

SWAN HILL & MILDURA

Sunday 5th – Saturday 11th June 2022 - 7 days/6 nights

The Tour Price Includes:

- Home Pick Up & Return (t&c's apply)
- Luxury Daytripper Coach Travel
- Driver/Tour Escort
- 6 Nights Quality Motel Accommodation
- Most Meals as per itinerary
- All Tours & Entry Fees as per itinerary



Tour Highlights:

- Castlemaine
- Lake Boga Flying Boat Museum
- Swan Hill
- Pioneer Settlement
- PS Pyap Cruise
- Heartbeat of the Murray Laser Spectacular
- Mildura Wharf
- Red Hills Soldier Settlement
- Big Lizzie
- Wentworth Museum & Old Gaol
- Wentworth Town Tour
- Sea Lake Silo Art
- Arundel Farm Estate
- Eucy Distillery Museum

- Spanner Man
- Mill Market
- Paddlesteamer Cruise through Lock 11
- Robinvale Golf Club
- Hattah & Wemen Carrot Fields
- Woodsie's Gems
- Rio Vista Chaffey Homestead
- Bendigo
- Charlton
- Bendigo Pottery
- And much more.....





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The **Mildura** region is renowned for its big skies, rich earth, and welcoming locals. This is where most of Australia's dried fruit, grapes, citrus, almonds, pistachios, olives, carrots, and asparagus are grown. Often referred to as where the Mediterranean meets the outback, alive with lush green citrus groves and vineyards, endless sunshine and sandy river beaches, Mildura and its surrounding towns have an unmistakable flavour of a diverse society. The river is the heart and soul of Mildura and during our stay we will see it, hear it, learn about its history and cruise on it Set on the banks of the Murray, **Swan Hill** boasts an enjoyable Mediterranean climate. Swan Hill is an excellent holiday destination, with a unique blend of history and a host of modern facilities. From the historic Pioneer Settlement, historic homesteads, numerous wineries, and of course daily cruises on the PS Pyap.

Day 1 – Home to Swan Hill

This morning we depart home and travel to Swan Hill on the Murray River. Stopping along the way for **morning tea** we head towards **Castlemaine**, a former gold mining town. Whilst here we head to the Castlemaine Mill. This historic site started as the Castlemaine Woollen Mill in 1875 before being transformed into the place for foodies, art admirers and seekers of the collectable and curious. There will be some time to explore some of the interesting and eclectic businesses operating here. Please do visit the amazing food hall and purchase yourself some lunch. Those who prefer, are welcome to visit the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens (one of the earliest of Victoria's many botanic gardens) located just across the road and enjoy a stroll around the native and exotic trees. After we have shopped & strolled, we board the bus and head to Spanner Man Sculpture Garden in order to take in the fantastic sculptures than John Picolli was made famous for, and to pay our respects. Unfortunately, John passed away earlier this year and after all the years of bringing so much joy to Daytrippers, we felt it only right to call in and continue to enjoy the legacy he left with the Gardens now being run by his lovely wife Sonia. We will then head directly to **Swan Hill** and check into our motel, our base for the next 2 nights. We look forward to our lovely 2 course dinner tonight. Sleep well! Overnight: Comfort Inn Campbell, Swan Hill (2 nights)



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Day 2 – Swan Hill

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After a lovely breakfast we head towards Lake Boga, an important air base during World War 2. It was here the No.1 Flying Boat Repair and Service Depot was located, providing a safe haven for Australian and allied flying boats and amphibians. Lake Boga is home to the famous Catalina *Flying Boat A24-30* - one of only 4 in Australia. The Catalina Flying Boat played an integral part in the allied defence of the South Pacific during World War 2. There is now a Flying Boat *Museum* and an interactive map with an informative film in the theatrette. From here we head to the Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement Museum. Located on the Little Murray River, it contains over 50 historic buildings, many of which carry on the business of 90 years ago. Here we can see and experience the shops and activities of a 19th Century township selling food and souvenirs made on site in century old traditions, see daily street theatre performances, perhaps enjoy one of the free rides in horse drawn vehicles or vintage cars and see old Cottage crafts. Grab yourself some lunch in the café (at own expense), and later in the afternoon we enjoy a relaxing cruise on the **PS Pyap**, with sights such as the historic Murray Downs Homestead. We'll head back to town for an early dinner, but the fun doesn't stop there! Grab you coats as we're going out for the evening to partake in the world-class 'Heartbeat of the Murray' a 360-degree multi-media spectacular unlike anything ever seen in Australia. Using water, light, laser, sound, and special effects to tell the story of the Murray, you'll be transported back 30 million years, before travelling forward through time to the Murray River as we know it today. Rest well tonight Overnight: Comfort Inn Campbell, Swan Hill (2 nights)

Day 3 – Swan Hill to Mildura

After breakfast we head off rejoining the Murray Valley highway, we drive through to *Mildura*, stopping at the *Robinvale Golf Club* for an early lunch at the recently renovated café terrace, with spectacular views of the Murray River. After lunch, we head back over the river and enjoy some beautiful countryside and forests via Wemen and Hattah and travel out to the *Soldier Settlement of Red Cliffs*, home to *Big Lizzie, the largest traction engine built in Australia*. The story of Big Lizzie, Town Settlement, Sultana Growing, Floods and Irrigation all unfolds in the Old Court House, home to the *Red Cliffs and District Historical Society Museum*. We'll continue on to *Woodsie's Gems* where we'll get to experience the Crystals, Fossils, and the Cakes & Coffees! Heading to Mildura we check into our accommodation, home for the next three nights. Please enjoy your dinner tonight at the motel restaurant.

Overnight: Best Western Chaffey Motor Inn (3 nights)



Day 4 – Mildura

After a lovely, cooked breakfast we have a very relaxing morning with time to go and explore Mildura, and the wonderfully revamped riverfront area. With its walks, trails & cafes, we will also visit the beautiful and *historic Rio Vista Chaffey Homestead*, with its adjoining *Arts Centre*. After lunch it's down to the Mildura Wharf to board the *PS Melbourne*. This cruise provides lunch, tea & coffee, and a *relaxing two hour journey down through Mildura's Lock 11* (and return) on board the majestic steam driven, Paddle Steamer Melbourne. A comprehensive live commentary of the river and its history, fauna and flora is conducted throughout the cruise involving the public in the current beauty and history of the river and its vessels. After our cruise its back to the motel with time to freshen up before another lovely 2 course dinner. *Overnight: Best Western Chaffey Motor Inn (3 nights)*

Day 5 – Wentworth

Another hearty breakfast and we are on our way to **Wentworth**, one of Australia's busiest ports during the paddlesteamer era of the late 1800s. This river township is considered the gateway to Outback New South Wales and is situated on the junction of the Murray and Darling Rivers. Morning Tea will be at **Fotherby Park**, originally developed to house Paddlesteamer Ruby. From here we will meet our guide for an interesting and very informative **town tour**. We'll see many items of historical significance including: - PS Ruby, Wentworth's First Court House – McClymonts Cottage and the man called Possum. We also take in the junction of the two great rivers, Lock 10 and Wentworth Weir plus the old Lockmasters residence. We'll pass by Rendelsham House known as the Nunnery, view the monument honouring the TEA20 Harry Ferguson tractors' involvement in the building of the massive levee banks that protected Wentworth against the devastating 1956 floods. We also pass by the historic wharf, originally built in 1879 using local timber. A morning that is certainly full of history. Lunch today will be at the historic **Crown Hotel** that first opened its doors in July 1861. After lunch we'll have a little time to further explore this lovely town including the **Museum & Old Gaol**. Late afternoon we travel back into Mildura to our motel to relax before dinner.

Overnight: Best Western Chaffey Motor Inn (3 nights)



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Day 6 – Mildura to Bendigo

After a lovely breakfast we farewell our hosts and make our way to **Bendigo**. Along the way we'll stop at **Sea Lake** to view the amazing **Silo Art**. We do enjoy visiting this lovely little town. Lunch today will be in Charlton. Heading off after lunch we visit the **Eucalyptus Distillery Museum** in Inglewood. Catch a glimpse into the rich history, production, and uses of Australia's first indigenous export – eucalyptus oil. A highlight is the working model distillery where you can witness eucalyptus leaves being made into 'liquid gold'. Sniff test different grades of oil. Outside, a walking tour of the historic Old Jones' Distillery is like stepping back in time, to an era of back-breaking physical labour and Aussie ingenuity. The 'Eucy Museum' as it's affectionately known, is worth a visit for the coffee alone. Grab your self one before we set off for our final destination for the day – **Bendigo**. Arriving at our **Lakeside Hotel** with some time to relax & freshen up before enjoying dinner together at the **Lakeside Restaurant** *Overnight: Quality Hotel Lakeside*

Day 7 – Bendigo to Home

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After a lovely, cooked breakfast we load the bus in readiness for our final day and our journey home. But not before a visit to Australia's oldest working pottery '*Bendigo Pottery*'. Here we will experience a self-guided tour with an introduction by pottery staff. A chance to explore the gift shop and grab yourself a *coffee* and quick bite before we board the bus to make our way towards home. What better thing to do on the way home than stop at a *local winery* and enjoy delightful *2 course lunch*. Just the way to end a lovely holiday. Once home we will ensure you are *escorted to your door* having spent a fantastic week with old friends and new, and *Daytripper Tours!*

Tour Cost from \$ 2285.00 per person Twin Share (\$400.00 single supplement) Minimum numbers required.

\$200pp deposit required to secure your seats....

Tour Price is Valid for Travel during 2022 Minimum numbers apply

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TRAVEL INSURANCE IS NOT COMPULSORY HOWEVER IS <u>HIGHLY</u> RECOMMENDED

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If there are no government restrictions in place and our tour is going ahead, please see the individual tour Cancellation Terms & Conditions.

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