

## BARMERA & LOXTON LIGHTS CHRISTMAS TOUR



**Departing Tues 5<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017**  
**All-Inclusive cost is \$745.00pp & \$135.00ss**

Day 1: Tuesday 05 December 2017

BARMERA & LOXTON LIGHTS

(LD)

Welcome to our **3 day Barmera** and **Loxton Lights** tour for 2017. Sit back and relax as we make our way to **Kingston-on-Murray** where we stop in at **Banrock Station**. Banrock Station lies at the junction of the Banrock Creek and the Murray River. Of the property's 1650 hectares only 250 hectares are devoted to grapes – varieties such as Semillon, Merlot, Chardonnay, Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon. The remaining land, including 12.5 kilometres of river frontage adjacent to the Banrock Lagoon and wetlands, is being returned to its native state. We have plenty of time here to linger over lunch, try a tasting or take a stroll. We arrive into **Barmera** this afternoon and can unpack and settle in. Our accommodation is surrounded by the Barmera Golf Club with every room enjoying a view over the course. Following dinner we head to Loxton for the **Loxton Christmas Lights**, Loxton shines during this joyous Christmas festival with thousands of twinkling fairy lights, bright colourful banners, sparkling garlands and tinsel to create a magic spectacle. An enormous Christmas tree dazzles in the heart of town and from there, large clusters of residential streets feature homes adorned with over 350 illuminated Christmas scenes, paintings and coloured light displays. There is a unique festival type

atmosphere and all over this small town there are numerous displays to inspect. *(Lunch at Banrock Station/dinner in the motel)*

*Barmera Country Club: PH: 08 8588 2888*

**Day 2: Wednesday 06 December 2017** **RIVERLAND** **(BLD)**

Today we can enjoy a relaxed breakfast and a slightly later start to the day before heading to **Renmark**. Here we take in the sights of the river and enjoy a little free time for a spot of shopping followed by lunch at the Renmark Club overlooking the river. We have something a little different in store as we head out to the historic **Wilkadene Woolshed Brewery** for a tour and tasting. Located on the banks of the River Murray, Wilkadene was a famous sheep and wheat station, built and run by the Wilkinson family until being bought by the Freeman family in 1988. Wilkadene shearing shed, with its white ant resistant native pine posts, supplied paddle steamers with chaff, by way of a chute from the shed down the cliff to the river. The early settlers in this area were dependant on the paddle steamers for everything from food and household goods to their religious requirements. The movement of all paddle steamers was noted in the daily diary, often four or five would pass in a day. Tonight we have arranged for our local entertainer to join us after dinner for a great night – from Phantom of the Opera to Buddy Holly and all things in between. **Mick Kelly** is a local “gem” who is sure to have everyone up on their feet! *(Breakfast and dinner in the motel/lunch at Renmark Club)*

**Day 3: Thursday 07 December 2017** **HEADING HOME** **(BL)**

After breakfast we farewell Barmera and commence our return journey home. Along the way we pass through **Swan Reach**, a sleepy old town with picturesque river scenery and, hardly surprisingly, lots of swans! Just downstream from the town the Murray makes a long, gentle curve for 11kms in all. This bend is appropriately known as **Big Bend**. We then continue towards **Mannum**. The Mary Ann, Australia’s first river boat was built here and made the first paddle steamer trip up the Murray from Mannum in 1853. The Murray River at this point is very wide and there are many relics of the pioneering. For lunch we visit the **Pretoria Hotel** then this afternoon we make our way back to the South Coast following a fantastic short break. *(Breakfast in the motel/lunch at Pretoria Hotel)*

***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***