Personally escorted throughout entire 29 day tour by Jacquey Turner

In the unlikely event that Jacquey is not available to escort all or part of the tour, she will be replaced with a well-trained tour escort.

- Minimum 16 guests maximum 20 guests
- Coach transfers between Gippsland and Melbourne
- Return economy airfares and taxes with Emirates
- Economy airfares Naples/Malta and Malta/Athens
- All airport arrival and departure transfers
- Excellent hotel accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities throughout tour
- Private luxury 48-seater coach
- 7-night Greek Island Cruise onboard Harmony V yacht in category A cabin including:

Half-board: Buffet breakfast and one meal daily, including a Welcome Cocktail, a Greek night Evening, fun BBQ, weather permitting) and Captain's Dinner.

Regular (filter) coffee, tea and drinking water free all day.

Use of fishing and snorkelling equipment (subject to availability).

- Private Professional English-speaking guide in Italy / local guides in key locations.
- Experienced driver/guides throughout tour
- Comprehensive sightseeing as per itinerary and admission fees where applicable
- Meals as per itinerary-

Full tour includes 51 meals - 26 Breakfasts (B), 10 Lunches (L), 15 Dinners (D)

Complimentary water throughout tour

Gippsland Travel hat or cap; luggage strap; water bottle; hand gel; Italy roadmap; and an end of tour journal showcasing your time on the tour.

- Audio guiding system
- Porterage (one suitcase per person)
- ALL tipping of waiters/restaurant staff at included meals throughout the tour
- ALL tipping of guides and drivers and crew on board yacht.

### **EXCLUSIONS**

- Comprehensive travel insurance. We highly recommend insurance be issued at time of paying full deposit. 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 itinerary.
- Any optional tours or activities other than those specified in the itinerary
- Excess baggage charges.
- Health requirements
- WiFi charges on Harmony V

### **CANCELLATION FEES**

Cancellation date	Cancellation fee
Cancellation received after full deposit has been paid	\$2000pp
Cancellation received after 1 Feb 22 but prior to final payment	\$5000pp
Cancellation received on or after 11 March 2022	100% of tour cost

# 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.

### **GOVERNING LAW**

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

### PASSPORT and VISA

A valid passport is required for all international travel.

If you do not hold an Australian passport, you may require a resident return visa. Some countries require a visa to be issued before you depart Australia. Gippsland Travel will advise you of all passport and visa requirements for this tour.

The Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade regularly updates travel advice on various destinations. We recommend that you refer to <a href="www.dfat.gov.au">www.dfat.gov.au</a> for the latest updates before choosing to travel and prior to departure.

### **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 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 porterage 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 if we consider that you are unable to safely participate in that tour or activity or 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.

### **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 supplement will apply, or the cancellation conditions detailed in your itinerary will apply.

### 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.

### UNUSED COMPONENTS OF THIS TOUR

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

### **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

### FLIGHT SCHEDULES

Airlines schedules are subject to change without notice. Voluntary date changes will incur fees. Gippsland Travel is not liable for delays or disruption of air travel.

### **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.

### 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.

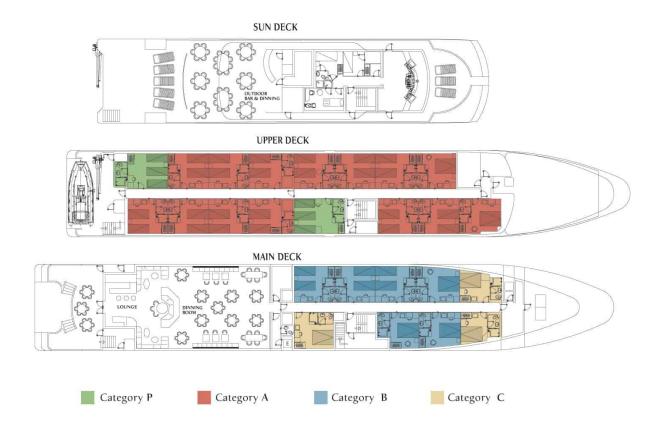
If you are eligible for a refund once a booking has been cancelled, the balance less any non-refundable amounts will be forwarded to you once received by Gippsland Travel from the third-party supplier/s.

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.

### 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.



Gippsland Travel Centre Pty. Ltd. ABN 70 065 385 337 info@gippslandtravel.com.au www.gippslandtravel.com.au









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