

Jack's Bus Service

Presents

Western Victoria's Silo Art Trail 7 Day Tour 22nd – 28th September, 2019

Day 1 – Sunday 22/9/19 (Home/Melbourne) (D)



Depart home and travel to **Devonport** where we board the **Spirit of Tasmania** for our overnight crossing to **Melbourne**.

Overnight & Dinner: Spirit of Tasmania

Day 2 – Monday 23/9/19 (Melbourne/Horsham) (BLD)



Country Victoria has become an unlikely art hub in recent years, with the tools of the trade and the canvases used being a little out of the ordinary! We'll spend the next couple of days exploring the north west of the state and admiring the incredible talent of the artists.

On arrival in Melbourne, we disembark bright & early this morning before making our way to breakfast. With full tummies we hit the road, making our way to Western Victoria. Stopping along the way for **lunch**, before continuing on through **Ararat**, where we stop for a visit to the **Gum San Heritage Centre**. Here we discover just how significant the Chinese miners were in the founding of the town. Late afternoon we reach **Horsham**, our base for the next few days.



Overnight & Dinner: Best Westlander

Day 3 – Tuesday 24/9/19 (Horsham/Boort/Horsham) (BLD)



Today we'll begin to explore as we make our way to **Boort**. This small country town on the banks of Little Lake Boort usually attracts people for water sports, the town has very cleverly carved a future for itself not only with the diversification of industry, but also attracting tourism as well. Visitors to Boort can now see first-hand how these industries operate. Our first stop will be at **Simply Tomatoes & Aussie Wool Quilts**. It is really amazing to see the diversity here: specialty green tomato products, wool bedding, woolly Warmers and more! Continuing on we'll visit **Salute Oliva**. This family owned grove produces first class extra virgin olive oil and a range of table olives. Other produce for sale here includes jams, preserves olive oil soaps and gift packs. Boort has also more recently been gaining attention as the home of the '**Spanner Man**'. Local farmer John Piccoli had collected antique spanners for many years, and in his retirement he decided to do something with them. John now sculpts the spanners into incredible works of art and an ever growing collection of giant sculptures now adorn his garden, with the tallest - The Marlin, coming in at 7m tall and weighing 1200kg's! We are sure to be blown away by these incredible sculptures and John's skills. On leaving John's garden, we return to Horsham. **Lunch provided today.**

Overnight & dinner: Best Westlander

Day 4 – Wednesday 25/9/19 (The Silo Art Trail) (BLD)



This is wheat country, with many of the towns in the region being established as service centres for the farms. Tall cement silos towering over the train line are a familiar sight throughout this part of the state, and at harvest time they are a hive of activity. But times have changed; the silos are getting old, and changes within the agricultural industry have led to many of the silos being decommissioned. In 2015 artist Guido Van Helten captured Australia's imagination and hearts when he saw the silos of the tiny town of Brim as a giant canvas. Van Helten's work is a wonderful tribute to the farming families of the area and inspired the creation of the **Silo Art Trail** which has given a new lease of life to many of these small communities. Today we explore the trail, taking in the silos of **Sheep Hills, Brim, Rosebery, Lascelles & Patchewollock**. We'll take time at each of the silos for photos and be inspired by the scale of the artworks and the incredible talent of each of the artists. Late afternoon we return to Horsham. **Lunch provided today.**

Overnight & dinner: Best Westlander

Day 5 – Thursday 26/9/19 (Horsham/Nhill/Horsham) (BLD)



We take the scenic route to Nhill this morning, travelling through the **Little Desert National Park**. Poor soils and little water make the Little Desert National Park a tough place for many plants and animals to survive, but some creatures have managed to adapt to this harsh environment. The Malleefowl is one of these creatures. This unusual bird builds a large mound in which to incubate its eggs, but loss of habitat and predators have led to it becoming an endangered species. Keep an eye out for this elusive little bird whilst we are in the park. On arrival in Nhill this morning we visit the **Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre** and learn about their work to restore an Avro Anson aircraft. Continuing on we make our way towards Dimboola, taking time for a photo stop at **Pink Lake**, so named for the shades of pink that it turns after rains when the algae blooms and intensifies the unusual colour! In **Dimboola** we take a tour of the **Print Museum**. Housed in the former home of *The Dimboola Banner*, the Print Museum is a complete working print shop, housing an 'as it operated' collection of printing presses and the associated machinery, as well as a collection of print history and memorabilia. Our day concludes back in Horsham with a visit to the **Horsham Art Gallery**. Housed in the former Town Hall, the gallery is home to contemporary and traditional art, with three focal points: Australian Photography, The Wimmera and its Artists, and The Mack Jost Collection of Australian Painting and Works on Paper. Late afternoon we return to our accommodation for the evening. **Lunch provided today.**

Overnight & dinner: Best Westlander

Day 6 – Friday 27/9/19 (Broken Hill – Local Travel) (BLD)



We head home today, but before hitting the highway we have a couple of stops to make. On the outskirts of **Murtoa** to visit the **Stick Shed** – one of Australia's most unusual buildings! During WWII buildings of this type were used as temporary storage for wheat which could not be exported. Although many Stick Sheds were erected through southern & western Australia, sadly this is the only one left. This shed is HUGE – at 900ft by 200ft and approximately 60 ft high in the centre, it is the largest rustically-built structure in the world! Today we will learn more about this unusual and impressive building and discover why it is known as the Stick Shed. Next we take in our final silo of the tour at **Rupanyup**. This time two of the huge metal grain bins were given a makeover and now depict the faces of 2 young community members who play in the local football and netball teams. After our final stop on the trail we settle back in our seats and head down the Western Highway, bound for Melbourne. With a lunch stop along the way, we arrive in plenty of time to get settled on the Spirit for our overnight journey back to Tassie. **Lunch & Dinner provided today.**

Overnight: Spirit of Tasmania

Day 7 – Saturday 28/9/19 (Melbourne/Devonport/Home) (B)



Home at last. We enjoy breakfast in Devonport before heading home.

Home, sweet home...

The Cost: \$1,980.00 p.p./twin share – based on a Min 25 passengers

Add \$390 for single supplement.

Inclusions: Coach travel, return fare on Spirit of Tasmania, twin share accommodation, 2 course dinners, cooked breakfasts, admissions and lunches as per itinerary

Book with David or Leonie

Jack's Bus Service

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Group Link Terms & Conditions

1. **\$500** non-refundable group deposit, **due on booking.**
2. **\$250.00** per person non-refundable deposit, **due by Monday 1/7/2019.**
3. Rooming list required **by Wednesday 31/7/2019.** Group Link will invoice you on receipt of rooming/passenger lists.
4. **Balance** of all monies required by **Thursday 1/8/2019.**
5. In the event of a cancellation by an individual (providing total numbers do not drop below group minimum costing) the following fees apply:
 - i. Payment of deposit - 1/8/2019 – loss of \$250 deposit
 - ii. 2/8/2019 to 16/8/2019 – 50% cancellation fee
 - iii. 17/8/19 to 5/9/19 – 80% cancellation fee
 - iv. 6/9/2019 onwards – 100% cancellation fee
6. Group Link reserves the right to vary the content of its tour should the need arise.
7. Further, no refund shall be made for any unused portion of any itinerary. Alterations to an itinerary, made by a passenger, shall be wholly at the expense of that passenger.
8. Bookings made after submission of rooming list are subject to availability and re-costing. A late booking fee may apply.
9. 'Forced Singles' are only accepted according to the policy of individual accommodation properties and cannot be guaranteed by Group Link Travel.
10. Any special dietary or rooming requests, e.g. diabetic & ground floor, walk-in shower, must be advised at time of booking. Special requests are requested of suppliers, however Group Link Travel cannot guarantee that special requests will always be met. Special dietary requests cannot be catered to for morning/afternoon teas.
11. Some accommodation properties may require a room bond or credit card number to cover incidentals not otherwise covered in the cost of the tour. Please note that this will be the responsibility of individual passengers.
12. Group Link Travel reserves the right to vary the content of its tour should the need arise, to ensure the smooth running, safety, wellbeing and/or enjoyment of the passengers.
13. In the unlikely event of mechanical failure of a vehicle, Group Link Travel reserves the right to substitute the best available alternative vehicle within reason and at its discretion.
14. Group Link Travel and contracted operators will not accept responsibility for financial loss or delays resulting from services not being provided as listed due to reasons outside Group Link Travel's control including the cessation of trading of a service provider due to financial bankruptcy or any other reason.
15. It is a requirement of Group Link Travel that any passenger joining this tour is mentally and physically capable of caring for themselves and negotiating coach stairs without the aid of our coach crew or other passengers. Should a passenger require care, they will be required to travel with a personal carer. Further, objectionable behaviour towards other passengers will not be tolerated and behaviour deemed as such in the opinion of Group Link Travel staff, will require the passenger to leave the tour, wholly at the passenger's expense.
16. In booking this tour & paying a deposit, you agree that you have read and will abide by these terms and conditions.

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUESTS: Whilst Group Link Travel makes every effort to ensure special dietary requests are met by suppliers, any passenger with a special dietary request should confirm the supply of such meal on arrival at each venue where a meal is provided. Whilst Group Link Travel will request these dietary requirements, Group Link Travel will not be held responsible for the non-supply of such meal, it is the responsibility of the individual to confirm such supply before the meal.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We highly recommend that passengers take out Travel Insurance to cover any unforeseen circumstances that may arise prior to, or during travel.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations must be made in writing and such notice is not effective until received by Group Link Travel. Days of notice commence from the day notice is received (during office hours not being weekend or local public holiday) by Group Link Travel. Cancellations made on weekends or local public holidays are deemed to have been received by Group Link Travel at the commencement of business on the next working day. Days of notice are based on the first date on which the passengers commence arrangements.

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