

Australian Wilderness Tours 2017/18

ACAS7



Adelaide, Flinders Ranges & Outback Red Centre to Alice Springs

Duration: 7 days, 6 nights

Travel in the comfort of a luxurious fully equipped Air-conditioned 4WD vehicle with a maximum of just 6 passengers

Day 1 - Sunday

We leave Adelaide to the townships and vineyards of the Barossa Valley and Tanunda, Seppeltsfield, Kapunda and Tarlee before entering the beautiful Clare Valley. As our journey continues through the southern Flinders Ranges we reach the towns of Gladstone, Melrose and Wilmington. We take a break at Quorn for lunch then take in the Warren Gorges before traveling to Buckaringa gorge. Next it's onto the historic town of Hawker where we see the fabulous Kanyaka Station ruins. Finally we head off to Wilpena for our overnight destination.

Overnight: Wilpena Pound Resort, WILPENNA (DBB)

Day 2 - Monday

Today we enjoy some of the many picturesque sights of the Flinders Ranges, firstly visiting Bunyaroo Gorge then Brachina Gorge then onto numerous other highlights with an abundance of wildlife hoping to see the rare yellow footed rock wallaby. Onwards through the Flinders we travel to Copley, Lyndhurst and the Ochre pits rich in colorful Ochre's used by the Aboriginal people, later in the afternoon we retrace some of the old Ghan railway route to the ghost town of Farna to arrive at the Marree for our outback experience at the junction of the Birdsville and Oodnadatta tracks.

Overnight: Marree Hotel, MARREE (DBB)

Day 3 - Tuesday

We head off along the Oodnatta track along the inland rims of the Simpson Desert to firstly visit some unique hot springs before arriving on the shores of Lake Eyre, the great salt lake below sea level where many of the Australian great rivers flow. In the rare times inland rains come to the inland. Onwards to one of Australia's most isolated pubs at William Creek for a refreshing drink before crossing the dunes to Coober Pedy, where we spend some time underground looking at the rich opal mines and experiencing the wonders of the town.

Overnight: Lookout Cave, COOBER PEDY (DBB)

Day 4 - Wednesday

An early start as we journey north to Marla for a break before crossing into the Northern Territory, then onwards to Kulgera and Eriksdala before heading to the Ayers Rock Resort at Yulara. On arrival at the resort we check into our accommodation and have time to relax before making our way to a special viewing spot near the awe-inspiring sandstone monolith Uluru to witness the breathtaking changing colors and enjoy a champagne sundowner, returning to the resort in the early evening.

Overnight: Outback Pioneer at Ayers Rock Resort, AYERS ROCK (DBB)

Day 5 - Thursday

The next morning we travel out to the Uluru/Kata Tjuta National Park and visit the Cultural Centre at Uluru, Australia's most recognisable natural icon, which stands 348 m high and measures 9.4 km in circumference. We will then make our way west to the unusual geological dome formations of Kata Tjuta. Kata Tjuta (The Olgas) rises 546m from the desert floor and in the language of the local Anangu people, Kata Tjuta means 'heads many'. Both Uluru and Kata Tjuta have great cultural significance for the Anangu Traditional landowners, and we will have plenty of time to learn about the local flora and fauna, bush foods and the Aboriginal dreamtime stories of the area before relaxing for lunch.

In the afternoon we will head up to King's Canyon, taking time to stop to view the majestic Mt Conner. The canyon offers the more active an opportunity to stretch out and hike around the rim where you will see the amazing sweeping views of the Central Australian landscape and the Garden of Eden. For those who want to soak up the spirit and historic side of this ancient land, you can enjoy a shaded walk of the canyon floor surrounded by large boulders and ancient cycad plants.

There is time to check in and relax before meeting your guide at Carmichael's Restaurant for a delicious evening meal. Optional touring: **Sounds of Firelight.**

Overnight: King's Canyon Resort, KING'S CANYON (DBB)

Day 6 - Friday

We leave Kings Canyon at 8.00am and travel the Mereenie Loop through some beautiful desert country and encounter an endless amount of changing scenery as we traverse Gardiners Range and other highlights before turning off to travel to Gosses Bluff, thought to be an impact crater formed by a huge comet crashing to earth leaving an impact surface of 5km diameter. Here we will enjoy a picnic lunch.

We then travel to Tylers Pass to view the impact crater of Gosses Bluff and surrounding landscape. We travel to Redbank Gorge, a very narrow gorge with cathedral-height walls towering above very deep and very cold waterholes. This gorge is nestled at the base of Mt Sonder in the West MacDonnell National Park, and is a refuge to many threatened species of plant and animal.

We leave Redbank Gorge and travel to Glen Helen to conclude our day. This is where it appears that the MacDonnell Ranges parts to let the Finke River continue its journey on to the Simpson Desert. It provides another permanent waterhole at the base of the gorge which is very good for swimming. Here we will stay overnight and enjoy the striking backdrop of the red towering gorge walls while eating and resting. You will also be able to see some of Namatijira's painting on the walls in the Namatijira Restaurant.

You will have the option to do helicopter flights and swim in the gorge.

Overnight: Glen Helen Resort, Glen Helen (DBBL)



Day 7 - Saturday



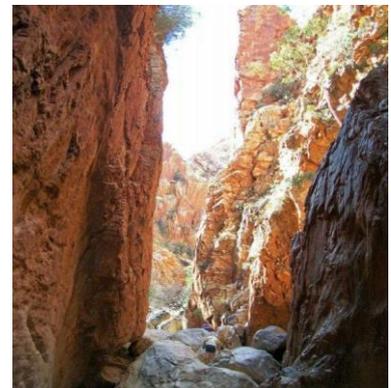
We depart Glen Helen and travel to Ormiston Gorge, where we find more spectacular geology and landforms with towering red walls in the gorge and a near permanent water hole estimated to be around 14metres deep at the southern end. One stands amazed at the picturesque scenery found here. The area is also known for its variety of native fauna and flora. We take a morning tea break before departure to the Ochre Pitts, which the desert Aboriginal people used as a mine for rich mineral ochre. You will notice the rock formation of the earthy colours which looks like a painting with the colours of ochre oozing from it. These colours are the raw materials used for paintings and for ceremonial body decoration.

Leaving the Ochre Pitts we travel to Ellery Creek Big Hole, a spectacular waterhole which also cuts through a gorge in the West MacDonnell Ranges as a result of huge floods over the years. The floods have unlocked some amazing geology and is recognised internationally as a world geological site.

We then travel to Standley Chasm which has been gouged into tough sandstone through the West MacDonnell Range by floods over the years by Angkerle Creek, a tributary of the Finke River system. The deep red cliffs on either side rise up to 80metres above the floor of the chasm, and when the sun shines directly into the chasm they turn a fiery red. The walk into the chasm is along the creek with spring fed pools of water, creating a lush gully floor of many species of ferns and cycad palms. Here we will enjoy a relaxed lunch in all the beauty of the gorge.

We leave Standley Chasm and travel to Simpsons Gap, one of the most prominent gaps in the West MacDonnell Ranges. At dawn and dusk it is renowned as a place to see the Black Footed Wallabies. It is also an important spiritual site to the Arrernte Aboriginal people where several dreaming trails and stories cross. It is a stronghold for rare and relict plants.

We conclude our journey leaving Simpsons Gap later in the afternoon and travel the remaining few kilometres into Alice Springs to conclude our journey.



Tour departs Adelaide 7:30 am every Sunday

INCLUSIONS

- 4WD air-conditioned deluxe transport
- All twin-share accommodation with private facilities (except Marree, with shared facilities)
- All National Park entries
- All dinners, continental breakfasts and 1 lunch
- Morning teas
- Experience driver guide

TOUR COST: AUD

\$3,975.00 Adult (twin share)

\$1,595.00 Single Supplement

\$2,950.00 Child (5-12 years – share with adult)

Minimum 4

TOUR CODE: ACAS7

Note: Accommodations are subject to availability and may be changed without notice.