

## Our Company

Captain Jock Veenstra, has continued the family tradition of building and operating boats specifically designed for Murray River cruising conditions. The Veenstra family were pioneers of Murray River cruising back in the 1960s and with more than 50 years Murray River cruising experience and a wide knowledge of the Murray River environment, its landscapes, history, bird and wildlife, Spirit Australia Cruises has earned a well deserved reputation for high quality and professional cruising programs.

## The Experience

Our 'Murray River Run' cruises operate along the entire length of the Murray River between Goolwa SA and Albury NSW, allowing you to see up to 2000km of the river.

There is no better or more comfortable way to explore the Murray River than aboard a Spirit Australia Cruise. From the moment you board one of our purpose built boats, you will be enchanted by endless changing scenery and inspiring landscapes as palettes of colour and textures greet you at every twist and turn passing backdrops of vertical limestone cliffs, graceful redgums and burgeoning citrus orchards and vineyards.

Glide quietly along this ancient waterway and be humbled by its vast beauty and rewarded with a lifetime of memories. The diversity of landscapes is rivalled only by the abundance of wildlife, the river is a veritable paradise, with more than 150 species spread over your journey. Ever watchful, wedge-tailed eagles soar on thermals, while herons, egrets, cockatoos, cormorants and ducks fill the air with a symphony of calls and black swans and pelicans peacefully drift with the current. On the banks and beyond are echidnas, possums, koalas, kangaroos, emus and hairy nosed wombats.

**Also Cruise the**  
Gippsland Lakes,  
Myall Lakes,  
Hawkesbury River  
and  
Brisbane to Gold Coast

# SPIRIT *Australia* CRUISES

Main Wharf, Goolwa SA 5214

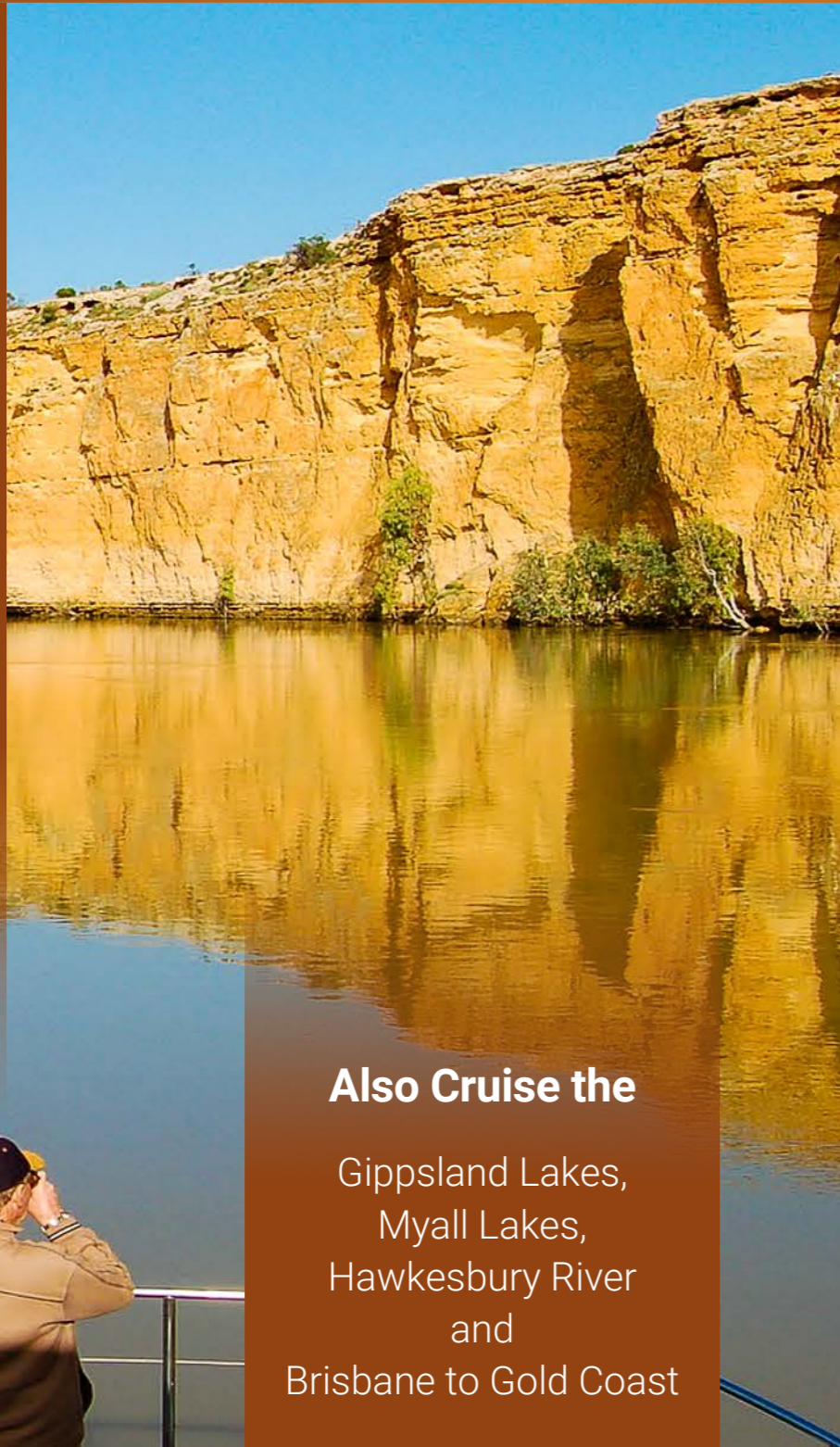
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# SPIRIT *Australia* CRUISES

## CRUISE THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE MURRAY RIVER



## History of the Murray

Along the Murray River every ripple carries a story.

It was the explorer Captain Charles Sturt who named the "broad and noble" waterway in 1830 in honour of the Colonial Secretary, Sir George Murray.

In those early days the river was an economic lifeline for the fledgling State of South Australia, as well as Victoria and New South Wales. Paddle Steamers churned back and forth ferrying supplies and hauling barges loaded with grain and wool.

River ports sprung up to service the trade and passenger traffic that travelled the length. In the 1880's, at the height of the river trade, several hundred paddle steamers and many more barges were operating on the river.

Not surprisingly for such a critical waterway, the various states, each with conflicting interests, squabbled for 50 years over irrigation rights. Eventually, in 1915 the states and the Commonwealth signed the River Murray Waters Agreement to control all development and works on the river.

Now known as the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, it coordinated the construction of storages, locks and weirs to reduce the efforts of drought and flood along the river. Today there are 13 locks between Yarrowonga in Victoria and Goolwa in South Australia.



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CRUISES

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# CRUISE THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE MURRAY RIVER



*Welcome Aboard*

- Cruise the river by day, stay in Riverland towns by night
- All meals, ensuite accommodation and off boat excursions included
- Cruising one way to avoid duplication of scenery and experiences
- Personalised small group cruising experience
- Over 50 years of operation cruising the Murray River

