



GIPPSLAND  
**TRAVEL**

3/126 Albert Road, Warragul, Victoria 3820  
Tel: **03-5623 5151** Fax: **03-5623 4952**  
Emergency: **+61 (0) 419 213 274**

# MIGHTY MURRAY LUXURY RIVER CRUISE

**27 November – 2 December 2025**  
**Fully escorted by Krystal McCallum**



Explore historical Bendigo, set sail on the new PS Australian Star, cruising the Mighty Murray and return with a visit to the enchanting Bright.



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





**Thursday 27 November** **BENDIGO** **(L D)**

We depart Gippsland in the morning for our Mighty Murray River Cruise adventure also taking in Bendigo and Bright. We start our journey travelling through the foothills of the stunning Strathbogie Ranges for lunch with incredible views at Fowles Wine.

After our relaxing lunch, we travel to nearby Seymour. We have time to view the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk, built to commemorate the service of all those who played their part in what turned out to be a tumultuous part of Australia's history. We then continue on to our hotel in Bendigo, All Seasons Resort Hotel, *or similar*, for our first nights' accommodation. Dinner tonight will be at the hotel.

**Friday 28 November** **BENDIGO - ECHUCA** **(B L D)**

Bendigo has one of the finest collections of Victorian buildings of any inland city in Australia. The streets are literally awash with huge granite edifices and, in the centre of the city, there is a fountain dedicated to Queen Victoria's daughter-in-law, Princess Alexandra.

This morning, we board the 'Bendigo Talking Tram' and take an interesting ride through the main areas of Bendigo to see some of the stunning buildings and to learn a little about the history of the Goldfields. We can look through the Tramways Museum and have lunch at the Tram Café.

After lunch we travel to Echuca where we board the brand new **PS Australian Star** and make ourselves comfortable in our cabins. Whilst we cruise, get acquainted with the vessel and admire the stunning sights and sounds of the river as we pass by. Indulge in afternoon Devonshire tea then feel free to engage with the skipper in the wheelhouse for a chat and insights into the boat's recent construction.

As the sun sets, unwind in the cozy saloon seats during Happy Hour before we pull up at Layfield Lane. This evening's dining experience is set on the riverbank with our signature Australian BBQ taking centre stage. The night then comes alive with entertainment and casual conversation around the warmth of our campfire.



**Saturday 29 November 2025      PS AUSTRALIAN STAR      (B L D)**

After a hearty breakfast we embark on a half day land and river tour and we visit the Great Aussie Beer Shed & Heritage Farm Museum. This one-of-a-kind attraction celebrates Australia’s affinity for beer and showcases an extensive collection of cans and bottles from across the globe.

Next, immerse yourself in the enchanting beauty of the Murray River aboard our Eco Expedition boat, the Murray Explorer. Following morning tea at the historic Echuca Wharf, we journey upstream, marveling at the river’s natural wonders and diverse wildlife while delving into its rich history from pre-European times to the early colonial riverboat era. Our expedition pauses at a remote sandy river beach where we’ll enjoy a delicious lunch, surrounded by the iconic beauty of the Australian landscape. Later we venture to Morrisons Riverside Winery for a tasting of their exceptional wines before returning to the boat.

As we cruise downriver toward Deep Creek Marina, we indulge in afternoon tea. Later we take a cinematic journey with a fascinating documentary featuring archival footage of the paddle steamers and the communities that flourished along these shores.



**Sunday 30 November**

**PS AUSTRALIAN STAR**

**(B L D)**

Today promises a full day of cruising as we navigate our way toward Torrumbarry Weir, with a mid-morning stop at the renowned Perricoota Station. Here we set off for a guided walking tour of the station's historic buildings and pristine gardens before continuing to the weir. On arrival, we walk across the weir to explore the Interpretative Centre, delving into the history of the Murray Darling Basin and the intricate weir and lock system dating back to 1923.

Tonight, we conclude our journey with a sumptuous final dinner on board, hosted by our Skipper. Enjoy pre-dinner canapes and drinks against the backdrop of the setting sun over the weir. As evening falls, we will hear the melodic chorus of river birds and keep an eye out for kangaroos and wombats emerging as the stars shine above during dinner.

**Monday 1 December**

**GOULBURN VALLEY, BENALLA TO BRIGHT**

**(B L D)**

We enjoy an early riverside stroll before we bid farewell to our crew and reboard our coach, taking us to our next adventure, Bright.

We set off to Shepparton - the main centre of the Goulburn Valley for our first visit at the Chocolate Apple Factory for a short talk on the business as well as a tasting. It is run by one of the many family-run orchards in the Goulburn Valley, growing a variety of fruits for their range of fruit liqueurs, natural juices and gourmet treats – including the juicy apples coated in creamy caramel and topped with chocolate!

Next, we continue to Benalla located on the banks of the Broken River. 'The Ned Kelly Story' is housed in a portable cell in which Ned was once imprisoned. After our lunch at the Benalla Golf Club we head towards the beautiful township of Milawa. A visit to the area would not be complete without a taste or two of wine so we will stop at Brown Brothers Winery.

Our last stop of the day is the Milawa Cheese Company, located in the historic Murray Goulburn Butter Factory before arriving in enchanting Bright for our overnight stay at the Oven Valley Motor Inn, *or similar*. Dinner tonight will be at the hotel.

**Tuesday 2 December**

**BRIGHT - GIPPSLAND**

**(B L)**

Bright, is said to be located in the most beautiful valley in the world - the Ovens Valley – surrounded by the towering Australian Alps. Bright has managed to retain its character and charm, thanks partly to its old-fashioned guest houses and historical buildings.





The town was first known as Morse's Creek but in 1861 it was renamed in honour of the British orator and politician John Bright. We meet up with a local expert and learn all the local secrets whilst enjoying one of the most beautiful drives in this area - through the Wandiligong Valley. The entire Valley has been registered with the National Trust and is home to one of the largest apple orchards in the Southern hemisphere.

Returning to Bright, we farewell our guide and travel via Moyhu to Whitfield, a very pretty, tiny town situated in a dairying and tobacco growing district in the highly scenic King River Valley, where lush river flats are surrounded by some magnificent high country. What a perfect stop for morning tea. Just to the south-west of Whitfield is Powers Lookout. This vantage point on the Wabonga Plateau was used by bushranger Harry Powers in the 1860s to keep an eye out for potential prey and predators. It offers fabulous views across some truly scenic high country.

From here we continue through to Mansfield which also has a colourful history of squatters, selectors, bushrangers, gold miners, packers, coachbuilders etc. It is famous for its magnificent scenery, farms, cattle, horses and hospitality. We have time to take a wander along the main street before lunch at the Hotel Delatite. Following lunch, we head off for Bonnie Doon on the edge of Lake Eildon. Travelling via Yea, we call in to the Y Water Discovery Centre for a brief stop before meandering our way home with many fond memories.



# PS AUSTRALIAN STAR

Embark on a journey into a new era of river cruising with the PS Australian Star—a vessel that not only bears a name steeped in heritage and pride but also represents the pinnacle of luxury on the iconic Murray River.

Scheduled for a grand launch in June 2025, the PS Australian Star will redefine river cruising, offering year-round, all-inclusive, overnight experiences with 3, 4, and 7-night itineraries along the majestic Murray River, commencing from the charming town of Echuca in Victoria. Seamlessly taking over the reins of the beloved PS Emmylou, the Australian Star will assume the helm of the existing cruise itineraries, promising a voyage that seamlessly blends tradition with opulence.

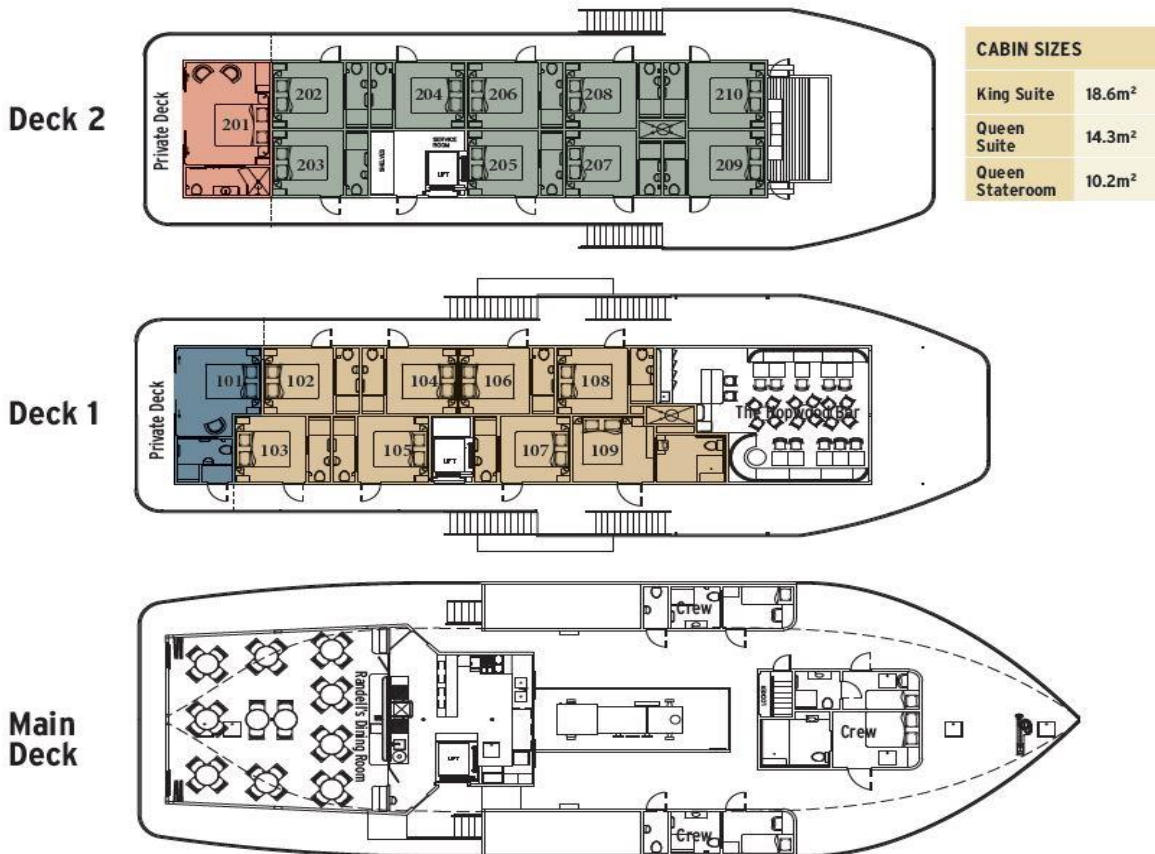
As you step onto the decks of the PS Australian Star, you enter a realm where every detail tells a tale of the river's rich heritage and the golden age of paddle steamers. The vessel itself is a masterpiece, a floating testament to the artistry and engineering that defined an era. Immerse yourself in the symphony of steam from the authentic 1907 wood-fired steam engine and the rhythmic churning of the paddlewheel as we embark on a leisurely voyage along the winding waters of the Murray River.

Named in honour of Australia's celestial Southern Cross, the Australian Star invites you to explore its opulent interiors, where each cabin and lounge exudes an air of refinement. From the Hopwood Lounge & Bar, celebrating the entrepreneurial spirit of Echuca's founder, to the Randell Dining Room, paying homage to the pioneering journey of William Randell, every space aboard is a chapter in a captivating narrative that unfolds with every river bend.

Boasting 19 plush and modern staterooms, each opening to a deck and featuring an ensuite, air-conditioning, complimentary Wi-Fi, luxury linen, and a TV entertainment system, the Australian Star ensures a luxurious retreat for every traveler. Moreover, its ever-changing river views provide a constant reminder of the beauty that surrounds.

Australian Star will sport a modern, energy-efficient, hybrid diesel/steam propulsion system featuring a vintage, refurbished 1907 Richard Garrett and Sons wood-fired steam engine, adding a touch of nostalgia and authenticity to the journey.

As the PS Australian Star prepares to grace the waters, it beckons you to join a voyage where tradition meets modernity, and luxury becomes an art form. Welcome aboard the PS Australian Star, where history and luxury converge for an unforgettable riverine experience.



# MIGHTY MURRAY RIVER CRUISE

## 27 November to 2 December 2025

Seymour Bendigo Echuca Perricoota Station Shepparton  
Benalla Milawa Bright Mansfield Yea

**TOUR COST:** **\$4,999 per person on a twin share basis**  
**\$2,598 single supplement**

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

Full Deposit	due by 25 November 2024 to secure a place on tour (non refundable)	\$500 per person
Progress Payment	due by 23 May 2025	\$500 per person
Full payment:	due on or before Wednesday 30 July 2025	

### INCLUSIONS

- Personally escorted throughout tour by Gippsland Travel Senior Consultant, Krystal McCallum
- *\*In the unlikely event that Krystal is not available to escort all or part of the tour, she will be replaced with a well-trained tour escort.*
- Private coach between Gippsland, Bendigo, Echuca, Bright, Gippsland
- Minimum of 18 and maximum of 25 guests on tour
- Hotel accommodation with private facilities in Bendigo and Bright
- Comprehensive sightseeing as per itinerary and admission fees where applicable
- Total meals as per itinerary: **16 meals:** 5 Breakfasts (B), 6 Lunches (L), 5 Dinners (D)
- Complimentary water throughout tour
- Gippsland Travel hat or cap; luggage strap; hand gel.
- End of tour journal showcasing your time on the tour.
- Porterage (one suitcase per person)
- PS Australian Star inclusions:
  - *Plush and modern staterooms on board the PS Australian Star, each opening to a deck and featuring an ensuite, air-conditioning, complimentary Wi-Fi, luxury linen, and a TV entertainment system*
  - *River View Cabin on PS Australian Star*
  - *All main meals onboard PS Australian Star*
  - *Limited edition Complimentary gift*
  - *Complimentary selected wine & beer with dinner service*
  - *Uniquely crafted onshore guided tours*
  - *Espresso coffee, tea, soft drink & bottled water*
  - *Complimentary WIFI throughout the ship and in your Stateroom*

The tour will only operate subject to a minimum of 18 participants. In the unlikely event that the minimum numbers are not reached, a full refund of the deposit is applicable.



**YOUR TOUR LEADER:**

Krystal McCallum has been in the travel industry for almost 20 years, with 14 of those at Gippsland Travel. She has enjoyed travelling, experiencing different cultures and learning about the many destinations she has visited and is eager to tick more places off her travel bucket list.

*"Having helped Jacquey escort her Spain & Morocco Group in 2024, I am really looking forward to escorting this group and experiencing the beautiful PS Australian Star" – Krystal*

**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, medical expenses, and transfers/sightseeing or meals/beverages 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.

<b>Cancellation date</b>	<b>Cancellation fee</b>
Cancellation received after full deposit has been paid	\$500 per person
Cancellation between 24 May and 30 July 2025	\$1000 per person
Cancellation received on or after 31 July 2025	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 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.

**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 after 30 July 2025.



## 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.

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