

AS BLUE AS IT GETS - MOUNT GAMBIER LAKE STILL PUZZLING



South Australian Mount Gambier has been a bit of a question mark thanks to local unusually colored lake. 'Unusually colored' meaning the water becomes so blue, visitors believe it is artificial.

South Australia is a lovely region which appeals to many wine enthusiasts along with outdoor fans and, interestingly enough, mystery seekers. One of the most significant tourist attractions is to be found in Mount Gambier, the largest city of the region.

Local Blue Lake has been puzzling experts and tourists alike for many years now, especially during the summer months when the water turns neon-blue. Such statement sounds bizarre considering the fact water tends to be blue in general, yet the color there reaches such intensity, that the majority of visitors refuse to believe it is not artificially colored.

The most likely explanation of this "blue" phenomenon relates to the changing temperature of the water during the year resulting in the formation of micro-crystallites of calcium carbonate. The blue wavelengths of sunlight are thus scattered and the blue color appears. The color of water changes during the course of the year, yet witnessing it is certainly a must.

Many diving fans come to Mount Gambier to explore local intricate system of under-water caves. The visibility here is unusually high thanks to the water permeating through the limestone rocks. Some cavities in the system are as large as the Melbourne Cricket Ground and local many ponds feature excellent diving and snorkeling potential. The most popular places for adventurers are the Ewens Ponds, Piccanninie Ponds, Tantanoola Caves, Umpherston Sinkhole, Cave Gardens and Engelbrecht Cave.

The Coonawarra wine region is not even an hour's drive away and tasting the delicious grapes grown in this region will certainly become one of the highlights of a trip to South Australia.

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