

# Southern Itinerary, 2022

Day & Accommodation	Activity
<p><b>DAY 1: Sun, June 12</b>  <b>Adelaide</b>  <b>InterContinental Hotel</b>            North Terrace, Adelaide</p>	<p>Own arrangements for travel to Adelaide. The group will meet up at the Intercontinental Adelaide Hotel for an informal welcome reception at 7.30 pm in the Terrace Area (opposite the Atrium Lounge) and for an outline of the fantastic days ahead.</p> <p><b>Meals: Dinner</b></p>
<p><b>DAY 2: Mon, June 13</b>  <b>Strathalbyn</b>  <b>Victoria Hotel</b>            16 Albyn Terrace, Strathalbyn</p>	<p>We board our charter bus this morning – and being a public holiday in South Australia today – we'll take advantage of the quiet traffic conditions and take in a few of the city sights before heading southeast and into the magnificent Adelaide Hills. We call into Hahndorf where they say everything is handmade, handcrafted and handpicked. Hahndorf is a contemporary village proud of its German heritage. You'll have time to stroll the tree-lined main street and discover butcher, baker and candlestick makers, coffee shops... and a whole lot more.</p> <p>Back on the bus and we continue south and into the Woodchester district to meet up with local farmer, Brett Phillips. Brett will introduce us to diverse farming operation which includes cropping and vineyards before joining us for lunch at nearby Langhorne Creek.</p> <p>Langhorne Creek has a wine history dating back to 1850 and is home to the oldest recorded Cabernet Sauvignon vines in the world. The town is on the Bremer River which flows into Lake Alexandrina. In winter, the river frequently floods across the vineyards, contributing to the terroir of the region. Irrigation and flood waters have "shaped" the area and local farmers are coming up with innovative ways to manage rising water tables and the variability of supply.</p> <p>We travel on to the beautiful town of Strathalbyn, on the banks of the Angas River, for dinner and overnight. Strathalbyn is famous for its antique shops and there will be time for some browsing in the main street before dinner at our hotel.</p> <p><b>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner</b></p>
<p><b>DAY 3: Tue, June 14</b>  <b>Strathalbyn</b>  <b>Victoria Hotel</b>            16 Albyn Terrace, Strathalbyn</p>	<p>This morning we head south through rolling farmlands and onto the port town of Goolwa. We stretch our legs for a few minutes in Goolwa before boarding the bus and crossing the infamous bridge to Hindmarsh Island. It's then about a 10 minute drive to the best viewing point for the Murray River mouth and the sand dredges at work keeping the river mouth open.</p> <p>We then cross back over the bridge to inspect one of the Murray mouth barrages and learn about the history and current-day operation of the barrage system. The Goolwa Channel Barrage is 632 metres long and is the most important section of the network.</p> <p>It's then onto Port Elliott for our lunch by the sea. Some magnificent seafood, including pipis, are on the menu. This part of the coast is the heart of South Australia's fledgling pipi (aka cockles or clams) export industry. The word "fledgling" probably brings a wry smile to the face of the local Ngarrindjeri people – they've been harvesting pipi for more than 40,000 years! While in the region we will learn how the pipi is hand harvested by the Ngarrindjeri from the pristine waters off the Coorong National Park, processed and marketed here and overseas.</p> <p>After lunch we drive further along the coast to Victor Harbour – SA's premier seaside holiday destination – before heading north towards Mount Compass and onto Strathalbyn. This very scenic route takes us through small settlements providing not only tourist attractions for the Adelaide market but also a vast array of produce from freshwater marron through to olives, fruit and whisky.</p> <p>Free (late) afternoon and evening in Strathalbyn.</p> <p><b>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch</b></p>
<p><b>DAY 4: Wed, June 15</b>  <b>Robe</b>  <b>Melaleuca Motel</b>            20 Smillie St, Robe</p>	<p>This morning we head eastwards to the small town of Wellington. Here we ferry across the Murray River just upstream from where Australia's longest river comes to the end of its 2500 km meandering journey and empties into Lake Alexandrina. We continue south past Lake Albert and onto the inland edge of the Coorong. Colin Thiele, the author of <i>Storm Boy</i>, beautifully describes the Coorong as "a wilderness of inestimable value to South Australia and the whole of humanity."</p> <p>We travel through the settlements of Meningie and Coorong and at around mid-day, stop briefly for lunch at Kingston (own arrangements). We then continue to the south-east and onto the Lucindale area where we visit with local farmers.</p> <p>We are in the Limestone Coast region of SA's South East – one of the nation's highest value primary production areas. Agriculture, forestry and Coonawarra vineyards thrive on the fertile soils, reliable rainfall and abundant groundwater.</p> <p>We then continue onto the historic coastal town of Robe, founded in 1846 and one of the oldest towns in SA. On arrival into Robe we are joined on the bus by a local historian/identity who will take us for a brief tour of the town's historic landmarks and buildings as well as introduce us to one or two of the local artisans. After checking into our motel it's dinner this evening at the Caledonian Inn, rated SA's best country pub.</p> <p><b>Meals: Breakfast, Dinner</b></p>

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<p><b>DAY 5: Thu, June 16</b>  <b>Penola</b>  <b>Alexander Cameron Suites</b>  23-25 Church St, Penola</p>	<p>Robe became the state's second-busiest (after Port Adelaide) international port in the 1850s. Robe's trade was drawn from a large hinterland that extended into western Victoria. Many roadside inns were built to cater for the bullock teamsters bringing down the wool. Exports included wool, sheep skins and horses.</p> <p>During the Victorian gold rushes of the 1850s, over 16,000 Chinese people landed at Robe to walk overland 200 miles to the goldfields and avoid the £10 per person landing tax imposed by Victoria to "discourage" Chinese immigrants. The £10 tax was more than the cost of their voyage.</p> <p>Robe's importance as a trading hub decreased with the advent of railways which did not come to the town. The town has become a local service centre for the surrounding rural areas, home to a fleet of fishing boats (especially lobster) and is a popular holiday destination.</p> <p>After free time this morning to do your own exploring of this historic gem – or a brisk walk along one of the coastal tracks – we board the bus at 10 am and not far out of Robe we call into Murray McCourt's Woakwine Cutting – a graphic depiction of hard work, tenacity and vision. We'll see how more than 60 years ago two men and a D7 increased the productive land area of Woakwine Station by draining a swamp and creating about 1000 extra acres of productive farming land (ex-Pres Trump would have loved these guys!).</p> <p>While at the Cutting we will also meet up with Peter McCourt, Murray's grandson, who will give us some more background on Murray's astounding achievement as well as an outline of current activities on Woakwine.</p> <p>We continue south towards Millicent where a special lunch has been arranged in the middle of a few thousand Wagyu cattle at Mayura Station. We will tour the Station's feedlot then it's a lunch to remember.</p> <p>Afterwards we travel into Millicent township to visit the local living history museum which is not only a magnificent collection of historic memorabilia but it also provides a great oversight of the extensive ground-water drainage systems which have "made" the region. This will help put into perspective the unique physical attributes of Limestone Coast agriculture.</p> <p>We then continue north-east (for about an hour) towards Penola in the heart of the Coonawarra wine region. The founder of Penola – and our accommodation tonight's namesake – was Alexander Cameron. Born in Inverness-shire, Scotland, Cameron emigrated to Australia in 1839 and established himself as an adventurous overlander and pastoralist by droving sheep to Port Phillip. After marrying Margaret MacKillop in 1843, Cameron continued to overland his sheep westwards to new pastures in South Australia where, in 1844, he was the first to apply for the 48-square-mile Occupation licences surrounding the future site of Penola.</p> <p><b>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch</b></p>
<p><b>DAY 6: Fri, June 17</b>  <b>Penola</b>  <b>Alexander Cameron Suites</b></p>	<p>We travel to the north of Penola this morning and call into the very stately Struan House, home of the local PIRSA office (SE Dept of Ag). Here we are given an overview of the regional landscape and climate as well as the diverse range of agricultural enterprises supported by these unique physical attributes.</p> <p>We then call into nearby Tarloop, a mixed cropping and livestock operation run by the Limbert family. Grain production and fat lambs are the mainstay enterprises while much of their cross-bred strong wool finds a home 20 minutes away in Naracoorte at a local manufacturing business called MiniJumbuk.</p> <p>MiniJumbuk opened its doors in 1975. The inspiration for the business came when local sheep shearer, Don Wray, began carefully selecting and experimenting with the best wool varieties from local farms to create MiniJumbuk's first quilt. Don succeeded in creating a design that was light, warm, comfortable and hard wearing – an industry was born. MiniJumbuk has grown to become a global leader in the design and manufacture of premium wool bedding products, and is still proudly Australian owned.</p> <p>After lunch at Naracoorte and a visit to the MiniJumbuk operation we continue northeast towards Frances and Circle H Farms where Wayne Hawkins runs an impressive and award winning cropping and grazing operation straddling the SA/Victoria border.</p> <p>We return to Penola and dinner tonight is at Chardonnay Lodge on the outskirts of Penola.</p> <p><b>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner</b></p>
<p><b>DAY 7: Sat, June 18</b>  <b>Penola</b>  <b>Alexander Cameron Suites</b></p>	<p>Another early settler to the Limestone Coast area was John Riddoch who purchased Yallum Park in 1861. Riddoch grew up in poverty in the highlands of Scotland and in 1851 emigrated to try his luck on the Victoria goldfields. Within a few years he was a successful shopkeeper and wine merchant on the goldfields. He acquired 35,000 acres in the Penola area on which he ran 50,000 head of sheep. It was Riddoch who planted the first grape vines and helped to diversify the pastoral economy of the area with an agricultural industry. In 1890, he established the Penola Fruit Growing Colony which was renamed Coonawarra in 1897.</p> <p>Later this morning we will visit the famed Rymill winery. Rymill was established in 1974 by Peter Rymill, the great-grandson of John Riddoch. After our Rymill visit it's then onto a sumptuous lunch (and wine tasting of course) Upstairs at Hollick Estates. Then it's a free afternoon and evening – and there's plenty to do.</p> <p>A must is the outstanding Mary MacKillop Interpretive Centre. Alexander Cameron's 18-year-old niece, Mary MacKillop, joined the family as governess in 1860, and met the charismatic local scientist and priest, Julian Tenison Woods, with whom she founded a school and later a congregation of religious sisters – the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart (the Josephites or Brown Joeys). Mary MacKillop was Australia's first saint.</p> <p>You can also wander down Petticoat Lane and enter historic timber and stone cottages such as Sharam's Cottage, home of one of the district's first cobblers. These attractions are open every day from 10 until 4.</p> <p><b>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch</b></p>

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<p><b>DAY 8: Sun, June 19</b>  <b>Currie, King Island</b>  <b>King Island Hotel</b>            7 Main St, Currie</p>	<p>We check out of our motel this morning and head south, through a mixture of farming and forestry country, to Mount Gambier where we visit the beautiful Blue Lake. The lake occupies one of the craters of the extinct volcano after which the city has been named. Early each November, the lake's sombre blue – in evidence during the winter months – mysteriously changes to an intense deep turquoise blue through until late February, when the colour gradually changes. From late March, it returns to a distinct sombre blue.</p> <p>There's time to grab a quick bite for lunch before boarding our noon charter flight direct to King Island – a flight of less than an hour. We are met at the airport and transferred to our nearby Currie hotel for check-in. Dinner tonight at the hotel will showcase just some of the island's sublime produce.</p> <p><b>Meals: Breakfast, Dinner</b></p>
<p><b>DAY 9: Mon, June 20</b>  <b>Currie, King Island</b>  <b>King Island Hotel</b></p>	<p>Surrounded by a rugged coastline with fresh seafood, famously good produce and some of the cleanest air in the world, King Island is simply a good place to be. It's quiet and easy going, but there's usually something pretty interesting at every turn. While on the island we'll see lighthouses, shipwrecks, great nature walks and maybe even an elusive platypus or a rare orange-bellied parrot.</p> <p>You can uncover the island's stories at the King Island Museum (near our hotel) and you're guaranteed a warm welcome at the Arts and Cultural Centre at the picturesque area surrounding the Currie Wharf.</p> <p><b>Meals: Breakfast</b></p>
<p><b>DAY 10: Tue, June 21</b>  <b>Currie, King Island</b>  <b>King Island Hotel</b></p>	<p>Today we enjoy a guided tour of King Island including beef operations, where we get to taste the magnificent product over lunch, as well as meet with enterprising farmers looking to distill whisky and other spirits made from island-grown grain. Then it's a free evening where you might like to explore some of the boutique dining options offered by the island's culinary artisans.</p> <p><b>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch</b></p>
<p><b>DAY 11: Wed, June 22</b>  <b>Burnie</b>  <b>Beachfront Voyager</b>            9 North Terrace, Burnie</p>	<p>Free time on King Island this morning and into the early afternoon (maybe a spot of fishing or a game of golf on one of the world-class courses) before our 4.05 pm direct flight to Burnie on Tasmania's northwest coast. We are met and transferred to our beachfront hotel for dinner and overnight.</p> <p><b>Meals: Breakfast, Dinner</b></p>
<p><b>DAY 12: Thu, Jun 23</b>  <b>Conara</b>  <b>Vaucluse Estate</b>            643 Glen Esk Rd, Conara</p>	<p>This morning we travel south to Cradle Mountain to enjoy a guided tour through the wilderness and the stunning views across Dove Lake to the jagged dolerite peaks. We then continue eastwards towards Deloraine to meet with farmers making the most of Tasmania's abundant irrigation water resource. More than 40 large dams have been built in Tassie over the past two decades.</p> <p>In the Oaks district we meet with local farmers Robbie and Jane Dent who own and operate Tasglobal Seeds. This company brings together a wealth of skills and knowledge in pasture seed production and processing as well as the development of legume cultivars. Unique germplasm is developed from local sources as well as European and Central Asian countries. The soils in the area are typical of the Northern Midlands and include light red sandy and grey loams through to heavy black clays.</p> <p>We continue to Conara for dinner and overnight at the magnificent Vaucluse Estate – the entire Homestead is exclusively reserved for our group. Its wonderful architecture and period antiques and fireplaces combine modern luxuries to offer a cosy and quiet country getaway.</p> <p><b>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner</b></p>
<p><b>DAY 13: Fri, June 24</b>  <b>Conara</b>  <b>Vaucluse Estate</b></p>	<p>We visit Vaucluse farm this morning. With a focus on sustainable land and water development, the Vaucluse Agricultural Company operates one of Tasmania's best mixed cropping and livestock businesses.</p> <p>We travel through more rich farmlands and historic villages in the area before returning to Vaucluse for dinner and overnight.</p> <p><b>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner</b></p>
<p><b>DAY 14: Sat, June 25</b>  <b>Coles Bay</b>  <b>Freycinet Lodge</b>            Freycinet National Park</p>	<p>This morning we travel towards the east coast and the Freycinet Peninsula. This is a stunning region of pink granite peaks and white sandy beaches. Freycinet National Park occupies a large part of the Freycinet Peninsula, named after French navigator Louis de Freycinet, and Schouten Island. Founded in 1916, it is Tasmania's oldest park. Bordering the national park is the small settlement of Coles Bay, and the largest nearby town is Swansea. Freycinet contains part of the rugged Tasmanian coastline and includes the secluded Wineglass Bay.</p> <p>We arrive at Coles Bay in time to board our catamaran for a fantastic scenic cruise down the Freycinet Peninsula and around to the magnificent Wineglass Bay. Along the way we discover a coastline dotted with sparkling white sand beaches, including Cooks and Bryans beaches, only accessible by water or a full day bushwalk. We explore the inner passage of remote Schouten Island, home to little penguins and short tailed shearwaters, before heading into the Tasman Sea towards Wineglass Bay. We take in the sheer beauty of Wineglass Bay from the rarely seen perspective of the water, a shimmering crescent of white sand fringes spilling into glass turquoise waters.</p> <p>We return to Freycinet Lodge by mid-afternoon.</p> <p><b>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch</b></p>

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<b>Day 15: Sun, Jun 26</b> <b>Port Arthur</b> <b>Stewart's Bay Lodge</b> 6955 Arthur Highway, Port Arthur	<p>We travel south today through scenery ranging from beaches, to expansive coastline, to wooded forest areas and onto the ruggedly beautiful Tasman Peninsula. This is a very picturesque part of the world. The access to Tasman Peninsula is via Eaglehawk Neck, a thin isthmus just 30 metres wide and once guarded by dogs to prevent convicts escaping. This spectacular coastal environment includes soaring 300 metre high sea cliffs, diverse wildlife, pristine bushland and of course, the Port Arthur Historic site a short beach-walk from our waterside lodge.</p> <p>Port Arthur is a place of national and international significance – part of the epic story of forced migration and settlement of this country. Port Arthur was much more than a prison; it was a complete community, home to convicts, military and civilian officers and their families. The convicts worked at many industries producing goods and services for use locally and to be sold in Hobart and beyond. The military and civilian officers were tasked with security and administration of the settlement.</p> <p>Before Europeans arrived in the region, the land, its natural resources and abundant waters were utilised by the Pydarerme people. Containing more than 30 historic buildings, extensive ruins and beautiful grounds and gardens, the Port Arthur has many stories to explore.</p> <p><b>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner</b></p>
<b>Day 16: Mon, Jun 27</b> <b>Hobart</b> <b>Somerset on the Pier</b> 1 Elizabeth Street Pier, Hobart	<p>After time to take in some of the spectacular coastal lookouts of the peninsula, we continue on to historic Richmond for lunch. Then it's off to Hobart, Australia's second oldest capital. The city offers a contrasting blend of heritage and culture amid a modern lifestyle in a setting of exceptional beauty. Located at the entrance to the River Derwent, and with its well-preserved surrounding bushland, captivating history, picturesque waterways, rugged mountains and gourmet experiences, Hobart has something for everyone. Our hotel is spectacularly located on the Elizabeth St Pier – The River Derwent, the CBD, restaurants, shops, Salamanca Place, Battery Point and the MONA ferry are all on our doorstep.</p> <p><b>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner</b></p>
<b>Day 17: Tue, Jun 28</b> <b>Hobart</b> <b>Somerset on the Pier</b>	<p>After a guided tour of some of the major sites we have free time this afternoon before a farewell dinner this evening.</p> <p><b>Meals: Breakfast, Dinner</b></p>
<b>Day 18: Wed, Jun 29</b>	<p>Transfer to the airport for our flight/s home today or you might choose to extend your time in Hobart or Tasmania more generally.</p> <p><b>Meals: Breakfast</b></p>

## YOUR FELLOW TRAVELLERS

<b>Bill &amp; Val</b>	<b>Barlow</b>	87 Moora Road	RUSHWORTH	VIC	0437 506 252	vbarlow@bigpond.com
<b>John &amp; Gloria</b>	<b>Castle</b>	PO Box 491	WARRAGUL	VIC	0428 235 133	john.castle@janagroup.com.au
<b>Kerry &amp; Maria</b>	<b>Cranitch</b>	469 Allora Rd	CLIFTON	QLD	0427 663 450	cranitchkm@activ8.net.au
<b>Jim &amp; Dibs</b>	<b>Cush</b>	PO Box 1439	MOREE	NSW	0427 539 534	dibscush@gmail.com
<b>Doug &amp; Patti</b>	<b>Geldard</b>	Bethungra Park	GONDAMINE	QLD	0438 753 333	pattigeldard@bordnet.com.au
<b>Len &amp; Susan</b>	<b>Waddell</b>	Nyerin MS 795	BOWENVILLE	QLD	0427 836 198	lswaddell@bigpond.com
<b>Jim &amp; Janelle</b>	<b>Watson</b>	PO Box 333	PARKES	NSW	0408 638 875	watson.oakleigh@gmail.com
<b>Liz</b>	<b>Ironmonger</b>		GUNNEDAH	NSW	0428 426 622	liz.riordan@bigpond.com
<b>Barbara</b>	<b>Swain</b>	2366 Orange Grove Rd	GUNNEDAH	NSW	0427 431 758	distwin@bigpond.com
<b>Margaret</b>	<b>Brodie</b>	PO Box 8068	TREVALLYN	TAS	0488 046 261	m-mbrodie@bigpond.com
<b>Lloyd</b>	<b>O'Connell</b>	0428 724 615				
<b>Gatherine</b>	<b>O'Connell</b>	0408 717 459				