

STUARTS COACHES

presents

9 DAY ADELAIDE & GRAMPIANS TOUR

Day 01 (D): NOWRA TO BALRANALD: Mon 10th May 2010 Depart Stuart's Depot
7.00am

Welcome to our 9 day tour to **South Australia** and her capital - **Adelaide**. We depart early this morning aboard our luxury touring coach and head west. Today is a travel day so sit back and relax and enjoy the journey as we make our way across the Hay Plains to **Balranald** / dinner in motel). *Lunch on route.*

Balranald Motor Inn (03 5020 1104)

Day 02 (BLD): BALRANALD TO ADELAIDE: Tues 11th May 2010

Following a hearty breakfast we travel through to the **Mallee Highway** which will take us over the South Australian border to **Pinaroo** and **Tailem Bend** before arriving into our destination, **Adelaide**, later this afternoon. Located on the Torrens River and surrounded to the east by the Mount Lofty Ranges and west by the Gulf St Vincent, the city's Central Business District is enclosed by Parklands, or the Green Belt as its known. It prides itself on its live music and arts scene, its historic building heritage and its central location to one of Australia's best known wine growing regions, the Barossa Valley. We settle into our city based hotel and freshen up for dinner (*breakfast & dinner in motel*).

Stamford Plaza, Adelaide (08 8461 0839)

Day 03 (BLD): ADELAIDE & THE BAROSSA VALLEY: Wed 12 May 2010

This morning we take an introductory sightseeing tour of **Adelaide** this morning. First stop is where it all started - **Montifiore Hill** from where Colonel Light planned a great city of the future in the sweeping valley below. Nearby is one of Adelaide most prominent landmarks - **St Peters Cathedral**, which overlooks the city from North Adelaide and just below in the Parklands is one of the most beautiful Cricket Ovals in the world – the **Adelaide Oval** and Memorial Drive Tennis Centre. Following our tour, we drive to the **Barossa Valley**. Our first stop is at the **Whispering Wall**, locally known as the “acoustic miracle”. It is the huge curved retaining wall of the Barossa Reservoir, about 140 metres long. The acoustics are such that we can speak in a normal voice and people at the other end of the wall can hear us clearly. The trick with this is that there has to be people at either end of the wall so the idea is that one person stands on one side of the wall and the other person walks across the dam to the other side. The effect is remarkable. You can speak in a normal voice and be heard quite clearly at the other side. It is one of those strange effects produced by a delightful accident! At **Tanunda** we have some time for lunch before our first winery stop at nearby **Grant Burge Wines** followed by a visit to a new vineyard called **Kabminye Wines**. Set in a stunning modern, architecturally designed building, this family run winery/café and art gallery offers a delightful Barossa Valley experience. The winery uses

rare and quintessential Barossa varieties including Mataro, Grenache, Frontignac, Cinsault and of course Shiraz, sourced from some of the oldest vines in the valley. With exceptional views of the Barossa Ranges this is the perfect place to enjoy a tasting of premium Barossa Valley wines. We also enjoy a drive to **Menglers Hill Lookout** for some good views over the Barossa and call into **Angas Park Fruits** for the opportunity to buy some of their delicious, chocolate covered dried fruit. It will be an enjoyable day with the opportunity to sample some of the local produce (*breakfast & dinner in motel*).

Stamford Plaza, Adelaide (08 8461 0839).

Day 04 (BLD): GOOLWA & VICTOR HARBOR: Thurs 13 May 2010

Today's touring takes us to **Goolwa** - an historic township with an aboriginal name meaning "elbow". Situated on the bend in the Murray River, near the river's mouth, Goolwa initially grew with the developing trade along the Mighty Murray. The Murray mouth silted up and large ships were unable to get up to Goolwa, so a railway line, the first in the state, was built from Goolwa to nearby Port Elliot. In the 1880's a new railway line to Adelaide spelt the end for Goolwa as a Port Town! We park near the Goolwa Wharf to visit the **Signal Point Visitor Information Centre**, which was opened in 1988 by Prince Charles and Lady Diana. The Centre is an interpretative display on the River Murray & Darling Basin System providing history and information on the paddle steamers, aboriginal culture and environmental issues. We then rejoin the coach for the short drive along the scenic coastal road through Port Elliot to **Victor Harbor**. We enjoy lunch at the delightful **Café 61** overlooking Encounter Bay. This afternoon we board the **Horse Drawn Tram** for a unique ride across the causeway to Granite Island. **Granite Island** was once used as the main port for vessels travelling overseas with cargo which was brought to the Port of Goolwa and then transferred overland to Victor Harbor by horsedrawn vehicles. Opportunity for a scenic walk here or just to enjoy an ice cream! Our drive back to Adelaide takes us through the **McLaren Vale Wine Region** and includes a stop at the McLaren Vale & Fleurieu Visitors Centre before we return to the hotel (*breakfast & dinner in hotel / lunch in Victor Harbor*).

Stamford Plaza, Adelaide (08 8461 0839)

Day 05 (B): ADELAIDE: Fri 14th 2010

After breakfast we have the entire day to ourselves to do as we wish. Perhaps some shopping in Rundle Mall or a walk down the cultural precinct of North Terrace. We could catch the tram to the seaside suburb of Glenelg and take a stroll along Jetty Road or the beach. We will purchase our own dinner this evening at one of the many restaurants within walking distance or at the popular Gouger Street near the Central Markets (*breakfast in motel / lunch & dinner at own cost*).

Stamford Plaza, Adelaide (08 8461 0839)

Day 06 (BLD): ADELAIDE TO HALLS GAP: Sat 15th 2010

After breakfast we depart Adelaide and travel along the highway to **Murray Bridge** for our morning tea stop (at own expense). From here we cross over the Murray River and travel along the Dukes Highway to **Bordertown** and stop for lunch (passengers own expense). We continue through Horsham and into the **Grampians National Park**. Completing our day's journey we arrive at the **Halls Gap Village**, beautifully situated in the heart of the

Grampians. Here we'll check into our motel for dinner and our overnight accommodation (*breakfast & dinner in motel*).

Best Western Halls Gap Colonial Motor Inn (03 5356 4344)

LD): HALLS GAP: Sun 16th 2010 Day 7 B

The Grampians National Park is one of the largest in Victoria. It is said that when Major Thomas Mitchell first visited the area in 1836 the then Surveyor General of New South Wales was speechless at the imposing sight that met his gaze from the top of what we now know as **Mount William**. Apart from the stunning scenery the park is a natural oasis where plants and animals, which have become extinct in other areas, flourish. It is likened to a giant botanical garden, filled with one third of Victoria's fauna. This morning we visit the **National Park Visitors Centre** where we have arranged to see the impressive, introductory audio-visual display on the area. We also visit the unusual, award winning **Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre**. We are then joined by our local guide for our touring, travelling through the main scenic areas of the Grampians including **Boroka Lookout**. This involves driving along the Mt Victory Road passing scenic rock formations such as the Elephant's Hide to spectacular views at **Reids Lookout**. We also make a visit to **Wartook Pottery** before returning to our motel (*breakfast & dinner in the motel / picnic lunch supplied*).

Best Western Halls Gap Colonial Motor Inn (03 5356 4344)

Day 08 (BLD): HALLS GAP TO ALBURY: Mon 17th May 2010

We farewell **Halls Gap Village** and travel via Moyston to **Ararat** to visit "Australia's Newest Cultural Experience". The new and unique **Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre** is a world class cultural, education and tourist attraction. It brings to life the history of the immigrant miners on the Victorian Goldfields in the late 1800's and is an important base for understanding and discovering the influence of the Chinese culture on the economic, cultural and social development of Australia. From Ararat we travel onto one of the major historic Victorian goldfield cities, **Bendigo** with its magnificent buildings such as the Shamrock Hotel and the Cathedral. Following some time for lunch and a sightseeing tour of the town we head to **Albury** for our final overnight stop on tour (*breakfast & dinner in motel*

Quality Resort Siesta, Albury (02 6025 4555)

Day 09 (BL): ALBURY TO NOWRA: Tues 18th 2010

Today we rejoin the Hume Highway, passing through **Gundagai** and **Goulburn** we continue home to complete a fantastic 9 Day holiday (*breakfast in motel*).

Booking conditions apply.

Min of 24 for this tour to proceed.

We retain the right to change or amend the itinerary. Single supplement will apply if no twin share is available. Passengers rotate in the coach giving everyone forward and window seating One suitcase per person. Additional charges will apply if paying by credit card.

Balance must be paid when stated