

STUARTS COACHES

presents a

8 DAY WARRNAMBOOL TOUR

MARCH 2011

Depart depot 7.00am

Day 01 (LD): HOME PORT TO LAKES ENTRANCE: Sunday 20 March 2011

Welcome to our 8 day tour to **Warrnambool** and the **Shipwreck Coast**. Sit back and relax as we travel south on the Princes Highway through **Batemans Bay** and **Bega**. We'll stop for lunch at the **Fisherman's Recreation Club** in **Eden** then continue over the border and onto **Lakes Entrance** for our first overnight stay (*lunch in Eden / dinner in motel*). LD

Bellevue on the Lakes, Lakes Entrance (or similar)

Day 02 (BLD): LAKES ENTRANCE TO QUEENSCLIFF: Monday 21 March 2011

Following a hearty breakfast we rejoin the Princes Highway and make our way through **Sale** and **Traralgon** and onto **Sorrento**, at the tip of the **Mornington Peninsula**. Sorrento is a gracious town nestled between the Southern Ocean and the calm waters of Port Phillip Bay. Early this afternoon we head to **Portsea** to join "**the Transporter**" for a guided tour, conducted in a tractor train, out to Point Nepean. Following our tour we board the ferry to **Queenscliff**. Located just inside the head of **Port Phillip Bay**, this historic town will enchant us. Queenscliff was established in 1838 as a pilot station to guide ships through the Rip (the narrow entrance to Port Phillip Bay). This historic town was once known as "Queen of Watering Places" and it is imbued with *olde worlde* character, historic hotels and homes, stores, rugged beaches and even a bona fide fort, built to defend Port Phillip Bay from foreign navies, privateers and other undesirables. We'll check into our overnight accommodation and freshen up for dinner (*breakfast lunch & dinner . BLD*).

Vue Grand Hotel, Queenscliff (or similar)

Day 03 (BD): QUEENSCLIFF TO APOLLO BAY: Tuesday 22 March 2011

This morning we head to **Torquay** and visit the **Surf Museum**, home of the Australian Surfing Hall of Fame and is dedicated to telling the story of surfing. From here we commence our breathtaking drive along one of Australia's most spectacular coastlines. Built to honour the servicemen and women of World War One, the road extends more than 300 kilometres along some of the best coastal scenery this country has to offer. We travel through the coastal town of **Anglesea** to **Lorne**, which was the first place to be declared an area of Special Significance and Natural Beauty by the Victorian Government. The approach to Lorne is spectacular. This popular Victorian seaside village, located on Loutitt Bay overlooks the Otway Hills. From Lorne we continue onto **Apollo Bay**. We'll have the remainder of the day at leisure to explore this beautiful area (*breakfast & dinner . / lunch own cost*).

Comfort Inn International Apollo Bay (or similar)

Day 04 (BLD): APOLLO BAY TO WARRNAMBOOL: Wednesday 23 March 2011

Our touring today sees us leave the coast and wind our way through the slopes of the **Otway Ranges** and the **Otway National Park**. The spectacular **Otway Fly** is a tree top walk, the longest and highest canopy walk of its kind in the world. There is a 300-metre flat walk from the carpark to the Visitors Centre so wear some comfortable shoes. There are also a number of steps but there is some buggy style transportation if we need it – and the treetop view of the Otways is an experience well worth the effort! After our walk we enjoy our lunch here. This afternoon we continue along the full length of the **Port Campbell National Park** - the western section of the **Great Ocean Road** and onto **Warrnambool**, a beautiful seaside city on the shores of Lady Bay. More than 100 ships and boats were wrecked within 80 kilometres from Warrnambool, hence the current name for the area - **The Shipwreck Coast**. After a brief sightseeing tour of the city we'll check into our accommodation for the next two nights and freshen up for dinner (*breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch at the Otway Fly*). **BLD**

Country Comfort Warrnambool (or similar)

Day 05 (BD): PORT FAIRY: Thursday 24 March 2011

After breakfast we travel to the small fishing village of **Port Fairy**. Port Fairy's rich, maritime history and its colonial character have been faithfully preserved. Seaman's blue-stone cottages rub shoulders with gracious commercial and administrative buildings. Its fine antique shops, pubs and restaurants are all housed in original Victorian buildings - The National Trust has classified 50 of them. Following some free time to look around we'll return to Warrnambool. This afternoon we visit the **Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village**. Supported by the local community this delightful complex authentically recreates the appearance, atmosphere and activities apparent in a small coastal port during the 50 years prior to 1900. It presents and preserves material, artefacts and vessels relating to Australia's early maritime museum. Our day's touring complete, we head back to the motel to relax. Following dinner in the motel we return to the **Maritime Village** where we relive the shipwreck era! The night time sound and laser show called "**Shipwrecked**" recreates the tragic story of the Loch Ard Shipwreck that took place in local waters more than 120 years ago (*breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch own cost*). **BD**

Country Comfort Warrnambool (or similar)

Day 06 (BD): WARRNAMBOOL TO WANGARATTA: Friday 25 March 2011

We depart Warrnambool and make our way on the Princes Highway via **Colac** and **Geelong**. Here we'll enjoy a break for an early lunch (own expense) before continuing our drive north on the Hume Highway. We continue to **Benalla**, situated on the Broken River. The town is also known as the '**Rose City**' and is noted for its public gardens. Soldier surgeon and war hero **Edward 'Weary' Dunlop** was also born here. He was a POW under Japanese command in Singapore and worked on the infamous Burma-Thailand railway. He became a legend with the Australian prisoners for his modesty and his remarkable efforts in scrounging food for the sick, building makeshift hospitals and operating with hand-made instruments. We have time to visit the gardens before heading into **Wangaratta**. On arrival we'll settle into our motel and freshen up for dinner (*breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch own cost*) **BD**.

Quality Hotel Gateway Wangaratta (or similar)

Day 07 (BLD): WANGARATTA: Saturday 26 March 2011

Wangaratta is a regional capital of some 17,500 people, 150 m above sea-level and is the northern starting point of the Great Alpine Road. After a leisurely breakfast we enjoy a locally **guided tour** of “**Wang**” - as the locals call it. Our guide will point out some of the older buildings and tell us about the history of the town including its association with two notorious bushrangers - Dan 'Mad Dog' Morgan and of course, Ned Kelly. We then make our way north to the village of **Chiltern**, a fascinating small historic town of some 1400 people which is distinguished by its historic streetscape of well-preserved brick buildings and old-fashioned timber verandahs. This antique appearance has drawn filmmakers on several occasions - most notably for the filming of Walt Disney's Ride a Wild Pony in 1974. We have some free time to enjoy the village before heading across to Boorhaman for a visit to the **Boorhaman Hotel & Buffalo Brewery**. We enjoy an informative talk and a light lunch here today. After lunch, we head to the little village of Milawa – known as “the gourmet food area of North East Victoria”! First we visit the **Milawa Cheese Company**, located in the historic Murray Goulburn Butter Factory, for a tasting. Just near the Crossroads is **Milawa Mustards** located in the Old Emu Inn building (1861) which once served goldminers en route to the Ovens Valley, bullock teams supplying the goldfields and Cobb & Co coaches which once used it as a stopover. The musical accomplishments of the licensee's daughters made the inn something of an entertainment centre. The building later served as the Milawa Police Station, with the old lock-up (brought from Beechworth by bullock team at the end of the 19th century) still on the property. After a lovely day, probably with a bag full of goodies, we head back to the motel for dinner (*breakfast & dinner in the motel / pub Lunch*) **BLD**.

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Quality Hotel Gateway Wangaratta (or similar)

Day 08 (BL): WANGARATTA TO HOME PORT: Sunday 27 March 2011

We have a travel day today as we make our way home. Later this afternoon we will arrive home completing a wonderful 8 day holiday (*breakfast in motel Lunch will be included to-day.*) **BL**.

[BOOKING GONDITIONS.](#)

NO'S APPLY 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..