



# MURRAY RIVER CRUISE



**2 November - 9 November, 2026**  
**8-day tour (7 nights)**

By Private Charter on  
**PS AUSTRALIAN STAR**  
Fully hosted by Croydon Travel



# PS Australian Star A Unique Luxury Experience



**Embark on a journey into a new era of river cruising with the PS Australian Star—a vessel that not only bears a name steeped in heritage and pride but also represents the pinnacle of luxury on the iconic Murray River.**

Scheduled for a grand launch in Spring 2025, the PS Australian Star will redefine river cruising along the majestic Murray River, commencing from the charming town of Echuca in Victoria. PS Australian Star promises a voyage that seamlessly blends tradition with opulence.

As you step onto the decks of the PS Australian Star, you enter a realm where every detail tells a tale of the river's rich heritage and the golden age of paddle steamers. The vessel itself is a masterpiece, a floating testament to the artistry and engineering that defined an era. Immerse yourself in the symphony of steam from the authentic 1907 wood-fired steam engine and the rhythmic churning of the paddlewheel as we embark on a leisurely voyage along the winding waters of the Murray River.

Named in honour of Australia's celestial Southern Cross, the PS Australian Star invites you to explore its opulent interiors, where each Suite and Stateroom exudes an air of refinement.

From the Hopwood Lounge & Bar, celebrating the entrepreneurial spirit of Echuca's founder, to the Randell Dining Room, paying homage to the pioneering journey of William Randell, every space aboard is a chapter in a captivating narrative that unfolds with every river bend.

Boasting 19 plush and modern Staterooms and Suites, each opening to a deck and featuring an ensuite, air-conditioning, complimentary Wi-Fi, luxury linen, and a TV entertainment system, the PS Australian Star ensures a luxurious retreat for every traveller. Moreover, its ever-changing river views provide a constant reminder of the beauty that surrounds.

As the PS Australian Star prepares to grace the waters, it beckons you to join a voyage where tradition meets modernity and luxury becomes an art form. Welcome aboard the PS Australian Star, where history and luxury converge for an unforgettable river experience.

# WELCOME

I'm delighted to announce our exclusive Croydon Travel Hosted Tour for 2026—a seven night Murray River cruise aboard the brand-new luxury paddle steamer, PS Australian Star.

This unique vessel is currently under construction and is the world's only fully accommodated, authentic steam-driven paddle steamer, sustainably powered by fallen Red Gum trees from the Murray.

Recently named one of National Geographic's "Best of the Best" for 2025, the Murray River is a fantastic destination close to home. Cruising aboard the PS Australian Star offers an ideal way to experience its beauty and history. The cruise also includes a memorable onboard Melbourne Cup celebration.

Hosted by Jacinta Anderson, you will enjoy being in great company with fellow Croydon Travel clients.

With only 19 cabins available, I encourage you to book early to secure your spot and benefit from our early-bird discount of \$500 per person if you book before June 30, 2025.

Plus, if you book two or more cabins together with friends, you'll also receive an additional \$250 discount per person. It's a great way to share an unforgettable Melbourne Cup experience with friends.

Warm regards,



**Jamie Davison**  
Owner, Croydon Travel



# Meet Your Host



## JACINTA ANDERSON

Senior Travel Advisor

Hi, I'm Jacinta. I absolutely love hosting tours, it's one of the most rewarding parts of my role. After more than 30 years in the travel industry, I've been fortunate to explore some truly incredible destinations around the world. But sometimes we forget just how special the experiences are right here in our own backyard. The Murray River is one of those world-class destinations offering breathtaking scenery, rich history, and all just a couple of hours from Melbourne.

On this tour, we've made everything easy and comfortable. We'll travel together by private coach to and from Echuca, and we've exclusively chartered the entire PS Australian Star, so you'll be sharing the journey with a wonderful group of like-minded travellers from the Croydon Travel community.

I can't wait to welcome you onboard and share this unforgettable experience with you.

*Jacinta*



# Our Inclusions

## KEY FEATURES

- Luxury air-conditioned Stateroom with private ensuite
- All onboard meals, including morning & afternoon tea
- Eight onshore tours
- Regionally-inspired meals prepared by onboard chef
- Complimentary selected wine & beer with dinner service
- Espresso coffee, tea, soft drinks & bottled water
- Complimentary WIFI throughout the boat
- Passenger lift to all decks and accommodation

## CROYDON TRAVEL BONUSES

Fully hosted by Jacinta Anderson from Croydon Travel

Private coach transport from Croydon (with door to door chauffeur transfers from home to Croydon) \*

Welcome lunch at the Mill in Echuca

Melbourne Cup Celebration

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Owner-led guided tour of Murray Gums Estate featuring olive and wine tastings with a gourmet lunch
- Indulge in tastings of the fabulous table and fortified wines at St Anne's Winery
- Learn about the rich local history on a town tour of historical Echuca sites, plus enjoy a river cruise aboard the century-old PS Canberra with morning tea
- Visit a Heritage Farm Museum on an unforgettable onshore tour
- Enjoy a regional Silo Arts Tour and have lunch at the Colbinabbin Pub
- Embark on an expedition cruise aboard the Murray Explorer along the upper Murray River
- Explore Perricoota Station's gardens and marvel at the beauty of the filming location for the famous Australian television series All the Rivers Run
- Enjoy a memorable riverside BBQ dining experience under the stars, with live entertainment and a crackling campfire.
- Experience all-day cruising with a historical commentary that will transport you back in time and immerse you in the rich cultural heritage of the Murray River region

*With Croydon Travel, all your travel necessities are included for a seamless journey!*

\* Home-to Croydon transfers limit of 80km applies. If you prefer to drive, there is a secure parking available in Echuca



# Tour Summary

## Murray River Cruise

7 Nights / 02 November - 09 November 2026

**Day 1:** Melbourne to Echuca - The Mill Lunch - Layfield Lane.

Embarkation followed by Captain's Welcome Drinks.

**Day 2:** Murray Gums Estate Tour (exclusive Tour) - Pericoota Station

Tour led by your Captain (exclusive Tour)- Melbourne Cup Celebration

**Day 3:** Cruising Day followed by Signature BBQ by the riverside

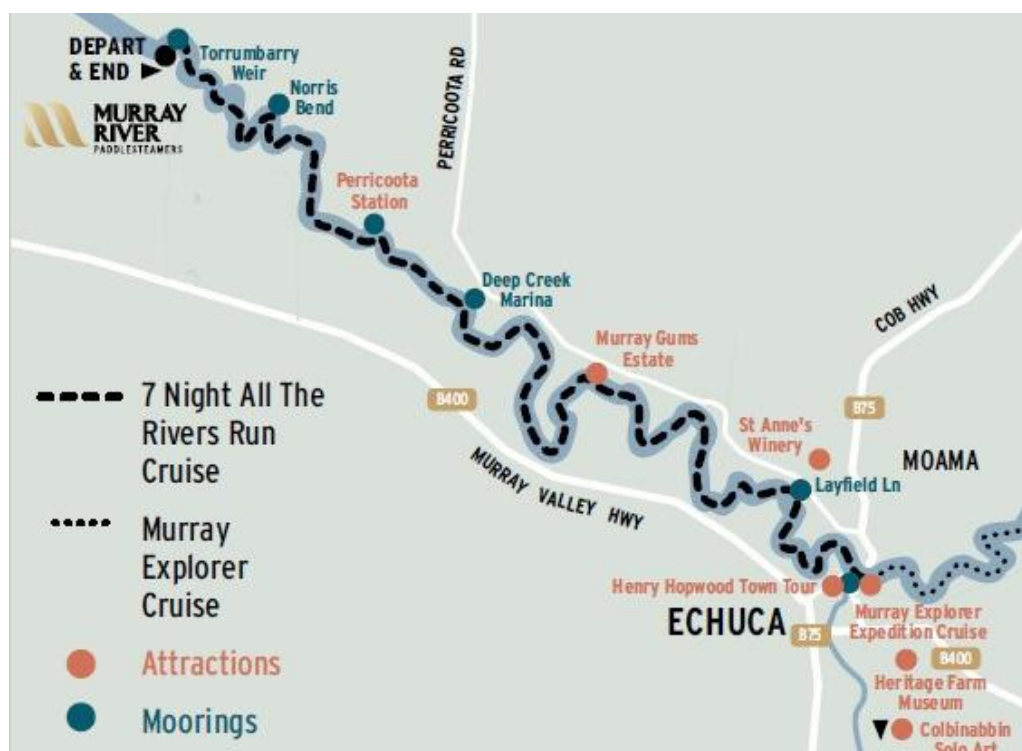
**Day 4:** Henry Hopwood Tour followed by PS Canberra History Cruise with afternoon tea

**Day 5:** Silo Arts Tour, Grand Pub Lunch, BBQ under the Stars with Entertainment

**Day 6:** Heritage Farm Museum - Murray Explorer Expedition Cruise - St Anne's Winery

**Day 7:** Torumbarry Weir guided walk by your Captain followed by final dinner hosted by your Captain

**Day 8:** Echuca - Melbourne



# Your Itinerary

## DAY 1 - NORRIS BEND

You will be transferred from Melbourne to Echuca with coach transportation, then enjoy the warmth and local charm of Echuca as you savour an exquisite meal at The Mill, one of the town's most delightful restaurants. Set within a beautifully restored five-storey building dating back to 1881—once Echuca's historic flour mill—the atmosphere combines heritage appeal with contemporary elegance, making it a truly memorable dining experience.

As PS Australian Star departs Torrumbarry, have the opportunity to indulge in an afternoon Devonshire Tea while taking in the scenic views and getting to know your fellow cruisers. You can chat with the Captain in the wheelhouse and learn about the river's history or unwind in your private Stateroom or the Hopwood Lounge and Bar during "Happy Hour" as the sun sets.

In the evening, the crew will set up a riverside campfire (subject to weather) for you to enjoy after a welcome dinner at Norris Bend, prepared by the chef. You can also look out for kangaroos, wombats, and birds while listening to the evening chorus of the river birds and the emerging stars.



JOURNEY HIGHLIGHT: EXCLUSIVE LUNCH AT THE MILL IN ECHUCA





## DAY 2 - PERRICOOTA STATION

Enjoy a hearty breakfast before cruising to the famous Perricoota Station, a property first settled by James Maiden in 1843 and known for its starring role in the mini-series *All the Rivers Run*. Take a leisurely stroll through the beautifully preserved historical buildings and immaculate gardens.

Then it's on to Murray Gums Estate, where you'll be welcomed by the property's owners and treated to a gourmet lunch showcasing local produce, paired with delicious estate wines.

For those who don't want to miss the race that stops a nation, you'll be transferred by coach back to the PS Australian Star, where the Melbourne Cup will be broadcast live on the big screen in the Hopwood Lounge. Settle in and enjoy all the excitement of Cup Day on the Murray River.

Alternatively, join the Captain for a guided walk through the historic Perricoota Station before returning to the PS Australian Star with time to refresh before dinner.

The evening concludes with a fascinating documentary featuring rare archival footage of the paddle steamers and river communities that helped shape life along the Murray.







## DAY 3 - LAYFIELD LANE

For early risers and avid photographers, the morning mist and wildlife around Perricoota is a spectacle to behold. We spend the whole day cruising upstream towards Layfield Lane, enjoying lunch on the deck or in the Randell Dining Room.

In the evening, experience a grand dinner on the riverbank with the signature Australian BBQ, followed by live entertainment and casual conversation around the campfire (weather dependent).







## DAY 4 - TOWN TOUR & ECHUCA

Begin your day with a hearty breakfast to prepare for an exhilarating half-day expedition encompassing both land and water. Embark on a unique guided Henry Hopwood Town Tour, a captivating journey through the quaint town of Echuca, where you'll unearth hidden historical treasures such as Hopwood's Punt and the pontoon bridge. This bridge, conceptualized by Echuca's founder, Henry Hopwood, stands as the original river-crossing point in the region.

Prepare to be captivated by the century-old PS Canberra, boasting a red gum timber hull constructed in 1912 at Goolwa, South Australia. Indulge in morning tea aboard this vessel before returning to PS Australian Star for lunch. Your river cruise adventure continues upstream, passing by the impressive Port of Echuca Wharf, which was once bustling with over 100 paddle steamers during its prime.







## DAY 5 - SILO TOUR & PUB LUNCH

Prepare yourself for an engaging half-day expedition that will immerse you in the beauty of local artistry and historical vignettes. The day kicks off with a visit to the breathtaking local art silos situated at Rochester and Colbinabbin. These larger-than-life paintings are a testament to the region's rich heritage and are sure to leave an indelible impression.

Your excursion doesn't just end with the visual feast of the silos; It extends to a delightful lunch at a renowned local pub. Here, you'll not only savour delicious fare but also have the unique opportunity to interact with the pub's welcoming owners and engage in lively conversations with the friendly locals.

As you reboard the PS Australian Star, get ready to unwind during an afternoon cruise downstream with a relaxing Devonshire Tea. The serene ambience of the river compliments the delectable treats served, providing a perfect backdrop for a leisurely afternoon. As the sun starts to set savour a refreshing drink in the ship's Hopwood Lounge and Bar while basking in the scenic beauty surrounding you.

As twilight sets in, a magical experience awaits you at Layfield Lane. Following a sumptuous Australian BBQ dinner served on the riverbank, the atmosphere transforms with live entertainment around a crackling campfire under the sparkling stars (weather dependent).







## DAY 6 - DEEP CREEK MARINA

Today, you will experience the perfect start to your day with a delightful breakfast before embarking on a captivating half-day land and river tour that promises to be an unforgettable journey. Your adventure begins with a visit to the fascinating Heritage Farm Museum, where you'll immerse yourself in the charm of the past.

Next, get ready to be enchanted as you join the Murray Explorer, which will take you on an Expedition cruise along the upper Murray River. Prepare to be awestruck by the natural wonders that surround you, from breathtaking landscapes to a rich array of wildlife. Keep your eyes peeled for Faced Herons, and you may even find a Kingfisher.

On your return to PS Australian Star we visit St Anne's Winery for tasting of their fabulous table and fortified wines. Once onboard enjoy an afternoon tea service as we continue downstream towards Deep Creek Marina.







## DAY 7 - TORRUMBARRY WEIR

The PS Australia Star departs early for a full day of cruising with a stop at the famous Perricoota Station before continuing downriver towards Torrumbarry Weir. Upon arrival, take a guided walk across the weir with the Skipper, visiting the Interpretive Centre and learning about the Murray Darling Basin, the weir, and the lock system that dates back to 1923.

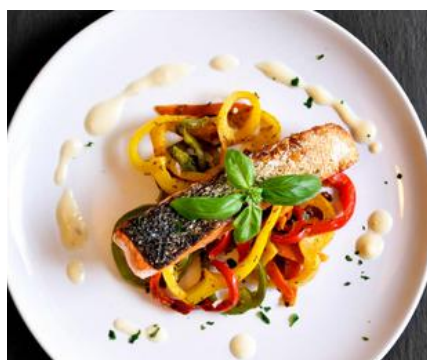
Tonight, enjoy a delicious final dinner hosted by your Skipper with pre-dinner canapes and drinks as the sun settles over the weir. Listen to the river birds' evening chorus and watch for kangaroos, wombats, and various bird species as the stars begin to appear during dinner.

## DAY 8 - ECHUCA

Early risers may want to start the day with a tranquil riverside walk before enjoying breakfast. A courtesy transfer will then take you back to Echuca, where it's time to say goodbye to your memorable PS Australian Star experience before heading back to Melbourne by coach.







## Dining Aboard PS Australian Star

- Tantalising multi-course meals
- Bountiful continental and full breakfast options
- Traditional morning and afternoon teas
- Vegetarian and gluten-free menu options
- Fabulous choice of local and Australian wines and beverages
- Complimentary selected wine & beer with dinner service
- Free seat dining
- Seasonal alfresco dining with idyllic river views
- Riverside BBQ dining under the stars with live entertainment (weather permitting)







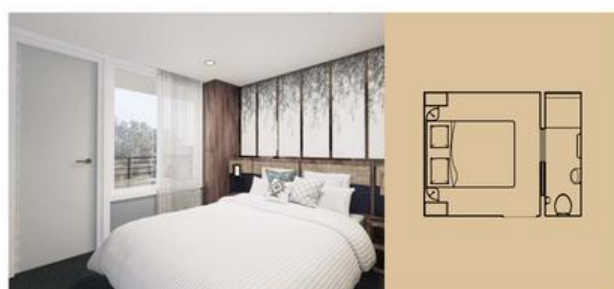
**KING SUITE** 18.6 M<sup>2</sup> | With private deck



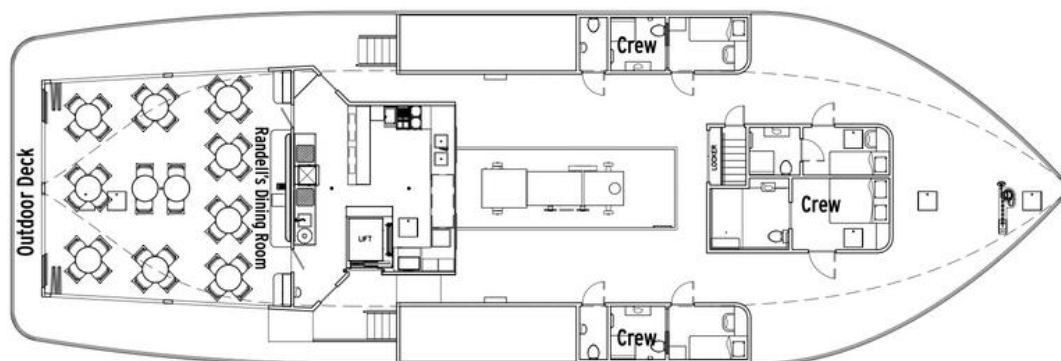
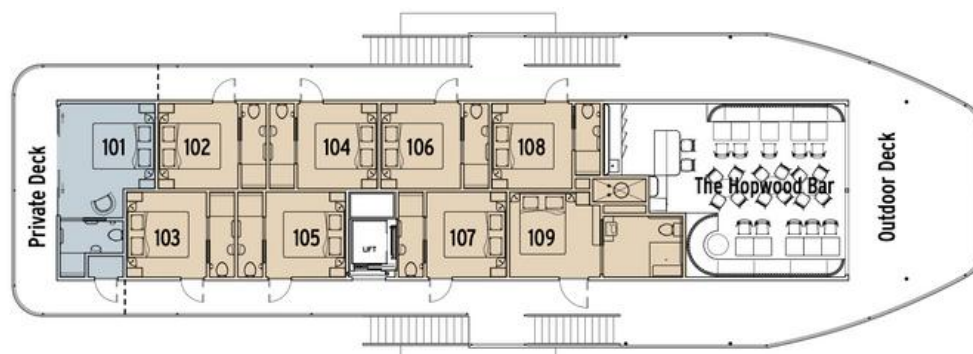
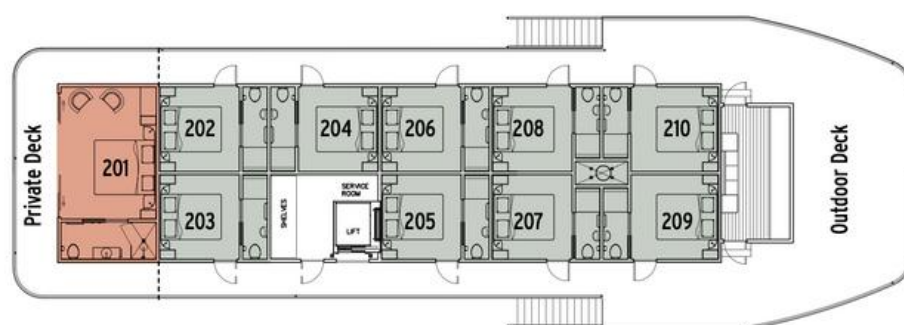
**QUEEN SUITE** 14.3 M<sup>2</sup> | With private deck



**QUEEN STATEROOM** 10.2 M<sup>2</sup>



**QUEEN STATEROOM** 10.2 M<sup>2</sup>





## Earlybird SPECIAL

**Save \$500**

Per Person  
Offer Ends 31 Aug 2025

## PLUS

**Book with  
FRIENDS**

**Save \$250  
per person \***

## Price

### Queen Stateroom/s:

**Now \$7,400** per person, twin share  
(Normally \$7,900 – Save \$500 when you book early)

### Queen suite (Only 1 Available):

**Now \$9,400** per person, twin share  
(Normally \$9,900 – Save \$500 when you book early)

### King suite (Only 1 Available):

**Now \$10,400 per person, twin share**  
(Normally \$10,900 - Save \$500 when you book early)

**Discounted Single Supplement:** \$5,100  
(Only 3 Available)

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Luxury air-conditioned Stateroom with private ensuite
- All onboard meals, including morning & afternoon tea
- Four Onshore Tours
- Regionally-inspired meals prepared by onboard chef
- Complimentary selected wine & beer with dinner service
- Espresso coffee, tea, soft drinks & bottled water
- Complimentary WIFI throughout the boat
- Passenger lift to all decks and accommodation

## CROYDON TRAVEL BONUSES

- Fully hosted by Jacinta Anderson from Croydon Travel
- Private coach transport from Croydon (with door to door chauffeur transfers from home to Croydon) \*
- Welcome lunch at the Mill in Echuca
- Melbourne Cup Celebration

\*Book with friends and save \$250 per person when 2 or more rooms are booked at the same time. This can be combined with the early bird discount if booking before Aug 31, 2025

### Payment and cancellations terms:

First deposit: \$1,000 per person due within 7 days of booking

Second deposit: \$1,000 per person due by 28 February 2026 (all deposits become non-refundable)

Final balance due: 20 July 2026 — cancellation fees apply from this point

We strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance to protect against unforeseen circumstances.

Dietary requirements and/or special mobility needs must be advised at time of booking and will be accommodated accordingly.



# CROYDON TRAVEL HOSTED TOURS

Share a memorable experience with like-minded travellers from our wonderful community



Croydontravel.com.au



Call 03 9725 8555 / Toll free 1800 150 741



travel@croydontravel.com.au



PO Box 628, Croydon VIC 3136



Creating Travel Memories Since 1971