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Aussie Camino - 2022

2795.00 per person

Pilgrim walk - St Mary Mckillop

Trip Summary

Day 1

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

Day 2

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

Check in at Cape Bridgewater Sea View Lodge - Cape Bridgewater Sea View Lodge

Day 3

7:30 AM Cape Bridgewater to Bridgewater Lakes - 18kms

8:00 AM Check out at Cape Bridgewater Sea View Lodge - Cape Bridgewater Sea View Lodge

Day 4

8:00 AM Transfer to Lake Mombeing

Cape Bridgewater to Nelson (includes Bus section) - 23kms

4:00 PM Transfer to Port Macdonnell

Check in at Victoria Hotel - Victoria Hotel

Day 5

Check out at Victoria Hotel - Victoria Hotel

Port Macdonnell to Mount Gambier - 28kms

Check in at The Old Mount Gambier Gaol - The Old Mount Gambier Gaol

Day 6

Check out at The Old Mount Gambier Gaol - The Old Mount Gambier Gaol

Mount Gambier to Bush Haven Cottage - 18kms

Check in at Bush Haven Cottages - Bush Haven Cottages

Day 7

Check out at Bush Haven Cottages - Bush Haven Cottages

Bush Haven Cottage to Kalangadoo - 20kms

Check in at Kalangadoo Hotel - Kalangadoo Hotel

Day 8

Check out at Kalangadoo Hotel - Kalangadoo Hotel

Kalangadoo to Penola - 28kms

Check in at Coonawarra Motor Lodge Penola - Coonawarra Motor Lodge Penola

Day 9

9:00 AM Catholic Church Mass

10:00 AM Mary MacKillop Interpretive Centre - Mary MacKillop Penola Centre

12:30 PM Winery Lunch

Day 10

Check out at Coonawarra Motor Lodge Penola - Coonawarra Motor Lodge Penola

Transfer to Melbourne

Day 1



10:00 AM - Eastern Australia 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 - Eastern Australia 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 - Eastern Australia 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 - Eastern Australia 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.

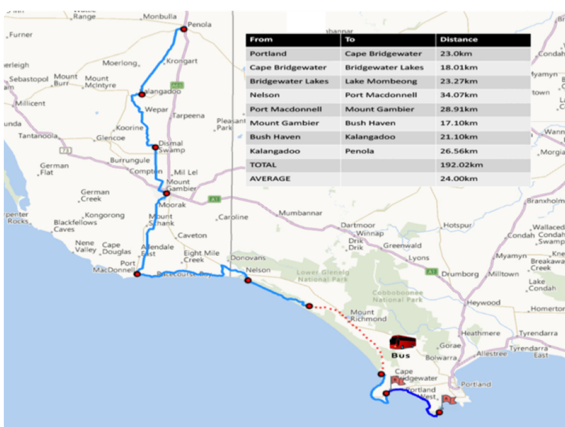


Mac's Hotel

Gawler St, Portland, VIC, AU, 3305



Trekking map



Day 2



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



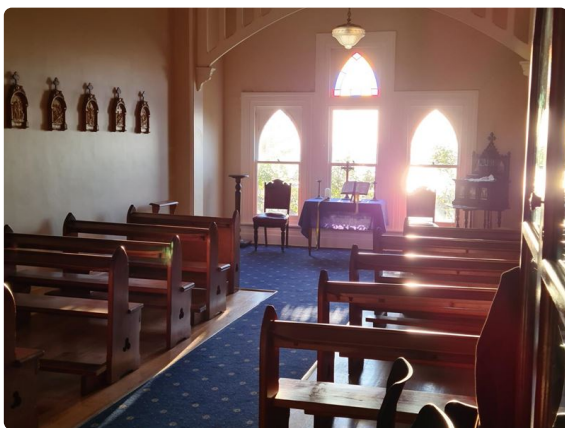
Victoria House B&B
 5/7 Tyers St, Portland, VIC, AU, 3305
 +61 3 5521 7577



8:00 AM - Eastern Australia 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 - Eastern Australia 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 - Eastern Australia Time - 7 hr

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

Day 3



7:30 AM - Eastern Australia Time - 7 hr

Cape Bridgewater to Bridgewater Lakes - 18kms

Today is a short but 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 - Eastern Australia Time

Check out at Cape Bridgewater Sea View Lodge



Cape Bridgewater Sea View Lodge

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

Day 4



8:00 AM - Central Australia Time - 30 min

Transfer to Lake Mombeing



Cape Bridgewater to Nelson (includes Bus section) - 23kms

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 - Central Australia Time - 30 min
Transfer to Port Macdonnell



Check in at Victoria Hotel



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

Day 5



Check out at Victoria Hotel



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



Port Macdonnell to Mount Gambier - 28kms

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 at Blue Lake and transfer us 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

Day 6



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 - 18kms

A much more relaxed start to the day as we only have an easy 18km to walk.

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.

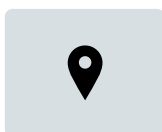
From here we will drive to Umpherston Sinkhole, once a cave formed through dissolution of the limestone, and created when the top of the chamber collapsed downwards. Now the topsoil down on the floor forms the perfect environment for the sunken garden.

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



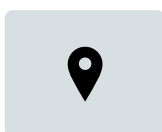
Bush Haven Cottages

488 Grundys Lane, Mingbool, South Australia, AU, 5291

Day 7



Check out at Bush Haven Cottages



Bush Haven Cottages

488 Grundys Lane, Mingbool, South Australia, AU, 5291



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

Day 8



Check out at Kalangadoo Hotel



Kalangadoo Hotel

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



Kalangadoo to Penola - 28kms

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 quite short, but also 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

Day 9



9:00 AM - Central Australia Time - 30 min

Catholic Church Mass

For those so inclined, we are able to attend Mass this morning. Even those who are not Catholic, or indeed religious, may choose to attend as this is really quite a lovely way to conclude our pilgrimage.

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



10:00 AM - Central Australia 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 - Central Australia 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.



Day 10



Check out at Coonawarra Motor Lodge Penola



Coonawarra Motor Lodge Penola

114 Church Street, Penola, SA, AU



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.

Enroute we will stop 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.