

Itinerary: Meningie

There's only one place in South Australia where you can ride a giant ostrich, go paddling on a lake, zoom through the Coorong with a local fisherman, explore the untamed beauty of the Coorong AND see one of the biggest pelican habitats in the world.. and it's only 2 hours from Adelaide!

Nestled quietly on the edge of Lake Albert lies the quaint township of Meningie.. the heart of South Australia's spectacular Coorong and Lower Lakes.

Experience the stunning sunsets over the waters of Lake Albert. No two Sunsets are the same, as each dusk conveys striking new vistas, always an ideal photo opportunity. Spectacular views can be seen from anywhere along the lake foreshore.

Play in the waters of the lake whether by paddle, sail or engine there's plenty of space for everyone to have a great time.

Delight in the majestic pelicans as they glide gracefully across the water or look to the skies and watch them soaring far above.

Taste the fresh unique flavour of the region's famous Coorong Mullet. Try this delicacy at any of the local eateries, all cooked to their own specialty.

Learn about the Ngarrindjeri culture, the significance of the Raukkan Church and David Uniapon both of which you might recognise from the \$50 note.

Meander along the many walking trails along the lakes foreshore, winding your way through native scrub up to the lookout or even into the natural beauty of the Coorong National Park itself.

Enjoy the laid-back pace of this small friendly country town because as we say... Life is better by the Lake!

Itinerary Highlights

Day 1 – Explore the Wildside of the Coorong

Experience the Coorong by boat, try our regional delicacy (Coorong Mullet), take in the sights and our Ngarrindjeri culture.

*Coorong Wildside Tours

*Coorong Wild Seafood

*Meningie Lions Walking Trail

*Lake Albert & Narrung Scenic Loop Drive

*Pink Lake

*Point Malcolm Lighthouse

*Raukkan - Home of the Ngarrindjeri

*Raukkan Church

Day 2 – Discover and explore

Meander through Meningie and explore our history, culture, quirky histories and great views.

*Freshies Café & Bar

*Meningie Museum

*Pelican Path – Yunti Ngopun Ngami

*Coorong Cottage Industries

*Birdman of Coorong

*Meningie Hill Lookout

Day 1 – Explore the Wildside of the Coorong

MORNING

Start off the day early with your Seabirds and Seals or Sandhill Explorer tour with Coorong Wildside Tours. Your tour guide Glen, our Wildman of the Coorong, is waiting for you at Long Point, don't keep him waiting.

Glen will show you the Coorong like you've never seen it before from the unique perspective from a fisherman of 30 years. Glen knows all the special spots including where to see the best birdlife and you'll even get to view the Tauwitchere Barrage (which the public can't access by land). Oh, and did we mention, their boat is built for speed?

If the Seabirds and Seals aren't your thing maybe you'd rather learn how our famous regional delicacy, Coorong Mullet is caught and processed at the Coorong Wild Seafood processing factory for a Behind the Scenes Factory Tour & Tasting. Learn Glen and Tracey's seafood cooking tips and you'll leave feeling like a top chef with new skills to show off at your next dinner party or BBQ. If you get the chance ask for a tasting of the Coorong Wild Seafood Carp – yes, you read that right, Carp – you can thank us later!

If speed isn't your cup of tea maybe bird watching, trail walking or cycling is. There are plenty of trails throughout the area that you can explore at your own pace. The Meningie Lions Walking Trail features the Meningie hill lookout and along the way you might spot over 20 different species of beautiful and fascinating flowers including the nationally endangered Metallic Sun Orchid.

Head back to the lakes edge where you can take in the lake and the bird life on the Scenic Loop trail featuring the Interpretive Bird viewing area - a favourite hangout for our local pelicans.

Top Tip: best time to spot some of these flowers is between August and November

AFTERNOON

Grab lunch in town - there's plenty to choose from whether you're after the flaky pastries of the Meningie Bakery, whatever the day's special is at Dascal Diner, some fish and chips from the Lake View Café & Takeaway or a coffee and a snack from Happy Daise there's something for everyone.

Grab your food and enjoy a picnic in the Lions Jubilee Park overlooking the lake or pop up to the picnic shelter at the Meningie hill lookout and take in the views.

Explore the Narrung Peninsula ~ home of the Ngarrindjeri

After lunch head out on the scenic Narrung and Lake Albert loop drive. This drive will take you round the full loop of Lake Albert, across the free vehicle ferry at Narrung and you can decide whether to visit the township of Raukkan – the home of the Ngarrindjeri before heading back towards Meningie along the Peninsula between Lake Albert and the Northern lagoon of the Coorong.

Things to stop and see along the way

Make sure you stop at our infamous Pink Lake, the lake turns pink due to an aquatic plant which creates a chemical called carotene. The chemical reacts to sunlight creating the pink hues seen on the lake.

Top Tip: The best time to see it in its pink glory is during Summer as the lake dries out exposing the plants and chemical to the sunlight.

Take a walk up to Point Malcolm Lighthouse, the only inland freshwater lighthouse in the Southern Hemisphere, which operated between 1878 and 1931 to assist river vessels while navigating across the lakes. The Point Malcolm Lighthouse also holds a second claim to fame, being the smallest lighthouse in Australia!

Top Tip: this is a great sunset location.

Cross the free vehicle ferry at Narrung and stop in at the campground for a toilet break. If you've brought your kayaks or paddleboards this is a great spot to go for a paddle amongst the narrows.

Top tip: this is a popular spot for our local pelicans who like to hang out next to the ferry landing.

Raukkan - home of the Ngarrindjeri. While in Raukkan you might recognise the church – its featured on the \$50 note! Raukkan is also the home of David Uniapon (also on the \$50 note) who was known for his inventions, political leadership and his work as an author.

For the more adventurous add on trips out to Mark Point to see the historic windmill that was part of the original stock route through the Coorong, Long Point where you might catch a couple lazy seals snoozing on the jetty or head out along Seven Mile Road to the Noonameena lookout, you'll find some of our shacks and holiday homes here as well as Bonney Reserve nature trail and lookout.

EVENING – Come Stay..

The perfect place to spend the night isn't too far away. Whether you're after the secluded and picturesque 5 star Coorong Cabins just out of town on Seven Mile Road, one of our motels, holiday rentals or Lake Albert Caravan Park right on the banks of Lake Albert!

Enjoy dinner at the local Meningie Hotel, one of the takeaway shops or if you're there on a Friday evening pop into the Meningie Bowls Club for a good home cooked meal.

Feeling a little more relaxed? Grab some meat or some Coorong Mullet from the local butcher or supermarket and have a BBQ in the Lions Jubilee Park while watching the sun set over Lake Albert.

Day 2 - Discover and explore

MORNING

Whether you're an early bird or in need of a sleep in, once you've had a refreshing night's sleep pop over to Freshies Café & Bar located in the historic Meningie Museum building overlooking the lake. Here you can enjoy all day dining, great coffee and yummy cakes no matter what time of day you roll in.

After you've indulged your taste buds pop next door to the Meningie Museum and see how residents of Meningie used to live, work and play.

While in town you can continue to explore Meningie by road, bike or foot with many walking and cycling trails available such as the Pelican Path – Yunti Ngopun Ngami, Meningie Lions Walking Trail and the Murray Coorong Trail.

Meander through the town's many great shops and points of interest. The Meningie Info Hub is a great spot to grab some more information, find a souvenir or ask a local for their favourite spots. Coorong Cottage Industries is the place to tempt your tastebuds with delicious homemade treats, discover an array of locally produced arts and crafts or maybe even find that piece of antique furniture you've been looking for.

Directly across the road from Coorong Cottage Industries you might spot what at first glimpse you might think is an emu statue. In fact, this is the Birdman of Coorong - South Australia's only genuine bushranger! John Francis Peggotty roamed the Coorong robbing and murdering across the area and he found his perfect getaway on the back of an Ostrich of course!

Don't Forget: If you didn't get to the Meningie Lookout make sure you head up to the top of Meningie Hill to take in the panoramic 360 degree views of Lake Albert and surrounding farming land.

AFTERNOON

Grab lunch or a snack in town at one of the cafes, bakery or take away shops you didn't visit the day before while deciding where to head to next on your adventure in the Coorong.

Take the road less travelled before heading off for the next part of your journey. By heading east to Coonalpyn the drive from Meningie to Coonalpyn takes you through rolling hills and changing landscapes until you reach Coonalpyn. Here you'll find the Coonalpyn Silo Art by famous artist Guido van Helten – the silo artwork here was the first silo art completed in South Australia!

Feeling the need for a snack or something sweet while you're here? You can't leave Coonalpyn without trying the famous waffles at Waffles and Jaffles – you'll regret it if you don't!

Don't forget to explore the other pieces of public art throughout the town before heading off on the highway and if you're heading back towards Adelaide make sure you stop at all the towns along the way to learn more about the area's strong farming history.

Continue deeper into the Coorong

Not ready to say goodbye to the Coorong yet, or heading towards Kingston S.E. and Robe? Continue exploring the Coorong along the Princes Hwy to Salt Creek and beyond. Along the way you can explore Parnka Point which is the narrowest point between the northern and southern lagoons. Parnka Point also offers camping spots in the Coorong National Park, walking trails and picnic area.

Didn't get your fix for the Coorong's birdlife? Stop in at the Jack Point Pelican Observatory which overlooks the largest Australian Pelican breeding colony.

If you still want to explore the area's weird and wacky history then check out Salt Creek's Oil Rig Monument, Chinaman's Well or 42 Mile Crossing for those keen to cross the sand dunes in their 4WDs.

What a jam-packed couple of days! Once you've had your fill of new experiences and created some unforgettable new memories we'll be sad to see you leave but you know where we are next time you've got a hankering for a secluded getaway in the Coorong. Thanks for coming to stay and play at Meningie, SA!

See you next time!