

# Murray River Expedition

1 October  
2010  
9 Days

\$3079ppts  
\$1059s/s  
Incl Flights

Welcome to a brand new cruising tour on the Murray River, experiencing the Murray River Wildlife Expedition Cruise onboard the MV Murray Expedition. Accommodation during the cruise is on board this river cruise ship with only 18 ensuite cabins. 240 volt power is available to run domestic shavers/hairdryers.

## Day 1: Home—Wagga Wagga (LD)

After departing Newcastle we continue picking up at Tuggerah, Hornsby and Strathfield. Following the Hume Highway we make our way south toward Goulburn which will be our lunch stop today. Today we will enjoy an afternoon stop at Gundagai to see the famous 'Dog on the Tuckerbox' before arriving at Wagga Wagga for our overnight stay.

Country Comfort Wagga Wagga 02 6921 6444



## Day 2: Wagga Wagga—Balranald (BLD)

Leaving Wagga Wagga we head west with our first stop at Narrandera in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. Lunch will be at Hay at the Shear Outback, Shearer's Hall of Fame, where we will also enjoy a a shearing demonstration. Continuing west we will travel over the Hay Plains to Balranald.

Balranald Motor Inn 03 5020 1104

## MURRAY RIVER WILDLIFE EXPEDITION CRUISE

## Day 3: MV Murray Expedition—Murray Bridge (BLD)

Today we make our way to Murray Bridge along the Mallee Highway through the wheat fields of Ouyen and Pinnaroo. This evening there will be time in Murray Bridge before joining our cruise, the MV Expedition, where you will be welcomed by the friendly captain and crew. After you settle into your superb Riverview accommodation on board the vessel, there is time to enjoy a drink at the bar before a delicious supper is served. As you cruise, floodlights illuminate the shore revealing the River environment in a different perspective and may allow for a view of some of the nocturnal wildlife, especially birds such as night herons, owls and coots. Later, the MV Expedition ties up for a night of peace and tranquillity in the Australian bush.

MV Expedition 08 8217 6100 (5 nights)

## Day 4: MV Murray Expedition—Mannum (BLD)

This morning you will cruise past huge lagoons teeming with birdlife. Mid morning the MV Expedition arrives in picturesque Mannum. Here you will board the waiting coach for a history tour of this small township, which played a significant role in the development of South Australia. Captain William Randall launched the 1st Paddle Steamer on The Murray River the "Mary Ann" in 1853. By the late 1880's there were over 250 Paddle Steamers and barges trading on the River Murray and Mannum had become an industrious inland port. Your tour includes a visit to the 'Olden Days, Olden Ways' Museum in Mannum, where you will find a large collection of historic memorabilia. Lunch will be served aboard the MV Expedition as you cruise upstream past lovely Lake Carlet, peaceful Bow Hill and Purnong. Early in the evening, the MV Expedition moors at Walker Flat. This evening is "Australiana Night" and we will be featuring the use of some traditional "Bush foods" such as emu, kangaroo, damper bread, lemon myrtle, wild bush tomatoes and quandongs (wild peaches), combined into exciting creations by our chefs to showcase a new evolving Australian cuisine. After dinner you have a rare opportunity to experience the Australian bush on our nocturnal coach tour lead by our vessel's onshore ecologist.

## Day 5: MV Murray Expedition—Blanchetown (BLD)

Today you will pass fascinating Wongulla where, some fifty years ago, men found the petrified remains of a shark. Mid morning the MV Expedition arrives at the pioneering township of Swan Reach. The settlement was originally



the port of the large Portee Sheep Station and was settled as a township in 1899. Here you will disembark the MV Expedition and with a local guide visit Murray Aquaculture, one of the most ambitious aquaculture projects undertaken in Australia.

Eco-guides provide an informative commentary relating to fresh water crustacean biology, production and marketing. On Board, you will have the opportunity to sample Murray Aquaculture fresh water crustaceans. Late afternoon the MV Expedition arrives at Blanchetown, site of the Lock

and Weir No. 1 on the River Murray. The River Murray is dammed by 13 locks built for the early riverboat trade. Water cascades over the lock creating an excellent feeding place for the birdlife. Pelicans and dozens of species of water birds are found diving in the water to feed. Tonight enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by Murray Expedition's chefs as your evening cruise takes you to **Moorundie Creek**, named after the Aboriginal tribe that lived here. In native dialect Moorundie means sand or sandy, The Murray Expedition moors overnight on a beautiful beach amongst towering River Red Gums.

#### **Day 6: MV Murray Expedition—Moorundie Creek—Big Bend (BLD)**

You will wake this morning in one of the most unspoilt and picturesque areas of the River Murray. You will be taken on an environmental discovery walk of **Moorundie Creek**, where even today you will see evidence of an



ancient Aboriginal civilisation one huge canoe tree still stands. Moorundie is the site where the European history of the area began in 1840. It is here that the explorer Edward John Eyre established a village named "Sturt" after the famous navigator. As The MV Expedition cruises downstream, you will pass magnificent lagoons teeming with birdlife, majestic cliffs reaching for the sky and spectacular scenery as far as the eye can see. This afternoon your vessel ties alongside the towering cliffs of **Big Bend**. A highlight of your cruise is a guided cruise led by our ecologist aboard a river tender through the lagoons and inlets. There are some 320 species of birdlife in this area; you will study at close range the prolific wildlife of the region. This evening there is a traditional Australian barbecue on shore followed by live Aussie entertainment around a blazing campfire.

#### **Day 7: MV Murray Expedition—Ngaut Ngaut—Mannum (BLD)**

You can see the sunrise over the towering cliffs this morning with an early departure to the **Ngaut Ngaut Aboriginal conservation** area where you will be met by our local aboriginal guide and shown over Australia's first Aboriginal Archaeological digs. It contains galleries of Cave Art, smoke stains from ancient fires and an excavated campsite of a civilisation over 8,000 years old. As you cruise this afternoon there will be on-board activities organised by the Cruise Director, time to relax and view the River environment and the associated birdlife before an afternoon arrival in Mannum.

Passengers who have not seen the "P.S Marion" may visit the fascinating floating museum or stroll the magnificent lawns of lovely Mary Ann Reserve. This evening you are invited to enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at the bar followed by our Captain's Dinner five sumptuous courses to tempt the most discerning palate.

#### **Day 8: MV Murray Expedition—Reedy Creek Environmental Park—Hahndorf (BLD)**

A chance for a short stroll this morning at Mary Ann Reserve prior to boarding the waiting coach for a tour of **Reedy Creek Environmental Park**. Discover this permanent watercourse from waterfalls, through swamps and wetlands. Reedy Creek and the waterfalls played a significant part in the lives of the ancient Nganguruku and Ngaralta Aboriginal tribes. As well as natural rock shelters, the area offered permanent water and an abundance of wild game for hunting. As part of your Murray Expedition Cruise experience you will have the opportunity to take a guided bush walk through the Reedy Creek gorge. Re-board the Murray Expedition as we begin the final leg of your journey. Today, lunch is a superb buffet of fresh local produce. This afternoon there will be more spectacular scenery before the vessel ties up once more in Murray Bridge, the Captain and crew bid farewell to guests and newfound friends before disembarkation. From here we will make our way to Hahndorf for our final night of the tour. This small German village is one of Adelaide's major tourist attractions and tonight we will enjoy some of the

[The Manna of Hahndorf 08 8388 1000](http://www.hahndorf.com.au)

#### **Day 9: Hahndorf—Home (B)**

This morning our coach will transfer us to the Adelaide airport for our flight back to Sydney where our coach will then transfer you home.

**Enjoy 5 Nights Cruising the Murray River aboard MV Murray Expedition. All rooms are ensuited to ensure a truly relaxing voyage on the Murray River. The lock system ensures the height of the river remains constant!**

