



Murraylands and Wildlife Cruise

Seven-night PS Murray Princess Cruise

8 Days | Friday 27 November to Friday 4 December 2026

Step aboard the majestic PS Murray Princess and journey along Australia's most iconic inland waterway on this unforgettable eight-day river cruise. Begin in the historic town of Mannum and explore the ever-changing Murray River landscape, from towering cliffs and tranquil wetlands to charming riverside towns and award-winning wineries. Along the way, uncover stories of early settlers and Indigenous cultures, indulge in regional produce and fine wines and enjoy classic Aussie entertainment. Concluding with a visit to picturesque Hahndorf, this is a voyage packed with scenery, history and warm hospitality.

Highlights

- Cruise in style for seven nights aboard the iconic PS Murray Princess
- Savour a traditional Aussie barbecue on the banks of the Murray River
- Join in the fun and laughter of the entertaining Murray River Cup
- Explore the historic riverside towns of Morgan and Swan Reach
- Enjoy tastings and scenic views at Banrock Station Winery and Wetlands
- Sample local flavours at the Burk Salter Winery
- Delve into nature on a peaceful Discovery Cruise through backwaters
- Celebrate in style at the Captain's Farewell Dinner
- Relax each evening with live on-board entertainment
- Step back in time on guided boardwalk tours through Ngaut Ngaut
- Experience country charm and humour at the lively Woolshed Show
- Visit to picturesque Hahndorf - Australia's oldest German village

Inclusions

- Pre/post tour transfers (ex Perth, WA)
- Airfares & taxes (ex Perth, WA)
- 21 meals
- 7 nights' accommodation
- Tours & attractions
- Professional Villa Tour Leader

Your itinerary (ex Perth, Western Australia)

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✉ travel@villa.com.au

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Day 1. Perth to the Murray River (D)

We collect you from home and transfer you to Perth Airport for your morning flight to Adelaide. After arrival to Adelaide, we travel through the Adelaide Hills to Mannum to board the PS Murray Princess. Settle into your cabin before departing historic Mannum — the birthplace of Murray River trade and communication. Cruise under floodlights to your overnight mooring at Piggy Flat (Coolcha), where you might spot kangaroos, wombats, egrets and other nocturnal wildlife. Enjoy your Welcome Dinner and onboard entertainment to mark the start of your cruise. Seven nights: PS Murray Princess.

Day 2. Murray River wildlife (BLD)

In 1879 the first bridge to span the Murray River was built at Edwards Crossing, which quickly became the bustling township of Murray Bridge. After a hearty breakfast, choose to explore the town's historic landmarks and local attractions, such as the Roundhouse, or go on a wildlife tour at Monarto Safari Park**. Those who choose to experience Monarto Safari Park will arrive back on board the Murray Princess in time for lunch then join us in the Sturt Dining Room for a special presentation on the bounty of food and wine produced in the Riverland. This afternoon, we continue our journey upriver and tonight we moor at Salt Bush Flat. After dinner, enjoy being entertained by our on-board musician.

**Optional: Monarto Safari Park Wildlife Tour (additional cost \$85pp, Book in advance with Villa.)

Day 3. Discovering bird life (BLD)

This morning, join a guided nature walk where our guide will share the secrets of the local flora and fauna. It's a great way to get in a little exercise before the Murray Princess departs and cruises downriver. Near Fromms Landing, we turn and head downriver to River View Lodge (near Piggy Flat / Coolcha) where your discovery vessel waits for a wildlife tour. Travelling in small, personalised groups, we explore the maze of the river and the birdlife is amazing. Watch for darters, herons and egrets feeding along the river's muddy edges. The afternoon offers a choice of bocce or fishing challenges before dinner in the Sturt Dining Room followed by an evening of entertainment.

Day 4. River cliffs and farming history (BLD)

We leave River View Lodge and head back to Mannum. After breakfast, step off the Murray Princess for a coach tour showcasing the iconic sights along the river. Tour the township and visit the Mannum Dock Museum, before joining the ferry to cross the river and drive through Younghusband to Bowhill, where you will learn about the township while admiring the stunning riverfront homes. Head to the Swan Reach Hotel, situated atop golden cliffs with picturesque views, enjoy a delicious lunch and the warm country hospitality. Learn about the local farming district on your way to the Big Bend Cliffs, renowned as the tallest river cliffs in Australia. At the lookout marvel at the longest continuous bend along the entire Murray River - a breathtaking sight. Return to Mannum and there's free time to grab some afternoon tea or an ice cream before you re-board the Murray Princess and cruise towards Caurnamont for your overnight mooring. Our onboard entertainer provides music for the night owls.

Day 5. Burk Salter Boutique Winery and Murray River Cup (BLD)

Daybreak and it's time for the keen photographers to be out to capture the special light and the morning movement of wildlife. Prolific birdlife includes pelicans, wrens and swans. Enjoy a leisurely morning and lunch cruising upriver to Blanchetown through one of 13 locks which maintain the flow and levels of the river's water. This afternoon we moor opposite to the township of Blanchetown for our overnight anchorage. As the last rays of the sun fade, we visit Burk Salter Boutique Winery and enjoy wine tasting at the cellar door which is fitted out with beautiful red gum bars. After dinner, join us for all the fun and excitement, and participate in our "Murray River Cup".

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Day 6. Swan Reach and Sunnydale (BLD)

After breakfast, cruise to picturesque Swan Reach. The town was first settled in the 1850s and was originally the largest of five sheep and cattle stations in the area and is now home to native flower and fruit growers. The original Swan Reach homestead is now the Swan Reach Hotel where you can enjoy an ale or cappuccino overlooking the Murray River (additional cost). Join a walking tour and visit the Swan Reach Museum (gold coin donation at entry). Cruise downriver after lunch and take in the tranquillity as the landscape slides by. Catch up with friends over a coffee or drink whilst enjoying the magnificent scenery. At Sunnydale, it's all ashore for the Woolshed Show as you recreate typical Australian woolshed history. Later you visit the Native Wildlife Shelter where some of South Australia's most interesting native animals are cared for. And then of course, there is the great Aussie Barbecue – cooked and served in a bush setting on the banks of the mighty Murray River.

**Optional tour: Sunnydale Nocturnal Tour (additional cost \$20pp, advance booking available)

Day 7. Ngaut Ngaut and Cliffs of the Murray (BLD)

Start your day with an optional Bush Tucker Breakfast** or a walk with the Captain before cruising past the spectacular ochre-coloured river cliffs. At Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park, step back tens of thousands of years with a guided boardwalk tour featuring ancient Aboriginal rock carvings and archaeological insights. Continue cruising to Younghusband, with the option for adventure seekers to take a scenic tender boat ride. Tonight, join your fellow passengers for a delicious final night dinner and enjoy the evening entertainment.

**Optional: Bush Tucker Breakfast (additional cost \$40pp, Book in advance with Villa.)

Day 8. Hahndorf and Home (BL)

Disembark in Mannum and visit the Mannum Dock Museum to learn more about riverboat history. Travel through the Adelaide Hills to the charming village of Hahndorf for a hearty farewell lunch. After some leisure time to browse the quaint shops, transfer to Adelaide Airport for your evening flight to Perth. On arrival, we will see you safely home.

Itinerary subject to change. Terms and conditions apply. Call 08 9754 2026 for details.

Murraylands & Wildlife Cruise Seven-night PS Murray Princess Cruise

8 Days | Friday 27 November to Friday 4 December 2026

Cost per person twin share (inc GST)

Price: \$6,815

Single option: \$2,385

Earn 133 villabucks



Moderate

For travellers who walk confidently and unaided. In addition to *Relaxed* requirements, expect guided walking tours that may include gentle inclines and stair climbs, some longer days, and multiple hotel changes. Access to accommodation may involve stairs, short walks to facilities and showers over baths. Walking sticks are welcome unless the tour includes overnight rail or cruising—please check with staff.

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OPTIONAL TOURS

Day 2 - Monarto Safari Park Wildlife Tour - \$85 pp

Explore one of the world's largest open-range Safari Parks outside of Africa on an unforgettable guided tour from the luxury of your coach. Monarto Safari Park spans more than 1,500 hectares and is home to many exotic and native animals including cheetah, hyena, painted dogs, giraffe, zebra, black and white rhino, antelope, bison, Mongolian horse and Australia's largest lion pride to name but a few.

Day 6 - Sunnydale Nocturnal Tour - \$20 pp

Enjoy a real Australian wildlife experience as your hosts take you spotlighting on the remnants of the old Sunnydale station. A unique experience in comfortable, purpose-built carts will give you the opportunity to view kangaroos, wombats, foxes, bats and owls, or just view the starlit skies as you meander through the bush. Special stops along the way are included to view the spectacular night sky which is part of the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve. Blankets and commentary are provided.

Day 7 - Bush Tucker Breakfast at Sunnydale - \$40 pp

For that special experience, Murray Princess passengers can enjoy bush tucker, combined with a traditional breakfast on the shores of the Murray River wetlands at Big Bend. Your hosts will collect you and transport you to the bush kitchen for a two course Aussie Bush Tucker breakfast. The early morning sounds of the river and its birdlife create a peaceful ambience for the start of your day, topped off with a welcome glass of bubbles.

Enhance your journey by reserving an optional tour before you depart. Simply arrange your preferred tour with our friendly Villa staff at time of booking.

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