

Designer Tours

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South East South Australia Mount Gambier

Port Macdonnell – Robe – Beachport – Penola

5 Days – 4 Nights *\$1,295 ppts

*(*minimum 30 passengers)*

Experience the striking beauty and rich heritage of South East South Australia on this carefully curated 5-day touring holiday based in Mount Gambier. Set among ancient volcanic landscapes, crystal-clear lakes, dramatic limestone coastlines, and historic township trails, this journey showcases one of Australia's most unique and geologically fascinating regions.

From the iconic Blue Lake and Umpherston Sinkhole to the coastal charm of Port MacDonnell, Beachport, and Robe, each day offers a relaxed blend of natural wonders, heritage discovery, and regional hospitality. Highlights include a memorable Glenelg River dinner cruise aboard the Nelson Explorer, providing a spectacular sunset dining experience through limestone cliffs and tranquil waterways.

With a comfortable single-base stay in Mount Gambier, this tour has been designed for ease of travel, unhurried sightseeing, and maximum enjoyment of the region's most significant attractions.

Day 1 Geelong – Camperdown – Hamilton – Mt Gambier

We depart your club at approx. 7.30am and travel to the Princes Highway to **Geelong** (morning tea at Service Centre on Geelong Ring Road – own expense). We then travel through Winchelsea and Colac to **Camperdown** for lunch. This afternoon we continue our journey via **Mortlake** and **Penshurst** onto **Hamilton**. We then continue along the **Glenelg Highway** through the towns of **Coleraine** and **Casterton** – the centre of 'Australia Felix' – big and rich sheep stations of Victoria into **South Australia** to **Mount Gambier** – our destination for the next 4 nights (arriving approx. 4.30pm). Our accommodation is at the **Henty Motel** situated approx. 1km from the centre of the city. Tonight, we enjoy a 2-Course dinner served in the motel licensed restaurant.

Day 2 Mt Gambier Cave Gardens – Blue Lake – Port Macdonnell

This morning we begin our stay in Mt Gambier with a tour around the city. Our tour includes a visit to the spectacular **Umpherston Sinkhole** – this sinkhole was created when the top of the

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chamber collapsed downwards forming the perfect '*sunken garden*'. We then visit the *Valley Lake* for morning tea. We also visit the *Blue Lake* – during October each year the lake turns from its pallid winter grey – green to an intense cobalt blue and remains this glorious colour until late April. We then enjoy lunch in *Mt Gambier*. This afternoon we travel to *Port Macdonnell* – known as 'The Southern Rock Lobster Capital of Australia' and also a most popular holiday destination for surfers, anglers, swimmers and beachcombers and also home to a small fairy penguin colony. Port Macdonnell is the most southernmost port in South Australia and was named in 1860 after Sir Richard Macdonnell, the then Governor of South Australia. We also visit *Cape Northumberland* for breathtaking coastal views. We then visit *Ewen Ponds* – these crystal-clear waters are popular for snorkeling and cave diving. We then return to Mt Gambier. Tonight, we enjoy dinner served in the motel licensed restaurant.

Day 3 *Millicent – Beachport – Woakwine Cutting – Robe*

Today we travel west of Mt Gambier through the town of *Millicent* to the popular holiday town of *Beachport* – an area that straddles two bodies of water, salt and fresh – the Southern Ocean and, inland, the large and shallow Lake George (morning tea in Beachport). We also view the *Woakwine Cutting* from the visitor observation platform. The cutting was created to drain swampland for pastoral use and is Australia's biggest one-man engineering feat and an awe-inspiring sight. We then travel onto *Robe* – one of the early ports of South East South Australia and today home to a large fishing fleet (lunch in Robe). This afternoon we explore the significant historic sites of Robe. During the 1850's thousands of Chinese gold seekers landed at Robe and walked overland to the Victorian goldfields. Today there is a *Chinese Monument* as a memorial to the thousands of Chinese who made that arduous journey. We then leisurely return to Mt Gambier. Tonight, we enjoy another delicious 2-Course dinner served in the motel restaurant.

Day 4 *Blue Lake Pumping Station (Blue Lake) – Penola – Glenelg River Night Dinner Cruise*

This morning we visit the *Blue Lake Pumping Station*. This fascinating tour takes visitors in a glass paneled lift down the original dolomite well shaft, through a tunnel to see the Blue Lake at close proximity. Here we learn about the hydrology of Mt Gambier's water supply and the Aquifer System. We then travel to the historic town of *Penola* – the oldest town in the south-east region and cherishes its historical buildings such as the remains of a grand old railway station and several slab and hewn cottages from the 1850's. We enjoy lunch in Penola. Take a walk along *Petticoat Lane* – fascinating street of early original cottages. We then return to Mt Gambier. Later this afternoon we travel to *Nelson* to board '*Nelson Explorer*' for a 2-hour dinner cruise along the *Glenelg River*. Our cruise ventures through spectacular limestone cliffs, past quaint river shacks enjoying the beauty of the river as the sun comes down over the river. After our cruise we return to our motel.

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Day 5 Port Fairy – Warrnambool – Colac – Geelong – Home

This morning we farewell Mt Gambier and travel east along the Princes Highway via Heywood to the historic fishing village of Port Fairy – first settled by sealers in 1810 and today the town is based on tourism and the fishing industry. We enjoy morning tea on the banks of the Moyne River. We then continue along the Princes Highway through Warrnambool, Terang and Camperdown to Colac for lunch. This afternoon we continue our homeward journey to Melbourne before arriving back at your club approximately 4.30pm – depending on road & traffic conditions.

Mt Gambier – South East South Australia Tour Includes:

- ✓ *Seat-belt equipped coach travel – departs from your club*
- ✓ *4 nights motel accommodation at The Henty Motel, Mt Gambier. The motel is situated approx. 1km from the centre of the city and has all modern facilities – please note that the motel has a combination of downstairs and upstairs rooms Ph: 08 8725 5122
www.thehenty.com.au*
- ✓ *Delicious 2-Course dinners served three evenings in motel licensed restaurant – menu comprises choice of main course & dessert*
- ✓ *Glenelg River BBQ Dinner Cruise on Day 4*
- ✓ *Full cooked breakfast served each morning in motel restaurant*
- ✓ *All admissions, Dinner Cruise, sightseeing and morning teas as per itinerary*

Conditions:

- *The tour price quoted \$1,295 per person is based on twin share accommodation. The single supplement is an additional \$75 per night. The tour requires a minimum of 30 passengers. Should passenger numbers fall below the minimum number then the tour price will need to be reviewed.*
- *The tour price does not include lunches or travel insurance. Designer Tours recommends all passengers have suitable travel insurance.*
- *Please note that should unsuitable or unsafe conditions do not allow the tour to visit a particular attraction or place of interest or an attraction on the itinerary has now closed or is closed on the day then a suitable alternative will be substituted. Designer Tours reserves the right to make a decision on unsuitable or unsafe conditions.*
- *Cancellation Policy – \$300 cancellation fee applies to any booking per person cancelled prior to five days before departure. There is no refund for any booking per person cancelled less than five days before departure.*