

VICTORIA & NEW SOUTH WALES – MURRAY RIVER BOAT CRUISING
5-day / 4-night river boat cruising on the Murray River border country from and back to Echuca



The Murray River is known for its essential role as the lifeblood of the southeast region of Australia. It is Australia's longest river and has a rich cultural, agricultural, geographical and environmental significance. The best way to explore this diverse habitat is from the water, and this river boat cruise is your opportunity to sample a picturesque, historic part of river in the same way as you can on the small river cruise boats and barges in France. Add the rhythm and swish of paddlewheels and the romance of steam-driven travel from a bygone era and you are set for a captivating cruising holiday.

Taking in over 190km of the river from Echuca in northern Victoria, the cruise aboard PS Emmylou is powered by a 1906 steam engine fuelled with red gum logs. There is opportunity to chat with the skipper or engineer in the wheelhouse about the technicalities of river cruising. We visit Torrumbarry Weir to learn about the river basin and lock system and enjoy a guided walk of Perricoota Station Estate, first built in 1843 for an insight into the history of the area. Sit and gaze at the changing reflections in the water with unique natural beauty and wildlife.

Our river boat has eight air-conditioned cabins. Six either twin, double or queen bed cabins on the upper deck, one queen cabin on the main deck for easy access and the signature Emmylou Queen Suite on the upper deck.

Onshore touring includes a wetlands walk to discover local Aboriginal cultural heritage and a small boat eco-cruise. We have visits to quaint riverside wineries, including a local lunch with the owners of Restdown Winery, an organic wine producer. Fresh seasonal local produce is prepared and served by our on-board chef. Our days end with a grand dining experience and a blazing campfire under a beautiful night sky.

Cost per person, twin-share from:	Twin or Double Cabin	\$2300	Single supplement on request
	Queen Cabin	\$2360	
	Emmylou Queen Suite	\$2840	

Departs: 5, 12, 19, 26 June; 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 July; 21, 28 August; 4, 11, 18, 25 September;
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 October; 6, 13, 20, 27 November; 4, 11 December, 2023
29 January; 5, 12, 19, 26 February; 4, 11, 18, 25 March 2024

Includes: 4 nights in comfortable air-conditioned cabins with ensuite; all regionally inspired chef prepared meals on-board; wine and beer with dinner; coffee, tea, soft drink and bottled water; transfer to/from local hotels and Echuca train station on arrival and departure days; return V/Line train tickets Melbourne-Echuca; 2 onshore guided tours, Wifi.

Not included: Meals not mentioned, other drinks, and any personal expenses.

3 or 6 night cruises are also available on different routes. Please ask us for more details and prices.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary:*

Day 1 - Norris Bend

Transfer by coach from Echuca to the PS Emmylou, moored at Torumbarry Weir. Begin the tour with an afternoon tea of freshly made scones, while the river boat (and your home for the next 5 days) steams its way upriver. Take in the sights and sounds of the river or chat with the engineer or the skipper in the wheelhouse about the rich history of the river and PS Emmylou. Side wheel paddle steamers are distinctly Australian and have plied the Murray River since 1853, surviving until rail and roads took over around the turn of the century. PS Emmylou, powered by a restored 1906 Marshall and Sons steam engine, is regarded as an Australian Icon of the River. Built locally during 1980-82 in the style of the 19th century paddle steamers, she is 30 metres long and 10 metres wide, steel hulled and timber decked.

Later, enjoy sunset drinks in the Saloon before our 'welcome dinner'. After dinner there is a riverside campfire (weather permitting) at our mooring spot Norris Bend. The evening brings a chorus of river bird song and a chance to see kangaroos, wombats, egrets and many other waterbird species as dusk settles.

Day 2 - Perricoota Station

After breakfast we cruise to the famous **Perricoota Station**. Rich in history, this rural property was first settled by James Maiden in 1843. It is famous for starring in the TV mini-series "**All the Rivers Run**" in which PS Emmylou was renamed PS Providence. We then disembark and head to Restdown Winery, producers of fine organic wines and Hereford beef. Join the property's owners for a 1.4km guided walk on a wetlands walking trail highlighting sites of great Aboriginal significance. Return to the winery for a gourmet lunch and complimentary wine tastings. On returning to the river boat join the skipper for a walk through the gardens, around the buildings of Perricoota Station and to view the impressive homestead. Dine tonight on the deck of the boat overlooking the property and river.

Finish the evening with a documentary featuring archival footage of the paddle steamers and communities of the Murray River from the early 1900s through to the mid-1970s.

Day 3 - Layfield Lane

Early risers and keen photographers have the chance to take a walk and capture the special morning light and wildlife around Perricoota Station. Take breakfast on the deck then relax with a good book or just take in the river views and wildlife as Emmylou steams her way upriver. Lunch is served on the deck or in the saloon. Once at the mooring at Layfield Lane, enjoy a sampling of delicious canapés and an aperitif over happy hour. Dinner follows with a classic Australian BBQ served riverside, under the stars. After dinner join in spinning yarns sitting around the campfire before retiring for the evening.

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Day 4 - Moama Wharf

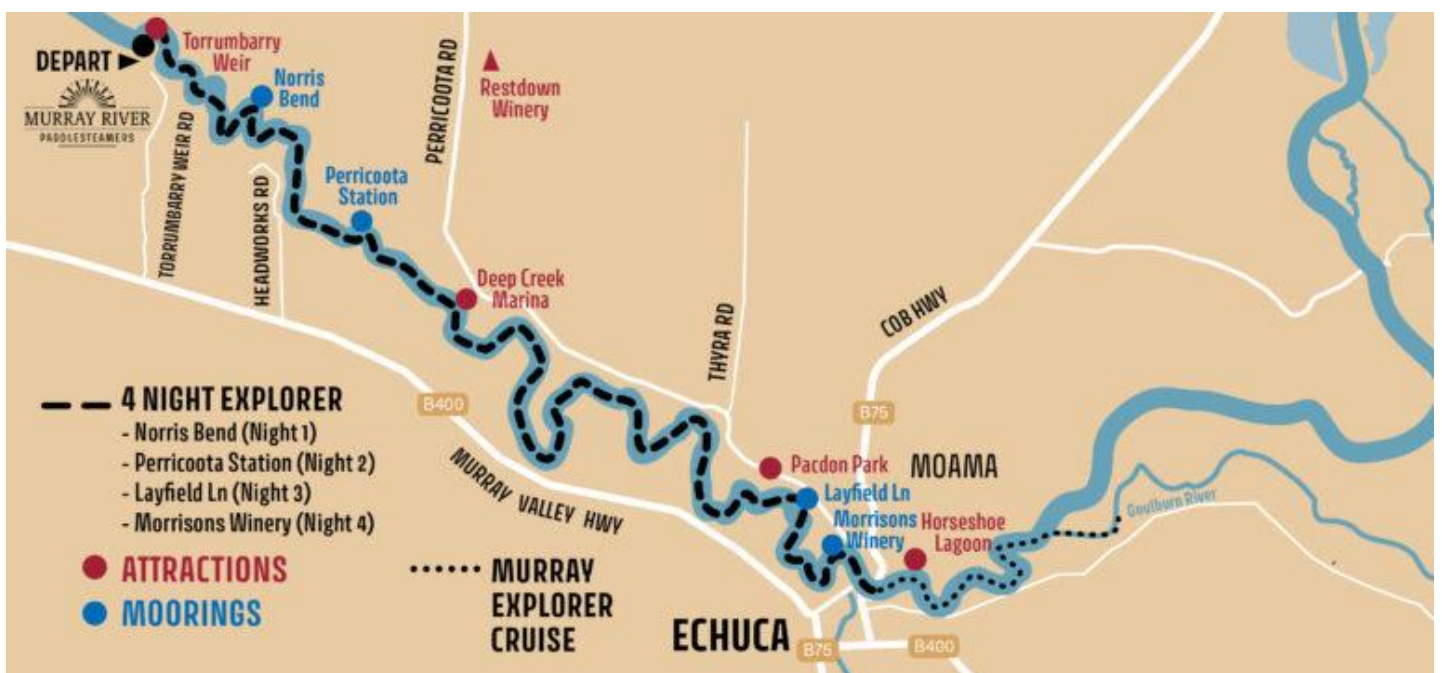
After breakfast embark on a half-day land and river tour. Explore the historic town of Echuca, discovering historic sites like Hopwood's Punt and pontoon bridge, the first river crossing established by Echuca's founder Henry Hopwood. Take in morning tea at Echuca Wharf, then board an eco-expedition boat for an intimate cruise upriver, learning about the rich history of the river from pre-European to early colonial riverboat days. Have a delicious lunch on a remote sandy river beach, surrounded by the majestic beauty of the river.

Return to your paddle steamer for afternoon tea, then continue upstream to Moama Wharf.

Day 5 - Port of Echuca

This morning before breakfast enjoy an early stroll alongside Horseshoe Lagoon. The PS Emmylou then departs for the return cruise to Echuca. Disembark in the Port of Echuca at 9:30am. If necessary, you will be transferred to Echuca train station, city centre hotels or car parking.

* Please note itinerary is subject to change due to river conditions



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