



Presents an
8 DAY COACH TOUR
Featuring
THE CANBERRA FLORIADE

Thursday 5th – Thursday 12th October 2017

All Inclusive price is \$1995.00pp & \$355.00ss

Day 01 (D): HOME TO HAY – Thursday 5 October, 2017

Welcome to our 8-day tour which will take us to **Hay** today. Our first day is a travel day as we drive through Pinnaroo and over the border into Victoria. We make a stop for lunch (own expense) at a convenient place and break regularly to stretch our legs. Arriving in Hay we settle into our rooms and freshen up before dinner in the motel restaurant. *(Lunch own expense/dinner at the motel)*

Cobb Inlander, Hay – 02 6993 1901

Day 02 (BD): HAY TO YASS– Friday 6 October, 2017

After a hearty breakfast we have time to visit **Shear Outback** before we leave Hay. Continuing east we see Narrandera and **Wagga Wagga**, which is where we stop for our lunch break today. Our destination is Yass and this will be our base for the next two nights and whilst we tour Canberra. *(Breakfast and dinner in the hotel/lunch own expense)*

Swaggers Motor Inn, Yass – 02 6226 9900

Day 03 (BLD): DISCOVERING CANBERRA – Saturday 7 October, 2017

An early start today to make the most of our touring in Canberra. Our first stop is **Mt Ainslie**. The views across Lake Burley Griffin are excellent. From the War Memorial it is possible to see straight across to the elegant new Parliament House on Capital Hill. Canberra is a truly unique city and one of only a few planned cities in the world. From here, we visit the **National Museum of Australia**. It's an amazing place! The **National Museum of Australia** explores the land, nation and people of Australia. It celebrates Australian social history in a unique way by revealing the stories of ordinary and extraordinary Australians, promoting the exploration of knowledge and ideas and providing a dynamic forum for discussion and reflection. We have allocated most of the morning to explore the facility before transferring to the **Tulip Top Gardens**. Lunch will be served in these beautiful surroundings. Our final visit of the day is the **Australian War Memorial** commemorating the sacrifice of the Australian men and women, who have served in war, through its ceremonial areas, extensive exhibitions and research facilities. The focus of the commemoration is the Hall of Memory together with the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**, the **Pool of Reflection** and the **Roll of Honour** that lists the names of over 102,000 Australian servicemen and women who have died in war. Over the past few years the Memorial has undergone extensive

redevelopment resulting in new galleries and displays. The largest of these is the very impressive **Anzac Hall**. It was in May 1942 when 4 Japanese Midget Submarines attacked Sydney Harbour that the reality of war was brought home to most Australians. The Sydney under Attack multi media presentation uses light, sound, photos and film to recreate that famous event in graphic detail. Also on display in Anzac Hall is a vast collection of historic military technology including Australia's oldest military aircraft – the Deperdussin, a First World War Mark IV Tank and a virtual re-enactment of Australia's first naval victory in 1914. We stay to hear the **Last Post** and closing ceremony, then return to Yass for a slightly later dinner. *(Breakfast & dinner in the hotel / lunch at Tulip Top Gardens)*

Swaggers Motor Inn, Yass – 02 6226 9900

Day 04 (BD): YASS TO EDEN – Sunday 8 October, 2017

Back to Canberra this morning where we take a drive through **Embassy Row** and past **The Lodge** before making our way to **Parliament House**. Located in the heart of Canberra, it is one of the world's most acclaimed buildings. It's renowned for its impressive architecture and magnificent artworks. The building features superb stone work and Australian Timber. After a **guided tour** and some free time to view the artwork we make our way to **Commonwealth Park**, where we experience the **Floriade Festival**. The centre piece is Nerang Pool which will be surrounded by a number of discrete themes. The flower display is the largest of its type in the southern hemisphere. We have plenty of time to enjoy this abundance of bloom and beauty and there are many refreshment outlets where we can purchase our lunch. Our afternoon has us leaving Canberra and making our way to the coast where our next two nights will be spent in **Eden**. *(Breakfast & dinner in the hotel / lunch at own expense)*

Eden Motel - 02 6496 1601

Day 05 (BLD): EDEN – Monday 9 October, 2017

Eden's history is intertwined with the whales and the fishing industry and this morning we visit the famous **Killer Whale Museum** with the skeleton of "Old Tom" the killer whale plus many other items of interest and history. We now take a drive south to have a look at **Boydton**. Benjamin Boyd, the son of a London Banker established Boydton at Twofold Bay in the mid 1800's as his headquarters from where he ran his whaling and grazing exploits. Boyd had grandiose ideas of developing Boydton to a stage not only to rival nearby Eden but Sydney itself. His grand plans for Boydton never eventuated and the only buildings erected were the **Seahorse Inn** – where we enjoy lunch today, Boyd's Church and Lookout Tower. We return to Eden and join the Cat Balou for a cruise on **Twofold Bay**. Enjoy the magnificent scenery of the coastline and surrounding hinterland as the cruise takes us through the spectacular Twofold Bay. Back on dry land we return to the motel for some free time before dinner. *(Breakfast and dinner in motel, Lunch at Seahorse Inn)*

Eden Motel - 02 6496 1601

Day 06 (BLD): EDEN TO LAKES ENTRANCE – Tuesday 10 October, 2017

Once we are all packed and on the coach we leave Eden and head south with a leisurely scenic drive to Mallacoota, just over the Victorian border. There's some fascinating history in Mallacoota and we see the historic and well-kept World War II **Operations Bunker**. This piece of history is sure to leave us speechless with the information it obtained as a functional operations bunker during the second World War. The wartime intelligence gathered relates directly to coastal activities in this area involving both enemy and allied ships and aircraft. **Lunch** follows in **Mallacoota**. This afternoon, we drive to **Lakes Entrance**. For anyone who likes to take a stroll along the promenade we will see some unique **wooden sculptures**. A local wood carver has taken the stumps of trees and carved them into images of Australia at War. There are famous images from World War I

including Simpson and his donkey and a nursing sister caring for wounded soldiers. *(Breakfast and dinner in the hotel/lunch in Mallacoota)***RSL Glenara Motel, Lake Entrance – 03 5155 1555**

Day 07 (BLD): LAKES ENTRANCE TO CAROLINE SPRINGS – Wednesday 11 October, 2017

Firstly we drive to **Bairnsdale** which is the western gateway to the Lakes and Wilderness region of East Gippsland. During our stop we may have the opportunity to visit **St Mary's Church** (also known as the Church of Murals), if there is no service. The murals on the ceilings and walls of the church are quite stunning! We continue on through Morwell where we can admire one of Victoria's finest country community rose gardens. **The Morwell Rose Gardens** include eighty beds planted with 2500 roses, 250 varieties and feature a unique Australian breeders section. Next up we express to **Cranbourne** and visit the **Royal Botanic Gardens**. This is also our **lunch** venue today giving us a chance to explore these wonderful gardens. The Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne is one of Victoria's most precious areas of native bushland and offers nature-lovers the chance to explore a large area of untouched heathlands, wetlands and woodlands. This afternoon we skirt around Melbourne making our way to **Caroline Springs** for our final overnight stay. *(Breakfast & dinner in the hotel/lunch Cranbourne Botanic Gardens)*

Mercure Caroline Springs – 03 8358 0555

Day 08 (B): CAROLINE SPRINGS TO HOME – Thursday 12 October, 2017

With memories of a fantastic week behind us, we head for home. Making convenience stops along the way and breaking for lunch in Bordertown (own expense) we arrive home late afternoon. *(Breakfast in the hotel / lunch own expense)*

All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions in opening times/days of some attractions, e.g. churches, wineries etc. We cannot be held responsible for any changes due to closures, inclement weather etc.