relax, explore, discover . . . new friendships!



Castlemaine Head Office 30-32 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine VIC 3450

Armadale Branch 1238 High Street, Armadale VIC 3143

T 1300 885 255

sisterhood@castlemainetravel.com.au

www.sisterhoodwomenstravel.com.au

a unique travel experience just for women

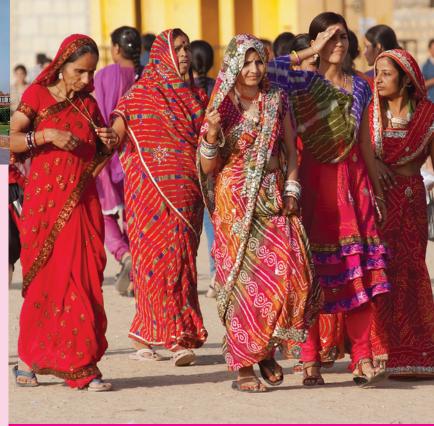
Best Exotic Indian Adventure

19 days departing 16 January 2016



HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Beautiful and unique 4-5 star accommodation
- Walking tour of bazaars of Old Delhi
- Visit to Hindu home for an Indian cooking demonstration
- A visit to the village of Hauz Khas
- Visit the famous Mr K.D. Aryan of Sri Books
- Shopping opportunities in Hauz Khas
- · City tour of New Delhi
- Visit to Qutub Minar and Humayun's Tomb
- Visit to Dashashwamedh Gaht to see Evening Aarti
- Boat ride on the River Ganges to view daily life on the river
- · Sunrise visit to the majestic Taj Mahal
- Visit to Agra Fort
- Agra heritage walk in support of a community based tourism enterprise
- Visit to Fatehpur Sikri and ancient abandoned city
- Visit to Amber Fort in Jaipur
- Elephant experience in Jaipur
- Evening bazaar tour of cuisine and crafts of Old Jaipur
- A Jeep safari to Bishnoi Villages
- A hands-on tour of the Bandhani Art of Jodhpur (tie-dye)
- A visit to the rural Rajasthan village of Rawla Narlai
- A visit to Sahelion-ki-Bari, Gardens of the Maidsof-Honour in Udaipur
- An afternoon cruise on Lake Pichola.
- A cooking demonstration with a local Indian family in Udaipur
- Meet the women of Sadhna in the village of Delwara
- Guided sightseeing tour of Mumbai
- Visit to Mani Bhawn Museum
- The Oueen of Suburbs Tour in Mumbai



PRICE: \$9,949.00 per person twin share SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$2,100.00

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Personally escorted from Australia your tour hostess is on hand to assist with making your holiday a memorable one
- Return economy airfares to India inc taxes with Singapore Airlines
- Specialist tour manager
- 4-5 star beautiful and unique accommodation throughout itinerary
- All included sightseeing as per detailed itinerary
- All meals as per detailed itinerary
- Indian Single Entry Visas (Australian Passports holders)
- Room matching service for single travellers
- Documentation distribution day (meet and greet) subject to minimum numbers
- Sisterhood documentation and travel wallet

itinerary

DAY 1 Saturday 16 January 2016 Melbourne – Delhi ~ (D)

Meet your Sisterhood Tour Hostess and fellow travellers at the Melbourne Airport to depart on our flight to Delhi. An overnight flight so sit back, relax and enjoy the inflight entertainment and airline hospitality. Upon our arrival into Delhi we'll be met and transferred to our hotel. The first impressions for any visitor traveling in from the airport are of a spacious, garden city, tree-lined with a number of beautiful parks. With the day free to settle in, tonight we'll enjoy a welcome dinner to see in our first night in India.

DAY 2 Sunday 17 January 2016 Delhi ~ (B,L)

Today our culinary journey of Delhi starts with exploring then hidden sites of Old Delhi and tasting local recipes with a food expert. We'll walk through the charming quarter of Old Delhi, experiencing the variety of food and visiting one of the best well maintained Haveli oldstyle 3-storied home (private mansion) with a central courtyard flanked by rooms with 58 doors. We'll take a walk through a local bazaar. Old Delhi bazaars have colourful and interesting street food and is crowned with the oldest shops with many world originated delicacies. You will be encouraged to try a few of the local delicacies from carefully selected shops. The area is also home to several small temples, shrines, old mosque and protected monument sight. Cows wander the streets, small dharamshalas (rest-houses) and pyaus (water-stations) attest to the pious contributions of local merchants. After our walk, we will be taken to a Hindu home (Masterji Kee Haveli) in Old Delhi, for a demonstration and tasting of traditional home-style Indian vegetarian cooking. Afterwards the rest of the day is at leisure.

DAY 3 Monday 18 January 2016 Delhi ~ (B,L)

Today after breakfast we'll begin our tour of Hauz Khas. Enroute we'll visit an Oriya Temple, unique in its architecture. Then a ten minute walk and we are in the Hauz Khas village where we'll meet the famous Mr. K.D Aryan of Sri Books selling antique maps, books and film posters. He has been featured in a BBC documentary and will very proudly tell us his story. Ethnic Silver and Plutus are lovely shops selling silver jewellery, but the effervescent Mrs Kusum Jain of Cottage of Arts & Jewellery is a must for her designer jewellery, old textiles, paintings & prints. After exploring, we'll stop for a meal at one of the village's restaurants to enjoy lunch before our afternoon city tour of New Delhi. Dinner at Leisure.

DAY 4 Tuesday 19 January 2016 Delhi / Varanasi ~ (B,L)

After breakfast and check out, we'll transfer to the airport for our flight from Delhi to Varanasi. Upon Arrival into Varanasi and after lunch we'll enjoy a Northern Bazaars & Hidden Alleys walk. Few tourists ever wind their way through the bazaars in the Northern gallis of the old city where you will find hidden alleys leading directly through the sacred zone of Banaras to the oldest buildings of the city. As we enter the lanes of the Northern part of the city we will get to peep inside the shops, temples and lives of people who have never left their street for years. This bazaar has so many twists and turns locals even get confused. This evening we'll visit Dashashwamedh Ghat to see the Evening Aarti which is a musical ceremony performed to Goddess Ganga (river). It is a spectacular sight where hundreds of devotees throng the ghats to participate in this ceremony to worship holy river Ganga. Offerings of tiny oil lamps and flowers are made to the river at the end of this ceremony and it is a moving sight to watch hundreds of miniature lamps floating along with the flow of the river. Dinner Tonight at Leisure

DAY 5 Wednesday 20 January 2016 Varanasi / Agra ~ (B,D)

Early this morning (before breakfast) we'll travel by boat along the holy River Ganges and see the various Ghats (the banks of the river) with people ritually cleansing their sins' in hope of attaining eternal salvation or ""Nirvana". This will be the backdrop to our early morning boat ride when the river is bathed in a magical light and pilgrims

come to perform pooja to the rising sun. At lunchtime we'll transfer to our flight to Agra. Upon arrival into Agra we'll be transferred to our hotel with the remainder of the day at leisure. Agra has many wonderful monuments and the Taj Mahal, the greatest of them all, is a masterpiece of Mughal architecture at its best. The remainder of our day is at leisure with dinner tonight at our hotel.

DAY 6 Thursday 21 January 2016 Agra ~ (B,L)

This morning (before breakfast) we'll enjoy a sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal, built in the mid-17th century, the Taj Mahal is truly one of the wonders of the world. We will have ample time to view and be mesmerized by this outstanding piece of architecture before returning to our hotel for breakfast. Afterwards we'll be taken on a tour of Agra Fort on the eastern bank of Yamuna River. A free afternoon to relax or discover your surrounds at leisure.

DAY 7 Friday 22 January 2016 Agra ~ (B,L)

A morning free before we enjoy a Heritage Walk of Agra. This walk (about 1km) is a community based tourism initiative and designed with a view to improve livelihoods of households living in the shadow of the Taj Mahal and to showcase some lesser known monuments in Agra. Our walk will be facilitated by a youth from the local community. Dinner at Leisure tonight.

DAY 8 Saturday 23 January 2016 Agra / Jaipur ~ (B,L)

After breakfast we will drive to the "Pink City" of Jaipur (253 Km / approx. 05 hours) where en-route we'll visit Fatehpur Sikri, a visual experience of an ancient city abandoned by its ruler and yet well preserved to this day. Upon our arrival in Jaipur, we'll check into our hotel with the afternoon free. Although most tourists visit Jaipur to view its grand monuments, there are as many who come to shop. And indeed a shopper's paradise it is. The list of things available is endless, but the more popular items on the agenda of visitor to the city are jewellery, textiles and saris, goods made of marble, wood, stone, lac, clay, metal and leather. The city has, for long, been a traditional centre of the finest of jewellery bedecked with both precious and semi precious stones, enamelling of gold in green, red and white, the favourite colours of the Mughals. This city is known the world over for diamond and emerald cutting. Dinner at leisure tonight.

DAY 9 Sunday 24 January 2016 Jaipur ~ (B,L)

After breakfast at the hotel, we will be driven just outside Jaipur to the ancient capital of Amber to see the fabulous Amber Fort with its extremely intricate pink sandstone carving. After visiting Amber Fort we will enjoy an Elefantastic experience – spending time with elephants at a private estate near the Amber Fort. We will have the opportunity to see beautiful elephants up close and personal and go on an elephant-back safari throughout the nearby countryside. Our elephant safari will last between 50-60 minutes. The elephant will be fully decorated and painted on its face and front legs in keeping with the traditional elephant attire of our culture. Our mahoot (elephant handler) will also be in complete uniform with a traditional turban on his head. This will be an amazing experience. Dinner at leisure tonight

DAY 10 Monday 25 January 2016 Jaipur ~ (B,D)

After breakfast we'll enjoy a ½ day sightseeing tour of Jaipur. Highlights included the City Palace, which is an overwhelming complex of exquisite palaces, gardens and courtyards, decorative art and carved doorways. The palace museum houses collections of rare manuscripts, armoury, costumes, carpets and miniature paintings. We will then walk to the adjacent Jantar Mantar or Astronomical Observatory made by the Maharaja of Jaipur, built in 1726 and is one of the five such astronomical wonders built by Sawai Jai Singh and makes accurate predictions even to this day. We will also have the opportunity to wander about the local markets. With an afternoon at leisure before an evening walking tour of Jaipur including the Evening Bazaar, Cuisine & Crafts of Old Jaipur. Dinner tonight at our Hotel.

itinerary

DAY 11 Tuesday 26 January 2016 Jaipur / Jodhpur ~ (B,L)

This morning after breakfast and check out we'll drive to Jodhpur a city surrounded by a wall 10kms long built a century after the city was founded. The old city is fascinating jungle of winding streets of great interest to wander around. Eight gates lead out from the walled city. It's one of the more interesting cities in India and those baggy-tight horse riding trousers, jodhpurs, took their name from this locale. Upon our arrival the rest of our day is at leisure.

DAY 12 Wednesday 27 January 2016 Jodhpur ~ (B)

After breakfast this morning we'll enjoy a sightseeing tour of Jodhpur visiting Jaswant Thada and Mehrangarh Fort which is sprawled across a 125-meter high hill and is the most impressive and formidable fort in the fort-studded Rajasthan. This afternoon we'll take a Jeep Safari to Bishnoi Villages. Jeep Safari is the most convenient and adventurous way to explore the desert land of Rajasthan. A fine blend of fun and excitement, Jeep Safari in Thar Desert provides us with a wonderful opportunity to explore the picturesque, tranquil and magical land of Rajasthan. It will take us to some of the remote villages to visit Dhanis and local lifestyle. Apart from exploring the destinations, we will also get to mix with the local people and experience traditional Rajasthan hospitality at its best.

DAY 13 Thursday 28 January 2016 Jodhpur/Narlai ~ (B,D)

This morning after breakfast we'll enjoy a unique experiential tour of "The Bandhani Art of Jodhpur. Beacon Holidays will take us into the back alleys of Ek Minar Masjid in Jodhpur to meet a family who has been involved in the art of tie and dye, called Bandhani, for generations. We'll be amazed by the skills required to excel in this technique of decorating textiles. After our tour we'll drive to Narlai (139 Kms / 03 Hrs). On arrival, we'll check into our hotel then in the evening, we will enjoy a very special experience of The Step Well Dinner. Guests are taken on a magical journey from the Rawla through the village streets into the jungle before arriving at the 1100 year old "step well". The magical setting is brought to life by dimly lit oil lamps that illuminate the setting through flickering light. A very private dinner is laid out in a traditional manner and the experience promises to be a memorable one. The entire evening is like a secluded sanctuary inspired by the mystical past, bracing Indian spirituality and the unique experience of one being completely with nature.

DAY 14 Friday 29 January 2016 Jodhpur / Udaipur ~ (B,L)

After breakfast today we drive to Udaipur (122 Kms / 4 hours) including an enroute visit to Ranakpur Jain Temples. Ranakpur Temples built in the 15th century, are the largest temples of the Jain cult and are wholly constructed in light coloured marble and comprises a basement covering an area of 48000 sq feet. After our visit we'll continue our journey to Udaipur to check in with the remainder of the day at leisure.

DAY 15 Saturday 30 January 2016 Udaipur ~ (B,D)

This morning after breakfast we'll visit the vast and exquisite City Palace, a well-fortified, majestic white monument where the main entrance, a triple-arched gate named the Tripolia, was built in 1725 and is a marvel. We'll drive past Fateh Sagar Lake and visit Sahelion-ki-Bari, the Garden of the Maids-of-Honor, which has numerous fountains in four pools, embellished with delicately chiseled kiosks and elephants. The garden brings to the fore the unique lifestyle of the royal ladies, who once strolled through these gardens. Late this afternoon, we'll take a boat cruise on the placid waters of Lake Pichola towards Jag Mandir Palace, which covers almost four acres and is noted for its

marble pavilion and an imposing dome. This evening we'll enjoy a cooking demonstration followed by dinner with a local Indian Family. These Culinary Sessions are inspirational hands on experience, where you will work with fantastic fresh produce, cooking authentic Mewari food with Indian Family, who has zealously guarded their recipes for many generations now. You can appreciate the dinner and discover the delicious food of your hosts, and also enjoy a moment to discuss and interact with them.

DAY 16 Sunday 31 January 2016 Udaipur / Mumbai ~ (B)

After breakfast we will meet the Women of Sadhna and visit the village of Delwara to gain firsthand knowledge into the lives of these women artisans. It is heartening to know that some of the women of Sadhna are now members of the local self-governance body and hold important positions and many have traveled to Europe and Asia to sell their products at international trade fairs. The women will share their wonderful stories about how their learning and confidence building within Sadhna has helped them evolve into playing an important role in their families and neighborhoods. After our visit we'll transfer to the airport for our flight to Mumbai. Mumbai is a seething mass of humanity and unrelenting traffic. Ornate Victoria – Gothic buildings provide a backdrop for noisy street vendors and office wallahs rushing to work. Wide leafy boulevards are lined with monumental British construction but not all the grand architecture was courtesy of the Raj - wealthy Jains and Parsis have left their mark. Check in and dinner at leisure tonight.

DAY 17 Monday 1 February 2016 Mumbai ~ (B,L)

Today we'll enjoy a half day sightseeing tour of Mumbai visiting this spectacular city of contrasts with its skyscraper skyline and traditional outdoor laundries, the Dhobi Ghats. We will visit Mani Bhawan, a small museum where wax miniatures depict scenes from Mahatma Gandhi's life and India's freedom struggle. We'll also visit Marine Drive, Victoria Terminus, Crawford Market, Javeri Bazaar and Gate Way of India. This afternoon we'll experience a Bylanes of Bandra tour. The Queen of Suburbs is a delightful mix of history, colour, warmth, and people. Behind the façade of glass and steel lie the well-guarded bylanes of its idyllic villages. It is here that the Goan style sosegad soul lives and contrasts with the buzzing, hip and happening suburb. Dinner at leisure tonight.

DAY 18 Tuesday 2 February 2016 Mumbai / Singapore ~ (B,D)

Today after a late morning check out, we'll visit the APB cooking studio for a cooking class with celebrity Rushina M Ghildiyal. With the remainder of the day at leisure then a farewell dinner with time to reminisce about our exotic Indian adventure. This evening we'll be transferred to the airport for our flight back to Melbourne via Singapore. Relax and reminisce with friends whilst enjoying the inflight hospitality of Singapore Airlines as we begin our way back home leaving behind a place that for the past two weeks has woven a magical journey into our hearts and minds.

DAY 19 Wednesday 3 February 2016 Arrive Melbourne

Welcome Home! Arriving back into Melbourne at approximately 9.15pm, thank you for joining Sisterhood Womens Travel for your latest adventure and we look forward to welcoming you back.

** This tour is quite on the go and will involve lengthy walks on uneven ground. The weather will be warm and quite humid. Please take this into account when booking.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Please read through our full terms and conditions for this tour which are found on page 4 of this document. It is a condition that upon booking this tour you have read and fully understood this important information. Minimum numbers are required to operate this tour. Travel Insurance is mandatory.

terms and conditions

Booking Conditions

CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL

When booking a Sisterhood Womens Travel tour it is imperative that you are aware of all of our terms and conditions as these form part of your agreement with Sisterhood Womens Travel. It is recommended that all travellers adopt a sense of adventure, an easy going outlook and the ability to 'expect the unexpected'. It is the expectation that all travellers will respect fellow passengers and understand the key to an enjoyable tour is you.

ABILITY TO TRAVEL

A minimum level of fitness is required to be able to participate on a Sisterhood tour. As a minimum you will need to be able to walk 2km on uneven ground, carry your own luggage and walk up a few flights of stairs. We rely on the information you provide on our 'Fit to Travel' form completed as part of your booking application. You acknowledge that there are no other medical issues (both physical/mental) that SWT needs to be aware of when making your travel arrangements. SWT will not be liable for any damage, injury, death or loss of any kind arising from your failure to disclose relevant medical information. Women with disabilities are welcome on all SWT tours provided you are accompanied by an able bodied companion and do not require special assistance from SWT personnel. SWT reserves the right to refuse to carry anyone if it is felt the individual cannot cope with the requirements of the tour and who may require services and facilities that SWT cannot guarantee will be

EXCLUSION FROM TOUR

You may be excluded from any tour at our discretion if you fail to comply with our reasonable instructions whilst on tour or if you interfere with other client's enjoyment of the tour and you will be responsible for all costs associated with your tour expeltion.

VARIATION TO TOUR COMPONENT

No deduction in our tour costing will be made for leaving a tour early as this will cause a reduction in our travelling numbers and create additional costs.

ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

SWT is happy to assist with additional arrangements before and after each tour subject to an additional handling fee of \$150.

DEPOSITS AND FINAL PAYMENTS

Payments required are:

International 25% deposit within 7 days

35% deposit within 120 days

Final Payment 90 days prior to departure

Domestic 25% deposit within 7 days

Final Payment 75 days prior to departure

On occasion and outside of SWT's control a higher deposit or earlier payment date may be required.

LAST MINUTE BOOKINGS

Bookings made after final payment date will be subject to availability and will require full payment upon confirmation. A late fee of \$100 per person will apply.

ACCEPTED FORMS OF PAYMENT

We accept direct deposit, money order, bank cheque or Visa/Mastercard payment. For credit card payments an additional 1.5% surcharge is payable (non-refundable)

MINIMUM NUMBERS

All tours are subject to minimum numbers. If a tour falls below the minimum number required for a fully escorted tour, SWT reserves the right to offer the tour escorted by a local guide upon arrival to your destination. If SWT cancels a tour due to lack of numbers a full refund is offered or transfer to another tour. Should a tour be cancelled, SWT cannot assume any responsibility for any additional costs relating to travel arrangements made outside of SWT or travel insurance not taken out through

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS

All cancellations must be made in writing to Sisterhood Womens Travel and will be subject to cancellation charges from the date the written cancellation is received.

Prior to Final Payment: Loss of Deposit After Final Payment: 100% of tour cost.

Regrettably cancellation charges cannot be waived. After Departure: No refund

Final Payment dates are determined by SWT suppliers and may vary from tour to tour.

AMENDMENTS

Once your tour is confirmed and a deposit is paid, a \$100 amendment fee will be incurred for any changes to your tour arrangements.

TOUR PRICING & ITINERARY CHANGES

SWT operates on the basis of fluid pricing. This is the practice within the Travel Industry where pricing changes due to various factors including, but not limited to changing airfares, currency fluctuations, and availability of product. We reserve the right to change our prices without notice. This can mean that different passengers on the same tour may have been charged different prices. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our tours SWT takes no responsibility for any itinerary changes that may occur prior to or during travel and any such changes will be at the discretion of the airlines and our ground operators. Changes in flights and land arrangements are beyond the control of SWT. Every effort will be made to minimise any inconvenience to SWT passengers. SWT advises making full payment for tours as early as possible to avoid any potential price

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking that travellers are adequately insured for the full duration of their tour arrangements in respect of illness, injury, death, loss of baggage and personal items, cancellation and curtailment. SWT offers comprehensive travel insurance at a competitive price and will not be responsible outside their offered policy for inadequate travel insurance in the event of any insurance claims.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

When travelling alone a great way to keep your costs down and make new friends is to be prepared to share a room with another traveller. We are unable to guarantee that your room mate will be of similar age group but it is an enjoyable way to travel and could mean the start of a great friendship. Of course if you prefer a room to yourself the single supplement will apply. If we are successful in matching you with a fellow traveller we give you the opportunity prior to departure to make contact. SWT takes no responsibility for any mismatch of passengers and will not be liable for any additional charges incurred for changing room configuration whilst on tour.

HEALTH & IMMIGRATION

The traveller is responsible for all visa, passport, immigration, quarantine, customs, health and other requirements of the countries visited or transited. If travelling on an Australian passport you will need at least 6 months validity on your passport taken from the date of re-entry into Australia. If you are travelling under any other passport please advise at the time of booking. Sisterhood Womens Travel will not be held responsible for any incorrect re-entry visas for non-australian passport holders. SWT is happy to offer assistance with visas (additional charges may apply). Please note that passport and visa requirements are the responsibility of you the traveller and SWT takes no responsibility for failure to comply with the provided advice.

NAMES AS PER PASSPORTS

When booking on any tour, it is imperative that you provide SWT with your full correct name as per your passport and a copy of your passport (for international tours) SWT will not be held liable for any or expense incurred for incorrect names.

CONSULAR ADVICE

Official travel advice issued by Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is available by contacting 1300 444135 or visiting their website www.dfat.gov.au. We recommend that you review this

information both prior to making your booking and prior to departure.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

These conditions represent the entire agreement between the client and Sisterhood Womens Travel. SWT will be responsible to the client for supplying the services and accommodation as described in their itineraries, except where such service cannot be supplied or the itinerary used is changed due to delays or other cause of whatever kind or nature beyond the control of SWT. In such circumstances we will do our best to supply comparable services, accommodations and itineraries, and there shall be no refund in this situation. SWT acts only as agent for the client and upon the express condition that SWT will not be held liable or responsible for any direct, indirect, consequential or incidental damage, injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity of any kind, which may be occasioned by reason or any act or omission of any third party (including without limitation, any act, inaction or breach of contract of any third party, which is to or does supply any goods or services for SWT tours). Without limiting the foregoing, SWT does not own or operate any third party suppliers of services such as hotels, restaurants, transportation companies, sightseeing companies or local tour operators and is not responsible for any injury, death or expense due to overbooking accommodation, default of any third parties, sickness, weather, strikes, acts of God, Government, acts of terrorism, criminal activity, war, quarantine, force majeure events or any other cause beyond its control. All such risk, loss and expense must be borne by the client. Any personal expenses incurred by a client as a result of any delay, alteration or curtailment of any tour, whether caused by mechanical defect, strikes or any other cause are the responsibility of the client (travel insurance is mandatory on all SWT tours). SWT is unable to guarantee exact arrival and departure times, and is not liable for any failure to make connections with any other services, or quarantee the operation of any particular service. In the case of breakdown or other unforeseen circumstances, the operator reserves the right to substitute vehicles other than specified to ensure the operation of a tour. SWT reserves the right to cancel any ticket or booking, or to refuse to carry client where payment has not been received by SWT.

Updated 1 June 2015

Registered Office: 30-32 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine Victoria 3450 1300 885 255

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Please read through our full terms and conditions. It is a condition that upon booking this tour you have read and fully understood this important information. Minimum numbers are required to operate this tour. This tour requires a certain level of fitness as it may include walking for extended periods of time, on uneven ground and climbing of steps. Please take this into consideration when booking. Travel Insurance is mandatory.









Castlemaine Head Office 30-32 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine VIC 3450

Armadale Branch 1238 High Street, Armadale VIC 3143

T 1300 885 255

sisterhood@castlemainetravel.com.au www.sisterhoodwomenstravel.com.au