



Wildlife, Culture & Seafood – Eyre Peninsula, South Australia

Explore South Australia's remote Eyre Peninsula where you will be privy to the region's incredible raw beauty, iconic wildlife encounters and ancient indigenous culture. Taste oysters shucked straight from the ocean, savour bush foods, learn of dreamtime stories and connect on a deeper level to the local indigenous community. Come eye to eye with wild koalas as you embrace an extraordinary side of Australia you could only dream of. Known as the Australia's Seafood Frontier, an array of fresh prawns, mussels, squid and crab will tempt you. Your taste buds will lead the way. Discover rolling sand dunes, sapphire waters and white sandy beaches dotted with emus. For those seeking a thrill, swim with sealions or cage dive with sharks. Sip on sundowners listening to traditional Australian bush poetry as you watch the sunset over this wild rugged land. Welcome to South Australia's Eyre Peninsula.

Day 1 – Arrival, Wine & Dine

Welcome to the seafood capital of Australia, Port Lincoln! Your local guide will greet you at the airport on your arrival around midday, before you delve straight into following your tastebuds. A taste of Port Lincoln and the gourmet delights is prominent and a must for any visitor. Meet Tony Ford, one of Port Lincoln and South Australia's best chefs at his Boston Bay Winery for a late lunch of seafood and wine pairing. Cook your own fish whilst learning about the various wines grown here along with sampling some of Port Lincolns very best seafood. This winery is the world's closest vineyard to the ocean and we often joke that pruning needs to be done at low tide so the crayfish don't bite you! From here, transfer to your accommodation for the next 3 nights, the Port Lincoln Hotel developed by tuna baron, Sam Sarin. The evening is yours at leisure and there are plenty of options for dinner at Sarins Restaurant, Sharkey's Bar, the Lounge or utilize the in-house room service. Café Del Giorno's is another great restaurant close by and there are a number of other options within walking distance to the Port Lincoln Hotel. (L)

Overnight Port Lincoln Hotel or similar

Day 2 - Cultural Experience & Coffin Bay Highlights

An early start this morning, depart for beautiful Coffin Bay. This area is of outstanding beauty, sapphire waters, world famous oysters and is home to 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. This morning's experience is something that will embed itself firmly into your memory for years to come. Local Nauo aboriginal Jody Miller and a Wirangu tribe member, are outstanding individuals looking to preserve their traditional stories, values and cultures by sharing the knowledge of their traditions from the soul. Be completely absorbed as you learn about their fascinating indigenous culture through hands-on activities such as collecting and foraging for bush-tucker, understanding the amazing diversity of the bush medicine to be found, listening to their captivating story-telling and ancient history as you interact with your hosts to truly form an understanding of the local culture, community and history of this area, well before white man came along. You may even have the opportunity to experience some traditional methods of bush cooking and of course, tasting is a must.

As seafood is a major part of this region, we tempt you with another lunch of fresh seafood platters at Coffin Bay 1802 Oyster Bar & Restaurant (or similar) overlooking the pristine waters and oyster leases that have made the town, and it's world famous oysters. This afternoon, we excite you with a cruise where you will be joining a local oyster farmer and cruising out to 'The Brothers' islands to observe the seabirds, seals and dolphins that call this area home. Whilst cruising, learn about the humble oyster, the process of farming these oysters, shuck your own oysters and of course, oyster tasting – the freshest oysters you have ever tasted. Your expert oyster farmer loves explaining how and what they are doing to keep their industry sustainable for years to come and how they are lessening the impact on the environment. The larger island of 'The Brothers' in the Mount Dutton Bay Conservation Park, is of paleontological significance because of the presence of sub-fossil bones of six species, including an extinct kangaroo and a giant flightless bird. Elegant bottle-nosed Dolphins are common within the turquoise Coffin Bay waterways, and common dolphins are frequently seen in offshore waters. Please note the cruise is weather dependent.

This evening, return to your hotel to freshen up, before a five minute stroll to El Giorno's for a tasting menu. Savour a mixture of local fresh seafood and land products that of course are all locally produced. Start off with a tasting of Hiramusa yellowtail kingfish sashimi, Southern bluefin tuna sashimi and Coffin Bay oysters – natural – Tokyo – pickled ginger, soy sauce, mirin & wasabi. Entrée is followed with Devilled scallops – wrapped in bacon, with steamed rice and chilli cream sauce, salt and pepper calamari and Kinkawooka mussels – cooked in tomato, onion & garlic sauce. If you are still wanting more, then the main course is next – King George Whiting – cooked in Coopers pale ale beer batter, prime samm lamb steaks and Spanish king prawns – Spencer Gulf wild catch king prawns cooked in tomato & black bean sauce. (B,L,D)

Overnight Port Lincoln Hotel or similar

Day 3 – The Great Outdoors

Today is all about wildlife, nature and adventure featuring the amazing coast of the lower Eyre Peninsula. Set off early from your hotel around 6am for sunrise at one of the best viewing areas in South Australia – Winter Hill. From this vantage point, you can see the city of Port Lincoln, Boston Island, Boston Bay and all the way out to the stunning Port Lincoln National Park. Enjoy a picnic breakfast here as you absorb the 360 degree view towards Coffin Bay and the lower west coast of the Eyre Peninsula. This is a superb photo opportunity, as the ever-changing cloud formations make for a stunning backdrop as the sun slowly creeps up. Then we are off on an adventure to Lincoln National Park. Experience the diversity of the national park, from the naturally rugged and wild Sleaford Bay and the Southern Ocean to the tranquillity of the Spalding Cove area and other beautiful beaches. Of the 29,000ha National Park, beachcomb along Surfleet Cove and take a 45-minute hike to see spectacular views of Boston Bay, Port Lincoln and the Port Lincoln National Park at the Stamford Hill Lookout. This national park is literally teeming with kangaroos, emus and native, coastal & inland bird species.

Continue to Whalers Way. Each stop along the dusty track is another superb photo opportunity, as the coastline and native wildlife inhabiting the area are truly spectacular. Further along this spectacular coastline 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 which also provides a great chance to see Ospreys feeding. Continuing on past some incredible coastline, stop at Cape Carnot. Cape Carnot is the southwesterly tip of the Eyre Peninsula and was named by French explorer, Nicholas Baudin in 1802. Freak waves have claimed lives here and signs serve as a constant reminder how dangerous this area can be as the full force of the Southern Ocean meets some of the oldest rock formations on the planet. Well known to geologists, these rocks are some 2460 million years old - give or take a couple of years! 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. Walking down past it, you will be blown away at how deep the crevasse actually extends. For the record, the gully is 13m deep with 9m high walls and extends 30m underground. From this viewing area, you can clearly see the Cathedral Rocks wind farm. The farm is made up of 33 3-bladed wind turbines mounted on 60m tall towers with the carbon fibre and fiberglass resin blades being a whopping 40m in diameter! The wind farm is bang on the coastline and cliff tops of the southern tip of Eyre Peninsula. This stop provides an excellent insight into how this form of green

energy is created and used, to power up to 33,000 homes, as well as being a superb photo opportunity! Be sure to bring your swimming costume, as we might find some hidden picturesque rock pools to explore.

Continue on to the beautiful Mikkira Station, one of Australia's very best habitats where Koalas can be found in the wild and at incredibly close proximity. Visit the restored original homestead and go for a stroll under the beautiful old Eucalypt trees and come face to face with the cuddly icon of Australia, as they laze in the Manna gums. Due to the gums being stunted, your view to the koala is at eye level and you will need more than two hands to keep count, maybe even four! Wild but placid kangaroos casually hop around in this beautiful 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 amongst mobs of sheep and there is astounding birdlife here, some of which are rare and native to this area. Bush birds include: 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 as you enjoy listening to Australian Bush Poetry – Listen and be totally entertained with a true Aussie and his repertoire of Australian Bush Poetry. Sit back in amongst the koalas and wildlife, with a local drop and reminisce about our distant past and history. (B,L)

Overnight at Port Lincoln Hotel or similar

Day 4 – At leisure – Departure

Today is yours at leisure until 11am when you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight. We can also organise (in advance) the below experiences for you if you would like to spend additional time exploring the Eyre Peninsula. (B)

Option 1 – Scenic Flight over the lower Eyre Peninsula (min numbers required to operate)

What a great way to finish off your experience to Port Lincoln, Coffin Bay and the lower Eyre Peninsula. Transfer to the take-off site, where you will meet your pilot and board the Cessna 207, which flies at low altitude. Take off over Boston Island to the north of Port Lincoln and get a rare glimpse from the sky of Port Lincoln City and sights, islands and Boston Harbour, which is 5 times the size of Sydney Harbour. From here, you cruise over the coast of the Lincoln National Park on the lookout for sea and land wildlife. Fly over massive sand-dunes, stunning coastline, majestic cliffs of Whalers Way and the southernmost point of Eyre Peninsula. As you travel on to Coffin Bay, on the right are untouched landscapes, which are only accessible by walking trails, on your left is the great expanse of the Great Australian Bight. Take in the sights of Coffin Bay and get a true idea of the inlets, bays and conservation areas of this small, unique region. Your final journey is through the heartland of our farming community back to Port Lincoln. Return transfer back to Port Lincoln for lunch.

Option 2 – Port Lincoln: Swimming with Australian Sealions

Witnessing the rare and endangered Australian Sea Lions in their natural underwater habitat, is one of the most life enhancing experiences. The inquisitive, gentle nature of these stunning sea creatures

is unparalleled in the underwater world. Seal Cove, Hopkins Island is where the gorgeous puppies of the sea welcome your arrival, as they bound toward the boat with their unmistakable glee and excitement; performing somersaults and graceful swirls just waiting for you to join in! The gentlest of underwater mammals, sea lions love to play! After watching leaps and twists out of the water and showing off backflips, you will definitely experience the joy they get from swimming with you and you with them. You also cruise around the shores of the Port Lincoln National Park and the cliffs of the Memory Cove wilderness sanctuary. This is untouched coast and is best seen by boat often sighting Bottlenose Dolphins, White Bellied Sea Eagles, Fur Seals and stunning scenery, with outstanding commentary supplied by your skipper. Included in this 4.5-hour excursion, is all swimming equipment with a 7mm wetsuit, mask & snorkel, tea, coffee, muffins, fresh fruit and toasty sandwiches. This experience is a great start to your day. You will arrive back into the Marina at 12.30pm, where your transfer back to the Port Lincoln Hotel awaits. Departures: Not available through the winter months of June, July & August.

Option 3 – Great White Shark Cage Diving (extra nights accommodation required)

Depart early for one of the most extreme and exhilarating ocean interactions with the world's most feared predator of the sea! Honed by millions of years of evolution, the Great White Shark is one of the most graceful and awe-inspiring fish in the ocean. Absolutely nothing will prepare you for the unique experience on your first encounter with this magnificent specimen in its natural environment.

You are required to board the 20m Calypso Star II by 6.30am from the pontoon next to Port Lincolns' Marina Hotel, ready for a 7am departure. The home of the Great Whites is out at the Neptune Islands and the 2.5-hour trip is often accompanied by pods of dolphins cruising by with lots of running commentary by the staff on board the shark diving vessel. (During the winter, Southern Right Whales are often seen in the area as well). Once at the Islands, the action begins, as sharks up to 5m emerge from the depths at the attraction of burley and baits.

Each person will experience 45 min cage viewing, face to face, with the amazing Great Whites through crystal clear waters. Cameras are a must have, as the action from the fly bridge and the deck is absolutely fantastic! Your day concludes about 6.30-7pm that evening with incredible memories. The transfer back to your Port Lincoln hotel is included.

Great White Sharks are all year round and sightings can never be guaranteed, as they are wild animals, but it is truly amazing to see the size of these creatures, as there are only a few places in the world to see the great white sharks. Historically February & March, are not a great time to see the Great White Sharks but each season is different.

End of Services

An itinerary may at times be altered by our guides due to local conditions, the skill of participants and other unexpected circumstances such as indigenous community requirements, practices and customs and weather. Our priority is always the experience and safety of our clients.