

Australian Wilderness Tours 2017/18



ACM7

Complete Centre Experience including Alice Springs, East & West MacDonnell Ranges, Uluru, Kings Canyon & Glen Helen

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

On arriving into Alice Springs your Australian Wilderness Tours guide will collect you from your pick up location or Airport. We then travel to the All Seasons Motel where there is time to check in and freshen up before commencing our afternoon tour of Alice Springs which takes us to the Royal Flying Doctor Service, the Old Telegraph Station, ANZAC Hill, Todd River and many other Alice Springs landmarks. We return to Alice Springs in the late afternoon.

Overnight: All Seasons Motel, Alice Springs BB



Day 2

Leaving Alice Springs we travel south to Eralunda, where next to the roadhouse is a large fenced off section housing the massive Echidna and Frill Neck Lizard which were used in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games opening ceremony. We travel onwards to visit the viewing area of Mt Conner, a distinctive flat topped monolith rising 300m above the surrounding sand plains that gives a magnificent view of the area before traveling on to Yulara, where we have our lunch break before taking a tour of Uluru (Ayres Rock), one of the great wonders of the world, a sandstone monolith which stand 348 metres high, with most of its bulk below the surface. We then continue on to Kata Tjuta (The Olgas) which is a massive group of 36 spectacularly

weathered rock domes before heading back to Uluru to see the changing colours of The Rock as the sun goes down before returning to Yulara for your overnight stay.

Overnight: Outback Pioneer Hotel, Yulara BB

Day 3

We depart Yulara early to travel to Curtain Springs Station and on through spectacular desert oak-clad dunes to Kings Creek Station. Here we take a break before heading on to Kings Canyon where you can enjoy a 2 hour walk up into the floor of the canyon, or you can enjoy a 4 hour walk up to the rim of the canyon and around it to the other side observing spectacular views of the weathered rock faces of the Canyon and nature's Garden of Eden before heading onwards to our destination at the Kings Canyon Resort.

Overnight: Kings Canyon Resort, Kings Canyon BBL



Day 4

We leave Kings Canyon and travel the Mereenie Loop on unsealed road through some beautiful desert country. During our journey we encounter an endless amount of changing scenery as we traverse Gardiners Range and other highlights before turning off to travel to historic 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.

After lunch we travel to Tylers Pass arriving at lookout to view the impact crater of Gosses Bluff before continuing on to Redbank Gorge, a very narrow gorge with cathedral-height walls towering above very deep and very cold waterholes. We take a 20 minute walk from the car park to the gorge which 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 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/or swim in the gorge.

Overnight: Glen Helen Resort, Glen Helen BBL

Day 5

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 where you will be 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 traveling on 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.

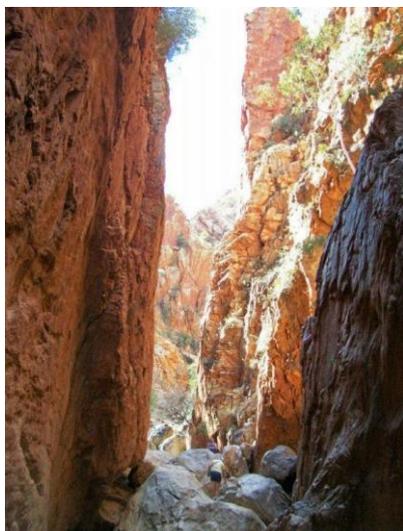


Leaving the Ochre Pitts we travel on to Ellery Creek Big Hole where we view a spectacular waterhole which also cuts through a gorge in the West MacDonnell Ranges as a result of huge floods over the years. The floods have unlocked some amazing geology and it is recognised internationally as a world geological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

We leave Ellery Creek Big Hole and proceed into 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 further east 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 and is a stronghold for rare and relict plants. Leaving Simpsons Gap we travel the remaining few kilometres into Alice Springs to our accommodation at the All Seasons Oasis.

Overnight: All Seasons Oasis Resort, Alice Springs BB



Day 6

An early start today as we drive to Emily Gap and then on to Jessie Gap. These two creek worn Gaps are of significance to the local Aboriginal people with paintings of caterpillar dreaming still on the rock walls in easy viewing reach without climbing. These paintings teach us about the way the Aboriginal people displayed their history and recorded their stories of the dreamtime related to the Gaps. We then head to Corroboree Rock, a rock of great importance to the local Eastern Arrernte Aboriginal people, where we can view the rock from different angles as we take the walk along the walking path that circle the rock.

Our next visit is by 4WD only track as we traverse the creek bed to arrive at John Hayes Rock Hole, a popular swimming location during warmer months, however, during prolonged dry periods the waterhole can evaporate leaving only a sandy creek-bed, but still surrounded by some magnificent scenery. We then proceed to Trehpina Gorge, known for its sheer quartzite cliffs and Red River Gums, where we will enjoy a light morning tea in the quiet atmosphere of the gorge. From here, we head for the ghost town of Altunga, the site of the Centre's first significant gold rush in 1887, where we will go back into the past as we walk through the remains of stone buildings, the restored Police Station, gaol, remains of mines and mining camps.

We leave Altunga and proceed to the Old Ambalindum Homestead for a late lunch. This station is a working cattle station and is one of the original cattle stations settled in Central Australia, situated close to the East MacDonnell Ranges, Arltunga Historic Reserve and the Binns Track. It covers over 3,000 square miles and features some of the most spectacular scenery in Central Australia.

On our way back to Alice Springs, we travel via the Scenic Route to the Pinnacles Bore, which is at an altitude of about 733metres above sea level, before traveling the remaining distance to Alice Springs.

Overnight: All Seasons Oasis Resort, Alice Springs BBL

Day 7

This morning you have free time before your guide picks you up to take you to the Airport for your departure.

Departs Alice Springs 2nd and 4th Monday March to November

INCLUSIONS

- 4WD Transport
- All accommodation
- All breakfasts, morning teas, lunches on days 3, 4 & 6
- All National Park entries
- Experienced driver guide

TOUR PRICE: AUD

\$2,975.00 Adult (twin share)

\$670.00 Single Supplement

\$2,450.00 Child (5-12 years – share with adult)

Minimum 4

TOUR CODE: ACM7

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