

Christmas on the Sapphire Coast of New South Wales Eden & the Sapphire Coast 6 DAYS

DEPARTING Thursday 23rd December to Tuesday 28th December 2010

MOTEL ACCOMMODATED

Our Christmas tour in 2010 will be to Eden on the South Coast – or Sapphire Coast as it's called – of New South Wales. Rugged beauty, golden sandy beaches and crystal waters dominate this south coast region. Our base at Eden on Twofold Bay, overlooked by Mount Imlay, was once home to a whaling industry, now long gone but faithfully recorded in fascinating displays at the Eden Killer Whale Museum. The skeleton of Old Tom, last of the herding killer whales of Eden, is an impressive exhibit. A history steeped in the traditions of the sea. At Snug Cove trawlers unload their catch of the day. Lookout Point, Rotary Park and Seamens Memorial Wall are up the hill from the Eden Wharf, offering panoramic views over beautiful Twofold Bay.

DAY 1 HOME TO DANDENONG – Thursday 23 December, 2010

L.D

Welcome to our 6 Day *Christmas Tour* to *Eden* on the South Coast of New South Wales. After the completion of our pick up service from your home town, we join our luxury touring coach and head off on our tour. First stop is for our *welcome lunch* before we continue to the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne for our first night on tour.

DAY 2 DANDENONG TO EDEN – Friday 24 December, 2010

B.D

Following a hearty breakfast we make our way along the Princes Highway to *Bairnsdale* for our lunch stop. The most striking building in *Bairnsdale* is the Court House in Nicholson St which was opened in 1894. It is recognised as one of Victoria's finest examples of late 19th century architecture and is considered of some significance to the development of an Australian style. There will be an opportunity to take a look inside *St Mary's Catholic Church*. The murals on the ceilings and walls are quite stunning! We bypass Lakes Entrance as we make our way to *Orbost* and finally over the border to *Eden* – our base for the next 3 nights. After a long drive you might like to relax with a swim in the heated pool, take a walk to the beach via the Lake Curralo Boardwalk (all level walking/takes about 45 minutes return) or even play carpet bowls.

DAY 3 CHRISTMAS ON THE SOUTH COAST – Saturday 25 December, 2010

B.L.D

Christmas Day! The morning is free to relax, take a walk or to attend local church services. Then we sit down together for a traditional Xmas Lunch. This evening a light supper will be available from the restaurant.

DAY 4 EDEN & BOYDTOWN – Sunday 26 December, 2010

B.L.D

This morning we take an introductory tour of Eden including the Wharf and a visit to the *Seamans Wall and Rotary Lookout*.

We then join the *Cat Balou* for a cruise on *Twofold Bay*. Enjoy the magnificent scenery of the coastline and surrounding hinterland as the cruise takes us through the spectacular Twofold Bay. We then head south to have a look at *Boydton*. Benjamin Boyd, the son of a London Banker established Boydton at Twofold Bay in the mid 1800's as his headquarters from where he ran his whaling and grazing exploits. Boyd had grandiose ideas of developing Boydton to a stage not only to rival nearby Eden but Sydney itself. His grand plans for Boydton never eventuated and the only buildings erected were the Seahorse Inn, Boyd's Church and *Lookout Tower*. Today, we enjoy a light lunch in the Brasserie of the newly refurbished *Seahorse Inn*. When we enter the Inn, we'll be greeted with an ambience of old world charm as the owners have retained much of the original detail such as hand-carved doors, stained-glass ornamentation, winding staircases and large open grates. We return to Eden to visit the famous *Killer Whale Museum* with the skeleton of "Old Tom" the killer whale plus many other items of interest and history. We then return to our motel for dinner.

DAY 5 MALLACOOTA – Monday 27 December, 2010

B.L.D

After completing our check out formalities and farewelling our hosts, we travel back into Victoria as we make our way towards the *Mallacoota Inlet*. We leave the Highway at Genoa and travel into this most delightful retreat on the East Gippsland Coast which is surrounded by the Croajingolong National Park. The Mallacoota Inlet was formed by the drowning of the valley of the *Genoa River* when the sea level rose as the ice melted at the close of the last ice age. It has been estimated that 25000 years ago the sea level was 140 metres below its present level. Today we take in some of the local sights. Belka and Bastion Beaches are readily accessible and offer fine coastal scenery while Captain Stevenson Point is the location of the earliest known European settlement. We also visit an attraction called *Operation Bunker*, which is a World War II RAAF operations bunker that has been restored by the Mallacoota RSL. It is of considerable significance in the military history of Victoria and was the headquarters of the RAAF coastal intelligence activity in the region as well as an important link in the chain of defence installations along the south east of Australia. Afterwards we enjoy a light lunch in this beautiful area before travelling through to Sale for our final night on tour.

DAY 6 HEADING HOME – Tuesday 28 December, 2010

B

Unfortunately, our holiday must come to an end, so this afternoon, we return to our home ports, arriving late afternoon to complete a sensational 6day tour.