

# MURRAY RIVER, LAKES & COORONG



Teal Flat, Murray River

Immerse yourself in the culture, scenery and activities of South Australia's aquatic playground: the Murray River, Lakes and Coorong. Relax on a houseboat holiday, zip by on water skis, meet wildlife on the river's banks or dive into the local Indigenous culture and history. There are countless ways to pause or play in the Murray, Lakes and Coorong.

- ▶ The Murray River is the third longest navigable river in the world after the Amazon and Nile, flowing for 2,520 kilometres and is approximately 130-million years old. For thousands of years, the Ngarrindjeri and Nganguraku people have called the river system home.
- ▶ The Murray River is a short hour's drive from Adelaide. While 90-minutes south, you'll find the Lakes and Coorong district, where the mighty Murray meets the sea. The entire region is rich with Indigenous history, and the River is perfect for boating and water sports, with plenty of charming towns along its banks.
- ▶ Named from the Aboriginal word 'karangk', meaning 'narrow neck', the Coorong stretches 130km along South Australia's south-east coast from Kingston South East to the Murray Mouth. The region is famous for Coorong mullet and Angus beef, but dairy, olives and seasonal fruit and vegetables are also proudly grown.
- ▶ With more than 275 different plant species and 200 bird species spread across almost 47,000 hectares of stunning lagoons and salt pans, the Coorong is a popular place to drop a line, 4WD, canoe, pop on the hiking boots, camp and birdwatch.
- ▶ From wakeboarding to barefooting and kneeboarding, when it comes to the water, the Murray River is water-skiing heaven. You can hire a canoe or kayak, or bring your own and gain unique access to thousands of kilometres of pristine waterways.
- ▶ Experience the Murray River on a houseboat – a floating holiday home that can accommodate small or large groups. Many houseboats resemble five-star hotels with Jacuzzis, air conditioning, dishwashers, king-size beds and sun decks. You can even hire a private chef to cook for you. Costs and availability vary each season, so make sure you book in advance. You only need to be over 18 and have a driver's license to become your own houseboat captain.

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Big Bend, Murray River

- ▶ Winding through South Australia, the Murray River's townships are a blend of country towns and rural cities with Murray Bridge being the largest town on the South Australian stretch of the Murray River. Don't forget to stop by for a counter meal at the pub, on your way through.
- ▶ The region is renowned for its stunning scenery. See towering cliffs at Big Bend, which boasts the tallest cliffs along the entire length of the Murray River. Rich in fossils, flora and fauna, Big Bend is believed to be up to 20 million years old.
- ▶ Mannum is the birthplace of the paddle steamer. Australia's largest inland paddle steamer, the PS Murray Princess, is four storeys high and propelled by a paddlewheel. It's one of the finest ways to experience the Murray River and the abundance of wildlife on the banks.
- ▶ Monarto Zoo is a must-see and less than an hour from Adelaide. This huge, 1,500-hectare open range zoo features a diverse range of animals, including lions, giraffes, rhinos and cheetahs, and chimps to name a few.
- ▶ Old Tailem Town Pioneer Village is one of Australia's largest pioneer villages, with 12 streets of memories and more than 90 buildings that take visitors back "to the good old days."
- ▶ Walk the River Bend Heritage Trail between Tailem Bend and Wellington along the Murray River to see historic sites, beautiful scenery and wildlife.
- ▶ Grab a deckchair and head down to Mannum for 'Sounds by the River' in January. Nestled amongst the Murray's towering gumtrees, this outdoor concert has seen many of Australia's biggest names in rock'n'roll over the past decade.
- ▶ Spend your Saturday pottering around The Murray Bridge Farmers Market. Held from 8am -12pm in the Local Government Centre carpark, it's a great way to sample all the hand-made and home-grown delights from the Murraylands and Coorong region. With artisanal oven baked bread, honey, olive oil, fruit and veggies, you'll be there all morning.
- ▶ Navigating the Murray River wouldn't be possible without the series of locks and weirs dating back to the 1920s and 1930s. Six locks in South Australia are still in use today, along with 11 ferry crossings running 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- ▶ The region enjoys a Mediterranean climate, including dry summers and relatively mild winters. Coastal areas can often be cooler with crisp sea breezes. The average maximum daily temperature in winter is 17°C and 29°C in summer.

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