



13 day outback tour from Alice Springs to Melbourne

Central Australia is an iconic part of the Australian Outback and deserves to be more than a stopover destination. Why not take the opportunity to use Alice Springs as the starting point for your YOUUnique outback adventure.

Using our extensive experience travelling the area our tour combines the iconic sights that Australia is famous for with interesting places people rarely visit.

We travel "off the beaten track" in our quality 4WD vehicles and see scenery that needs to be seen to be believed. You'll marvel at the colours of the outback as the landscape unfolds before you. Along the way we encounter wildlife and birdlife in their natural settings.

Learn of the first Australians and their relationship with the land and its inhabitants and how they've survived for thousands of years. Hear stories of the early settlers and their battles with nature to survive in this harsh land. We'll also explain how the land was formed and what changes have taken place over millions of years.

Our 13 day tour travels from Alice Springs and includes:

- Uluru (Ayers Rock)
- Kata Tjuta (the Olgas)
- Kings Canyon
- West MacDonnell Ranges
- Painted Desert
- William Creek including the famous William Creek Hotel
- Lake Eyre
- Oodnadatta Track
- Coober Pedy
- Flinders Ranges National Park
- Iga Warta
- Riverina area
- The Grampians (Gariwerd)
- Spectacular gorges
- Ancient mountains
- Natural springs
- Walk parts of the Larapinta Trail
- Aboriginal art sites
- Potential sightings of koalas, wallabies, kangaroos, dingoes and other endangered species in their native environment
- Flight over Lake Eyre (optional extra)

- Helicopter flights around Uluru and Kings Canyon areas (optional extras)
- Morning and afternoon teas on each day
- 11 dinners , breakfast & lunch each day
- Overnight accommodation - combination of camping and hotel/cabin (twin share)

Longhorn YOUUnique Tours offers specialized small group tours of up to 6 people.

Our 13 day outback tour runs throughout the year and can be adapted to suit groups of 4 – 6 guests.

For extended touring options you can add a 2 day Great Ocean Road and Otways tour to the end of your tour.

Day 1

The start of our incredible journey. You will be picked up at your accommodation nice and early this morning so don't worry about breakfast as this will be enjoyed as we get to know each member of our group.

After breakfast we will travel through the west MacDonnell Ranges stopping at many interesting sites along the way including Simpsons Gap, Standley Chasm and Ellery Creek Big Hole where we will take a swim if the weather suits. From here we will visit Serpentine Gorge and the Ochre Pits where you can see the range of colours the local Aboriginals use in their artwork and body art. These Ochres were a prized asset and were traded with other clans for hundreds of kilometers. Redback Groge, Ormiston Gore await us as does Glen Helen Gorge where we will spend our first night together. B. L. D.



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Day 2

After breakfast we head for the Mereenie Loop road which takes us to Watarrka National Park home of Kings Canyon. On the way we will visit Tnorala (Gosse Bluff). This crater is of great significance to the Western Arrante people as well as scientists and s as we park in the centre of the crater you will hear why both find it so interesting.

At Kings Canyon we will take the short Kings Creek walk which takes us into the centre of the canyon. After the walk we will head for Kings Creek Station where we will stay the night. Optional helicopter rides and camel rides are available. After dinner we will be treated to a show which will explain the settlement of this area, particularly Kings Creek Station. You will also hear about the camels and the important part they played in opening up Central Australia. B. L. D.



Day 3

After a great home cooked breakfast in the mess hall at Kings Creek Station we head off to Kings Canyon to do the rim walk. It's a bit of a climb to the rim of the Canyon but once up there and looking at the magnificent towering vertical walls you'll agree it's worth the effort.

The changing scenes as we walk around the rim are staggering and as we climb down to the "Garden of Eden" and make our way along tracks that wind through ancient ferns and river gums you'll realise how precious water really is in this dry environment. The walk takes about 3 hours but is thoroughly enjoyable and you'll be glad to sit back and enjoy a snack when we finish.

After leaving Kings Canyon we travel to Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park where we will set up camp at the Yulara Resort campground.

Once camp is set up we will visit Uluru to take in

one of Australia's best views "sunset at the Rock" The colour changes that occur as the sun sets are incredible and you will enjoy this whilst celebrating with a glass of wine and some nibbles. After sunset its back to camp for dinner and a relaxing evening. . B. L. D.

Day 4

Our day starts early as we head out to Uluru to watch "sunrise on the Rock" as we enjoy our breakfast.

After this fantastic experience we head for the Cultural Centre where you will experience a journey of discovery as you wander through the Tjukurpa tunnel where many of the mysteries of the Anangu people are explained to you. Hear their ancient creation stories and learn of their love of country.

By the end of the visit you will have an understanding of the customs and protocols that the Anangu ask us to respect whilst visiting the park. We can then explore Uluru and you'll find evidence of the stories of the Tjukurpa.

After lunch back at the campground we can relax and enjoy a swim in the pool or take a stroll around the Yulara Resort. Later in the day we will head out to Kata Tjuta where we will have a choice of walks. The Walpa Gorge walk takes us between 2 of the domes and takes about an hour. The Valley of the Winds walk is 7.4 kms and takes approx 3 hours. On this walk we would visit 2 magnificent lookouts, Karu and Karinga, both of which provide amazing views. Our beds will certainly be a welcome place after this long but exciting day. B. L. D.

Day 5

This morning we will take it a little easy after our long day yesterday leaving Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park mid morning. Our destination today depends on the weather. We may travel to Lamberts Centre (the geographical centre of Australia), Mt. Dare Homestead or Marla on the Stuart Highway.

On the way we will stop at Mt Ebanazer Roadhouse where you will have the chance to walk through the gallery which displays art and artifacts made by the local Imanpa Community. Many items are also for sale if you're interested in taking home some local works of art. B. L. D



Day 6

Our journey today will take us along dirt tracks and into the Painted Desert. If we are travelling from Mt Dare or Lamberts Centre we will visit the town of Oodnadatta where we will stop for refreshments at the famous Pink Roadhouse where we can chat to some of the “locals”. A visit to the old railway station is a must, as this magnificent old building is now a museum telling stories of how difficult life was for the original settlers in this harsh land.

Later we arrive at the Painted Desert and you will understand where its name originated from. The landscape truly looks like it is a work of art and you will be amazed by the presentation nature has prepared for us as sunset approaches and the colours change before your eyes. B. L. D.



Day 7

Waking up to the ever changing colours of the Painted Desert as the sun rises is the perfect start to a day. After packing up we will visit a number of lookouts to take in the vistas that open up before us. It's difficult to explain this amazing landscape as it's something you need to experience to believe. There are small and large hills with colours that range from ochres and reds to black, white and greys. The landscape is very fragile and protected.

From here it's off to the Opal capital of Australia and perhaps the world, Coober Pedy. In contrast to our previous accommodation tonight we spend underground in a hotel carved into the hillside.

We'll take a look around the town and talk about its history. Enjoy a tour of one of the Opal Mines and see how these beautiful stones are located, mined, cut and polished. Tonight there are a number of choices for dinner (dinner at own cost) B. L.

Day 8

We begin the day with breakfast at our hotel then take a final stroll around Coober Pedy before we head for the outback again. We're headed to one of the true wonders of the Australian outback, Lake Eyre. But first we have a drive ahead of us, a drive that takes us through the Dog Fence which stretches 5,614 kims from Jimbour on the Darling Downs and ends west of the Eyre Peninsula on the cliffs of the Nullabor plains. The fence was built in the 1880's to keep dingoes from the southern States.

We arrive at what is probably the most remote hotel in Australia. With a population of less than 10 people William Creek really is isolated.

Weather permitting you'll have an opportunity to take a flight over Lake Eyre (optional extra) which is the best way to see this amazing salt lake. Whether it's dry or filled with water you'll be impressed by the sheer scale of the lake. Lake Eyre Basin is one of the largest internally draining systems in the world and the ecosystems it supports are varied and often unique. B. L. D.



Day 9

Early breakfast and a drive out to Lake Eyre to see it from ground level and then we head down the Oodnadatta Track to the town of Maree. Along the way we will stop at natural springs, mound springs and old ruins.

From Maree we “hit the bitumen” and travel to Leigh Creek where we turn off the highway to arrive 45 minutes later at the homeland of the Adnyamathanha people. Here we'll stay at Iga Warta a cultural venture run by the Coulthard family. You will experience their culture first hand through tours and activities that provide insights into their history, use of plants and how their ancestors lived in this harsh country. Dinner tonight will include bush tucker. B. L. D.



Day 10

This morning we enjoy some more of Iga Warta's fantastic experiences before heading back to the highway and Leigh Creek. From there its down the highway to Parachilna where we stop for lunch at the famous Prairie Hotel. The feral mixed grill is a favourite as you enjoy a cold drink in the front bar.

After lunch we travel through ancient gorges carved through the Flinders ranges millions of years ago. With luck we may even see the endangered yellow footed rock wallaby as it sits amongst the rocks on the slopes surrounding the Gorges.

We finish the day at Wilpena Pound resort where we will camp for the night. B. L. D.



Day 11

This morning after breakfast we say goodbye to Wilpena Pound. We will visit Sacred Canyon, on our way out of the Flinders Ranges, to see ancient aboriginal rock carvings. .

A stop at the town of Hawker will enable us to visit the Panorama Gallery and from here we will travel through some beautiful old townships where little seems to have changed since the days of the early settlers and pastoralists. Some of the buildings have been magnificently restored and the stories that go with these old towns will explain the hardships that the pioneers suffered. We finish the day in the Riverina district where we will stay overnight.
B. L. D.

Day 12

This morning we travel through Murray River Country on our way to Victoria. The Murray River is Australia's longest river starting in the Alps and flowing through NSW, Victoria and into South Australia.

This area is also famous for its fruit especially citrus, dried fruits and grapes and we will certainly be stopping at some of the local producers to try some and purchase some for our trip.

Once in Victoria we will continue onto Halls Gap where we will spend the night. We will have dinner at one of the local restaurants to celebrate our time together. B. L. D



Day 13

Today we see the sights of the Grampians Grampians (Gariwerd) where we'll look back through history and see the art of Indigenous Australians. Recent investigation has revealed Aboriginals have inhabited this region for up to 32,000 years and that up to 70% of Indigenous rock art in Victoria is in this region with well over 100 sites identified.

You'll also experience some of the magnificent scenery of this ancient mountain range. Before we make our way to Melbourne where you will be dropped at your chosen accommodation. B. L

NOTE: We are travelling in the Australian outback where weather and road conditions can change rapidly. This could force a change in itinerary but as the outback is so vast with many treasures we're sure you won't be disappointed.