

NARACOORTE CHARTERS NEWSLETTER

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September 2015.

The 2015 Melbourne Cup. Monday 2 November - Wednesday 4 November. Secured reserved seats near the finishing line for this year's big race. Then visit the Melbourne markets before heading home.

Flinders Island, 15th – 20th November 2015. Fly from Melbourne's Essendon Airport for our visit to Flinders Island. See the beautiful beaches, lakes, sweeping views along magnificent coastlines.

Lobethal Christmas Lights & Port of Mannum. 15th – 17th December 2015. Sunnysdale Sheep Station, Melbas Chocolate Factory, tour of Hans Heysens' Chalet – "The Cedars", Hahndorf, Beerenberg Strawberry farm, Lobethal Christmas Lights and street fares, Goolwa to Meningie luncheon cruise with Spirit Australia Cruises

Opera in Alps 15th – 17th January 2016. ***Teddy Tahu Rhodes*** has been announced as the main act and has featured in large scale productions such as ***The King and I***, ***South Pacific*** and ***A Streetcar named Desire***. Other performers include ***Greta Bradman*** (Sir Donald Bradman's grand-daughter) and ***James Morrison***

Kangaroo Island 4 Days 16th – 19th March 2016. Kangaroo Island, because of its variety and abundance of wildlife, has often been described as a "zoo without fences". Third largest in Australia after Tasmania and Melville, Kangaroo Island, 174 kms long by 60 kms wide, is big in all but population. Separated from the mainland for thousands of years, it retains plants and animals extinct elsewhere in Australia

Easter in Bendigo. 25th – 30th March 2016. Overlooking the city centre is one of Australia's most stunning Cathedrals. The Sacred Heart Cathedral is, architecturally, English Gothic and during our touring we will be taking a close look! A highlight will be the Bendigo Advertiser Gala Easter Parade. There will also be live music, Rotary Art, craft and a produce market.

Vietnam & Cambodia 19 Days from 18th April 2016, HA NOI – HA LONG – HOI AN – HO CHI MINH – MEKONG DELTA – CAN THO - CAMBODIA – Call us for a detailed itinerary!

Norfolk Island 21st – 30th August 2016. Norfolk Island lies about 1700kms east of Sydney and is only 5 kms by 8 kms in size. It is a volcanic island made up of undulating hill country, with steep cliffs rising out of the ocean, patches of sub-tropical rainforests and a fascinating history. Discovered by Captain Cook it was twice settled as a Convict Settlement and twice abandoned. The original buildings of these settlements are beautifully restored and on display today. Its third and permanent settlement came with the relocation of the descendants of the famous mutineers of the Bounty. The mutineers settled on the tiny island of Pitcairn, about 3000 miles to the east and their descendants relocated to Norfolk Island in the mid-1800s when their community began to outgrow this small island. Today the families of these descendants are prominent. The history, the scenery and the hospitality will make this a memorable holiday. On top of all this there is the low duty shopping. The island has its own government and limited taxation and, as a result, the shopping is good and very well priced. Your itinerary has been planned to allow plenty of time to take in the local sights, shop, relax and to get to know the locals.

Sydney, Snowy Mountains, Canberra & the Floriade Festival. 6th – 14th October. Highlights include My Fair Lady in the Sydney Opera House, The Southern Highlands, Canberra Floriade, the Snowy Mountains. ***Sydney Opera House*** Matinee performance of ***My Fair Lady***. In the show's 60th anniversary year, Opera Australia and John Frost join forces to honour the past and bring the beloved story of Eliza Doolittle and Henry Higgins to a new generation of theatre audiences. In a world first, ***Dame Julie Andrews*** will direct a glorious production of My Fair Lady, teaming up with the Tony Award-winning Christopher Gattelli (*South Pacific 2012-13*) and associates of the musical's original designers, Cecil Beaton and Oliver Smith. ***Hazeldean Homestead and Gardens***, established in the early 1860's by the Litchfield family, Hazeldean Merino sheep and Angus Cattle studs are amongst the oldest and largest studs in Australia. ***Kosciuszko National Park*** and onto ***Thredbo***, Australia's premier Ski Resort. We take a drive around the Thredbo Village then continue along the Alpine Way to the ***Murray 1 Power Station*** located just east of ***Khancoban***. There are 10 turbines at Murray 1, each capable of producing enough electricity to supply over 95,000 houses.

Commonwealth Park, the centre of the Canberra's' Floriade Festival

Outback New South Wales Opals & Lightning Ridge 28th November – 5th December 2016. Lightning Ridge, in outback NSW, is on the world's richest deposit of black opal. It's a place that abounds with colourful characters, barrels of dreams, opportunities and experiences! The 'Ridge', as it is known to the locals, will welcome you with classic country hospitality but it will certainly not be 'more of the same'. Many people are so captivated by the place, they stay. Famous for the elusive and distinctive Black Opal, which is unique to the area, it is a thriving frontier town full of the iconic Australian characters. On this tour we will experience sculptures underground, bottle-houses, castles, astronomy monuments, hills named 'Lunatic', 'Pig' and 'Bald' and a pub called 'The Pub in the Scrub!'. Join us on our 8 day tour and experience a town with a difference - Lightning Ridge!!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY.... Don't get your knickers in a knot, it solves nothing; and makes you walk funny.

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Fully seat belted for safety

The 2015 Melbourne Cup

Monday 2 November - Wednesday 4 November, 2015

The 2015 Melbourne Cup will take place on Tuesday 3rd November 2015 at Flemington Racecourse at 3:00pm local time – and Naracoorte Charters will be there! The 24 horse Melbourne Cup field features some of the best staying horses from Australia - and around the world - vying for the lucrative \$6 million prize pool. Held each year on the first Tuesday of November, the Melbourne Cup is a real test of staying power. The Melbourne Cup is raced over a distance of 3200 metres, far longer than any other major event in the Melbourne Spring Racing Carnival, so it is certainly not a race that is easy to prepare for. This unusually punishing distance may be why Australians hold the Melbourne Cup so dear, as the winner must race harder than ever before to stay ahead of the pack in the final stretch. We have arranged two nights accommodation in Melbourne and secured reserved seats near the finishing line, for this year's big race. Space is limited on this tour so book early to be sure you are at Flemington for the 2015 Melbourne Cup!

Day 1 (D): Naracoorte to Melbourne (Monday 02 November). Welcome to our **2015 Melbourne Cup Tour**. After loading the coach and completing our passenger pickup service we are ready to go. We will stop enroute for lunch and arrive into Melbourne early afternoon. There will be some time for shopping before checking into our inner suburban accommodation – just a short distance for the Flemington Race Course. (*Lunch own arrangements & cost/Dinner in the motel*). **Mercure Caroline Springs Hotel, Melbourne 03 83580555**

Day 2 (BD): Melbourne Cup Day (Tuesday 03 November). **Melbourne Cup Day** and we are off to *Flemington*. We will get a reasonably early start as the racing gets underway at around 10.30am. We may even have time for a "TAB Stop" to get some early Cup Bets and thereby miss some of the rush on the track. We have arranged **Reserved Seats** and pre-paid entrance to the course. The rest of the days activities and expenses are of your own doing! It will be very crowded but try and take a short walk along the lawn area in front of the Mounting Yard, see Flemington's famous roses and perhaps even venture into the "Bird Cage" – there are some fashions here only seen on Melbourne Cup Day! After a great day – and hopefully a profitable one – we will depart at a pre-arranged time after the last race. We transfer back to our accommodation and freshen up for dinner. (*Breakfast & dinner in the Hotel/Lunch own arrangements & cost*)

Day 3 (B): Queen Victoria Markets (Wednesday 04 November).

After breakfast we complete our check out formalities and head into town to the famous **Queen Victoria Markets** -Australia's largest. This is a vast and vibrant centre of trade and commerce that was officially opened on 20 March 1878 and has served consumers needs for more than 120 years. Last year the Market had over 8.5 million visitors. Spread over 7 hectares, it is the largest open air Market in the southern hemisphere. Almost one thousand traders sell everything from exotic Australian fruit and vegetables and local and imported gourmet foods, meat, fish and poultry to hardware, manchester, clothing and authentic Australian artefacts and souvenirs. Late morning we reboard the coach for the drive home to complete a sensational 3 day tour. (*Breakfast in the motel/Lunch own arrangements & cost*)

COST.....\$1095.00 per person, twin share

- Single supplement+\$220.00

Deposit of \$500.00 payable, balance 60 days prior to trip.

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO "EXPANDING HORIZONS"
NARACOORTE CHARTERS – 87620092 in conjunction with Expanding Horizons (T/A 247)

Cancellation insurance is not included but strongly recommended.

PHONE FOR INSURANCE DETAILS – Covermore Insurance 0883624100

Cancellation Policy: More than 30 days, loss of deposit, 29-14 days, 50% of payment, less than 14 days, 100% of payment.

All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions in opening times/days of some attractions. Whilst every effort is made to adhere to the itinerary as provided, Naracoorte Charters reserves the right to alter the touring and attractions as dictated by circumstances and conditions outside the company's control. Every attempt will be made to ensure alterations do not adversely affect the operation of the tour. The Company will not be held responsible for weather based cancellations or those closures made at the venue's discretion. Naracoorte Charters arrange tours on the condition that they are not liable for injury, damage or loss which may occur due to accident, delay, irregularity or defect of any vehicle or accommodation. Naracoorte Charters reserves the right to cancel tours due to lack of numbers.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Fully escorted
- 2 Nights at the Mercure Caroline Springs Hotel
- Reserved seats for the 2015 Emirates Melbourne Cup
- Queen Victoria Markets

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Flinders Island

Sunday 15th – Friday 20^h November, 2015

Day 1 (D): NARACOORTE TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF MELBOURNE – Sunday 15. Welcome to our 6 day tour to Flinders Island! Today is a travel day as we relocate to beautiful Caroline Springs, ideally located close to Essendon Airport for tomorrow's flight to Flinders Island. Of course we'll stop enroute today for rest and lunch breaks. ***Mercure Caroline Springs***

Day 2 (BLD): ESSENDON TO FLINDERS ISLAND – Monday 16. After a hearty breakfast, we transfer to Essendon Airport where we board Sharp Airlines flight 805 to Flinders Island. On arrival at **Whitemark Flinders Island** (11.35am) our local touring coach will be waiting to greet us. Following lunch at Whitemark we head south to the fishing port of **Lady Barron** where we find our accommodation at the **Furneaux Tavern, Flinders Island - 03 6359 3521**

Day 3 (BLD) EXPLORING FLINDERS ISLAND – Tuesday 17 November. This morning we travel the east coast, passing some of the **Soldier Settlement Farms** and onto Cameron's Inlet, a haven for the many native birds and animals. We view the magnificent beach that stretches along the east coast of the island. From here we travel north to the **Tobias Lookout** for fantastic views to **Babel Island** and north to the **Sister's Islands**. We then drive to the **Patriarchs Wildlife Sanctuary** where we learn of one man's fight to save the **Cape Barren Geese**. We take in the panoramic views from **Walkers Hill Lookout** which would have to be one of the best lookouts on the island. We return to Lady Barron via **Trouser's Point Beach** at the foot of **Mount Strezlecki** then along the Wallanippi Road back to our accommodation for time to wander around the waterfront before dinner.

Day 4 (BLD): MORE OF FLINDERS ISLAND – Wednesday 18 November. Our touring this morning takes us to **Vinegar Hill Lookout** for views across **Franklin Sound** and the islands south of Flinders. We continue on to **Port Davies** on the west coast of the island where we are split into two groups - one group will be taking a trip on a charter boat to the nearby islands taking in the magnificent views from the sea with the possibility for some fishing whilst the other group visits the historic **Wybalena Chapel and Cemetery** and learn the sad history of the Aboriginal community who were transported here in the 1800's. We drop into the island museum which houses a written information, photos and artifacts of the past settlement of this beautiful island. Following lunch we alternate the groups.

Day 5 (BLD): FLINDERS ISLAND – Thursday 19 November. Today we travel to the northern part of the island stopping at **Sawyers Bay** to take in the magnificent view. We visit Killiecrankie, the home of the famous Killiecrankie Diamonds. We continue north to The North East River for views over the **Sisters**

Islands and along the east coast beaches south to **Babel Island**. We return to Lady Barron travelling through the soldier settlement farming region known as "The Flats".

Day 6 (BD): DEPART FLINDERS ISLAND – Friday 20 November. This morning we farewell Lady Barron and return to **Whitemark** where we have some time to shop. Buy some souvenirs or island wares before boarding our Sharp flight 804 back to Essendon. Our estimated time of arrival is 1pm so once the luggage is loaded, we can purchase some lunch. The rest of the afternoon is spent expressing home, arriving early evening to complete a fabulous holiday!

COST.....\$2890.00 per person, twin share

- Single supplement+\$376.00

Deposit of \$500.00 payable, balance 60 days prior to trip.

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO "EXPANDING HORIZONS"
NARACOORTE CHARTERS – 87620092 in conjunction with Expanding Horizons (T/A 247)

Cancellation insurance is not included but strongly recommended.

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Opera in *the Alps*

Friday 15 January 2016 – Sunday 17 January 2016

Day 1 (D) HOME TO ALBURY FRIDAY 15 January 2016:

Welcome to our 3 day tour to the 20th anniversary of the ***Opera in the Alps***. This morning we depart early as for most of the day we will be travelling. Making convenience stops throughout the day and time to purchase lunch has us arriving in **Albury** in time for dinner in the hotel. (*Lunch own expense, dinner in hotel*).
Atura Albury

Day 2 (BD): OPERA IN THE ALPS: – Saturday 16 January 2016

Following a hearty breakfast, we take a look around Albury. Prominent hills lie at each end of Dean Street and offer excellent vistas of Albury and the surrounds. Once aptly named Eastern Hill and Western Hill, a memorial Pillar (to the Soldiers of WWI) resulted in the name change from Western Hill to **Monument Hill**. The monument was actually constructed in 1923 and stands 493 feet above sea level. Whether flood lit at night or overseeing the going's-on of Dean Street during the day, it is a most impressive landmark – and a great opportunity for a group photograph! From here we can see Albury and the Murray River winding below. Looking across her meandering and flood plains we can see Wodonga and the Victorian Alps. We travel to **Beechworth** this morning where on arrival we will be joined on the coach by our local guide who will show us around the town which is one of Victoria's best preserved gold rush towns. The discovery of gold in the 1850's brought with it a flurry of activity and growth. The magnificent buildings, 32 of which are listed by the National Trust and the beautiful gardens are a legacy of the gold rush days. Beechworth reminds us of those exciting years, with many landmarks still surviving. It takes only a little imagination to be transported back to the "Golden Era." We have arranged lunch today at the **Hotel Nicholas**. This afternoon we return to our hotel to relax and freshen up before our evening at the 20th anniversary of the ***Opera in the Alps***. Set in the picturesque grounds of Baarmutha Park, ***Opera in the Alps*** is a magical evening of classical opera favourites. This cultural highlight began at **Mt Buffalo** 20 years ago, and every year since has been providing thousands of people with a magical experience not easily forgotten.

Teddy Tahu Rhodes has been announced as the main act and has featured in large scale productions such as ***The King and I***, ***South Pacific*** and ***A Streetcar named Desire***. Other performers include **Greta Bradman** (Sir Donald Bradman's grand-daughter) and **James Morrison**. On arrival we head to our "A" Reserved seats and enjoy our hampers for dinner. Why not take a look through the various stall holders and purchase a glass of wine to enjoy with dinner and the show. Following a wonderful evening we return to Albury. This is sure to have been a day we will talk about for a long time to come. (*Breakfast in Hotel, Lunch at Hotel Nicholas, Dinner Hampers provided at Opera in the Alps*).

Day 3 (B): HEADING HOME: – Sunday 17 January, 2016

We'll farewell our hosts this morning and head for home. After our memorable evening we can sit back and relax. We stop enroute for our breaks before arriving back in **Naracoorte** after a wonderful 3 day holiday. (*Breakfast in the motel, lunch own expense*)

COST.....\$TBA.00 per person, twin share

Single supplement+\$TBA.00

Deposit of \$200.00 payable, balance 60 days prior to trip.

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Kangaroo Island

4 Days, Wednesday 16th – Saturday 19th March 2016

Kangaroo Island, because of its variety and abundance of wildlife, has often been described as a "zoo without fences". Third largest in Australia after Tasmania and Melville, Kangaroo Island, 174 kms long by 60 kms wide, is big in all but population. Separated from the mainland for thousands of years, it retains plants and animals extinct elsewhere in Australia. Although, to early explorers the Island appeared to be uninhabited, subsequent dating of charcoal campfire remains indicate that Aboriginal people were living on the Island at least as early as 10,000 years ago. Why they abandoned Kangaroo Island or when they last lived here is not known. Spectacular cliffs defy rolling incursions by the Southern Ocean from Antarctica. The hinterland includes untamed wilderness, huge grass trees, farmland and forest. Named when Matthew Flinders saw Kangaroos on his 1802 discovery the island's French titled places followed Baudin's circumnavigation. Kangaroo Island's first official settlers arrived in July 1836 aboard the Duke of York. For the first free settlement in Australia, Kingscote was dogged by the lack of water and suitable building timber. After 4 years it was abandoned in favour of Adelaide.

Highlights

- Return travel on the Sealink Ferry to Penneshaw (KI)
- 2 days of locally escorted touring/3 nights' accommodation
 - 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners and 1 lunch
 - Seal Bay & The Flinders Chase National Park
 - Spectacular sightseeing
 - Cliffords Honey Farm and The Marron Farm
 - Emu Ridge Eucalyptus Distillery

Day 1 (D): Naracoorte to Kangaroo Island – Wed 16 March, 2016

Welcome to our 4 day tour to ***Kangaroo Island***. It will take us about 5 hours to travel to Cape Jervis at the foot of the ***Fleurieu Peninsula*** – the departure point for the Sealink Ferry Service to Kangaroo Island. We will stop along the way for a lunch break (own expense) before arriving in time for the late afternoon ferry service. It takes just 50 minutes to complete the crossing to Penneshaw. Once the coach is unloaded we head to ***American River*** – our base for the next 3 nights. This is a great setting with most rooms having exceptional views over the bay where the tree lined native gums silhouette the tranquil waters. *(Lunch own expense, Dinner in the motel).*
Mercure Kangaroo Island (American River) 08 85537053

Day 2 (BLD): Kangaroo Island – Thu 17 March, 2016

There are two major wildlife areas we have planned to visit today – ***Seal Bay*** and the ***Flinders Chase National Park***. Our locally based ***guide*** will join us on the coach as we travel to the famous ***Seal Bay*** for a chance to walk on the beach amongst the colony of ***Australian Sea Lions*** who live here all year round.

It is an unforgettable experience to be guided by a National Parks Ranger, along the beach, within metres of the bulls, cows and seal pups as they rest on the beach. We then head towards the south western end of Kangaroo Island with a stop for lunch along the way.

This afternoon we visit the **Flinders Chase National Park**, Remarkable Rocks, Cape du Couedic and Admirals Arch where, via a spectacular board walk, we can see close up a colony of **New Zealand Fur Seals** who live in the sea and the rocks just below us. At Rocky River we should see plenty of Cape Barren Geese and maybe a Tamar Wallaby or two. *(Breakfast and dinner in the motel, Picnic lunch supplied)*

Day 3 (BD): Kangaroo Island – Natural Produce – Fri 18 March, 2016

We have planned to visit a number of small and unusual Kangaroo Island attractions today. Again our **local guide** will ensure we see as much as possible. This morning we will visit some unique ventures - run by unique Kangaroo Island characters! The first one is **Clifford's Honey Farm** – home to Kangaroo Island's own population of Ligurian bees (the only pure strain in the world) producing 10,000 kilograms of delectable honey each year. The bees were imported in 12 hives from the Italian province of Liguria in the 1880s, and remain protected from other breeds of bee by the island's isolation. Next is **Emu Ridge Eucalyptus Distillery** where we take a product tour before travelling back to **Kingscote** for some lunch (own expense). This afternoon we are heading into the centre of the Island to Parndana. This is where the **Andermel Marron Farm** is located. On arrival we will be introduced to marron at close quarters in aquaria or holding tanks so we can fully appreciate the physical characteristics of this wonderful freshwater crayfish. Also on the farm are a native food orchard and vineyards. There will be the chance to taste Two Wheeler Creek wines from the vineyard. For the creative cooks the farm produces several native food plants used as condiments such as lemon myrtle and mountain pepper. Our final visit is to **Island Pure** – a local sheep dairy. After a great day we return to American River. *(Breakfast and dinner in the motel/Lunch own expense in Kingscote)*

Day 04 (B): Heading Home – Sat 19 March, 2016

This morning, we make our way back to Penneshaw to connect with the mid-morning ferry service to Cape Jervis (departs at 10.30am). Once back on the mainland, we travel back to **Naracoorte** to complete a fabulous 4 day tour. *(Breakfast in the motel/Lunch own expense)*

COST.....\$748.00 per person, twin share

Single supplement+\$190.00

Deposit of \$300.00 payable, balance 60 days prior to trip.

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Easter in the Central Victorian Goldfields

Friday 25th – Wednesday 30th March

Our base for this tour is the goldfields town of Bendigo. At the heart of Bendigo is its rich gold fields heritage. The restored Victoria era buildings that line Bendigo's streets are the hub of the city's cultural life. Music, food and wine, art and history are all enjoyed against a backdrop of lavish sandstone buildings. And overlooking the city centre is one of Australia's most stunning Cathedrals. The Sacred Heart Cathedral is, architecturally, English Gothic and during our touring we will be taking a close look! A highlight will be the Bendigo Advertiser Gala Parade. There will also be live music, Rotary Art, craft and a produce market.

Day 1 (LD): To Bendigo & the Central Goldfields (Friday 25 March, 2016)

Welcome to our special 6 day ***Easter Tour to Bendigo*** in the ***Central Gold Fields of Victoria***. We have a lot of fascinating history to show you in and around Bendigo and, on Easter Sunday, we will enjoy the ***Bendigo Easter Festival*** in the centre of the city. So once we have loaded the coach we are ready to go. We make several stops along the way including lunch at ***St Arnaud*** before arriving into ***Bendigo*** midafternoon. (*Pub lunch/Dinner*) **All Seasons Hotel & Quality Resort Bendigo 03 54438166. 5 Nights**

Day 2 (BLD): Discovering Bendigo (Saturday 26 March, 2016)

Following breakfast we will begin our touring of ***Bendigo*** and the best place to start is at the magnificent ***Sacred Heart Cathedral*** which overlooks the city. It is the only English Gothic Cathedral in Australia. The foundations consist of granite from Harcourt, near Bendigo. The walls are of sandstone, from the Geelong region and the dressings and carvings are of limestone from Waurin Ponds and Mt. Gambier. The floor is Calacutta Vagli Extra Marble from Italy. The walls of the sanctuary are Sicilian Pearl Marble, with Verdi Tinos surrounding the main altar which is of Dromana Granite. Mid morning we board the ***'Talking Tram'*** for an interesting ride through the main areas of Bendigo to see some of the other stunning buildings - such as the ***Shamrock Hotel*** - and to learn a little about the history of the Goldfields. At the ***Central Deborah Gold Mine*** we have arranged a guided surface tour of what is an actual working mine - right in the centre of the city. On completion of our tour we have lunch in the café before our afternoon visit to the ***Golden Dragon Museum***. What a story it is of the impact and contribution made by the Chinese people of Bendigo - from the Gold Rush of the 1850's to the present day. One permanent display is ***"Sun Loong"*** the longest Imperial dragon in the world and ***"Loong"*** the oldest Imperial dragon in the world. Our final stop of the day is at ***Bendigo Pottery*** for a self guided tour of the ***Interpretative Centre***. Here we step back in time and learn about the production processes, machinery, working conditions and traditional skills of ***Bendigo Pottery*** from its beginning in 1858 to the present. All up, it will be a fascinating day! (*Breakfast & dinner in the motel/Light lunch included*)

Day 3 (BD): Easter in Bendigo (Sunday 27 March, 2016). ***Rosalind Park*** in the heart of the city is where most of the ***Bendigo Easter Festival*** takes place. So after breakfast and some free time to attend local Easter Church services, we will head into the city centre to take in all the atmosphere. A highlight will be the ***Bendigo Advertiser Gala Parade***. There will also be live music, Rotary Art, craft and a produce market. The coach will make several return trips to the motel so stay in town for as long as you wish and enjoy the festivities of the ***2016 Bendigo Easter Festival***. (*Breakfast & dinner in the motel/lunch own expense*)

Day 4 (BLD: Nagambie (Monday 28 March, 2016). This morning we have planned a drive east to **Nagambie**. Nagambie is home to legendary race horse **Black Caviar**, the mare that was born here in 2006 and finished her career unbeaten, winning all 25 of her races and claiming almost \$8 million in prize money. In October 2013 a full-size statue of the racehorse was unveiled in Nagambie and the town came to a standstill as thousands of people, some dressed in the horse's racing colours of salmon and black, gathered for the ceremony, along with trainer Peter Moody and jockey Luke Nolen. We then board a local sightseeing cruise boat to explore Lake Nagambie followed by a light lunch. This afternoon we head south to Seymour where we join the scenic Goulburn Valley Highway towards Yea. The **Kerrisdale Mountain Railway & Museum** is a most interesting stop. This is a unique railway built on a zig zag formation. The line climbs quite steeply as it wends its way through tall trees on a precipitous track cut into the mountain side. Mid-afternoon we return to Bendigo after making a stop at the rustic **Tooberac Hotel**. (Breakfast/Light lunch/Dinner)

Day 5 (BD): Daylesford & Hepburn Springs (Tuesday 29 March, 2016)

Breakfast: Once again we follow the Midland Highway south for our touring today around **Daylesford** - a delightful town known as the spa centre of Australia. Of the 110 individual springs documented in Victoria, 72 are located in this area. Mineral water and its curative properties have long been lauded and acknowledged. The water is found in large underground aquifers and on passing through the mineral laden rocks it collects salts and minerals. Carbon dioxide is added deep down within the earth's crust making the water effervescent. On arrival we head straight to the **Convent Gallery** for Devonshire tea and a tour of the seven individual galleries and four tiny cells that were once bedrooms for the resident nuns. The **Convent Gallery** sits on top of Wombat Hill overlooking Daylesford. The history of this place, that was built in 1891 as a country boarding school for girls is fascinating. We have some free time in the centre of town to visit the craft shops and galleries and to buy some lunch. This afternoon we head to the **Hepburn Mineral Springs Reserve** and the newly renovated **Hepburn Bath House** - a place that has been welcoming visitors since 1895 to bathe in the region's mineral waters. We have arranged for a 2 hour session in the communal pool and spa and afternoon tea - it will be a relaxing way to end the day! (Can bring own towel or hire them there/thongs recommended/easy access to pools) We then head back to **Bendigo**. (Breakfast & dinner in the motel/Lunch own arrangements & cost)

Day 6 (B): Home via Ararat (Wednesday 30 March, 2016). After breakfast we complete our check out formalities and head to the historic township of **Maldon** - a town steeped in history. The National Trust declared it Australia's first Notable Town in 1966. It once had quartz reefs that were among the world's richest, attracting a population which built grand houses and a very busy commercial centre. **Maldon** began as a gold rush town in 1854 with the discovery of alluvial gold at the base of Mt Tarrangower. It developed as an industrial mining town during the later years of the 1800s. As one of Victoria's richest quartz mining centers, various mines at various times recorded the highest returns in the State. Mining declined in the first years of the 20th century, the last mine of the era closed in 1926, and the town's population and fortunes similarly declined. We take a look before continuing to Ararat and then home via Horsham to complete a sensational 6 day tour. (Breakfast/Lunch own cost)....

COST.....\$1298.00 per person, twin share

- **Single supplement+\$360.00**

Deposit of \$200.00 payable, balance 60 days prior to trip.

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO "EXPANDING HORIZONS"

NARACOORTE CHARTERS - 87620092 in conjunction with Expanding Horizons (T/A 247)

Cancellation insurance is not included but strongly recommended.

Cancellation Policy: More than 30 days, loss of deposit, 29-14 days, 50% of payment, less than 14 days, 100% of payment.

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Fully seat belted for safety

Naracoorte Charters

Invites you to come and explore
VIET NAM AND CAMBODIA
19 Days / 16 Nights

HA NOI – HA LONG – HOI AN – HO CHI MINH – MEKONG DELTA – CAN THO - CAMBODIA

Day 1 (Meals inflight): ADELAIDE TO HANOI – April, 2016

We depart this morning on our wonderful tour to Vietnam. On arrival in Hanoi, we'll be met and transferred to our lovely hotel for a two-night stay. Rest up because our holiday truly begins tomorrow!

Apricot Hotel, Ha Noi

Day 2 (B,D): DISCOVERING HANOI – April, 2016

Following a hearty breakfast, we begin our sightseeing tour of Hanoi. This morning, we visit the **Ho Chi Minh complex** containing the former leader's mausoleum and stilt house; then continue to **One Pillar Pagoda**, the **Museum of Ethnology**, the **Temple of Literature** and **Hoan Kiem Lake**. Later this afternoon, we take a **1 hour cyclo ride or electric car** through the **Old Quarter** to enjoy Hanoi's late-afternoon colours before visiting a traditional **Vietnamese "long house"**. This evening, we walk to **Madam Yen's Restaurant** where we enjoy a delicious dinner.



Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum



Hoan Kiem Lake



Cyclo in Hanoi

Apricot Hotel, Ha Noi

Day 3 (B, L, D): OVERLAND TO HA LONG BAY – April, 2016

We depart around 8.00am for the drive to **Ha Long Bay**. Our land journey takes four hours with one stop enroute at a **marble workshop** for disabled children; we can see some painting, some sewing etc. At noon, we arrive at Tuan Chau Island pier where we meet our crew and transfer by tender to our well designed and equipped traditional **Junk** for a welcome drink and check in. Lunch will be on the top floor of the seaview restaurant. We can then relax while the junk follows the route of the Cat Ba National Park, aiming to get away from other tourist junks. Midafternoon we'll reach the village of Cua Van where we'll get an insight into life at a typical Ha Long Bay fishing village. **Cua Van fishing village** is a stand-out example of sustainable tourism in Ha Long Bay. The trip includes a visit to a village school, fish farm and local fishing museum. Later this

afternoon, we return to the junk where we can relax until dinner time while the junk continues to cruise to our anchor site near Coconut Beach Island.

We can enjoy Sunset Happy Hour before our scrumptious dinner which will be served in the fine dining room. Stories of Legends and board games will be available in the Top Deck Bar. *(Please note, the cruise itinerary is subject to change due to weather and operation conditions.)*

Aphrodite Luxury Cruises



Ha Long Bay



Aphrodite Cruise



Dinh Bang Village

Day 4 (B, Brunch, D): HA LONG BAY TO HA NOI – April, 2016

If you wish, you can start the morning well with a traditional Tai chi class on the boat sundeck instructed by experienced staff. We'll enjoy a light breakfast this morning then we'll venture to visit the **Me Cung Cave** which has been recognized by archaeologists as one of the vestiges of the pre-Halong new Stone Age culture that existed nearly 10,000 years ago. After a narrow crack only allowing one person through at a time, many partitions appear. These chambers are somewhat small and narrow, but very refined and with many stalagmites and stalactites bearing beautiful forms. By the end of the walk, the panoramic view of Ha Long bay is well deserved (don't forget to bring your camera!) Returning to the junk, we begin our cruise back to Tuan Chau pier enjoying brunch on the way. The route back to Tuan Chau pier will follow the Eastern part of Ha Long Bay, an area rarely seen by tourists. This will be a good opportunity for last minute photos. Back on dry land, we begin our journey back to Hanoi. We'll have a stop at **Dinh Bang Village** where we visit Dinh Bang Communal house & Do Temple which worships 08 kings of Ly Dynasty (1010-1225). After that we will be invited to enjoy Quan Ho folk songs (duo of love songs) performed by local singers. Quan ho singing is a Vietnamese folk music style with alternating groups of female and male singers issuing musical challenges and responses in the repertoire dealing with topics of love and sentimentality. It's recognized as the Intangible Cultural Heritage by the UNESCO in 2009. A light snack is served during the show. We return to the hotel in the late afternoon and have Dinner at the Hotel.

Apricot Hotel, Ha Noi

Day 5 (B, D): HANOI TO HOI AN – April, 2016

This morning we'll be transferred to the airport for the flight to Danang, from where we'll be transferred to Hoi An and accommodated for 4 nights at a beautiful beach resort. This afternoon is free for relaxation, or for visiting a tailoring enterprise. Hoi An has so many interesting places to eat so dinner will be local each night.

Golden Sand Resort, Hoi An

Day 6 (B, D): HOI AN SIGHTSEEING – April, 2016

This morning, we drive to the extraordinary ruins of **My Son** in a remote jungle valley. My Son was formerly the religious centre of the **Cham Kingdom** and has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site, with more than 20 well-preserved monuments remaining. Then, this afternoon, we stroll through the ancient trading port town of Hoi An, visiting a traditional Chinese assembly house, a Hokkien temple, ancient merchants' houses and the 400-year-old **Japanese Covered Bridge**.



Hoi An



My Son

Golden Sand Resort, Hoi An

Day 7 (B, D): MORE HOI AN SIGHTSEEING –April, 2016

Today we take a boat cruise to **Kim Bong** village where we visit a ship-building yard, then visit an old colonial house, temples and local cottage industry. This afternoon, we'll cruise to **Thanh Ha** pottery village and visit a traditional ceramic workshop, where visitors can make their own creations. We then drive to **Tra Que** village to visit a kindergarten and join the pupils in tree planting. Later, we'll try some local dishes and indulge in a relaxing foot soak using a home-grown herbal remedy. **Note:** For the physically active, there's an opportunity to cycle for one small section of today's arrangement. Other participants can remain with the coach.

Golden Sand Resort, Hoi An

Day 8 (BD): HOI AN AT LEISURE – April, 2016

A full day at leisure so that we can relax, stroll through Hoi An's delightful streets, visit local restaurants, attend a cooking class or finalise our tailor-made clothing.

Golden Sand Resort, Hoi An

Day 9 (B,D): DANANG TO HO CHI MINH (SAIGON) – April, 2016

Morning departure for Danang where we board our flight to Ho Chi Minh (Saigon). On arrival, we'll be transferred to our hotel in the city centre for a three night stay. This afternoon we take in the sights as we visit the **Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Central Post Office, Chinatown and Binh Tay Market.**



Reunification Palace



Notre Dame Cathedral



Cu Chi Tunnels

Rex Hotel, Ho Chi Minh City

Day 10 (B, D): CU CHI TUNNELS – April, 2016

Today we drive to the remarkable **Cu Chi Tunnels**, located outside Ho Chi Minh City. Vietnamese freedom fighters built this 200km labyrinth of narrow tunnels over various levels, using them to hide and to infiltrate during the American War. After this amazing experience, we return to Ho Chi Minh City where the afternoon is at leisure.

Rex Hotel, Ho Chi Minh City

Day 11 (B, L, D): THE MEKONG DELTA – BEN TRE – CAN THO – April, 2016

Pack a bag because we'll be spending the night at Can Tho. Pack a bag because we'll be spending the night at **Can Tho**. Our travels today see us travelling by road to the Mekong Delta. On arrival at the Hùng vương Pier (Bến Tre town), we take a boat ride on the Bến Tre River – one of tributaries of the Mekong. As we cruise

we can see the lively activities along river as fishing, water transfers etc. We stop at a **brickwork factory** to see how to make bricks in handy traditional style by printing and baking. We also visit a **coconut processing workshop** located along canal. Back on the boat, we take a smaller creek with will lead us to a Mekong village. Take a walk to a family **workshop making sleepmats** and enjoy some fruits. Take a **motocart** on shady paths, pass by green rice fields and vegetable plains to be able to touch on real life and find out about tropical culture from the locals. We enjoy lunch at a riverside restaurant. This afternoon, we take a rowing-boat along water palm creek then cruise back to Hùng Vương Pier. Back on dry land, we head to Can Tho for our overnight accommodation.

Victoria Can Tho/Superior



Boat on Běn Tre river



Rowing-boat



Brickwork

Day 12 (B, L, D): CAN THO – HO CHI MINH – April, 2016

We enjoy an early morning cruise along the small and picturesque tributaries, we will experience the **Cai Rang Floating Market** - the busiest market with many boats. See the scenery and daily activities of the locals. Walk around a village and visit a rice husking mill. We disembark at Ninh Kieu quay, visit Binh Thuy ancient house. Lunch is at a local restaurant on the way back to Ho Chi Minh City.

Rex Hotel, Ho Chi Minh City

Day 13 (B, D): HO CHI MINH CITY TO SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA – April, 2016

We have free time until our transfer to the airport for our flight to Cambodia. On arrival in Siem Reap International Airport, our private driver & guide will be waiting for us for the transfer to our hotel. Check-in, freshen up and relax for a while. Later we enjoy a sightseeing tour including a view of the temple complex from **Bakeng Hill** and end the day with the **traditional Apsara show**: traditional Khmer dances that are meant to convey a story or message with dinner.

Sokha Angkor, Siem Reap

Day 14 (B, D): SIEM REAP – THE MOST SIGNIFICANT TEMPLES – April, 2016

After breakfast, we start to explore some of Angkor's most beautiful temples. We will visit the West Gate of Angkor Thom – undiscovered by mass tourism - the ancient capital of **Angkor Thom** (12th century), see the South Gate, Bayon Temple- unique for its 54 towers decorated with over 200 smiling faces of Avolokitesvara. Baphuon Temple: lying just to the north of Bayon, a pyramidal representation of mythical Mont Meru, The Royal Enclosure, Phimeanakas, the Elephant Terrace and the Terrace of the Leper King.



Angkor Thom



Angkor Wat



Bantey Srei

This afternoon, we will visit the famous temple: **Angkor Wat**. Angkor Wat has been a World Heritage Site since 1992, famous for its beauty and splendour. Angkor Wat features the longest continuous bas-relief in the world, which runs along the outer gallery walls and narrates stories from Hindu mythology. We visit the fabulous **Ta Prohm** embraced by the roots of enormous fig trees and gigantic creepers. Ta Prohm was built

in the 12th century. It's a Buddhist temple dedicated to the mother of King Jayavarman VII. In the evening, we can visit the **Angkor Night Market**.

Sokha Angkor, Siem Reap

Day 15 (B): MORE TEMPLES & TONLE SAP GREAT LAKE – April, 2016

Today, we continue to explore the Angkor complex with two more special temples: **Banteay Srei**: nearly everyone's favorite site. The special charm of this temple lies in its compact size, remarkable state of preservation, and the excellence of its decorative carving. **Banteay Samre**: Its rose-colored sandstone walls are decorated with carvings and bas-reliefs, which are among the most accomplished Angkor has to offer. Lunch is at our own expense today. This afternoon we visit **Preah Ko**, one of the oldest funerary temples. We continue to **Bakong Temple** Mountain with wonderful carvings on the false doors and lintels. Both of these temples were from the ancient Khmer civilization site of Hariharalaya which flourished in the late 9th and early 10th Centuries. Nowadays, they are located in the Rolous area which is about 13 kms from the town. Back in town, we visit **Chantie Ecole-Artisan D'Angkor**.

Sokha Angkor, Siem Reap

Day 16 (B, meals inflight): DEPART CAMBODIA – April, 2016

We enjoy some time at leisure before connecting with our flight home.

Day 17 (Meals inflight): ARRIVE ADELAIDE – April, 2016

We arrive into Adelaide this morning. Following Customs & Immigration, we travel back to Naracoorte, arriving home safely with some absolutely wonderful memories of our holiday to Vietnam and Siem Reap

COST.....\$5988.00 per person, twin share

- **Single supplement+\$1485.00**

Deposit of \$500.00 per person payable on booking, balance 60 days prior to trip.

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Fully seat belted for safety

Norfolk Island

10 Days 2016, 21st – 30th August 2016.

Norfolk Island lies about 1700kms east of Sydney and is only 5 kms by 8 kms in size. It is a volcanic island made up of undulating hill country, with steep cliffs rising out of the ocean, patches of sub-tropical rainforests and a fascinating history. Discovered by Captain Cook it was twice settled as a Convict Settlement and twice abandoned. The original buildings of these settlements are beautifully restored and on display today. Its third and permanent settlement came with the relocation of the descendants of the famous mutineers of the Bounty. The mutineers settled on the tiny island of Pitcairn, about 3000 miles to the east and their descendants relocated to Norfolk Island in the mid 1800s when their community began to outgrow this small island. Today the families of these descendants are prominent. The history, the scenery and the hospitality will make this a memorable holiday. On top of all this there is the low duty shopping. The island has its own government and limited taxation and, as a result, the shopping is good and very well priced. Your itinerary has been planned to allow plenty of time to take in the local sights, shop, relax and to get to know the locals.

DAY 1 (D): NARACOORTE TO SYDNEY: 21st Sunday August 2016. Welcome to our 10 day tour to Norfolk Island. Today we make our way through to the Adelaide airport on our flight through to Sydney. Upon arrival we are transferred to our accommodation at the Ibis Hotel Sydney Airport, located nearby. Following check in, dinner has been arranged in the hotel's restaurant, the Ibistro. We retire for the evening in preparation for our early start tomorrow. Ibis Sydney Airport (subject to availability)

DAY 2 (BD): SYDNEY TO NORFOLK ISLAND: 22nd Monday August 2016. Following an early breakfast we head to the *International Terminal* to board our *Air New Zealand* flight to *Norfolk Island*. Upon arrival the local operator, *Pinetree Tours* will meet our group for the drive into Burnt Pine and our accommodation at *The South Pacific Resort*. Set in lush subtropical gardens with mountain and valley views, the South Pacific Resort is centrally located in the township of Burnt Pine. The remainder of the day is at our leisure. Tonight our evening's entertainment is the enjoyable *Progressive Dinner*, a 3 course meal progressing to different Island homes and restaurants. It is a fun night and a good way to meet the local people and sample some of the Island dishes. *South Pacific Resort, Norfolk Island (0011 6723 22 166)*

DAY 3 (BD): NORFOLK ISLAND: Tuesday 23rd August 2016. This morning we are collected by Pinetree Tours for their ½ Day Island Sightseeing Tour.....a must for every visitor! We visit historic Kingston, Cascade, Longridge and much more. See and hear about the famous convict buildings, beautiful beaches and the golf course, the renowned Melanesian Chapel, their Government, laws and lifestyle. Enjoy views from Mt Pitt & other scenic spots on this commentary conducted tour. We stop for a delicious morning tea in the garden of an island home then return to the resort. This afternoon we join the Convict Settlement Tour. This is an 'In Depth' Tour of the historic Georgian settlement of Kingston. Walk through the cemetery and hear the history of interesting convict and colonial headstones, the stories of the houses along Quality Row & visit the restored Military Barracks now the Legislative Assembly Chambers. Walk through the ruins of the New Gaol, visit All Saints Church which was in convict times the Commissariat Store. Afternoon tea is included.

DAY 4 (BLS): NORFOLK ISLAND: Wednesday 24th August 2016. Our breakfast setting will be a little different this morning as we can either take a stroll or, for the more energetic, a leisurely 3.5km walk and meet up for our BBQ Breakfast on Anson Bay. The remainder of our morning is free before our afternoon visit to the Christian Brothers Cheese Company. This boutique dairy and cheese producer was started by two island brothers Glen and John Christian. The tour takes us through a local farm with beautiful ocean views where we meet the milk cows and see the beehives producing the local honey. Cheese maker John will give us an informative talk whilst we sample the range of cheeses with tasty condiments. We also have the chance to visit the local sawmill. Tonight we enjoy dinner at the resort before we head out into the Norfolk bush. It is here we are treated to a Wonderland By Night! The setting is 10 acres of magical Norfolk pines and bushland lit up like an enchanted forest. We'll meander along (or ride in the 'Moon Buggy') a winding pathway with Archie, a descendant of the Bounty Mutineers, as he recites his poems and lights up the dioramas throughout the bush. Afterwards we enjoy a light supper.

DAY 5 (BD): NORFOLK ISLAND: Thursday 25th August 2016. This morning we enjoy a visit to Cyclorama. Here we'll walk inside a continuous 360 degree panoramic painting and feel as though we are standing on a pier or ship's deck and are part of the scenes. A spectacular 3D effect is achieved with realistic perspective and detailed artwork stretching all the way to the visitor's feet. Storyboards, lists and maps explain the history in an easy to understand way. The remainder of the day is at leisure for us to enjoy some personal shopping or simply relaxing. Late afternoon we are transferred to the western side of the island to the delightful Island Fish Fry. This is a traditional Island Fish Feast with local fish, Island dishes, salads and desserts. Watch the sun set from Puppys Point whilst enjoying the traditional food and local entertainment.

DAY 6 (BD): NORFOLK ISLAND: Friday August 26th 2016. This morning we are collected by Pinetree tours for the Greenfingers Tour. This tour features some of the islands loveliest gardens. Throughout the morning we visit a nursery owned and operated by a young Norfolk Islander, a private fruit and vegetable market garden as well as visit a gorgeous private garden with a spectacular view of Kingston and Nepean & Philip Islands. We will be given a talk on the area with a history dating back to 1788. Morning tea is included in a scenic location. This afternoon our group will head off with Culla & Company and their majestic Clydesdale Horses. We will experience a wonderful carriage ride as we "clip clop" down memory lane, enjoying a cuppa en-route as well as beautiful cliff top views. We complete our interesting day with a fun night out for all ages and join the Night as a Convict Dinner! We dress as convicts and along with the Commandant, we are in for an evening of gaiety, feasting and singing. Our convict outfits are issued to us for the evening!! Great food! Great fun!

DAY 7 (BD): NORFOLK ISLAND: Saturday 27th August 2016

We have a later start today with time to enjoy the local shops for any last minute purchases. This afternoon we head off on the **Island Culture Tour**. Experience the culture of their forebears! From the mutineer ancestors & their Tahitian wives came the arts of woodcarving, weaving, cooking & the Norfolk Language. On this tour see a demonstration using Norfolk Timber, visit Island homes for a talk on the cooking & a chat about the Norfolk Island language. An example of Island weaving will be given following our **afternoon tea** break.

DAY 8 (BD): NORFOLK ISLAND: Sunday 28th August 2016

Following breakfast we have the opportunity to join a church service if we wish. If not, perhaps a wander through the **Sunday Markets** to snap up a bargain or two. At a time to be advised (dependant on tidal activity) we are collected by Pinetrees Tours for our unique **Glass Bottomed Boat tour**. Our two Norfolk Islanders, Donald & John, will share their knowledge of Norfolk's marine life. Once we've "walked the plank" with these 'mutineer descendants' it takes a minute to get to the Reef. View beautiful coral gardens & tropical fish inside the calm crystal waters of Norfolk's lagoon. They will provide interesting commentary on this environmental tour. Tonight we have a fascinating evening of interactive theatre, intrigue and mystery at **Fletcher's Fate Mystery dinner**. Over a sumptuous 3 course dinner, the setting is a pub on the Isle of Man, 21 years after the Mutiny on the Bounty. We'll watch 6 characters enact a play around us, some of whom will join us at our table for dinner. As we listen to their story, we will decide what happened to Fletcher Christian – did he die on Pitcairn Island, did he return to England or did he go to America?

DAY 9 (BD): NORFOLK ISLAND TO SYDNEY: Monday 29th August 2016. Following a relaxed breakfast we'll check out of our rooms and store our luggage, ready for our departure early afternoon. We farewell our hosts then transfer to the airport ready to board our flight back to Sydney.

Upon arrival late afternoon we clear customs and immigration formalities then make our way to our transfer shuttle to our overnight accommodation to check in and freshen up for dinner. Ibis Sydney Airport (subject to availability)

DAY 10 (B): SYDNEY TO NARACOORTE: Tuesday 30th August 2016. After breakfast we transfer the short distance back to the airport in preparation for our flight home. We arrive into Adelaide and make our way back to Naracoorte completing our wonderful 10 day South Pacific Holiday!

COST.....\$4090 per person, twin share

- **Single supplement+\$390.00**

Deposit of \$500.00 payable, balance 60 days prior to trip.

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TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return economy class airfares Adelaide to Sydney with Virgin Australia
- Return shuttle transfers from the airport terminal to Ibis Sydney Airport hotel
- Return economy class airfares Sydney to Norfolk Island with Air New Zealand
- Meet and greet transfer to the South Pacific Resort with Pinetree Tours
- 9 night's accommodation
- 9 cooked breakfasts
- 9 dinners
- Progressive Dinner with Pinetree Tours, Norfolk Island
- Half Day General Tour with Pinetree Tours, Norfolk Island
- Convict Settlement Tour with Pinetree Tours, Norfolk Island
- Breakfast Bush Walk with Pinetree Tours, Norfolk Island
- Christian Bros Cheese Tour with Pinetree Tours, Norfolk Island
- Wonderland by Night Tour with Pinetree Tours, Norfolk Island
- Cyclorama including transfers with Pinetree Tours, Norfolk Island
- Island Fish Fry Dinner with Pinetree Tours, Norfolk Island
- Greenfinger Tour with Pinetree Tours, Norfolk Island Culla & Co Horse Carriage Ride with Pinetree Tours, Norfolk Island
- Night as a Convict Dinner with Pinetree Tours, Norfolk Island
- Island Culture Tour with Pinetree Tours, Norfolk Island
- Transfers to the Sunday Markets with Pinetree Tours, Norfolk Island
- Glass Bottom Boat Tour with , Norfolk Island
- Fletchers Fate Mystery Dinner with Pinetree Tours, Norfolk Island

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Fully seat belted for safety

Sydney, Snowy Mountains, Canberra & the 2016 Floriade Festival

8 Days, Wednesday 6th – Friday 14th October

Including:

***My Fair Lady in the Sydney Opera House
The Southern Highlands
Canberra Floriade
The Snowy Mountains***

Day 1: (D) NARACOORTE TO TRARALGON: Wednesday 04 October 2016

Welcome to our 10 day tour to **Sydney, Canberra** and the **Snowy Mountains**. After boarding our Naracoorte Charters touring coach we travel via country Victoria, stopping for lunch (*passengers own expense*). We bypass central **Melbourne** on the Ring Road, which then takes us through Melbourne's eastern suburbs on our way to **Traralgon** for our overnight accommodation. (*Lunch at passengers own expense, dinner in the hotel*)

Day 2: (BD) TRARALGON TO BATEMANS BAY: Thursday 05 October 2016

Following a hearty breakfast, we depart the hotel and travel to **Lakes Entrance** for our morning break and an opportunity to stretch our legs. Our journey today takes us through **Orbost** and **Cann River**, then cross the border into New South Wales and pass through the lovely seaside towns of **Eden** and **Narooma**. Late afternoon we arrive into **Batemans Bay** which is located on the mouth of where the **Clyde River** meets the **Pacific Ocean**. (*Breakfast & dinner at the motel, lunch at own expense*)

Day 03 (BD): BATEMANS BAY TO SYDNEY: Friday 07 October 2016

We enjoy more of the South Coast today as we head north to the **"Blow Hole"** at **Kiama**. The famous **"Blowhole"** can spurt water up to 60 metres high when there is a good swell running. From here, we head into Wollongong and arrive at the **Nan Tien Buddhist Temple** for lunch and a tour. This afternoon we take a drive along the scenic **Grand Pacific Drive**, the popular coastal drive that features the amazing 665m Sea Cliff Bridge. The bridge itself has become a major attraction because its location is at exactly the point where the Illawarra escarpment plunges into the South Pacific Ocean, delivering an amazing driving experience. We arrive in Sydney late afternoon, with plenty of time to unpack and relax before dinner. (*Breakfast & dinner at the hotel, lunch at Nan Tien Buddhist Temple*)

Day 04 (BD): SYDNEY HIGHLIGHTS: Saturday 08 October 2016

Today we visit one of Sydney's latest attractions **Madame Tussauds**. Millions and millions of people have flocked through the doors of the original Madame Tussauds since they first opened over 250 years ago and now it is Sydney's turn. Travel on a unique, emotionally-charged journey through the realms of the powerful and famous. The museum-style ropes and poles have gone so we can truly get up, close and personal with A-list celebrities, sporting legends, political heavyweights and historical icons, reliving the times, events and moments that made the world talk about them. From Darling Harbour we make our way to the **Sydney Opera House** for the Matinee performance of **My Fair Lady**. In the show's 60th anniversary year, Opera Australia and John Frost join forces to honour the past and bring the beloved story of Eliza Doolittle and Henry Higgins to a new generation of theatre audiences. In a world first, **Dame Julie Andrews** will direct a glorious production of My Fair Lady, teaming up with the Tony Award-winning Christopher Gattelli (*South Pacific 2012-13*) and associates of the musical's original designers, Cecil Beaton and Oliver Smith.

Late-afternoon we return to our hotel and have some free time to look through **Darling Harbour** before dinner in the hotel dining room. *(Breakfast & dinner at the hotel, lunch at own expense)*

Day 05 (BLD) SYDNEY TO CANBERRA: Sunday 09 October 2016

This morning we depart Sydney and make our way into the Southern Highlands and stop in **Bowral**. Nestled at the base of Mount Gibraltar, Bowral has always been a fashionable holiday destination for Sydneysiders, providing stunning private gardens and grand old estates that are a delight in spring. Lunch today is at **Grandmas Bakery** just south of Goulburn in Collector, then on our approach to the capital, we visit **Tulip Top Gardens**. Established in 1997, it is a world class exhibition of half a millions tulips covering a 10 acre garden with daffodils and other spring flowers. We have plenty of time to look around and enjoy the spectacle of colours, then we have a short drive into Canberra and check into our hotel. *(Breakfast & dinner at the hotel, lunch at Grandmas Bakery)*

Day 06 (BD) CANBERRA & THE FLORIADE: Monday 10 October 2016

Following breakfast we'll make our way up to the look out at **Mt Ainslie**. The views across Lake Burley Griffin are breathtaking. Canberra is a truly unique city and one of only a few planned cities in the world. We then drive to **Commonwealth Park**, the centre of 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 morning tea and lunch. This afternoon we have free for personal sightseeing or shopping. *(Breakfast & dinner in the hotel, lunch own expense)*

Day 07 (BD) CANBERRA & THE FLORIADE: Tuesday 11 October 2016

We commence our days sightseeing with a morning tea cruise on **Lake Burleigh Griffin** with **Southern Cross Cruises**. Sit back and relax and as we see all of our national capital sights from the water, in what will be a fantastic way to kick the day off. The remainder of our day will be at the **Australian War Memorial**. The Australian War Memorial commemorates 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. Returning to our accommodation we have time to relax before dinner. *(Breakfast & dinner in the hotel, lunch own expense)*

Day 08 (BD) CANBERRA TO JINDABYNE: Wednesday 12 October 2016

We head south to **Cooma** this morning following the **Tinderry Ranges** and the **Namadgi National Park**. Originally settled in 1823, Cooma became the construction headquarters for the **Snowy Mountain Hydro Electric Scheme** which commenced in 1949. At the time it was the biggest engineering project ever undertaken in the world. We visit the **Snowy Mountain Authority Visitor and Information Centre** as we arrive into Cooma. Here there are a number of displays and videos about this remarkable project. In the main street we will see the **Mosaic Time Walk** in **Centennial Park** depicting the life of **The Monaro** from its origins through to the present. A statue of Banjo's Paterson's immortal mountain man, "The Man From Snowy River" is also in the park. We have some free time to purchase lunch *(passengers own expense)* and take a look through the local shops in Cooma before making our way to **Hazeldean Homestead and Gardens**. Established in the early 1860's by the Litchfield family, Hazeldean Merino sheep and Angus Cattle studs are amongst the oldest and largest studs in Australia. The homestead was built in 1907 to replace the existing buildings and in the 1930's underwent major renovations. The stone stables built in the 1940's are still in use today and the gardens have recently been remodelled and are a stunning sight in spring. Following our visit we travel into Jindabyne and settle into our hotel for the evening. *(Breakfast & dinner in the hotel, lunch own expense)*

Day 9 (BLD) JINDABYNE TO WANGARATTA: Thursday 13 October 2016

Today we head into the **Kosciuszko National Park** and onto **Thredbo**, Australia's premier Ski Resort. Thredbo was sited and initially developed by Tony Sponar, one of the many larger than life characters of

the "Snowy". We take a drive around the Thredbo Village then continue along the Alpine Way to the **Murray 1 Power Station** located just east of **Khancoban**. There are 10 turbines at Murray 1, each capable of producing enough electricity to supply over 95,000 houses. We are taken on a guided tour and enjoy a light lunch in the café. This afternoon we travel through **Corryong** to **Tallangatta**, then past the vast **Hume Weir**. Built in 1926 to assist in irrigation downstream, the weir now provides a popular venue for a host of aquatic activities. Our days touring is completed as we arrive into Wangaratta for our final night stay of the tour. *(Breakfast & dinner in the hotel, lunch at Murray 1 Power Station)*

Day 10 (B) HEADING HOME: Friday 14 October 2016

Our final day together! We have an early start as we head home. There will be plenty of time to reflect on the last 10 days travelling along the South Coast of NSW to Sydney, and then through Canberra and the Snowy Mountains. Sit back and relax as we travel through country Victoria, stopping en-route for lunch *(passengers own expense)* and arriving back late afternoon in Naracoorte. *(Breakfast in the motel/lunch own arrangements)*

COST.....\$TBA per person, twin share
• Single supplement+\$TBA.00

Deposit of \$200.00 payable, balance 60 days prior to trip.

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO "EXPANDING HORIZONS"
NARACOORTE CHARTERS – 87620092 in conjunction with Expanding Horizons (T/A 247)

Cancellation insurance is not included but strongly recommended.

Cancellation Policy: More than 30 days, loss of deposit, 29-14 days, 50% of payment, less than 14 days, 100% of payment.

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NARACOORTE CHARTERS

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Fully seat belted for safety

Lightening Ridge, Opals & Outback NSW,

8 Days 28th November – 5th December 2016

Lightning Ridge, in outback NSW, is on the world's richest deposit of black opal. It's a place that abounds with colourful characters, barrels of dreams, opportunities and experiences! The 'Ridge', as it is known to the locals, will welcome you with classic country hospitality but it will certainly not be 'more of the same'. They are a unique bunch out there and pride themselves on a wonderful eccentricity. It is something about the pioneering spirit that has allowed this area to develop - and many visitors become so enamored with the place that a 3 day holiday can turn into a new life. Many are so captivated by the place, they stay. Famous for the elusive and distinctive Black Opal, which is unique to the area, it is a thriving frontier town full of the iconic Australian characters. On this tour we will experience sculptures underground, bottle-houses, castles, astronomy monuments, hills named 'Lunatic', 'Pig' and 'Bald' and a pub called 'The Pub in the Scrub!'. Join us on our 8 day tour and experience a town with a difference - Lightning Ridge!!

Day 1 (D): Naracoorte to Hay - 587ks (Monday 28 November)

It is one of the most unusual places in Australia – with one of the best attractions to be seen anywhere. The ***Chambers of the Black Hand*** is an incredible underground art gallery carved from a disused opal mine. ***Lightning Ridge*** is hard to describe – quirky, creative, friendly, different. We are going to spend three nights exploring the town and meeting some of the characters who live here. So get ready for an interesting 8 days as we travel from **Naracoorte** through to **Hay** for our first day on tour. (*Lunch own arrangements & cost/dinner in the motel*). **Cobb Inlander Motel, Hay 02 69931901**

Day 2 (BLD): Hay to Dubbo - 514ks (Tuesday 29 November)

We continue over the flat plains of Western New South Wales with a morning stop at Goolgowi. Goolgowi is often referred to as the “Crossroads to the Outback”. It's a relatively new town with settlement occurring in the 1920's when the mid-western highway and the railway encouraged development. Today the town provides a welcome, restful stop for travellers. We stop here for a morning tea at the Goolgowi Hall where we can view the district's tribute to the pioneers of the area. A large wall hanging was designed and completed by ladies of the district to provide a tribute to those who helped pioneer the land and turn it from miles of mallee scrub into areas of agriculturally abundant land. Production in the area centres on dry land farming in the immediate vicinity of Goolgowi, with irrigated cropping to the south west of the town. We then push through to Forbes for a late lunch. Our afternoon stop is at the **CSIRO Radio Telescope Complex** just north of **Parkes**. The visitor centre features many hands on displays and exhibits. Our visit also includes a 30 minute audio visual. From here we drive to **Dubbo** where we settle into our motel for our overnight stop. (*Breakfast & dinner in the motel/Light lunch in Forbes*). **Golden West Motel, 02 6882 2822**

Day 3 (BLD): Dubbo to Lightning Ridge - 353ks (Wed 30 November)

Dubbo has one of NSW's most unique tourist attractions - the world renowned **Western Plains Zoo** offering clear views of over 800 animals from around the world in settings closely resembling their natural habitats. We spend the morning here where a guide will join the coach to show us the main attractions. After an early lunch at Dubbo Zoo we head north for the 3 and a half hour drive to **Lightning Ridge**, which is a rich opal field famous as the only source of black opal in the world. With its stark and scarred landscape this town has a peculiar fascination for visitors. Opals can be purchased direct from the miners while the novice fossicker can occasionally stumble across a choice stone among the heaps of mullock known locally as 'shincracker'.

On arrival we check into our accommodation before a welcome dinner at the Bowling Club. (*Breakfast & dinner in the motel/Light lunch at the Western Plains Zoo*)

Wallangulla Motel, Lightning Ridge, 02 6829 0542

Day 4 (BLD): Lightning Ridge (Thursday 01 December, 2016)

Our first attraction today is simply stunning. The **Chambers of the Black Hand** was opened in April, 2007 and is quite unique! More than 11 meters underground local artist Ron Canlin has created the most awesome collection of paintings and sculptures. There is The Last Supper, Archangel Gabriel and the Chinese Terracotta Warriors. Ron is constantly carving new work such as a samurai warrior, so there are changes every day. There seems to be no end to his talent. The second level is a mine that has been worked for over 100 years, and all the old shafts and drives that were dug by the old timers are still there. On this level we get a geology tour on the different strata's opal formation, which is an experience not to be missed. It is amazing and there is nothing like it in Australia. Afterwards we head back into town and visit the **Opal Cave** followed by lunch at the Bowling Club. This afternoon we head across to the **Walk-In-Mine** and to experience another underground mine. We also have a **tour** including a video presentation and explanation about opal mining. We then visit the showroom to view the opals that came from the mines in this area and we have the opportunity to purchase an opal from the showroom. It will be a most interesting day! After our tour we return to the motel, with time to relax before dinner. (*Breakfast in the motel/Lunch & dinner at the Lightning Ridge Bowling Club*)

Day 5 (BLD): Grawin, Glengarry & Sheeppark Opal Fields (Fri 02 December)

No trip to Lightning Ridge would be complete without a trip to **The Grawin**. If you think "the Ridge" is unique, you have to see places like **The Pub in the Scrub**, **The Glengarry Hilton** and **Sheeppark Flats**. Located about 70 kilometres west of Lightning Ridge, **The Grawin** was established in 1908 with the discovery of opal at "Hammond Hill". Further discoveries in 1920 at "Richards Hill" put the unofficial village on the map. It was at Grawin that the largest opal 'Light of the World' was found in 1928. Since the first discovery of opal in the region, people have come and gone in tides with each new strike, seeking their fortune in search of "the rainbow in the rock". It is believed that a field at Grawin was discovered in 1905, but it wasn't until the 1970's became a major field in its own right. The Mulga Rush, which began in 2000, is the biggest opal rush since the Coocoran was discovered in the early 1900's. The Sheeppark area was named after a find of opal near the fence of the old Sheepparks. A local guide joins us on a day's touring to the **Grawin, Glengarry and Sheeppark opal fields** and we enjoy lunch at the **Glengarry Hilton**. After a great day we head back to Lightning Ridge with some time to freshen up and relax before dinner. Our tour today includes lunch and the chance to fossick for opal. (*Breakfast in the motel/Light lunch included/Dinner at the Lightning Ridge Bowling Club*)

Day 6 (BLD): Lightning Ridge to West Wyalong -613ks (Sat 03 Nov)

Mid-morning we farewell **Lightning Ridge** and travel back through Walgett and then through to **Gilgandra** where we rejoin the Newell Highway. The town is the home of the Coo-ees and the Town of Windmills. In Bridge Street a plaque commemorates that starting point of the famous "Coo-ee" recruiting march of World War I. The beautiful St Ambrose Anglican Church is also in part a tribute to the march as well. Gilgandra was the site of one of the most famous farming inventions, the Howard Rotovator. The first machine was produced in Gilgandra in 1922 and an actual model is displayed in the town shopping centre. We have arranged lunch at the Bowling Club followed by a visit to the **Coo-ee Heritage Centre and Visitor Centre**. The museum is a living demonstration of non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal cultures living and working together in today's world. Exhibitions include Coo-ee March, local pioneer history, Aboriginal displays and traveling and local exhibitions. This afternoon we travel south on the Newell to **West Wyalong** for our overnight stay. (*Breakfast & dinner in the motel/Club Lunch*). **Club Inn Resort, West Wyalong 02 69722000**

Day 7 (BLD): West Wyalong to Echuca - 416ks (Sunday 04 Nov)

Our touring today takes us south to **Narrandera** - gateway to the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (M.I.A.). The town is known for its tree lined streets, parks and gardens. It's located on the **Murrumbidgee River**.

During our brief stop we will take a look at the Hankinson Fountain in the Narrandera Memorial Gardens, which is a ceramic fountain made by Royal Doulton and was presented to the town in honour of all those who served in the Great War. There are only two of these fountains known to be in existence, the other one being in India. Lunch today is at Conargo at its quite famous pub! It's particularly popular when nearby Deniliquin hosts the annual Ute Muster! Ute enthusiasts enjoy the remote location of the Conargo Pub and often decorate their vehicles with "Conargo Pub" bumper stickers.

On arrival at Deniliquin this afternoon we make a stop at the **Peppin Heritage Centre** which incorporates the Crossing Café and the Visitor Information Centre. The building was Deniliquin's first public school. It has been transformed into a regional museum with permanent exhibitions. Finally we push through to **Echuca** for our final night on tour. *(Breakfast & dinner in the motel/Pub lunch at Conargo)*

Mercure Port of Echuca 0354825666

Day 8 (B): Echuca/Naracoorte - 450ks (Monday 05 November, 2016)

It's been a fascinating trip to the far north of New South Wales. Today we make our way back to **Naracoorte** arriving late afternoon *(Breakfast in the motel/Lunch own arrangements & cost)*

COST.....\$2290.00 per person, twin share

- **Single supplement+\$420.00**

Deposit of \$400.00 payable, balance 60 days prior to trip.

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Tour Inclusions

7 nights' accommodation as per the itinerary
7 cooked breakfasts, 7 dinners & 6 lunches
Goolgowi Hall – Morning tea (Day 2)
Forbes Services Memorial Club – lunch (Day 2)
CSIRO Australia Telescope National Facility – audio visual (Day 2)
Taronga Western Plains Zoo – entry (Day 3)
Taronga Western Plains Zoo – guide on the coach – 2 hours (Day 2)
Taronga Western Plains Zoo – light lunch (Day 2)
Chambers of the Black Hand – entry/tour (Day 3)
Opal Cave – visit (Day 3)
Lightning Ridge Bowling Club – lunch (Day 3)
Walk In Mine – entry/tour (Day 3)
Guide - John Bevan – full day (Day 4)
Glengarry Hilton – Light lunch (Day 4)
Gilgandra Bowling Club Bistro – lunch (Day 5)
Coo-ee Heritage & Visitors Centre – visit (Day 5)
Conargo Pub – lunch (Day 6)
Deniliquin V.C. - Peppin Heritage Centre – entry (Day 6)