

Eyre Peninsula, South Australia

Port Lincoln National Park is dotted with caves.

## EYRE PENINSULA FROM THE OCEAN TO THE OUTBACK

**E**XPERIENCE THE UNTOUCHED and remote beauty of the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia. From spectacular coastal landscapes to the wildly beautiful outback, and the wildlife that call them home, you'll revel in the diversity of this genuine ocean-to-outback tour.

Unsurpassed in its beauty, this region also teems with another truly special quality - genuine hospitality from its colourful characters. You'll meet a host of locals during your visit to Port Lincoln, the seafood capital of Australia, and the stunning, ancient and geologically fuelled Gawler Ranges.

Each day you'll enjoy memorable and unique wildlife, geological, culinary, photographic and educational experiences, including a 4WD safari

through massive sand dunes, swimming with Australian sea lions and dolphins at the same time (the only place in Australia where you can do this), visiting arguably Australia's best native koala experience, seeing landscapes that only a few ever see from the raw, rugged and natural coastline to the extraordinary colours of the red sands, blue skies and glistening white salt lakes of the Gawler Ranges.

The icing on the cake of this trip is the opportunity to sample the bounty of the ocean here, including taking part in a seafood masterclass with marron and oysters direct from the local farms.

Accommodation is on Port Lincoln's foreshore overlooking Boston Bay, and then, in the outback, at Kangaluna Luxury Bush Camp.





The ancient volcanic Organ pipe formations of Gawler Ranges

# ITINERARY

**Day 1 Arrival in Port Lincoln (domestic airfare not included)**

Welcome to the seafood capital of Australia, Port Lincoln!

Make your own way to the hotel (transfer can be organised on request – additional charges apply).

△ **Accommodation: Overnight at Port Lincoln Hotel in an Ocean View room**

**Day 2 Port Lincoln Seafood & Art**

Breakfast at the hotel and then get to know Port Lincoln. First up is an introduction to the city from one of the best vantage points in South Australia – Winters Hill. From here you'll enjoy vistas over Boston Island, Boston Bay and all the way out to stunning Port Lincoln National Park

Next you'll visit the MFV *Tacoma*, the first purpose-built purse seine fishing boat and tuna clipper, which ultimately changed the course of pelagic fishing in Australia. After that you'll tour the Fresh Fish Place, where you'll see the full process a fish goes through,

from ocean to plate. Meet local fisherman as they drop off the catch of the day from all over the Eyre Peninsula. At the end of the tour, you'll sample a tantalising selection of in-house smoked fish and pickled seafood.

Meet Ken Martin, a master sculptor in bronze and wood. His artwork comes in the forms of busts, full figures, animals, humans and abstract. He's most famous for his Makybe Diva statue in Port Lincoln and the newly revealed The Tuna Poler on the town's foreshore.

Next we take you on a guided walk, with a former local fisherman, through the Marina Wharf to learn about the largest professional fishing region in the Southern Hemisphere. From here we transfer you back to the Port Lincoln Hotel for a freshen up.

A seafood masterclass cooking demonstration and dinner with renowned chef, Kris Bunder, one of Port Lincoln's best-known chefs rounds out your day. This will be a dinner to remember.

△ **Accommodation: Overnight at Port Lincoln Hotel in an Ocean View room**  
 ○ **Breakfast, Lunch and dinner provided**

**Day 3 Coastal Geology**

After breakfast at the hotel we 4WD through Lincoln National Park to learn about the caves, rockpools, ancient rock formations, crevasses and more.

A major highlight are the massive wind-sculpted sand dunes, pounding surf and spectacular limestone cliffs along the 14km Sleaford-Wanna 4WD-only track.

Visit Sleaford Mere Conservation Park, a shallow permanent saline lake that is notable as a bird habitat and a large land-locked population of skates. Species of conservation significance include the fairy tern and southern emu-wren. Our expert guide explains the historical, geological and hydrological significance of the lake and the remarkable stromatolites that line the lake's edge.

Next we head to Whalers Way, an ancient rocky coastline with a series of natural bays and headlands. Each stop along the dusty track is another superb photo opportunity, as the coastline and native wildlife inhab-

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Eyre Peninsula, South Australia



Enjoy the spectacular coastal vistas of the Eyre Peninsula.

iting the area are truly spectacular. Further along is Cape Wiles, named after the botanist James Wiles who sailed with Flinders in 1802. Dozens of fur seals splash around the base of the two golden sandstone islands just off the point, protected on one side from the harshness of the Southern Ocean.

Next we stop at Cape Carnot. The south-westerly tip of the Eyre Peninsula, it was named in 1802 by French explorer Nicholas Baudin. Theakstone's Crevasse is the final stop along Whaler's Way before the journey back into Port Lincoln. The crevasse is a deceptively deep fissure along a fault line, formed over millions of years. For the record, the gully is 13m deep with 9m high walls and extends 30m underground!

Make sure you bring your bathers as we might find some hidden picturesque rock-pools to explore.

Dinner at leisure.

△ **Accommodation: Overnight at Port Lincoln Hotel.**

○ **Breakfast and lunch provided**

**Day 4 Marron, Oysters and Fossils**

Breakfast at hotel before our first stop at Big Swamp Wetland, a highly valuable ecosystem that helps with water purification, ground water replenishment, and water storage and flood control. The wetland is actually three, seasonal freshwater lakes with

a large and ancient red gum forest, creating a unique habitat for rare wildlife, bird species, threatened plant species, freshwater tortoise, native fish and invertebrates.

From here we head further up the coast to the beautiful region of Coffin, Kellidie and Dutton bays, which are known for their world-famous oysters, highly prized marron (closely related to the crayfish) and yabbies, as well as a variety of important species of flora and fauna. There are no other comparable systems of bays and inlets in such compact form anywhere on the coast, which is why this area is classified as a maritime wilderness area.

After lunch, take a local oyster-farming cruise out to The Brothers to watch the many ocean birds, Australian sea lions, long-nosed fur seals and common southern dolphins that surround this area. You'll have the chance to shuck your own oysters and of course taste them. The farmers love explaining how and what they are doing to keep their industry sustainable and how they are lessening their impact on the environment. The larger island of The Brothers, in the Mount Dutton Bay Conservation Park, is of paleontological significance - it has sub-fossil bones of six species, including an extinct kangaroo and a giant flightless bird. Please note cruise is weather dependent.

For something a little different on the way back into Port Lincoln, and one especially

for the chocolate connoisseurs, see and learn how chocolate is made. Pair this with a local organic red wine. Our guide Peter Clutterbuck is Eyre Peninsula's only vigneron and resident winemaker, and loves telling his winemaking story to guests!

Something a bit more casual but just as exciting for the tastebuds is Del Giornos EP Tasting Menu (EP is short for Eyre Peninsula). With this menu you'll get a mixture of local fresh seafood and land products.

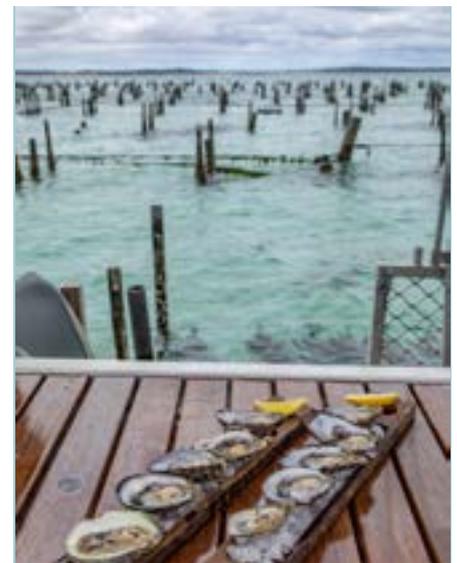
△ **Accommodation: Overnight at Port Lincoln Hotel.**

○ **Breakfast and lunch provided**

**Day 5 Hiking and wildlife**

Breakfast at hotel before viewing the small coastal hamlet of Tulka where waders, swans and sea birds can be seen from a bird hide. This is another known location for southern emu-wrens near a historical well, first dug by Captain Matthew Flinders when he explored the area in 1802, which saved his expedition. From here, we take you to Lincoln National Park and the Spalding Cove area, where we follow Flinders journey and his hike (although we now have hiking tracks) up Stamford Hill to see spectacular views of Boston Bay, Port Lincoln and the park. Rare wildlife to look out for are: Rosenberg's goanna, echidnas, western whipbird, malleefowl, the brush-tailed bettong and the hooded plover.

Part of today's activities is to join local organisation, Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board's (EPLB) citizen science programs. These programs aim to record rare species of animals,



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Spot some of the 130 species of bird in Lincoln NP.

birds and reptiles. By using citizen scientists to help us monitor these species we greatly increase our survey capability both spatially and over time. There are 130 species of birds listed in the national park as well as many western grey kangaroos, emus and lizards.

From here we take you to beautiful Mikkira Station, arguably one of Australia's very best habitats for koalas in the wild. Visit the restored original homestead and go for a stroll under the manna gums where you'll see koalas at eye level. Wild but placid kangaroos casually hop around this historical setting, where in 1842 Scotsman Adam Borthwick and his family made their home as one of the very first settlers of the region.

Emus roam around among mobs of sheep and there is astounding native birdlife, some of which are rare, including Port Lincoln (Australian ringneck) parrots, black-faced cuckoo-shrikes, pallid cuckoos, golden whistlers and an occasional scarlet robin. As the

sun settles for the evening, we will relax with a platter of local produce, wine and listen to the sounds of nature. It's beautiful!

△ **Accommodation: Overnight at Port Lincoln Hotel.**

○ **Dinner at leisure**

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**Day 6 Swim with Australian sea lions and dolphins, Baird Bay**

Check out from the hotel to embark on the 300km road trip to Baird Bay for Alan and Trish Payne's Baird Bay Ocean Eco Experiences. We'll stop on several occasions to get out of the vehicle, stretch the legs and see some special places.

First up is one of the very best vantage spots on the 2000km-long stretch of the Great Australian Bight. The Cummings Monument provides spectacular and uninterrupted views of the rugged clifftops that make up the Bight. Adjacent to the monu-

**We take you to beautiful Mikkira Station, arguably one of Australia's very best habitats for koalas**

ment is a craggy pinnacle, set in deep-blue waters, which is home to an osprey family. The nest on top (which is a piece of nature's art) is reportedly 200 years old!

Today's headline act, however, is a short steam offshore aboard the 14-seater *Neo-phocus*, to Jones Island, which is home to more than 120 sea lions as well as a variety of native birds. Here you have the opportunity to experience a swim with sea lions in their natural environment. Fast, agile and playful, they thrive on the interaction of humans. There are only two places on Earth where you can swim with wild sea lions; the Galapagos Islands and the Eyre Peninsula. The sea lion experience is full of wonder and charm, and swimming with them is rated in the Top 10 things to do in Australia. Alan and Trish have never fed the mammals, it's the natural curiosity of the sea lions, and mutual respect between both animal and human, that has led to such a close relationship. After this we'll move out into deeper water where you'll now have the chance to swim with the resident bottlenose dolphins. Powerful and lightning fast, these animals often come so close to you that you can hear their high-pitched chatter.

Back on the beach you'll be introduced to local Wudinna identity and guide, Geoff Scholz from Gawler Ranges Wilderness Safaris, who'll take you to his world-famous Kagaluna Bush Camp on the edge of Gawler Ranges National Park.

You'll dine on local flavours while watching the wild but resident family of emus and kangaroos come in for a drink, just metres from where you will be having dinner.

△ **Accommodation: Overnight at Kagaluna Camp.**

○ **Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided**

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**ITINERARY CONT. →**



Frolic with Australian sea lions off Jones Island.

**Day 7 Lake Gairdner**

Breakfast at camp. The area has an extraordinary range of wildly beautiful outback country boasting contrasting colours of red sands and rocky gorges, blue skies and the glistening white of massive Lake Gairdner. It is one of few places that three large species of kangaroos can be seen together, and in amazing numbers.

Today you'll visit spectacular Lake Gairdner with its glistening white salt pan set in a red landscape. The dunes along the lake yield many animal tracks, flowers in spring, interesting vegetation and birds with endless photographic opportunities. You may see emus and red, western grey and euro kangaroos as we drive through the ancient outback range.

The night sky is an absolute treat. You can enjoy the stars with a computerised telescope after dinner with some astronomy lessons!

**△ Accommodation: Overnight at Kangaluna Camp.**

**○ Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided**

**Day 8 Gawler Ranges National Park**

Breakfast at camp. This morning is leisurely and allows plenty of time to walk through the bush near camp. Later you'll walk on Sturt's Lake in the Corrobinnie Depression and see the array of colours and patterns in the bed of the old lake. This is

a geological marvel, with many interesting subjects. Continuing around the lake to Mt Sturt, taking short walks in the nature, you observe a diversity of plants and trees.

Visit amazing Pildappa Wave Rock en-route to an early arrival back to Kangaluna, which gives the extra chance to spot some of the 110 species of birds and the visiting animals, or relax in the stunning surrounds.

Sunset drinks round out the day at Sturt's Lake (9km long and up to 1.5km wide). You'll see fossilised remains of stromatolites, which once lived under the shallow water.

**△ Accommodation: Overnight at Kangaluna Camp.**

**○ Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided**

**Day 9 Gawler Ranges National Park**

Breakfast at camp. This morning we will take you on a "coloured rock" walking and wildlife tour, which will also include stories about the traditional owners of the land at the Ochre Pit. The white crystals are called selinite; this is a form of gypsum, which forms immediately under the surface of Sturt's Lake. The uneven side of the crystals face down, the even side is then covered with 10mm of mud and 5mm of salt. Some lakes have different crystal forms, and this is caused by the acidity of the lake mud. The pH ranges from 3 to 7. Also under these trees are specimens of fossilised wood. The coloured rocks are mostly weathered volca-

nic flows stained by the dissolved iron in the water, which covered it for a long time. The coloured rocks also display white lines and patterns; this is silica in an opal form that has filled cracks in the rock. It is called bone opal; if you look at a loose piece you will see it resembles a piece of weathered bone.

There are pieces of orange-stained quartz across the area but a lot on the east end, which is from the iron in the bedrock leaching up after rain and depositing the iron colour on the quartz. You will find in most samples that there is no orange on the bottom of the pieces.

Between the rocks and the lake is a good place to look for animal tracks, it's easy to see the web pattern on both emu and kangaroo tracks if the mud is damp.

Often there are spots where the kangaroos have been walking, which is great to show the length of their feet (macropod means big foot) and also how they use their tail as a fifth foot. At the section of their tail they use to prop on, they have five extra bones that act as the foot.

Lunch will be served back at the camp and then we depart for Port Lincoln, travelling through the middle of the Eyre Peninsula and the coastline of lower eastern Eyre Peninsula to the airport for departure.

**○ Breakfast and lunch provided**



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# COST

MIN. 4 / MAX. 8 PAX – \$7,189 PP TWIN SHARE, SINGLE SUPPLEMENT – \$826



## Costs include the following services as per itinerary

- 8 nights accommodation as per itinerary at the Port Lincoln Hotel and Kangaluna Camp (twin share)
- Private professional, local and experienced guides
- Fully guided in Luxury Toyota Landcruiser 4WD vehicle/s
- Airport transfer on day 9
- All daily activities, permit and entry fees
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner as outlined in the itinerary
- Selected beverages, water, morning or afternoon tea/snacks
- All costs are based on nett per

person twin share costs in Australian dollars (aud).

## Costs do not include

- Domestic or international airfares
- Pre-registration, late check-out or day use at hotels other than specified above
- Guide services other than specified
- Meals/beverages other than specified, alcohol
- Tips and gratuities
- Optional tours/services.



# EXTRA INFO

## COVID-19

The supplier Australian Coastal Safaris has the COVID-19 Clean Practicing Business accreditation, the South Australia Government Covid-Safe Plan in place and went through the Infection Control Training.

## Health and Safety Information

For the health and safety of all passengers and staff on tour, any illness (such as fever, coughing or difficulty breathing) will not be accepted onboard any IAT touring unless they can provide us with a negative COVID-19 test result received within the past 72 hours. Should any passenger start to feel unwell on arrival or while on tour, they must immediately advise the tour manager and contact a medical practitioner / medical centre / hospital. To return to the tour the passenger must be deemed fit and well to participate fully on the tour, obtaining and providing IAT with a written medical clearance i.e. not just a negative COVID-19 test. Any costs incurred will be at the passenger's own expense.



EMAIL: [TRAVEL@AUSTRALIANGEOGRAPHIC.COM](mailto:TRAVEL@AUSTRALIANGEOGRAPHIC.COM)

PHONE: 0413 560 210