

## Itinerary: Murray Bridge

### ADVENTURE AROUND EVERY BEND

The key to any great weekend getaway is to spend less time driving and more time doing. This puts Murray Bridge in pole position for accessible adventure.

The first thing you notice is the sky. It's different here. It seems bigger. Bluer. Although you're only an hour outside of Adelaide, there's something exhilarating about this place and you know you're going to have a good time, even before you get on the river or a trail. Get ready, because Murray Bridge is a destination that offers adventure around every bend.

Jump on board for this magical four-day itinerary that will invoke your inner adventurer, fill your cultural cup and leave you wanting more.

### DAY ONE – THE ADVENTURE BEGINS!

Welcomed into town with a fresh green corridor, the linear park of Adelaide Road encourages both movement and relaxation, compelling you on a journey into the town centre, to the retail precinct, cafes and the promise of the river.

Head straight to the Murray Bridge Visitor Information Centre at 2 Seventh Street Murray Bridge – specialising in local information; tips, local insight into our attractions and best kept secrets from the friendly volunteers. Have a yarn about the Murray Bridge Discovery Trail, Water Discovery Trail, our cafés and eateries and upcoming local events.

Now that you are a little familiar with the township, it's time discover the magic of the Murray and its wetlands.

Looking to expend some energy then let's travel the majestic river from the vantage point of the water following the Water Discovery Trail.

Hire a kayak from the Freedom Boat Hire or if you are looking for something a little faster and requiring less people power, they also specialise in a range of quality water sport equipment that will give you the ultimate water adrenalin buzz. No matter what you choose there are many places to launch, but an ideal location to slip into the cool and ancient river can be found at Sturt Reserve.

There are many places to stop and explore along the way as you travel past grassy reserves, the wharf precinct and under the iconic twin bridges.

Explore the downstream wetlands lagoon before journeying further upstream past the long thin island known as Lentelin by the Ngarrindjeri people, and on to Long Island Reserve.

Take in a waterfront view of the historic Round House and then continue past Hume Reserve, also known as Pomberuk (meaning crossing place) Learn about this highly significant place - culturally and spiritually- for the Ngarrindjeri people and follow the bend in the river.

You may wish to stop at the ever-popular summer playground of Avoca Dell Reserve where you can rest your weary arms before heading back - keep a look out for the local kangaroos, koalas and the prolific birdlife.

After all that exercise, treat yourself to a relaxing tour of the river from a higher vantage point, with Captain Proud Paddle Boat Cruises. Sit back and relax in the period-style dining room, enjoying the scenery, a fine meal and a drink to wash it down with.

After the tour, take a walk along the river at Sturt Reserve, an ideal location to rest, relax and unwind while taking in spectacular views of the river and historic bridges. This is where the Bunyip (Mulyawonk as known by the Ngarrindjeri people) dwells, lurking in a watery cave on the banks. This mythical creature rises from the depths of its watery cave in an entertaining spectacle that evokes screams of delight from children watching.

Kick off your shoes and dip your toes in the water to cool down before dinner, because dinner is going to be hot.

Just a short walk up Bridge Street you will find Bombay Beats, an authentic Indian Restaurant. Eating becomes an adventure in itself where you can learn about the Tandoor, the vertical clay pot that cooks food using radiant heat, convection heat and smoking, a method that cooks food fast while retaining moisture and requiring very little grease or oil.

Devouring amazing food will leave your taste buds in gastronomic heaven but may leave you wanting of a little something to quench your thirst.

Return to the Bridgeport Hotel and have a cooling cocktail or ale sitting next to the infinity pool at the Pool Bar, overlooking the river. If you feel like fitting in a little local history trivia before heading to your room in the hotel, then have a drink at Cods Bar, named after the famous Murray Bridge rowing team – The Cod Eight – who against all the odds, represented Australia in the Paris Olympics in 1924.

You'll need to sleep soundly because tomorrow will bring more adventure.

## DAY TWO – BIKING ADVENTURES AND STARRY SKIES

It just doesn't get better than this! Waking up overlooking the river is a truly unique experience. The mist on the water, the sounds of the birdlife and the light as the sun comes up are totally captivating.

Adventure is stepping up a cog today with an unforgettable mountain bike experience. Kinchina Conservation Reserve, just a few kilometres outside of Murray Bridge offers five interconnected trails with a choice of trail riding from novice to experience. QR Codes on the trail will keep you on the right track.

Time to refuel and take in some carbs. A visit to the legendary McCues Bakery the home of the famous Savoury Slice will do just the trick. A truly regional dish only found in and around Murray Bridge, it was invented by the original owner of the bakery in the early seventies. It was recently given the tick of approval by famous chef Adam Liaw. He described it as a cross between a pie, lasagne and a ham and cheese roll. You will have to try it for yourself to see if it has stood the test of time.

The afternoon is dedicated to more leisurely recreational activities; a walk along the river, a dip in the pool or fishing.

Take it easy because the night has more adventure in store, a journey to one of the earth's darkest places!

You will be travelling to Meldanda, a beautiful 40-acre property on the River Marne and within the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve. This area has a Dark Sky Accreditation, which is similar to being world heritage listed and is the first in its kind in Australia.

Interested in astrophotography? Bring your own digital camera and tripod to capture stunning starry sky shots. You don't have to have a telescope or fancy equipment to enjoy the night sky, a pair of binoculars will do the trick. If you're a complete novice, that's okay too. To enjoy the wonders of the night sky, all you have to do is look up!

And your bedroom for the night? Well, it's right here, under the stars in your swag! What could be better than spending a night outdoors making new memories with your loved one, and watching the stars? There are a number of tour operators who can organise a guided tour for you under the night sky or you can take a self-guided tour. Remember to dress warm and bring a torch!

### DAY THREE - ART, HISTORY, RACING... THEN RELAX TIME

Eating breakfast out this morning. The Murray Bridge Club, at Sturt Reserve, overlooking the river is just the place to spend a little time before taking in the fresh country air walking the Murray Bridge Discovery Trail. The trail begins near the Visitor Information Centre, a tribute to the traditional owners of the land – the Ngarrindjeri people. Interpretive signs guide walkers around the trail and provide information on Murray Bridge's fascinating history.

The walk will take you past the Murray Bridge Regional Gallery. Pop into the artistic hub of Murray Bridge, and check out the exhibitions on display. The gallery hosts amazing contemporary art, from local artists and nationally significant touring exhibitions. And the gift shop is just the spot for quality unique gifts, with even something for that difficult to buy for person.

The trail will lead to you to the hidden gem of Murray Bridge - The Round House

This unique hexagonal shape of the building has inspired tours that uncover remarkable stories of the pivotal role the Round House has played in the development of Murray Bridge.

Be sure to bring a fully charged camera to capture spectacular views of the river and bridges or selfies with Mr Parker. He was the first resident of the Round House living here while overseeing construction of the first bridge to span the Murray River.

Hope you have walked up an appetite as you will be heading off for lunch at the Wellington Hotel. Nestled on the banks of the Murray and overlooking the punt crossing, the views from the dining rooms are a perfect accompaniment with the array of pub grub on offer.

Next stop is Tailem Bend for a hot lap at The Bend Motorsport Park. You will cross the River Murray on the punt and then make your way to Tailem Bend for a fast lap where you experience the thrill of race speeds around our motor racing circuit as a passenger in the high performance track and race cars.

Your blood will be pumping by riding in either a Mustang, Holden Race Car, Rally Car or Formula 3.

And as if you hadn't had enough exciting and new experiences, tonight you are going to stay at 'The Cube', a floating eco-pod that is glamping with a difference. If you wanted to get 'off-grid' after all that racing around, then this is the place to relax and watch the world go by.

This unique floating house comes with relaxing egg chairs to sit on the deck with a drink and watch the world float by. A fire pit and electric blanket are supplied for the cooler months and two single person kayaks and lifejackets are provided should the notion take you to get back in the water.

## DAY FOUR – ADVENTURE IN THE WILD

Today is dedicated to taking your senses to another level by stepping into your very own African Safari adventure.

Monarto Safari Park, located 10 minutes' drive from the outskirts of Murray Bridge is the biggest open-range zoo in Australia and the largest Safari Park outside of Africa. Step inside this world class tourist attraction which includes a brand new \$16.8 million dollar Visitor Centre, as you get ready to take a walk on the wild side. The Safari Park spans more than 1,500 hectares and is home to more than 50 species of exotic and native mammals, birds, reptiles, and one of Australia's largest lion prides and giraffe herds.

There are so many ways to explore the park!

As they say, there is an app for everything, and Monarto Safari Park is no exception. Exciting new technology will act as your personal tour guide when you visit the Park, with an interactive map displaying information about the zoo, its animals and conservation work at the touch of a button. So don't forget to load the free app onto your phone before your visit.

You can explore Monarto Safari Park by hopping on the Zu-loop bus! As you travel around the open plains, the bus will take you through large open-range exhibits, to see amazing animals in their natural setting. Make sure you hop off at each viewing platform to make the most of your visit.

Feeling energetic? You can also explore a 10km network of walking tracks. For visitors keen to explore by foot, there are a number of tracks available ranging from easy to medium grading.

Go wild and take the walk of the brave in Australia's only 360 degree lion encounter allowing a prey's eye view into the world of these awe-inspiring predators. Be prepared to be blown away when you walk through a tunnel and emerge within clawing range of one of Australia's largest lion prides.

You can book one of six exclusive opportunities to get even closer and hand feed the majestic lions.

If it's a gentler experience you crave, meander with the meerkats or feed the giraffes. Keeper presentations are a great opportunity to see animals enjoy a favourite treat or toy, view a feed or simply learn more about them from the people who care for them.

Exploring the Monarto Safari Park you will leave with unforgettable memories of once in a lifetime experiences not available anywhere else in Australia.

Time to Go Home... and start planning the next trip back!

We hope you enjoyed an unforgettable weekend of adventure in Murray Bridge!



Now that you've got your feet wet and enjoyed a taste of what's on offer in our part of the world, we hope it's not too long before you start planning your next trip so we can welcome you back!

Next time you drop in you might like to explore some new trails, or immerse yourself in the excitement generated by one of our hallmark events that draw people from far and wide.

Murray Bridge is changing and there is always something new and fun to see and do.

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram to stay in touch and be one of the first to hear about exciting initiatives and events as they roll out in the future.

Tag us into your adventures: @Rural City of Murray Bridge #RuralCityOfMurrayBridge #MurrayBridge #MakeItYours #ThrivingCommunities

We hope you enjoyed your sample of river life and when deciding which destination to choose for your next adventure... think Murray Bridge – Make It Yours!