



Peter O'Leary in association with Specialty Travel presents his 9 Day

Springtime in Sun Country Victoria

Tuesday 18th September to Wednesday 26th September 2012

Our Spring Tour destination for 2012 is regional Victoria. We have planned 3 nights beside a lake in Central Victoria and then 4 nights beside the Murray River in the north of the State. Both locations are ideal for local touring and both the motels we have selected have ground floor rooms, walk in showers and "in house" restaurants. We will fly to and from Melbourne and we will be touring with an experienced and high quality, locally based coach operator in a 5 star, seat belt equipped touring coach.

Join us for a fantastic 9 day tour!

Day 1: Tuesday 18 September Rockhampton to Melbourne (D)

Pick ups: Yeppoon 7.30am; Emu Park 7.50am; Northside Plaza 8.30am; South Mobil 8.45am; Gracemere 9.00am; Rockhampton Airport 9.25am

This morning we depart *Rockhampton* on Virgin flight DJ1238 @ 10.25am to *Brisbane* where we connect with DJ328 for our 1.00pm flight to *Melbourne*. Our local touring coach will be at Melbourne Airport to meet us. Once the luggage is loaded we will be on our way. Our drive this afternoon is less than two hours – to the little town of *Nagambie* in Mitchell Shire of Central Victoria.

The historic Mitchell Shire is nestled in the scenic plains, valleys and mountains of the Goulburn River and Ranges. This 'geographical heart' of Victoria surrounds the Campaspe and Goulburn Rivers and contains many hidden treasures. For example, two of the oldest and most spectacular vineyards – Chateau Tahbilk and Mitchelton - can be found here. On this tour we will take a cruise between the two on the Goulburn River. Not far from Yea there is a fascinating Mountain Railway and Steam Museum and in the Toolangi State Forest a temperate rainforest boardwalk can be explored with a locally based Park Ranger. With some delightful accommodation in Nagambie our touring each day will "criss cross" the Mitchell Shire – famous for its picturesque valleys flowing rivers and breathtaking backdrops.

On arrival at Nagambie we check into our motel - the Comfort Inn Suites and Resort – a 4 star property on the shores of *Lake Nagambie*. From here we will explore Central Victoria – a rich agricultural area known for its wines, scenic drives and the Goulburn River which flows between Lake Eildon and the Murray at Echuca.

Comfort Inn Suites and Resort, Nagambie - 03 5794 1410

Day 2: Wednesday 19 September Wineries on the Goulburn River (BLD)

Our touring today has a focus on local wines and two very interesting wineries. First stop is *Chateau Tahbilk* and then *Mitchelton Wines* - one of Australia's most beautiful and historic wineries. The property fronts the Goulburn River and was selected back in the 1960's as the best place in south eastern Australia for premium wine growing. We have arranged a wine tasting and there will be time to visit the landmark *Ashton Tower* which offers breathtaking views over the vineyards and the river – and also the local art gallery. After our tour of the winery we will take a boat ride (with a BBQ lunch) along the Goulburn River. This afternoon we visit the interesting *Tank Museum* at the Puckapunyal Army Base which commemorates the Royal Australian Armoured Corps and the Australian Light Horse. There are nearly 90 armoured fighting vehicles on display. From Puckapunyal we travel to *Heathcote* – a region that has become quite well known for its wines, especially the Shiraz grown and produced here. Our local guide will join us for a brief tour of the area before we return to *Nagambie*.

Comfort Inn Suites and Resort, Nagambie

Day 3: Thursday 20 September Kerrisdale Mountain Railway (BLD)

This morning we head south to *Seymour* where we join the scenic Goulburn Valley Highway towards Yea. The *Kerrisdale Mountain Railway & Museum* is a most interesting stop. This is a unique railway built on a zig zag formation. The line climbs quite steeply as it wends its way through tall trees on a precipitous track cut into the mountain side. A panorama unfolds over the *King Parrott Valley* and further to the distant snow-capped peaks, in winter, of the Victorian Alps. We have time for a live demonstration at the Steam Museum and a country style lunch. We then enjoy a scenic drive – called the Yea Highlands Caveat Scenic Drive. It will take about 2 hours and the views are stunning. After a great day we return to Nagambie.

Comfort Inn Suites and Resort, Nagambie

Day 4: Friday 21 September Shepparton & Benalla (BD)

We check out of the motel this morning and travel north to *Shepparton* - the main centre of the *Goulburn Valley* and the headquarters of the Goulburn Valley Irrigation System. *Mooroopna* is separated from Shepparton by the Goulburn River and a large tract of flood-prone forest. The towns are joined by a causeway. The surrounding area produces a substantial proportion of the state's agricultural output, particularly fruit, vegetables, cereals and milk products. Local industry includes two enormous fruit canneries (SPC and Ardmona), Campbell's Soups, a foundry and a woollen mill. We call at the *Ardmona Outlet Sales Shop* before continuing to *Benalla* which is located on the banks of the Broken River. Known as the 'Rose City' it is noted for its public gardens. We enjoy the sights including a visit to the *Costume and Pioneer Museum* which is also the town's Information Centre. There are period costumes and two permanent exhibitions. 'The Ned Kelly Story' is housed in a portable cell in which Ned was once imprisoned. It contains memorabilia such as Ned's sash and bridle, his cummerbund, the witness box from the old Benalla Courthouse and the door of the old Benalla Gaol to which Joe Byrne's body was tied for photographs after the Glenrowan siege in 1880. Kelly received the sash as a child at Avenel when he rescued a boy from drowning and was wearing it when taken at Glenrowan. The display known as 'Benalla's Famous Sons' features memorabilia relating to Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop, Michael J. Savage and Captain Hector Waller. Also on the premises is an arts-and-crafts gallery. We also have time to enjoy the gardens and a Club Lunch (own expense) before joining the Hume Highway. We make an afternoon stop at *Glenrowan* and then drive through to Corowa where we will have 3 nights at the *Comfort Inn Federation Motel*, situated on 3 acres and surrounded by lawns and shady gardens. After we have checked in we enjoy a welcome glass of beer, wine or soft drink followed by dinner in *Tokay's at Federation Restaurant*

Comfort Inn Federation Motel, Corowa - 02 60332022

In 2010 the drought that crippled most of New South Wales and Victoria finally broke. The Hume Weir near Albury, which fell to just 4% capacity, filled by late 2010 as did most of the other lakes and weirs along the Murray – all the way to the river mouth at Goolwa in South Australia. As a result the flora and fauna around the Murray has bloomed and the crops, orchards and market gardens are looking the best they have for many years. Our tour is based at Corowa – a small town on the New South Wales side of the Murray River. Corowa Shire is centrally located between the mountains and the mouth of the Murray River. With a Mediterranean climate and vibrant atmosphere, Corowa Shire is an ideal location from which we can explore the towns west along the river to Cobram, north to Deniliquin and south, within the Murray Valley

Day 5: Saturday 22 September Exploring the Murray Valley (BLD)

Refreshed after a good night's sleep and a country style breakfast we are ready to start our touring. Our first stop this morning is at a place near Cobram called *Koonoomoo* – home to the *Big Strawberry*. Anything you can think of that has strawberries in it, they make it here. Jams, ice creams, liqueurs, milk shakes – you name it! We enjoy a morning tea before continuing along the Murray Highway, past Cobram, to an interesting place called *Wyterrica* – an alpaca and “on farm” shop. This is a working farm where the owners spend time showing us how they breed these inquisitive animals, how they are shorn and the products made from their wool. Nearby is a fascinating colonial house that was built in the early 1820's and is one of the oldest homes in Australia. It was built by Elizabeth Hume, sister in law of Hamilton Hume the explorer. Called *Byramine* which means rustic retreat it was, in essence, a fortress. Elizabeth Hume's husband had been murdered by bushrangers so, to protect herself and her 9 children, the house was built in an octagonal shape to provide a clear view of all angles in the case of attack. Often the family had to hide in the cellar which we can see on our tour. We enjoy a Ploughman's Lunch and a guided tour before heading back to Corowa.

Comfort Inn Federation Motel, Corowa

Day 6: Sunday 23 September Deniliquin and the Conargo Pub (BLD)

This morning we are going to tour north to *Deniliquin* on the Riverina Highway. In more recent times Deniliquin has become famous for the annual *Ute Muster*. On arrival we head straight to the *Peppin Heritage Centre* which incorporates the Crossing Café and the Visitor Information Centre. The building was Deniliquin's first public school. It has been transformed into a regional museum with permanent exhibitions. After morning tea and the chance to wander through the Centre, we are joined on the coach by a local guide who will spend an hour or so introducing us to the town. Then we are off to the famous *Conargo Pub* for lunch followed by a visit to *Clancy's of Conargo Winery* where we can taste the local produce, browse through the interesting collection of Australian bottles and glassware and take a look at the international licence plate display. We head home through *Finley* to complete an interesting day.

Comfort Inn Federation Motel, Corowa

Day 7: Monday 24 September Yarrawonga and Lake Mulwala (BLD)

Today we have arranged to visit a couple of small enterprises that are featured on the *Sun Country "Farm Gate" program*. We travel just past Yarrawonga for two visits – the first is *Rich Glen Olives*. We can't access the production side of the farm but we will meet the owner who will explain the huge range of products they produce here. There is a small farm shop that sells gourmet olives, spiced oil dressings, chutney, jams along with beautiful home made soaps, creams and lip balms. Our next stop is at *Boosey Creek Cheese*. This is a working farm so the facilities for tourists are limited, however we will meet the cheese maker who will explain his operation and provide a tasting. Once again there is a small farm shop available. Then we return to *Yarrawonga* on the shores of Lake Mulwala. It's here we join "*MV Paradise Queen*". Whilst enjoying lunch and commentary on this Paddleboat we cruise the lake which is dominated by a vast number of trees standing in the water and lovely homes along the foreshore. Lake Mulwala was formed by the completion of the Yarrawonga Weir, which in turn was part of the massive Lake Hume project to harness the waters of the Murray for irrigation. We will cruise past towering River Red Gums and dozens of sandy beaches. We have some free time in Yarrawonga before heading back to Corowa for our final night at the Federation Motel.

Comfort Inn Federation Motel, Corowa

Day 8: Tuesday 25 September Melbourne via the Toolangi State Forest (BLD)

After completing our check out we travel south to the Hume Highway and then onto the Midland Highway to *Mansfield*. Mansfield has a colourful history of squatters, selectors, bushrangers (The Kelly Gang was once referred to as the Mansfield Gang) gold miners, packers, coachbuilders etc. It is famous for its magnificent scenery, farms, cattle, horses and hospitality. At the corner of High and Highett Streets is a substantial marble monument within the roundabout which was erected in 1880 as a tribute to constables Lonigan, Kennedy and Scanlon who were killed by Ned Kelly at Stringybark Creek to the north-east of town in 1878. They are buried in the cemetery at the end of Highett St. We tour past a number of historical buildings including the imposing Highton Manor, which was the town's first two-storey brick home. Built in 1896 it features impressive stained-glass windows. Its original owner, Francis Highett, was a Victorian tennis champion. Also a notable singer he performed duets with Dame Nellie Melba and sang in St Paul's Cathedral in London. This afternoon we travel to *Bonnie Doon* across the northern edge of *Lake Eildon*, one of the biggest lakes in the world today. When full it boasts seven times as much water as Sydney Harbour and has a shoreline of 515 kilometres. From here we travel via Yea to *Toolangi*. We have arranged a visit to the *Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre*. Set in a tall mountain forest the Centre presents a rich history of the flora and fauna of the high country. We will see a presentation called "Forest of Ash – A History of Toolangi" before a guide from the Centre joins the coach and takes us deep into the nearby temperate rainforest at Wirrawill for a short walk along the forest boardwalk. Afternoon tea is at the *Singing Gardens Tea Rooms* – formerly the home of bush poet C J Dennis. This afternoon we travel back to Melbourne for our last night before flying home to Rockhampton tomorrow.

Citigate Albert Park Hotel, Melbourne – 03 95294300.

Day 9: Wednesday 26 September Heading Home (B)

We complete our check-out this morning and transfer to Melbourne Airport for our 10.00am Virgin flight DJ321/DJ1243 back to *Rockhampton* via Brisbane by approx 2.15pm to complete what I hope was a sensational 9 Day Spring Tour of a special part of Australia!

Drop offs: South Mobil 2.45pm; Gracemere: 3.00pm; Northside Plaza 3.20pm; Emu Park 4.00pm; Yeppoon 4.20pm

Tour Cost: \$2,595.00 per person

Single Supplement - add \$310.00 per person

TO GUARANTEE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR PLEASE FILL OUT THE ATTACHED BOOKING FORM AND RETURN TO PETER WITH A \$500 DEPOSIT PER PERSON.

Final Balance Due by Monday 6th August 2012

**Insurance not included but highly recommended.
Please ask for a quote as per Booking Form!!**

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Specialty Travel reserves the right –

To vary the itinerary in any way at any time it deems necessary.

To amend the price subject to any changes imposed by other operators and carriers included in the itinerary. The operation and provision of services from other operators and carriers included in the itinerary is the responsibility of these operators and no responsibility is taken by Specialty Travel for the failure of such operators to provide the nominated service.

To cancel or postpone the tour due to insufficient numbers or as the result of circumstances outside the company's control that in the opinion of the company would adversely effect the operation of the tour

The company accepts no responsibility for damage or loss of personal belongings and suggests that suitable insurance be attained for protection of the same.

The company does not accept responsibility or liability for delays, accidents, injury, irregularity or damage caused by other transport companies used for connection tours operated by this company.

Cancellations

Cancellation fees may be levied in accordance with notice given. Unless specifically advised at the time of booking there will be no fee for cancellations made more than 2 months prior to travel. For cancellations between 1 and 2 months of the date of travel, cancellation fees **may** apply as per conditions imposed by other suppliers of services included in the tour. For cancellations between 30 and 14 days, a cancellation fee of up to 30% of the fare **may** apply. For cancellations less than 14 days, a cancellation fee of up to 50% of the fare **may** apply. For less than 7 days & no shows a 100% cancellation fee **may** apply.

No cancellation fees will apply if someone else replaces you on the same tour.

Fares & Payments

Fares quoted are subject to alteration. However no change will be made after the final balance has been paid. A deposit of \$500 is required to confirm your booking with the balance due at least 45 days prior to departure. (Please be advised your booking is not guaranteed until we receive deposit)

Inclusions

Inclusions for each tour are shown on the itinerary. As a general rule, tours include dinner, bed, breakfast and entry fees to various attractions and cruises etc. Meals included are identified by the symbols, B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner.

Exclusions

Meals not specified, optional tours, room service, telephone calls, drinks and other items of a personal nature.

Accommodation

Wherever possible, rooms are self-contained with private bathroom, colour television, tea and coffee making facilities and heating/air conditioning. Persons wanting a single room must pay a single supplement.

Departure Details

Passengers are requested to be ready for departure at least 15 minutes prior to departure time. Departure details and times will be advised either at the time of booking or final payment.

Any queries please phone Peter on 49112644

Specialty Travel Lic. – TAG1430 Member of Travel Compensation Fund

BOOKING FORM
DOMESTIC TRAVEL



Phone (07) 4911 2644; Fax (07) 5427 9205

TOUR NAME: _____ **DEPARTURE DATE** _____

Surname (1) _____ Given Name/s _____ Title _____

(Please supply names as per Passport or Drivers License)

Surname (2) _____ Given Name/s _____ Title _____

Preferred Name (if different from above): 1. _____ 2. _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Have Name Badge: Yes / No (Please circle one)

Concession Card Numbers: (if any) 1. _____ 2. _____

Preferred Accommodation: (Please circle one) Twin Share / Single Supplement ; Twin Beds/Double Bed

If travelling with a friend & sharing a room, please advise their name _____

Dietary Requirements: (If Any) _____

Pickup Point: (Please circle one) Yeppoon Rail; Emu Park Bus Terminal; Northside Plaza; South Rocky Mobil;
Gracemere PO; or meet at Airport

We strongly recommend TRAVEL INSURANCE:

Quote required **Yes** – If yes please advise Dates of Birth 1: _____ 2 _____

Quote required **No** I/We have or will arrange our own Insurance

\$500 Deposit per person is required with booking. Final Balance due 45 days prior to departure

Payment Methods– Cheque, Credit Card or Direct Deposit

Cheque: (Please make payable to **SPECIALTY TRAVEL**)

Direct Deposit: (If using this method please phone me on 49112644 and advise when done)

Specialty Travel Trust Account: Westpac BSB 034210 ACC. 137027

Credit Card Type: (Please Circle one) Mastercard Visa Amex (Merchant fees apply)

This is to confirm that I, the **Cardholder:** _____

(Full name as it appears on your credit card)

have read and accept the Terms & Conditions of Specialty Travel as stated online and/or in their brochures and authorize Specialty Travel to charge the following credit card for deposit and/or final payment:

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____ **CCV:** _____

Amount: \$ _____ **Signature:** _____

Please return completed form by one of the following:

Post: Peter O'Leary, 2 Cypress Court, Brightview 4311

Email: peter@specialty.travel

Direct Fax: 07) 5427 9205

Make sure you phone your booking through first to ensure availability of seats!!

Direct Phone: 4911 2644 (local call)