



Sue Fitcher
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Getaway Trekking

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Aussie Camino - Catenians

Mar 14, 2023 - Mar 23, 2023

2995.00 per person

Pilgrim walk - St Mary Mckillop

Trip Summary

March 14 - Tuesday

- 10:00 AM Meet at Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, East Melbourne - Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
- 11:30 AM Travel to Portland - Colac VIC, Portland VIC
- 5:00 PM Check in at Victoria House B&B - Victoria House B&B
- 6:30 PM Dinner - Mac's Hotel
- Trekking map

March 15 - Wednesday

- 8:00 AM Check out at Victoria House B&B - Victoria House B&B
- 8:00 AM All Saints Church and Bay View College
- 9:00 AM Travel by bus to start point at Cape Nelson Lighthouse - Cape Nelson Lighthouse
- 9:30 AM Cape Nelson to Cape Bridgewater - 20km
- Check in at Cape Bridgewater Sea View Lodge - Cape Bridgewater Sea View Lodge

March 16 - Thursday

- 8:00 AM Cape Bridgewater to Bridgewater Lakes - 20kms
- 8:00 AM Check out at Cape Bridgewater Sea View Lodge - Cape Bridgewater Sea View Lodge

March 17 - Friday

- 8:00 AM Transfer to Lake Mombeing
- 8:00 AM Cape Bridgewater to Nelson (includes Bus section) - 21kms
- 4:00 PM Transfer to Port Macdonnell
- Check in at Victoria Hotel - Victoria Hotel

March 18 - Saturday

- Check out at Victoria Hotel - Victoria Hotel
- 8:00 AM Port Macdonnell to Mount Gambier - 26kms
- Check in at The Old Mount Gambier Gaol - The Old Mount Gambier Gaol

March 19 - Sunday

- Check out at The Old Mount Gambier Gaol - The Old Mount Gambier Gaol
- Mount Gambier to Bush Haven Cottage - 12kms
- Check in at Bush Haven Cottages - Bush Haven Cottages

March 20 - Monday

- Check out at Bush Haven Cottages - Bush Haven Cottages
- 8:00 AM Bush Haven Cottage to Kalangadoo - 20kms
- Check in at Kalangadoo Hotel - Kalangadoo Hotel

March 21 - Tuesday

- Check out at Kalangadoo Hotel - Kalangadoo Hotel
- 7:30 AM Kalangadoo to Penola - 31kms
- Check in at Coonawarra Motor Lodge Penola - Coonawarra Motor Lodge Penola

March 22 - Wednesday

9:00 AM Catholic Church Mass
10:00 AM Mary MacKillop Interpretive Centre - Mary MacKillop Penola Centre
12:30 PM Winery Lunch

March 23 - Thursday

Check out at Coonawarra Motor Lodge Penola - Coonawarra Motor Lodge Penola
8:00 AM Transfer to Melbourne

March 14 - Tuesday



10:00 AM - Australian Eastern Daylight Time - 1 hr

Meet at Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, East Melbourne

Our pilgrimage commences at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre in Albert Street, East Melbourne.

Here we will have the opportunity to visit the museum, meet with some of the wonderful staff working here, and learn about the work undertaken by Saint Mary and Father Julian Tennison Woods.



Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre

362 Albert Street, East Melbourne, Victoria, AU, 3002



11:30 AM - Australian Eastern Daylight Time - 5 hr

Travel to Portland

We will board our own private bus that will support us for the duration of our walk. Bags loaded, we will head out of Melbourne to Portland. Enroute we will stop for lunch at Colac, a small city in the western district.



Colac VIC

Colac, Victoria, AU, 3250



Portland VIC

Portland, Victoria, AU, 3305



5:00 PM - Australian Eastern Daylight Time

Check in at Victoria House B&B



Victoria House B&B

5/7 Tyers St, Portland, VIC, AU, 3305
+61 3 5521 7577



6:30 PM - Australian Eastern Daylight Time

Dinner

After taking some time to settle in, we will gather in the lovely and welcoming lounge area of our accommodation for a pre-walk brief.

From there, we will walk to Mac's Hotel to enjoy our first group dinner.

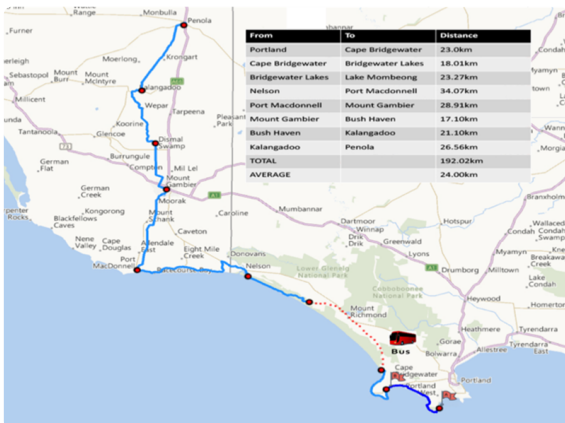


Mac's Hotel

Gawler St, Portland, VIC, AU, 3305



Trekking map



March 15 - Wednesday



8:00 AM - Australian Eastern Daylight Time
Check out at Victoria House B&B



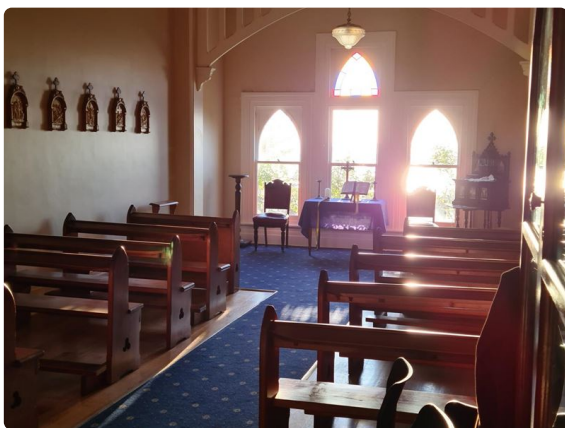
Victoria House B&B
 5/7 Tyers St, Portland, VIC, AU, 3305
 +61 3 5521 7577



8:00 AM - Australian Eastern Daylight Time - 1 hr
All Saints Church and Bay View College

We leave Victoria House on foot after breakfast, and walk the short distance to Bayview College where Mary MacKillop and her sister, Annie, taught at the school.

From here we walk another short distance to All Saints Church, where we will meet with the parish priest (when available), and learn more about Mary's history in this town where she first found her love of teaching.



9:00 AM - Australian Eastern Daylight Time - 15 min
Travel by bus to start point at Cape Nelson Lighthouse



Cape Nelson Lighthouse

119 Cape Nelson Lighthouse Road, Portland West, Victoria, AU, 3305



9:30 AM - Australian Eastern Daylight Time

Cape Nelson to Cape Bridgewater - 20km

For the first three days, we follow the Great South West Walk, established in the 1980's and taking us through stunning country.

After some time here simply enjoying the jaw dropping views, we start on our walk.

Our cliff-top track takes us along this spectacular coastline crossing Murrells Beach Rd before dropping down onto the sandy white beaches. If you are so inclined, you may choose to walk barefoot along this stretch; it's a wonderful way to connect with the earth, while enjoying the varied bird life accompanying us for most of the day.

Later in the afternoon, we leave the beach, walking through coastal scrub before returning to the wide and flat Shelly Beach for our final walk into Cape Bridgewater and our accommodation for the night.



Check in at Cape Bridgewater Sea View Lodge



Cape Bridgewater Sea View Lodge

1636 Bridgewater Road, Cape Bridgewater, Victoria, AU, 3305

March 16 - Thursday



8:00 AM - Australian Eastern Daylight Time

Cape Bridgewater to Bridgewater Lakes - 20kms

Today is a very enjoyable day.

After a relaxed breakfast, we continue today walking along cliff tops, again enjoying stunning vistas, seal colonies and many turbines.

The diversity of nature is astounding on these coastal cliffs, some of the highest in Victoria. We will pause to view the colonies of Australian and New Zealand fur seals, before continuing along these amazing cliff top tracks.

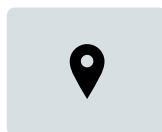
Friendly kangaroos will accompany us for much of the day, as we make our way along the tracks, enjoying everything today offers. The landscape changes significantly during the day, particularly as we encounter the petrified forest, just before our lunch break.

From our lunch spot, we have the opportunity of walking down to some viewing platforms to view the blowholes.

We continue to Bridgewater Lakes, our final point for the day. Our bus will pick us up and transfer us back to Cape Bridgewater for the second night of our stay at Seaview Lodge.



8:00 AM - Australian Eastern Daylight Time
Check out at Cape Bridgewater Sea View Lodge



Cape Bridgewater Sea View Lodge
 1636 Bridgewater Road, Cape Bridgewater, Victoria, AU, 3305

March 17 - Friday



8:00 AM - Australian Central Daylight Time - 30 min
Transfer to Lake Mombeong



8:00 AM - Australian Central Daylight Time
Cape Bridgewater to Nelson (includes Bus section) - 21kms

As this entire section is too long for one day, our walk commences at Lake Mombeong. This also ensures we don't start our day on bitumen roads with cars wizzing past.

Arriving at Lake Mombeong, we will commence our day with a 7km hike along sand dune tracks which will eventually take us out to the beach. The dunes can be challenging as the sand is a little soft, so we will be grateful for our prior preparation.

The beach walk is approximately 12km along hard, flat sand. The day finishes by walking an additional 3-4km into Nelson, where we have time to enjoy some refreshments at either the kiosk or hotel before boarding our bus to Port Macdonnell.



4:00 PM - Australian Central Daylight Time - 30 min
Transfer to Port Macdonnell



Check in at Victoria Hotel



Victoria Hotel
40 Meylin St, Port MacDonnell, SA, AU, 5291

March 18 - Saturday



Check out at Victoria Hotel



Victoria Hotel
40 Meylin St, Port MacDonnell, SA, AU, 5291



8:00 AM - Australian Central Daylight Time
Port Macdonnell to Mount Gambier - 26kms

We leave the coastline today and head north through mainly flat farmland and stock routes, enroute to Mt Schank, a dormant cone-shaped volcano which was active over 4,500 year-ago.

There is a picnic site and amenities here; we will stop for lunch and (optional) take the 2km trail around the rim. This provides fascinating views into the crater and a delightful outlook to the surrounding countryside.

After lunch we make our way down country roads and lanes before reaching Riddoch Highway, the main road into Mount Gambier.

Here the road shoulders are wide which allows for safe walking until we reach the outskirts of town, however you also have the option of boarding our bus at the especially built pilgrim's table as we approach the highway. On very hot days that can be a good option!

Our next stop is a wonderful little ice cream shop, a must for all Getaway Trekking pilgrims! After a break and some refreshing ice cream, we continue to the incredible Blue Lake, an age-old water filled extinct volcano with fascinating colour changes depending the season. The change in colour is caused by the higher position of the sun in summer and the changing water temperature of the lake.

Our private bus will meet us where the unsealed road meets the Riddoch Highway. We will travel firstly to the Blue Lake and learn about this spectacular body of water, before transferring to our accommodation in Mount Gambier. It's a long but lovely day, and we will be rewarded with a more relaxed start time tomorrow.



Check in at The Old Mount Gambier Gaol



The Old Mount Gambier Gaol
25 Margaret Street, Mount Gambier, SA, AU, 5290

March 19 - Sunday



Check out at The Old Mount Gambier Gaol



The Old Mount Gambier Gaol
25 Margaret Street, Mount Gambier, SA, AU, 5290



Mount Gambier to Bush Haven Cottage - 12kms

A much more relaxed start to the day as we only have an easy 12km to walk - this is a lovely reward for a big few days.

We begin with a sumptuous breakfast at Sorrento's in town, before viewing the cave garden just across the road. The garden features a sinkhole that was the original source of water for the early settlers and it offers viewing platforms which hang dramatically over the sinkhole.

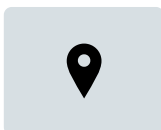
From here we will drive to Umpherston Sinkhole, once a cave formed through dissolution of the limestone, and created when the top of the chamber collapsed downwards. Now the topsoil down on the floor forms the perfect environment for the sunken garden.

Sightseeing concluded, we will drive to the outskirts of Mount Gambier avoiding a trudge through built up suburbs. Our walk takes us along quiet country roads and through pine plantations, before arriving at a beautiful and serene native treed area.

So close to our accommodation at Bush Haven Cottages, there is no need to rest here, except to simply stop, breathe and luxuriate in the Australian bush.



Check in at Bush Haven Cottages

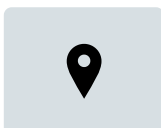


Bush Haven Cottages
488 Grundys Lane, Mingbool, South Australia, AU, 5291

March 20 - Monday



Check out at Bush Haven Cottages



Bush Haven Cottages
488 Grundys Lane, Mingbool, South Australia, AU, 5291



8:00 AM - Australian Central Daylight Time

Bush Haven Cottage to Kalangadoo - 20kms

A relaxed start to the day allows us time to enjoy this rich agricultural district, specialising in potatoes and timber, apple orchards, beef cattle, sheep and dairy cattle.

The village flourished with the construction of a narrow gauge railroad in 1887, languishing with the introduction of cars. Kalangadoo has a general store, a farm supply store, a pub, and a timber mill. The disused railway station houses a small museum.

Our accommodation tonight is at the Kalangadoo Hilton Hotel. One of the many treats of this walk is the unique and quirky accommodation you will enjoy. 5 Star? No indeed, however you will have a comfortable night in a warm bed, a hot shower and a great meal served with true country hospitality.



Check in at Kalangadoo Hotel



Kalangadoo Hotel

14 John Street, Kalangadoo, South Australia, AU, 5278

March 21 - Tuesday



Check out at Kalangadoo Hotel



Kalangadoo Hotel

14 John Street, Kalangadoo, South Australia, AU, 5278



7:30 AM - Australian Central Daylight Time

Kalangadoo to Penola - 31kms

After what will have been a filling cooked breakfast, you will be looking forward to walking some of it off during the day!

Our trek follows the railway line for a good part of this challenging day. During warmer weather we will need to be alert to snakes in longer grass areas.

On the outskirts of Penola we stop at the town sign - we have arrived! But don't let go, we still have 4-5km to go until we reach the Royal Oak Hotel, the first hotel in Penola and built by Alexander Cameron, Mary's uncle.

Penola was the central location in the life of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods. Here, the pair established St Joseph's School, the first free Catholic school and a congregation of religious sisters, the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

Otherwise known as the 'Josephites' or 'Brown Joeys', they continue to work with the poor and needy communities throughout the world today. The last day of our trek, we will celebrate what we have achieved with a relaxing dinner!



Check in at Coonawarra Motor Lodge Penola



Coonawarra Motor Lodge Penola

114 Church Street, Penola, SA, AU

March 22 - Wednesday



9:00 AM - Australian Central Daylight Time - 30 min

Catholic Church Mass

A fitting conclusion to our Pilgrimage, we are able to attend Mass this morning. We find that even Pilgrims who are not Catholic, or indeed religious, generally choose to attend as this is really quite a lovely way to conclude our pilgrimage.

The Parish Priest, Father Dev, will provide a pilgrims blessing for us.



10:00 AM - Australian Central Daylight Time

Mary MacKillop Interpretive Centre

When Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods made their dream a reality:

Little did either of us then dream of what was to spring from so small a beginning.'

Mary MacKillop 1891

The sisters of the centre will take us through a tour of this museum, after which we can spend as much time as we wish soaking in all information. At this point, you will receive the final stamp of your passport, and collect your Compostela.

There are many other buildings to look through, including a re-creation of Mary's new schoolhouse, and other heritage buildings on Petticoat Lane.



Mary MacKillop Penola Centre

Petticoat Lane, Penola, South Australia, AU, 5277



12:30 PM - Australian Central Daylight Time

Winery Lunch

You asked, we listened.

Many of our past clients expressed a desire that they could have stayed in in this lovely area; at the southern end of the Coonawarra region.

After our sightseeing this morning, we get to relax and enjoy some fabulous food and wine in one of the many wineries on offer - we are simply spoilt for choice!

From here, we will return to Penola and spend a second night at our hotel.



March 23 - Thursday



Check out at Coonawarra Motor Lodge Penola



Coonawarra Motor Lodge Penola

114 Church Street, Penola, SA, AU



8:00 AM - Australian Central Daylight Time

Transfer to Melbourne

This morning we regretfully say goodbye to Penola and make our way back to the Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre in East Melbourne, where our trip began.

For anyone flying out on the day, we are happy to make a stop at Melbourne Airport. There are no other stops.

Enroute we will take time out for lunch and rest room breaks.

Information & Documents



Inclusions

All ground transfers from Melbourne to Melbourne

Luggage transfers daily - Pack free trekking! Carry a daypack only!

Twin Share Accommodation

9 Breakfasts

9 Lunches

3 Dinners

Getaway Trekking Leader - First Aid Wilderness qualified.

1 Getaway trekking shirt



Exclusions

Airfares

Pre or Post trek accommodation in Melbourne

All personal expenditure including drinks

Travel Insurance



COVID - Guarantee

We recognise that for many, there is still a degree of uncertainty regarding making travel bookings. hence we are providing a **deposit guarantee**.

If you unable to travel on your selected departure date due to:

1. having contracted COVID-19
2. requiring quarantine due to a family / household member contracting COVID-19
3. living in an area that restricts travel in the region of your booked trek

you will be offered a full refund.

Your final payment, normally due 60 days from departure, will be due 30 days from departure. We believe this will provide an added layer of confidence for you. Please note, the refund guarantee relates only to COVID-19 restrictions, and not to a change of mind, circumstances, illness or injury.