

Aussie Camino

A Pilgrimage in the spirit
of Sister Mary Mackillop

HOLIDAY PACKAGE

9 Night
Bus Supported
Day packs only
Most meals

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1300 979 088
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The story of Sister Mary Mackillop and Australia's early settlement



Born in 1842 and the eldest of 8 children, Mary Mackillop was an Australian religious sister who has been declared a Saint. Together with Julian Tenison-Woods, Mary founded the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart (known as the Josephites or Joeys),

Woods and Mary developed the "Rule Of Life" for the Josephites. The Rule emphasizes poverty, a dependence on divine providence, no ownership of personal belongings, faith that God will provide and willingness to go where needed. They established schools and welfare institutions around Australia, with an emphasis on education for the poor.

Mary faced significant opposition from sectors of the clergy, unhappy with Mary's insistence on control over her schools. She was excommunicated from the Church after a successful campaign to discredit her, and though this edict was lifted the following year, she continued to face opposition to her work for most of her life.

Mary's story provides a lens through which to glimpse early life in Australia. We will travel through small towns each with their own story. From Portland, Victoria's first European settlement, to Penola, initially founded on agriculture and now the major town of the Coonawarra Wine Region, and many others in between.

Stunning Australian Country

The southern coastline,
country lanes and stock routes



Challenge. Recharge. Reflect.

Time to stop, time to enjoy.



What do I need to know?

How fit do I have to be?

- You do not need to have elite fitness, however many of the days are lengthy and you will need good endurance. You should train for this walk; the better you prepare, the more you will enjoy your experience.

How far do we walk each day?

- Distances range from 12-31km.

What's the daily routine?

- Breakfast is usually 7-7.30am and we commence our day by 8.30am at the latest. We will head off each day as a group, taking our time to enjoy our surroundings. We will stop for lunch when we meet the bus and enjoy a sit down and hot/cold drinks with lunch. We will also stop for breaks during the morning and afternoons along the walks.

What's the terrain like?

- The terrain will vary; the first three days are on the coast and follow cliff tops and beach walking. We then walk on country roads, lanes and stock routes.

What do we eat?

- Most breakfasts and dinners are at our overnight accommodation, and you can choose from an extensive menu. Note that all dinners except 1 are to be covered by you. Lunches are sandwiches and wraps, provided each day. Our bus will meet us each day to provide hot drinks.

Where do we stay?

- Hotels in country towns. Note that the quality will vary depending on availability, however each night you will have a hot shower and good meal.

What happens if I get hurt or sick?

- All leaders are first aid qualified. If we cannot sort your problem, our bus will collect you and take you to our hotel or medical care, depending on the situation.

What happens if I don't want to walk the whole day?

- You may choose to leave the walk with the bus at lunchtime and relax for the rest of the day.

What equipment do I need?

- Your most important item is comfortable and sturdy walking shoes or boots. You will also need a good quality day pack. A full list will be provided to you on booking.

How much weight will be in my day pack?

- You should only need around 5-6kg in your pack, plus water for the day.

Do I have to be religious?

- Absolutely not. People walk this pilgrimage for many reasons. They include following Mary's story, simply for the joy of bushwalking and everything in between.

Travel with purpose.

The challenge will empower you.

The escape will recharge you.



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