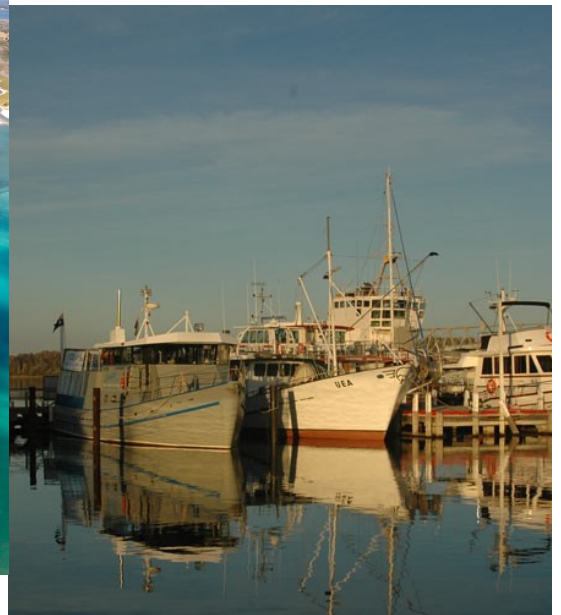


# VICTORIA'S GIPPSLAND LAKES

## 5 DAY COACH TOUR

Embrace the Gentle Pace: Unveiling the wonders of Lakes Entrance with a serene Gippsland Lakes Cruise, Captivating Musical Horseman's Artistry and a relaxed Amble of the regions Natural Gifts. Fall head over heels for charming waterfront villages and superb beaches. The vast lakes system is an unsurpassed water playground with twinkling waters stretch effortlessly as far as the eye can see. The Gippsland Lakes are immense, thought to be Australia's largest inland waterways, covering more than 400 square kilometres. They are fed by significant mountain rivers coming from Victoria's alps, and ultimately make their way to the Southern Ocean through the entrance at Lakes Entrance.



### TOUR COST

Subject to numbers and date of departure

**RESERVATIONS: 02 6297 8585**

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1 Silva Avenue, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

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Friends in Travel is trading as Potter Travel ABN 96 639 726 295

### **Day 1: LAKES ENTRANCE**

Step aboard the coach and embark on an enchanting journey to Lakes Entrance with us. Nestled graciously at the meeting point of the Gippsland Lakes and the majestic Southern Ocean, this beloved harbour beckons us on a gentle-paced expedition spanning the next five days. After breaking for lunch at Cann River we resume our course and head to our destination. Reaching Lakes Entrance we have time to visit the Sea Shell Museum to explore the treasure trove of wonders that await us. This is a haven brimming with precious shells and mesmerising marine life and, to our surprise, a miniature train set adorning the display. Welcomed into our comfortable motel, we unpack and settle in for the next four nights.

### **Day 2: LAKES ENTRANCE**

Defined by five magnificent lakes and fed by the waters of four major rivers, the Gippsland Lakes system proudly reigns as the largest expanse of inland waterways in the southern hemisphere. This morning, under the guidance of our knowledgeable local expert, we embark on a captivating exploration of the town delving into its stories and legends. Next we venture towards the oldest vineyard in East Gippsland where the Wyanga Park Winery blends the allure of quirkiness with rustic charm. Here an indulgent wine tasting is accompanied by a delicious lunch that perfectly complements the other. Our afternoon unfolds with a serene cruise through the Lakes system aboard the historic Lonsdale. Our skilled captain delights us with commentary as we glide along Cunningham Pass, passing the bustling commercial fishing fleet to the entrance to the Gippsland Lakes. Along our scenic route we encounter Rigby and Flannagan Islands, where we may catch glimpses of wildlife flourishing in their natural habitat. We'll savour afternoon tea of freshly baked scones as we capture a final memento of this idyllic voyage then return once more to Lakes Entrance.

### **Day 3: RAYMOND ISLAND**

Travelling through the charming town of Bairnsdale to the shores of Paynesville, we join a ferry transporting us to the nature-infused sanctuary of Raymond Island. Here we encounter a truly remarkable horseman, a master of his craft, with a wealth of experience taming these splendid creatures. During our visit, in true spirit of outback hospitality, the billy will be on the boil for us accompanied by a lovely morning tea. Wayne's passion is his

horses and during the spectacle of the Stockyard Show his extraordinary skills of whip cracking will fill the air, harmonising with the melodies of music and singing, while the working dogs amaze us with their precision and agility. Having been fully entertained we leave Raymond Island behind us and re-trace our steps to Bairnsdale, arriving in time for a well-deserved lunch. This picturesque garden town, adorned with echoes of the goldrush era, invites us to wander through its charming streets, admiring the architectural marvels that have withstood the test of time. Amidst its historic tapestry, we make a special stop at St Mary's Catholic Church, a sanctuary of artistic brilliance with wonderful murals gracing the ceilings and walls. Our day complete we make our way back to Lakes Entrance.

### **Day 4: CAPE CONRAN & MARLO**

Waking refreshed, our morning's exploration starts with a look at the unique wooden tree stump sculptures that adorn the promenade. Crafted by the skilled hands of a local wood carver, these sculptures have breathed new life into the remnants of ancient cypress trees. As we stroll the promenade, we'll see poignant images paying homage to Australia at War, capturing the spirit of heroes like Simpson and his Donkey as well as the selfless devotion of nursing sisters caring for wounded soldiers. Heading off to the coastal village of Marlo we then take a journey along the scenic coastal drive leading us to Cape Conran. Keep a keen eye out, for among the passing landscape, a cast of charismatic wildlife such as the large Lace Monitor, elusive Bandicoot or endearing Potoroo may be seen. Having explored the wonders of the West Cape we return to Marlo for a delightful lunch. With views of the Snowy River finally meeting the Southern Ocean, we enjoy the peaceful environment of this hidden gem. Our afternoon path takes us back to Lakes Entrance to relax for the remainder of the day.

### **Day 5: HOME**

We bid farewell to our hosts and make our way to Bombala and the Lavender House and Visitors Centre. Here, amidst the soothing scent of lavender fields, we discover a delightful destination where history and the enchanting allure of lavender intertwine. After indulging in a satisfying lunch, we embark on the final leg of our journey home. With fond memories and a sense of relaxation from our time away, we arrive back in Canberra rejuvenated and content.