

# Tastes of Southern Australia

## Highlights

### Local Connection

Meet Craig Starr on his 400-hectare sheep farm Gold Creek Station for a tale or two, and a BBQ. The stories continue at Australian Parliament House.

### Cultural Immersion

Walk with a guide through the galleries of the First Peoples arts and cultural centre at Federation Square.

### Sustainable Footprints

By visiting Kangaroo Island's Hanson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, you not only gain insights into Australian animals, but also have the chance to support them.

### Wildlife & Nature

Across the Great Ocean Road's 240 kilometres you'll discover all manner of natural drama, from limestone stacks to World Heritage listed rainforest and untouched coastal coves.

Admirals Arch

11 DAY  
23 Included Experiences

From **\$5066\***

## Departure Dates

2024	2025	2026
Apr 11	Feb 6	Jan 8
Aug 29	Mar 20	Feb 5
Oct 17	Apr 10	Mar 5
Nov 21	Aug 28	
	Oct 16	
	Nov 20	

Definite Departures highlighted in red.

For prices, additional departure dates, flight information, latest deals and year-round offers including past guest offers, group booking discounts for 9+ guests and multi-trip savings, visit [aatkings.com/ESMA](https://aatkings.com/ESMA) or contact your local travel agent.

A limited number of single rooms are also available.

## Dining

10 Full Breakfasts B	1 Farewell Dinner FD
2 Lunches L	1 Be My Guest Lunch BGL
4 Dinners with Wine DW	

### 1 Sydney - Canberra

As hard as it is to say goodbye to Sydney, it's just as easy to say hello to the Southern Highlands. South of the 'Harbour City', the bucolic countryside of Berrima awaits – fun fact: this is the oldest Georgian village in Australia. Further on, you're welcomed to Gold Creek Station by sheep farmer Craig Starr for a Be My Guest BBQ lunch and tales about life on the land. Onward to the country's cool little capital, home to Parliament House, where you'll go behind the political scenes. Tonight, join your Travel Director for a Welcome Dinner.  
Hotel: Crowne Plaza Canberra. DW BGL

### 2 Canberra - Wangaratta

Get some Canberra perspective from the summit of Mt. Ainslie. You won't be able to see the Murray River, but you'll soon cross it en route to Beechworth, Victoria's best-preserved gold rush town. We'll give you the Beechworth lowdown, then set you on your way to explore character-filled antiques stores, galleries and museums at your leisure. There are plenty of charming places to refuel, as well, before Wangaratta's cathedrals beckon. Hotel: Quality Hotel Wangaratta. B

### 3 Wangaratta - Melbourne

Meandering south toward historic Glenrowan, you're well and truly in Ned Kelly country – this is where the infamous bushranger and his gang were finally captured in 1880. We'll tell you all the tales, then a few more about Melbourne, the home of Aussie rules football, some of the country's best arts institutions, and a swag of stellar restaurants, cafes and bars. Once you have your bearings, immerse yourself in a guided galleries tour of our First Peoples arts and cultural centre before an evening at leisure to explore.  
Hotel: Crowne Plaza Hotel Melbourne. B

### 4 Melbourne Free Time

You're on your own today. Well, not really, because your Travel Director is at your service to help arrange optional sightseeing experiences. After you've enjoyed a strong coffee in one of Melbourne's atmospheric laneways, that is. Adrenaline junkie? Linger in the city, gaining bird's-eye views from the Melbourne SkyDeck at the Eureka Tower. Animal lover? Venture to Phillip Island to see hundreds of little penguins pad along the sand. Hotel: Crowne Plaza Hotel Melbourne. B

### 5 Melbourne - Warrnambool

The Great Ocean Road is one of the world's most epic journeys, a dramatic 240-kilometre union of limestone stacks (Twelve Apostles, we're looking at you), World Heritage listed rainforest, untouched coastal coves and sleepy towns, like Lorne and Apollo Bay. It's hard to know where to point your camera. We recommend

having it poised to snap shots of the Loch Ard Gorge and London Bridge rock formations. It doesn't get any better than this. Hotel: Lady Bay Resort. B DW

### 6 Warrnambool - Naracoorte

Emus, kangaroos, koalas, echidnas... These are just some of the animals you'll likely spot as you drive through Tower Hill Wildlife Reserve – housed in a dormant volcanic crater. Remarkably, this pocket of paradise was once wasteland, transformed by volunteers. More volcanic history awaits across the South Australian border in Mt. Gambier, home to the crater-filling Blue Lake. By now you'll be pretty thirsty, so it's a good thing the Coonawarra wine region is around the corner. After a few sips, you may find yourself getting deep – literally. Naracoorte's Alexandra Cave is a maze of delicate needle-like stalactites and massive twisting columns. Hotel: William Macintosh Motor Lodge, Naracoorte. B DW

### 7 Naracoorte - Kangaroo Island

The Fleurieu Peninsula is a natural adventure playground, all rolling hills, rugged cliff-tops and sandy beaches. Seaside Victor Harbor turns on the charms – take a horse drawn tram ride out to Granite Island or visit the train station home to some steam locomotives – before your ferry blasts its horn. All aboard for Kangaroo Island, home to native wildlife like sea lions, koalas and diverse bird species. Your destination is South Australia's oldest European settlement, Kingscote.  
Hotel: Aurora Ozone Hotel, Executive Rooms. B DW

### 8 Kangaroo Island

If you like alliterations, you'll love today's attractions: first stops are Remarkable Rocks and Admirals Arch, home to an immense colony of raucous fur seals. Hanson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary was badly damaged by the 2019 bushfires. Through your MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, you'll assist with their bushfire recovery plan and wildlife rehabilitation program. Learn from one of their experienced guides about the delicate ecosystem and Australian native animals. More wildlife greets you at Seal Bay Conservation Park, where enormous sea lions barrel down the sand to the water. This is one of the most significant breeding colonies in the country. A well-deserved tasting of craft beer awaits at a boutique brewery, the only one on the island. How does a Golden Ale sound? Your destination is South Australia's oldest European settlement, Kingscote.  
Hotel: Aurora Ozone Hotel, Executive Rooms. B L

### 9 Kangaroo Island - Adelaide

You've arrived in the South Australian capital, known for its well-preserved churches and well-admired cuisine. Did you know that Adelaide boasts more restaurants per capita than any other city in Australia? After a city orientation tour,

the afternoon is yours to see just how many you can sample – we have a few recommendations, including a visit to the epic Central Market, where you can try green ant gin with cheese, among so many other delicacies.  
Hotel: Crowne Plaza Adelaide. B

### 10 Adelaide Hills and the Barossa

Pull on your elastic-waisted pants – today is one of indulgences through the Adelaide Hills and the Barossa, dotted with atmospheric towns like Hahndorf, Australia's oldest surviving German settlement. A Barossa and Hahndorf tour reveals the bountiful food and wine this pocket of the state is known for. And you'll enjoy a tasting from small batch wine makers from across the valley as well as discovering local flavours over lunch at Lambert Estate enveloped by vines.  
Hotel: Crowne Plaza Adelaide. B L FD

### 11 Farewell from Adelaide

By day 11, you will have a suitcase full of gin, wine and cheese; a camera full of dreamy images; and more memories than you can count.  
Hotel: Crowne Plaza Adelaide. B

