

SAFARI TO RIVER'S END

Experience one river, two contrasting landscapes, many stories

A gentle river journey through the
Australian outback to the Murray Mouth



Sunrise on Headings Cliffs



A stroll on the sand dunes at the Murray Mouth (Photo — Leon Mead)

ONE RIVER, TWO CONTRASTING LANDSCAPES



Canoe the Murray River



Canoe to the Murray Mouth



The Murray River



The Coorong and Southern Ocean : Photo Adam Bruzzone

IN LUXURIOUS COMFORT



HIGH RIVER — your home for 2 nights, our new luxury houseboat featuring 5 bedrooms with ensuites, superb views of the river, top deck spa and solar power for quiet and efficient energy.



RIVER'S END RETREAT – near the Murray Mouth, a beautiful historic waterfront home overlooking the Murray River at Goolwa, an easy transition from your houseboat into more luxury, 5 spacious bedrooms with ensuites, superb river views, history at your fingertips.

RICH IN WILDLIFE - 2 RAMSAR WETLANDS



Wildlife encounters in two wetlands of international importance - Riverland Ramsar Site (above) and Coorong and Lakes Ramsar site (below).



Photos - Leon Mead

SUPERB LOCAL CUISINES



Local food and wines that celebrate the healthy river ecosystems of two regions -with a native twist.



YOUR GUIDED JOURNEY IN BRIEF

DAY 1	At 7am Meet your driver at the Hilton Hotel in Adelaide's CBD and board the bus for the journey from Adelaide to the Riverland, meeting your guides in Paringa for a cruise upstream familiarising with the river system and its wildlife. We arrive at your luxury houseboat for lunch and short rest, before meeting a local Aboriginal elder on a walk through river country sharing stories of early river life. A relaxed dinner and conversations continue. TIP: stay the night prior at the Hilton Hotel and enjoy breakfast before meeting your driver.
DAY 2	After an early breakfast, today we drive around the vast outback lakes, home to migratory waders and teeming with birdlife, kangaroos and emus. We return to the houseboat for lunch and rest before a guided canoe through creeks and billabongs lined by shady red gum forests and woodlands.
DAY 3	We share a farewell cruise before you depart on a guided drive tour along the Murray Valley to the Murray Mouth, via a river ferry and a guided tour of Ngaut Ngaut Aboriginal Archaeological Cultural site, arriving at the luxurious River's End Retreat overlooking the river's end where local pipis are served as a taste of more superb cuisine to come.
DAY 4	Awake to spectacular views of Hindmarsh Island Bridge, good coffee and breakfast in readiness for a guided canoe adventure to the famous Coorong and Murray Mouth, learning about cultural stories, edible plants, diverse wildlife of a world where freshwater meets the sea. We return mid-afternoon after a lunch of local fish cooked in the dunes, with time for a restful retreat before a showcase of local food and wines.
DAY 5	This morning we visit Beacon 19 and traverse the sand dunes to the Southern Ocean for a quick stroll along the beach where you can catch and release a pipi before arriving at the Goolwa barrage, to understand how water is managed along its journey from the mountains. Enjoy morning tea surrounded by the historical displays of the Basin's rivers - returning once more to your retreat for a light lunch and departure to Adelaide, just over an hour away. Our driver will deliver you to the Hilton Hotel in Adelaide's CBD or Adelaide Airport between 3-3:30pm.



DAY 1 - WELCOME TO THE MURRAY RIVER

Meet our driver at 7am at the Hilton Hotel in Adelaide's CBD. Board the bus ready to depart Adelaide by 7.30am. Please ensure that you have breakfast before meeting our driver. There will be a comfort stop on the journey to the Riverland.

Along the way, you will drive across the Blanchetown Bridge where you'll catch your first views of the mighty Murray River almost 2,400 km from its source in the Great Dividing Range.

After 3.5 hours driving, you are in the heart of the Riverland where you will meet your Murray River Safari guides in Paringa via the historic town of Renmark. After a welcome morning tea and briefing, we board the pontoon cruiser to start our safari, familiarising with river landscapes and wildlife including darters and cormorants, pelicans and spoonbills, and occasional koalas.

Arriving at your luxury houseboat, you share a fresh lunch. After familiarising with your new home, and a short rest, walk-through red gum forests and woodlands on an ancient bend in the river, sharing stories of a culture that is 40,000 years or more.

Evening format (days 1 and 2) - options may include a cool foot dip in the river, a hot spa, local beverage and tasting plate, before sitting down to dinner paired with local wines.



DAY TWO - OUTBACK LAKES TOUR

After breakfast we embark on a driving tour to the great ephemeral lake system on the outer floodplain where spectacular birdwatching can include thousands of ducks, black swans and their cygnets, Pied Stilts, Red-necked Avocets, Yellow-billed Spoonbills, migratory waders and rarer Blue-billed ducks. We may see Blue-bonnets and magnificent Red kangaroos and perhaps a spectacular white-winged fairywren as we drive across country between the lakes on rejuvenating station country.

Swamp harriers and Whistling Kites will be busy in this area and an occasional Wedge-tailed Eagle, or a White-bellied Sea Eagle may visit.

We return to the houseboat for lunch and a rest before our next adventure, canoeing through the billabongs and forest edges where you can encounter pelicans, darters, cormorants, spoonbills, and the spectacular Sacred kingfisher.

After a guided 2 hour canoe we return back to the houseboat for evening relaxation and dinner.

Evening relaxation may include browsing the range of texts in our onboard library while enjoying a local tasting plate and local beverages.



DAY THREE - RELAXING CRUISE, THEN DRIVE TO THE MURRAY MOUTH

After a leisurely breakfast on the houseboat and a morning cruise passed red-ochre cliffs, your guides prepare a packed lunch ready for your farewell to this part of the Murray River.

Ready for departure, we meet your tour guide for the afternoon drive which includes a river crossing on a ferry and meeting the Aboriginal custodians of Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park who share stories of their culture through ancient carvings in spectacular limestone cliffs.

You'll be welcomed at your new river home, historic River's End Retreat in the "Little Scotland" precinct of Goolwa, your base for the next 2 nights.

Familiarise with your stately bedrooms and a wealth of river history in the reading rooms. Meet on the deck for a pre-dinner beverage overlooking spectacular views of Hindmarsh Island Bridge and the lower reaches of the Murray, before sitting down for dinner. Retreat to your comfortable beds after a day of many adventures.



DAY FOUR - CANOE THE COORONG

After breakfast you'll be driven onto Hindmarsh Island to start your guided Canoe the Coorong adventure, paddling across the Coorong to the Murray Mouth and learning about the early sealers, the Mulloway fishing industry, the historic decline in flow and the building of the barrages.

A short walk through the dunes to the roaring Southern Ocean provides a spectacular backdrop to the stories of Aboriginal culture and sustainable pipi harvesting by the Ngarrindjeri people. Your guides will share stories of native food plants and seasonal changes in the river's end, and prepare a special cooked local fish lunch in the dunes.

After lunch you'll canoe back to your minibus and return to River's End Retreat for hot showers and a siesta, before sitting down to a local banquet of Pipsis on the fire.



DAY FIVE - BEACHES AND BARRAGES WALK

After breakfast, take a gentle guided walk through the dunescape and along Goolwa beach where you'll start to feel at home in this diverse coastal retreat that combines fresh and salt water, river and ocean, and a rich cultural and early European history. While you are on the beach - twist your feet in the ocean and catch a pipi.

Walk across the Goolwa barrage before morning tea, immersed in a history display that summarises the development of the Murray River system and reinforces your brief 5 day journey along the Murray.

Return to River's End Retreat for pack up, a light lunch and departure at 1.30pm returning to the Hilton Hotel in the Adelaide CBD or Adelaide Airport between 3.00pm and 3.30pm.



YOUR HOUSEBOAT ON THE MURRAY RIVER

Our newly launched, custom-designed luxury houseboat, High River provides environmentally sustainable accommodation for Murray River Trail's award-winning ecotourism experiences.

Dine and relax on this stunning houseboat which has 5 ensuite rooms and an open plan living area featuring 11m of glass windows, perfect for watching the change in scenery.

Enjoy a hot spa on the spacious top deck as the sun sets or after dinner venture upstairs to watch the stars.

Our houseboat has 52 solar panels providing quiet efficient energy.

All linen is provided. Unpack once and leave your belongings in your room.

Rooms can be configured with a queen bed or two single beds. Please let us know your preference on booking.



YOUR RIVER'S END RETREAT - GOOLWA

River's End Retreat is a luxury group retreat nestled in the crook of the final bend of the Murray before it joins the Coorong and rolls out to sea.

Enjoy uninterrupted views of the river and the Hindmarsh Island bridge ... and don't lift a finger at this fully hosted experience.

The retreat boasts 5 spacious guest bedrooms (each with ensuite), a guest lounge, library, outdoor relaxation areas, historic stables, bocce piste and salt water heated pool are all for the group's exclusive use.

Your day 3 tour will deliver you to the front door.



INCLUSIONS AND PACKING LIST

WE PROVIDE

- Return transfers from Adelaide, collection point is the Hilton Hotel on Victoria Square
- Exclusive access to spectacular natural landscapes
- Experienced guides to lead your tour
- 2 nights luxury houseboat accommodation
- 2 nights accommodation at River's End Retreat
- All meals showcasing local produce
- All beverages including premium Riverland and Fleurieu wines and beer
- All sleeping linen and 1 bath towel
- Optional 34L daypack and walking poles
- Hand sanitiser
- Access to a library of wildlife field guides
- Personal Flotation Device for canoeing sections

YOU PROVIDE

- A reuseable water bottle
- Personal toiletries
- Light walking boots/shoes
- Water shoes/sandals, like a neoprene bootie or rubber thongs
- Clothes for walking and canoeing
- Comfortable evening clothing
- Pair of comfortable shoes for evening wear
- A waterproof rain jacket
- Camera and binoculars
- Head torch or small hand-held torch
- Beanie, scarf and gloves for cool mornings
- Swimwear and towel for spa use

ENSURING YOUR HEALTH & SAFETY

We take pride in maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness, and we are a COVID safe practicing business.

You can view our Covid-19 information on our [website here](#).



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ACTIVITY RATING

During your Safari to River's End experience you will participate in short guided bush and beach walks, 2 hour guided canoeing (in a double kayak) and a half day bus tour that includes some short walks.

These activities are rated as easy, but good mobility and fitness is recommended.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AND HEALTH CONCERNS

Please advise us of any dietary requirements and any health or mobility issues before your departure.

MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE

Mobile phone reception is variable along the route.

LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

Medium sized suitcases and duffel bags are recommended for easy storing in our cabins. Luggage weighing 15kg or less is appreciated.

THE RIVERLAND IS A FRUIT FLY FREE ZONE

The Riverland is a fruit-fly free zone. Bringing fruit and vegetables into the region from Adelaide is not permitted.



BOOKING INFORMATION

RATES

AUD \$3,800 per person twin-share. For non shared rooms, a single supplement of 50% applies.

SECURING YOUR PLACE

To secure your booking, a deposit of 20% is required, due within 7 days of making your booking. The balance is due 90 days prior to your departure. For bookings made within 90 days of departure, full payment must be made within 7 days of booking.

RESERVATIONS

Tel: 0417 533 063

Email: info@murrayrivertrails.com.au

GROUP SIZE

Your Safari to River's End experience is fully guided and operates with a minimum 6 and maximum 10 guests.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

At the time of booking a tour, consider an appropriate level of travel insurance that includes COVID-19 cover. Please read the PDS and check the policy is right for you before making a purchase. Murray River Trails will not be held liable for any additional costs involved or for a partial refund of the tour costs if the tour is aborted or stopped by circumstances outside of our control.

CANCELLATION POLICY

For cancellations outside of 120 days the deposit will be refunded in full.

For cancellations within 120-90 days of arrival, forfeit the deposit.

For cancellations within 89-21 days of arrival fee is 55% of the total price.

For cancellations less than 21 days of arrival, all monies will be forfeited.



Photos - Leon Mead