



SOUTHERN SPAIN & MAGICAL MOROCCO

9 APRIL to 30 APRIL 2024

Escorted by Jacquey Turner

Tuesday 9 April

Depart Australia

We shall depart Warragul for our private coach transfer to Melbourne Airport for our evening Emirates flight to Malaga, Spain, via Dubai and Barcelona.

Wednesday 10 April

Malaga, Spain

(WD)

On arrival in Malaga, we shall be greeted by our guide and transferred to the **SOLECIO PALACE HOTEL, or similar**; our accommodation for the next two nights. Tonight, we shall enjoy a delicious Welcome Dinner.

Thursday 11 April

Malaga Sightseeing

(B D)

During our time in Malaga, there will be plenty to see and visit. We start with an orientation walk, then take the coach to Mount Gibralfaro, and visit the Picasso House, Picasso Museum and explore the lovely Andalusian town of Mijas. Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant.



Friday 12 April

Malaga - Cadiz

(B L D)

We check out of the hotel after breakfast and take the scenic drive through Andalusia's rich culture and history to Cadiz. On the way we shall visit a working olive oil farm in the heart of the countryside to learn about cultivation and harvesting of the olives, and the history that started in 1780.



On arrival in Cadiz, we shall check into the **PARADOR CADIZ**, *or similar*, for a three-night stay. Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant.

Saturday 13 Sunday 14 April Cadiz Sightseeing (B L D)

Over the next two days we shall visit many local monuments, fortresses, cathedrals, the Watch Tower, and a Roman Theatre. Other highlights will be visiting the Spanish Riding School and sampling sherry at a local Bodega. A special lunch will be included on one of our sightseeing days, and there will be free time for you to explore on your own.

Monday 15 April Cadiz, Spain – Tetouan, Morocco (B L D)

We farewell Cadiz this morning and travel to the very tip of Spain, to board a ferry to Tangier. We then drive to Tetouan in Morocco. Tétouan, also known as Tettawen, is a city in northern Morocco. It lies along the Martil Valley and is one of the two major ports of Morocco on the Mediterranean Sea, a few miles south of the Strait of Gibraltar.

On arrival in Tangier, we will meet our guide, Mohammed, who will be with us throughout Morocco. We shall check in to the **SOFITEL TAMUDA BAY HOTEL**, *or similar*, for a two-night stay.

During the afternoon we will see the sights of the city including the Modern Art Museum, the Ancient Medina, protected by 5kms of ramparts, the Kasbah and the Royal Palace Gate.



Tuesday 16 April

Tetouan Sightseeing incl Chefchaouen

(B D)

Today we set off on a day trip to Chefchaouen, a city in the Rif Mountains of northwest Morocco. It is known for the striking, blue-washed buildings of its old town. We shall explore this beautiful city and visit the main square, Rass El Maa waterfall and the Kasbah.

In the afternoon, we return to Tetouan, and dinner will be at a local restaurant.



Wednesday 17 April

Tangier - Casablanca, Morocco

(B D)

We check out of our hotel this morning and drive to Tangier on the west coast. We then enjoy a guided tour in the footsteps of Matisse, starting with morning tea at the Grand Hotel Villa de France, one of the artist's well-known haunts in Morocco. We follow with a visit to Cape Spartel, a promontory 300 metres above sea level watching over the entrance to the Strait of Gibraltar.

We continue with a guided tour of the fortified kasbah, the Archaeological Museum, the historic walled medina with its petit and Grand Socco, Mendoubia Gardens and the Berber markets, and the European-built Ville Nouvelle with its broad boulevards and residential palaces and villas.

In the afternoon, we board our High-Speed Train to Casablanca. On arrival in Casablanca, we shall check into the **BARCELO ANFA CASABLANCA**, or similar, for a two-night stay. Dinner tonight included.

Thursday 18 April

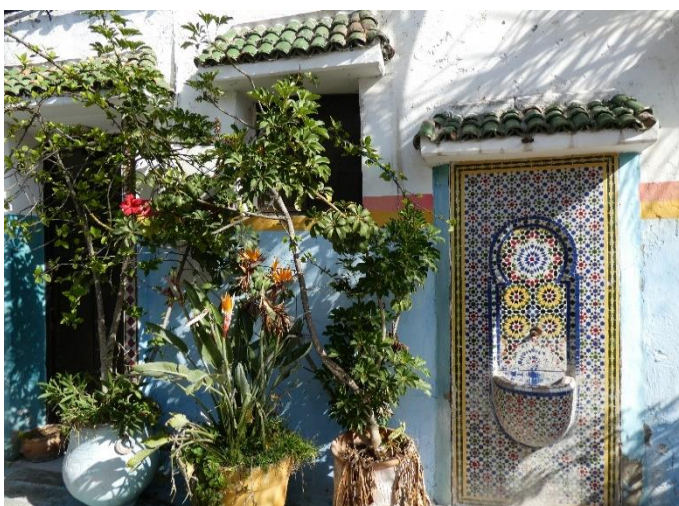
Casablanca

(B L D)

This morning we take a city tour of Casablanca with highlights being:

***The big mosque Hassan II**; the minaret of the Majestic Hassan II Mosque is the highest religious building in the world and a master piece of modern Muslim architecture.

***Anfa and Ain Diab: Anfa**; a spectacular area of lavish villas with fabulous gardens, a golf course and tennis courts, is often described as Morocco's Beverly Hills. It leads to the highly popular seaside resort of Aïn Diab famous for its beaches, terrace cafes, restaurants, and nightlife.





***United Nations Square**; famous for the neo-Moorish monuments which surrounds it and the musical fountain which splashes out multi-coloured water to the sounds of Strauss and Andalusian music, this is without doubt Casablanca's focal point not to be missed.

***Mohamed V place**; this is the heart of the city, standing between the two contrasting sides of this Metropolis: The medina or old town and the elegant modern section with its skyscrapers and large boulevards.

Lunch will be at *Al Mounia*, a Moroccan restaurant before you will have the afternoon at leisure.

Dinner tonight will be at "*Rick's Café Américain*", which is the principal set of the film Casablanca. Rick's Cafe is located on the ramparts of the old Médina of Casablanca, opposite the port and the future building site of the marina.

Friday 19 April **Casablanca – Fes** **(B D)**

We leave the hotel after breakfast and drive towards Fes via **Rabat** where we shall visit **The Mausoleum of Mohammed V**, which was completed in 1971, contains the tombs of King Mohammed V and his two sons, King Hassan II, and Prince Abdallah. It is located next to the Hassan Tower on the Yacoub al-Mansour esplanade. The building is considered a masterpiece of modern Alaouite dynasty architecture, with its white silhouette, topped by a typical green tiled roof.

Other highlights will be **Oudaya Kasbah** at the mouth of the Bou Regreg River opposite Salé. It was built during the reign of the Almohads.

Lunch will be at leisure and then we shall continue towards Fes. On arrival we shall check into the **RIAD EL AMINE FES**, or similar, for a three-night stay. Dinner will be at the hotel.



Saturday 20 April

Fes

(B L D)

After breakfast we will set off for a full day visit of Fes. The medina of **Fez El Bali** is one of the largest living medieval cities in the world and the most interesting in Morocco. We visit the religious capital of Morocco with its ancient mosques in the old Medina.

Lunch will be at the Nejjarine Moroccan restaurant and then we continue with our city tour. We will have an opportunity to explore the mellah (Jewish district). The **Mellah of Fes** once had 40 synagogues. In the afternoon we shall visit the **Fez Jdid**, the newest part of the city and its chic cafe – lined avenues that provide a jarring contrast; the modern flip side to the ancient city.

We shall enjoy dinner tonight at the Maison Blanche.

Sunday 21 April

Meknes & Volubilis

(B D)

Today's excursion will take us to Meknes & Volubilis.

Volubilis, is a city of Roman ruins dating back to the years 200 and 300. You can find traces of the entire city all the way up a hill.

Meknes is one of the four imperial cities in Morocco. Although it is the smallest one, it really deserves a visit. Nowadays Meknes is more an agricultural centre of the region, but one day in history the city was supposed to host the biggest Royal Palace in the nation.

Lunch will be at leisure in a local restaurant and we continue our Meknes tour with a visit to a goat farm and enjoy dinner before driving back to Fes.

Monday 22 April

Fes- Erfoud – Merzouga

(B L D)

We check out this morning and drive to Erfoud via the Mountains of the middle Atlas, passing by Ifrane. In Midelt, we will stop for lunch at Taddart Hotel. We then continue to the high Atlas Mountains via the Ziz Gorges and via Errachidia. We arrive in Erfoud, an oasis town in the Sahara Desert, in the Drâa-Tafilalet region in eastern Morocco. This region is famous for its almost one million date palm trees.

We shall reach our accommodation, in a private encampment by the foot of the dunes of Merzouga, by 4WD. We will spend the next two nights at the **MERZOUGA LUXURY DESERT CAMP**, located strategically in the middle of the big dunes of the Erg Chebi Desert, offering a spectacular nomadic experience.



It is especially unique because of the 'KHaimas', which are traditional tents made of camel skin typically used by nomadic people

Tuesday 23 April **Merzouga** **(B L D)**

We will wake early to travel out to view the sunrise before heading back to the encampment for breakfast.

Our lunch today will be a **Picnic in an Oasis**: we will leave in a 4x4 for a trek in the desert, before reaching a beautiful lush green oasis for our lunch.

Later there will be time for camel riding and also to explore the Rissani & Tafilalet region: A visit to Rissani, with its traditional market and Moroccan hospitality, can feel like stepping back in time. Its confluence of Berber and Arab cultures and rural desert setting make it one of the best towns to experience traditional Moroccan culture.

Rissani was once home to the Alawite dynasty as they took power, as well as Moulay er Rachid. It is a cultural destination in Morocco with beautiful examples of early Moroccan architecture and noteworthy palaces and temples, such as Ksar Oulad Abdelhalim and Ksar Aber.

Back at the encampment, there will be time to freshen up for our evening gastronomic experience combining the best of Moroccan cuisine with desert tradition.



Wednesday 24 April **Merzouga- Tinghir - Dades & Todra Gorges - Ouarzazate** **(B L D)**

After breakfast, we will check out and travel through Tinghir, the scenic Todra Gorges, wonderfully sculpted by Mother Nature. Hugging the lush river bed are many of Morocco's most scenic kasbahs and ksours. We shall stop for a lunch at a local restaurant and then continue towards Ouarzazate.

On arrival we shall check in to our hotel, **BERBERE PALACE**, or similar, for an overnight stay. Dinner will be at the Italian restaurant at the hotel.

Thursday 25 April **Ouarzazate - Marrakech** **(B L D)**

This morning after breakfast, we shall check out and visit **Ouarzazate**. Highlights here will include.

Kasbah Taourirt; situated at the city's centre, one of the most significant kasbahs of the area and the stronghold of the Glaoui chiefs in the 1930s. It sheltered the members of the dynasty of Glaoui and their many servants. In recent years UNESCO undertook the restoration of whole sections of the building.

Atlas Studio; is a popular tourist destination, in part because the grounds are littered with old movie sets that are decaying in the harsh environment. More than 200 major films and television shows have been filmed there, including "Gladiator," "Ben Hur," "Kingdom of Heaven," "The Mummy," "The Passion of the Christ," and, most recently, "Game of Thrones" and "Aladdin."

UNESCO-restored kasbah of Ait Ben Haddou; stands out as an exquisite example of how to take care of one's heritage with style. Seeing the kasbah from the other side of the river is a great experience. Through a frame of the palm branches you see the structures of the kasbah slightly bending and stretching to the sky.

Lunch will be at a local restaurant before we continue onto Marrakech where on arrival we shall check-into the **NAOUTA BARRIERE MARRAKECH**, or similar, for a three-night stay. Tonight, for dinner, we will take a horse drawn carriage to *Le Marrakechi* restaurant overlooking **Djemaa EL Fna Square**.



Friday 26 April

Marrakech

(B D)

Today we shall have a walking tour of Marrakech with highlights being:

The Koutoubia Mosque: One of the best examples of the Hispano-Moresque art, which combine apparent simplicity with superb craftsmanship and restrained luxury. With its minaret rising 252 feet into the sky, it is certainly one of the most impressive sights in Marrakech.

El Bahia Palace: Standing in a 2-acre garden, is a haphazard arrangement of secret luxury apartments opening on to inner courtyards.

Art Culinaire Museum: The new Museum of Moroccan Culinary Art will showcase a wide range of traditional Moroccan meals. The Museum of Moroccan Culinary Art aims to tell the history and story behind each dish and flavour.

Souks:

It is a riot of colour, noise and activity, a wealthy storehouse of all the treasures of this vast and varied country.

You will find all the silver merchants in one corner, all the gold merchants in another, and rows of stalls selling exclusively leatherwork or copper goods or jewellery.





The Djemaa El Fna square: The name literally translated is the Mosque or Assembly of death. It is taken to refer to the custom of displaying the heads of vanquished rebels or criminals, since the square is known to be a place of public execution even up to the last century. Then it has been a centre for public meetings and even riots.

Today it provides constant ever-changing entertainment, which reaches its climax at sunset and continues late at night. It is a square where a real image and the charm of Moroccan folklore is operating: story tellers, snake charmers, acrobats, folkloric bands.

Tonight, dinner will be in a Moroccan family house: it is not only a dinner but a complete immersion into the Moroccan culture and family life. Many restaurants serve Moroccan food, but the best Moroccan food is found in a family home. We will immerse ourselves in a fascinating culture, while learning from its heart and soul by an incredibly unique experience in the joyful company of a local family!



It is a fantastic way to understand and delve into Moroccan culture first-hand, and you will no doubt be touched by their beautiful hospitality and generosity while gaining an understanding of local culture and the etiquette involved in visiting a family.

Saturday 27 April

Marrakech

(B L FD)

Today we shall explore more of Marrakech.

Majorelle Gardens: it is one of the most delightful places in Marrakech – a small, meticulously planned botanical garden created from the 1920s by the French painter Jacques Majorelle. Now superbly mature, it is owned and splendidly maintained by Yves Saint Laurent. In the artist's former studio, a museum of Islamic arts exhibits Saint Laurent fine personal collection of North African carpets, pottery and furniture.

Yves Saint Laurent Museum: A museum entirely devoted to the work of the legendary fashion designer, Yves Saint Laurent. The new building, situated on Rue Yves Saint Laurent and adjacent to the renowned Jardin Majorelle, spans over 4,000 m² and is more than just a museum. It features a 400 m² permanent exhibition space where the work of Yves Saint Laurent will be presented in a scenography by Christophe Martin; a 150 m² space for temporary exhibitions, a 130-seat auditorium, a boutique and bookshop, a café-restaurant, as well as a research library

Lunch today will be a **Moroccan Cooking Workshop at Lotus Chef Riad**



In the heart of Marrakech's medina, following a traditional Moroccan welcome at the doors, meet the chef, who is ready to teach you all there is to know about cooking local recipes and to do the bread, to cook it in a Moroccan traditional oven. It is the best way to learn to cook typical and real Moroccan cuisine. Then your lunch will be what you prepared



The afternoon is at leisure before we get together for a Farewell dinner at Jad Mahal with entertainment by belly dancers: subtle mixture of Indian and Moroccan architectures. Exotic, colonial decoration made of woodwork and noble materials is declined into thousand colours. The ceilings hand painted the ground in tinted cement, the net curtains of the terrace roof play with the breeze, the basins and fountains give to the palace a magic atmosphere.

Sunday 28 April **Morocco – Australia** **(B)**

Our final day. After breakfast we shall transfer to Marrakech or Casablanca airport for our flight to Dubai.

After our late evening arrival in Dubai, we will check in to the **Dubai International Hotel** located within the airport. We will not need to clear customs or immigration for our overnight stay.

Monday 29 April **DUBAI - MELBOURNE** **(In-flight meals only)**

We shall have a morning departure for our flight to Melbourne.

Tuesday 30 April: **Arrive MELBOURNE** **(In-flight meals only)**

After our early morning arrival at Melbourne Airport and immigration and customs formalities, we will be met and transferred to Gippsland.

MOHAMMED (wearing sunglasses) will be our guide in Morocco and I just loved his passion for his country.

*I am a native to Fez, born and bred. After finishing my studies in theology, I decided to continue in history, and finish my English literature. I started training in 5 stars hotel before commencing work in my father's tourist transportation office. Some of our clients needed English speaking local guides and drivers, so I have completed the Government National Exam of Tourism Guides to enable me to show guests around my beautiful country!
Best regards, Mohammed.*



JACQUEY TURNER, your tour escort, 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."

TOUR COST: \$16,749 per person on a twin share basis
\$ 4,072 single supplement (limited availability)

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.

- ★ 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.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Deposit	to secure a place on tour	\$8000 per person
Balance of payment	due by 31 January 2024	

The tour cost is based on a minimum of 15 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.

INCLUSIONS

- Personally escorted throughout entire tour by Jacquy Turner – in the unlikely event that Jacquy is not available to escort all or part of the tour, she will be replaced with a well-trained tour escort.
- Minimum 15 guests - maximum 20 guests
- Coach transfers between Gippsland and Melbourne
- Return economy airfares and taxes with Emirates
- Ferry fare from Spain to Morocco
- All airport arrival and departure transfers
- Excellent hotel accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities throughout tour and glamping tents in desert
- Private luxury 48-seater coach
- Private Professional English-speaking guide in Spain and Morocco
- Experienced driver throughout tour
- Comprehensive sightseeing as per itinerary and admission fees where applicable
- Meals as per itinerary-
full tour includes **45 meals** - 18 Breakfasts (B), 10 Lunches (L), 17 Dinners (D)
- Authentic Moroccan dinner with a local family.
- Moroccan Cooking Workshop
- Entrance fees to all sites mentioned in the program
- Bottled water throughout 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

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/fax calls, alcoholic beverages, camera/video camera fees at monuments, medical expenses.
- Any health requirements. Please contact our office for details on recommended vaccinations etc.
- Any optional tours or activities other than those specified in the itinerary

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.

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.

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 in a tour or in any activity if 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.

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.

It is your responsibility to ensure you have the correct documents for travel.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

COVID POLICY

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

Gippsland Travel recommends you are fully vaccinated prior to travel.

CANCELLATION FEES

Cancellation date	Cancellation fee
Cancellation received after full deposit has been paid	\$2000 per person
Cancellation received on or after 2 December 2023	\$8000 per person
Cancellation received on or after 1 February 2024	100% non-refundable

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.

All costs are in Australian dollars and based on the exchange rate prevailing as at 15 March 2023.

