

A Walker's World

Don't just see the world. Experience it.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: MURRAY RIVER MAGIC

Guided Walk 4 Days / 3 Nights

One of the Great Walks of Australia, the Murray River Walk is not only a walk but an in-depth interpretation of the Murray River eco-system.



Walking is on specially researched routes along the river, creeks, wetlands, and lagoons, through ancient red gum forests with the odd climb up the spectacular red cliffs. The birdlife is astounding and there is plenty of wildlife, such as foxes, emus, kangaroos and koalas to spot. After walking (10 – 14 km per day on flat terrain), guests relax on the comfortable houseboat and enjoy the best of regional gourmet food and wine inspired by local produce and ingredients. Kangaroo 'Osso Bucco' and Yabbie Bisque are some highlights of the menus.

The Walk has exclusive access to private property and conservancy areas. Groups are maximum of 10 so personalised attention is assured. Naturalist guides are remarkable in their knowledge of the flora and fauna, history of the area and interpretation of the precious ecosystem of the Murray River Basin.

It commences from Renmark, just under 300 km leisurely driving from Adelaide through the Adelaide Hills and beautiful Barossa Valley.

Day 1 (Sunday)

Arrive Renmark Hotel / Motel for overnight accommodation.

The Renmark Hotel sits majestically on a long sweeping bend of the Murray River in the heart of the township. Providing quality accommodation, fabulous dining, great entertainment and a superior function centre in a refined, relaxed and modern setting. The hotel offers secure parking while you are on your Murray River Walk.

Day 2 (Monday)

At 7.30 am meet your Murray River Walk guides for breakfast on the deck of Nanya's Bistro at the Renmark Hotel for a briefing and to receive your day packs and water bottles for the trip. They will load your baggage to be taken to the houseboat.



REMARK TO HEADING CLIFFS

Board the "creek cruiser" for a 15km creek cruise through the Ral Ral Creek and the Bulyong Creek to our morning tea location and the start of the walk.

Our destination today is spectacular Heading Cliffs on the Murray River where your houseboat accommodation is moored.

Traverse Reny Island through red gum forest and black box woodlands to the Ral Ral Creek Widewaters for lunch. Follow Argo Creek to the Murray River and discover the wreck of the P.S. Kelvin barge. We cross Little Hunchee Creek and marvel at the Aboriginal Canoe trees as we arrive at Heading Cliffs.

Distance – 14km walking and 15km cruising.

Day 3 (Tuesday) HEADING CLIFFS TO CHOWILLA CREEK





Our destination is opposite the historic Chowilla Station shearing shed on the banks of the Murray River.

We rise early for a gentle climb up Heading Cliffs for a magnificent sunrise over the Murray River. Marvel at the geological layers in the cliffs formed by wind, oceans and freshwater lakes. After sunrise, descend for breakfast aboard the houseboat.

Departing for our daily walk, we follow an ancient river oxbow to the present Murray River corridor for morning tea. Explore dense red gum forest on the way to lunch on the river bank, then follow the Amazon Creek through Little Hunchee Island before meeting the creek cruiser for a lovely afternoon river cruise to the houseboat, moored on the banks of the Murray River.

Distance – 14km walking and 5km cruising.

Day 4 (Wednesday) CHOWILLA CREEK TO QUEEN'S BEND CLIFFS

Our destination is majestic Queens Bend cliffs above Lock 6.

We cruise via Chowilla Creek Environmental Regulator before arriving at Bunyip Reach to start our walk.

Follow the meandering Murray River to the base of Lock 6 and its modern fish ladder for morning tea. Explore the rejuvenated wetlands and water managements structures on Bunyip Reach.

After lunch we follow the rim of the valley to the historic site of the proposed 1960's Chowilla Dam scheme before winding our way along the cliffs to Queens Bend lookout to celebrate a 40km journey. The late afternoon views of the river valley and a cruise along the base of the cliffs complete our 40km walking journey.



Distance – 10-12km walking and 5km cruising

Day 5 (Thursday) **QUEEN'S BEND CLIFFS to WILKADENE WOOLSHED BREWERY**

After breakfast we board the cruiser for a short journey to Border Cliffs and the South Australian/Victorian Border, passing the historic Customs House, before commencing our journey downstream to pass through Lock 6.

We continue downstream past the Chowilla Station Shearing Shed and onto the Wilkadene Woolshed Brewery for a tasty lunch, tour and a brew.

We say our farewells after lunch as you depart for Renmark at 1.30pm. where arrangements end.



Accommodation is provided on a modern 10 berth houseboat that travels each day to the walking destination.

GRADE / TERRAIN

The walking route is easy to moderate and covers 40 kilometres in three days. Ankle support boots are recommended as there are mud packed trails with protruding tree roots.

“The opportunity to sample the local cuisine matched with similarly local South Australian wines was a major feature of this walk, eat, learn expedition along a special segment of the Murray River. The menu was developed by a chef with bush-cuisine knowledge, Andrew Fielke. To be presented with such a high level cuisine at the end of a day walking in the wilderness was most welcome, and the food wine matches were superb.”

Madeleine Calder Devonport, Auckland NZ

POST WALK EXTENSION

In nearby Paringa is **The Frames**. A superb place to ‘chill out’ after your Murray River experience. These apartments are 5* luxury and have a vantage point overlooking the Murray River. Featured on SA LIFE and Best Houses Australia, The Frames luxury retreats are the ultimate in design and comfort.

<http://www.theframes.com.au>



SCHEDULE 2020

Operate twice weekly 4 May to 29 September on Mondays and Tuesdays.
Minimum 4 walkers to operate, maximum 10

Cost 2020

AUST\$2,500 Share twin/double

AUST\$4,250 Single cabin cost

To avoid the cost of the single supplement it is possible to share a twin cabin with a fellow traveller of the same sex.

Renmark Hotel – cost to be advised at the time of booking for the pre-tour night

COST INCLUDES:

- 3 nights accommodation on a houseboat in a share twin or double cabin with shared facilities
- MEALS – full board with refreshments included
- Services of an experienced naturalist guide
- All transportation during the walk by tender boats
- Transfer at the end of the walk Wilkadene Brewery back to Renmark
- Use of day pack and water bottle

COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- 1 night's accommodation Renmark pre-tour
- Items of a personal nature
- Tips and gratuities
- Transport and from Renmark

CANCELLATION CONDITIONS

- Non-refundable deposit of NZ\$600 per person
- Balance payment due 90 days ahead.
- Cancellation between 89 – 21 days – forfeit 55% of the tour cost

- Less than 30 days forfeit 100% of tour cost

CLIMATE

Walks are run during Autumn, Winter and Spring when the weather is mostly dry. Sunny days are typical in the Riverland at this time. Temperatures overnight and early morning are between 5-8 degrees Celsius and 16-21C during the day.

ATTRACTIONS ENROUTE TO THE MURRAY RIVER WALK

To experience more of South Australia we recommend the following visits between Adelaide and Renmark:

- **Barossa Valley** – just over an hour's drive from Adelaide, it is the *heart of Australia's wine industry. Rows of vineyards connecting rolling hills, interspersed with charming villages and hamlets, and pristine working farmland. The Barossa thrives on a living heritage, food markets, quality wines, old preserved buildings, and a wealth of culinary pleasures.* www.barossa.com
- **Seppeltsfield Estate** – one of the oldest wineries in the Barossa and an ideal lunch stop. Be sure to book ahead for **Fino Restaurant** to try one of their exquisite sharing menus, a culinary masterpiece created with local produce. Afterwards, stroll the craft and art gallery where local artisans are plying their craft.
- **Banrock Station Wine and Wetland Centre** is located in the beautiful Riverland region of South Australia and is the ideal setting to enjoy an outstanding wine, food and nature experience.
- **Hahndorf** - Australia's oldest surviving German settlement, built by a tight-knit group of Prussian settlers in 1839 fleeing religious persecution in Eastern Europe. Popular with visitors from all over the world, Hahndorf has plenty of quality gift and speciality shops, craft outlets and galleries. Hahndorf is also renowned for its local gourmet produce, having steadily built on its unique 'food bowl' heritage. Indulge in cheese tastings, pick your own strawberries (November to April) or sample local chocolate, jams and pickles. There is a great winery loop with several cellar doors in the area that produce quality cool climate wines, each located on grounds of stunning natural beauty. **TIP** – Aboriginal Art House is a 'must' to visit for its outstanding collection of local indigenous art which is quite different to the mainstream, being based on the landscapes of the region.
- **Adelaide Central Market** is one of the largest undercover fresh produce markets in the southern hemisphere, buzzing with life and colour all year round. The Market offers a huge range of fresh food including fruit and vegetables, meat and poultry, seafood, cheeses, bakery, smallgoods and health foods, along with some of Adelaide's most popular cafes and eateries. With over 9 million visitors every year, the Adelaide Central Market remains Adelaide's premier food destination for multicultural cuisine and fresh produce
- **Adelaide Oval** – stunning roof top climb
- **Glenelg** is Adelaide's most popular beach destination and a pleasant tram ride out of the city



Book through:

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