

## VICTORIA & NEW SOUTH WALES – MURRAY RIVER BOAT CRUISING

5-day / 4-night river boat cruising on the Murray River border country from and back to Echuca



The Murray River is known for its essential role as the lifeblood of the south east region of Australia. It is Australia's longest river and has a rich cultural, agricultural, geographical and environmental significance. The best way to explore this diverse habitat is from the water, and this river boat cruise is your opportunity to sample a picturesque, historic part of river in the same way as you can on the small river cruise boats and barges in France. Add the rhythm and swish of paddlewheels and the romance of steam-driven travel from a bygone era and you are set for a captivating cruising holiday.

Taking in over 190kms of the river from Echuca in northeast Victoria, the cruise aboard PS Emmylou is powered by a 1906 steam engine fuelled with red gum logs. There is opportunity to chat with the skipper or engineer in the wheelhouse about the technicalities of river cruising. We visit Torrumbarry Weir to learn about the river basin and lock system and enjoy a guided walk of Perricoota Station Estate, first built in 1843 for an insight into the history of the area. Sit and gaze at the changing reflections in the water with unique natural beauty and wildlife.

Our river boat has eight air-conditioned cabins. 6 either twin, double or queen bed cabins on the upper deck, one queen cabin on the main deck for easy access and the signature Emmylou Queen Suite on the upper deck.

Onshore touring includes a wetlands walk to discover local Aboriginal cultural heritage and a small boat eco-cruise through the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Barmah Forest, home to the world's longest stand of Red River Gums. We have visits to quaint riverside wineries, including a local lunch with the owners of Restdown Winery, an organic wine producer. Fresh seasonal local produce is prepared and served by our on-board chef. Our days end with a grand dining experience and a blazing campfire under a beautiful night sky.

<b>Cost per person, twin-share from:</b>	Twin or Double Cabin	<b>\$2240</b>	Single supplement on request
	Queen Cabin	<b>\$2320</b>	
	Emmylou Queen Suite	<b>\$2760</b>	

**Departs:** 3<sup>rd</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> February; 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> March; 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> May; 6<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> June; 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> July; 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> August; 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> September; 3<sup>rd</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> October; 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> November; 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2022; 30<sup>th</sup> January, 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Includes:** 4 nights in comfortable air-conditioned cabins with ensuite; regionally inspired chef prepared meals on-board; wine and beer with dinner; coffee, tea, soft drink and bottled water; transfer to/from local hotels and Echuca train station on arrival and departure days, 2 onshore guided tours, Wifi.

**Not included:** Meals not mentioned, other drinks, transport to/from Echuca before and after the tour (transfer from Bendigo or Melbourne may be available at extra cost – ask for details) and any personal expenses.

3 or 6 night cruises are also available on different routes. Please ask us for more details and prices.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**



### **Suggested itinerary:\***

#### **Day 1 - Port of Echuca**

Make your own way to the Port of Echuca to board in time for a 2.30pm departure. Begin the tour with an afternoon tea of freshly made scones, while the river boat and your home for the next 5 days steams its way downriver. Take in the sights and sounds of the river or chat with the engineer or the skipper in the wheelhouse about the rich history of the river and PS Emmylou.

Later enjoy sunset drinks in the Saloon before our 'welcome dinner'. The evening brings a chorus of river bird song and a chance to see kangaroos, wombats, egrets and many other waterbird species as dusk settles. Our mooring tonight is at the famous **Perricoota Station**. Rich in history, this rural property was first settled by James Maiden in 1843. It is famous for starring in the TV mini-series "**All the River Run**" in which PS Emmylou was renamed PS Providence.

#### **Day 2 - Torrumbarry Weir**

Breakfast on the river and take in the tranquillity of the Murray. We then disembark and head to Restdown Winery, producers of fine organic wines and Hereford beef. Join the property's owners for a 1.4km guided walk on a wetlands walking trail highlighting great Aboriginal significance. Return to the winery for a gourmet lunch and complimentary wine tastings. Board the river boat for a cruise downstream to Torrumbarry Weir, where you can take a walk across the weir and visit the Interpretive Centre learning about the **Murray Darling Basin**, the weir and the lock system which dates back to 1923.

#### **Day 3 - Barmah Wetlands and Perricoota Station**

Early risers and keen photographers have the chance to take a walk and capture the special morning light and wildlife around Torrumbarry before the river boat steams back towards Perricoota Station. From there join a half-day excursion to visit the town of Barmah. Enjoy a traditional picnic lunch riverside before departing on a guided eco-cruise, gliding through the World-Heritage listed Barmah Wetlands aboard the small boat, MV Kingfisher. The **Barmah Wetlands** have been named "*Wetlands of International Importance*" and the reason is certainly evident as the boat glides quietly across the water in the dappled shade of the world's largest single stand of towering River Red Gum trees.

On returning to the river boat join the skipper for a walk through the gardens, around the buildings of Perricoota Station and to view the impressive homestead. Once back aboard there is time to relax as the river boat cruises upriver towards the overnight mooring at Deep Creek. Enjoy a cruising dinner as Emmylou steams into the night with her powerful lamps lighting up the banks of the river as the local wildlife begin their evening chorus.

After dinner, enjoy "Riverboats Remembered", a historical media presentation featuring archival footage of the paddle steamers and communities of the Murray River from the early 1900s through to the mid-1970s.

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### Day 4 - Layfield Lane

Today we spend a full day on the river cruising from Deep Creek to Layfield Lane. Take breakfast on the deck then relax with a good book or just take in the river views and wildlife as Emmylou steams her way upriver.

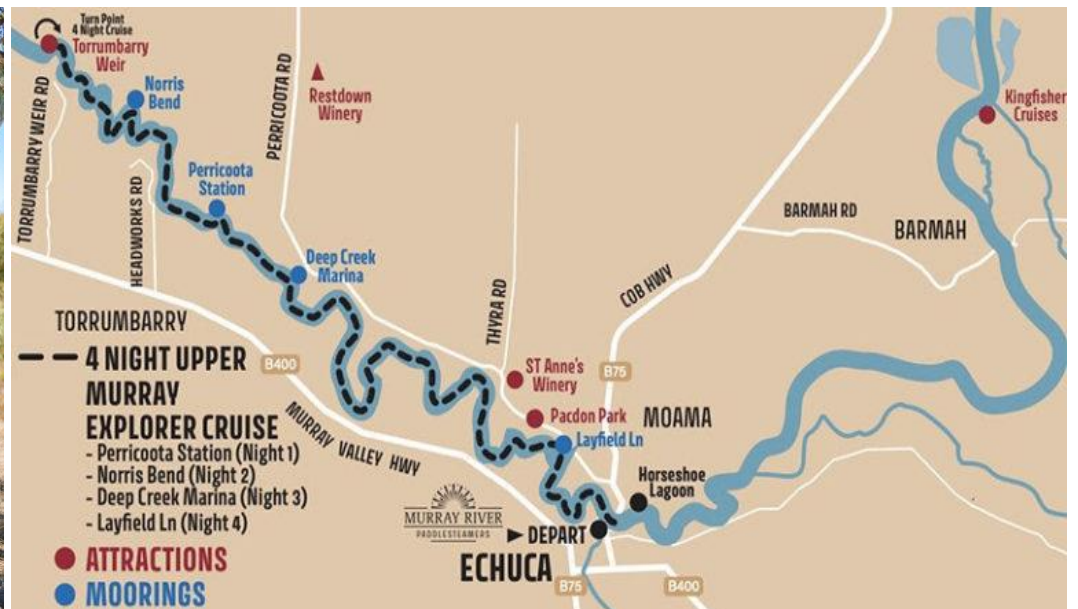
Today there is the opportunity to learn how the vessel's steam engine works with an information session from the engineer. Side wheel paddle steamers are distinctly Australian and have plied the Murray River since 1853, surviving until rail and roads took over around the turn of the century. PS Emmylou, powered by a completely restored 1906 Marshall and Sons steam engine, is now the only wood fired paddle steamer in the world offering regular scheduled accommodated river cruises and is regarded as an Australian Icon of the River. Built locally during 1980-82 in the style of the 19<sup>th</sup> century paddle steamers, she is 30-metres long and 10 metres wide, steel hulled and timber decked.

Once at the mooring at Layfield Lane, enjoy a sampling of delicious canapés and an aperitif over happy hour. Dinner follows with a classic Australian BBQ served riverside, under the stars. After dinner join in spinning yarns sitting around the campfire before retiring for the evening.

### Day 5 - Port of Echuca

This morning before breakfast enjoy an early riverside stroll. The PS Emmylou then departs for the return cruise. The tour ends with disembarkation in the Port of Echuca at 9:30am.

\* Please note itinerary is subject to change due to river conditions



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**Outdoor Travel** can also offer small ship cruising in both Australia and New Zealand. The **Wild Kimberley Coast** and the **Great Barrier Reef** in Australia and the **Bay of Islands** and **Fiordland** in New Zealand offer unique cruising opportunities. In Europe and the UK, we have a wide range of hotel barge cruising and self-skipped boat hire are offered for many destinations including France, Italy, Holland and Germany.

**Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and to make your reservation:**

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