



12 day tour from Melbourne to Central Outback Australia

Do you feel like it's time to explore the great Australian Outback but don't want to worry about setting up camp every night or having to sleep rough. Here at Longhorn YOUUnique Tours we understand that some people are looking for just that experience so we've designed an itinerary with that in mind.

You will see the fantastic Outback in all its glory and at the end of every day you can look forward to arriving at your accommodation where a welcoming bed will be waiting for you. With a maximum of 6 guests travelling in quality 4WD's you will go off the beaten track and enjoy scenery and sights that are often missed by larger bus tours.

Learn of the first Australians and their relationship with the land and its inhabitants and how they've survived for thousands of years. See native animals and birds in their natural environment and learn how many adapt to the changing conditions that exist in the outback. 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 12 day fully accommodated tour travels from Melbourne and includes:

- Riverina area
- Flinders Ranges National Park
- Iga Warta
- Oodnadatta Track
- William Creek including the famous William Creek Hotel
- Lake Eyre
- Coober Pedy
- Painted Desert
- Uluru (Ayers Rock)
- Kata Tjuta (the Olgas)
- Kings Canyon
- West MacDonnell Ranges
- Alice Springs
- 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
- Lunch on each day
- 12 Dinners
- Breakfast on 11 days
- Accommodation provided consists of hotel, motel, cabin and tented cabins. (twin share)

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

Our 12 day outback tour runs throughout the year and can be adapted to suit groups of 2- 6 guests.



Day 1

We leave Melbourne behind as we travel through country Victoria on our way to Mildura. You will hear how many of the towns were named and the important part gold has played in the history of Victoria.

Tonight we will spend the night in a comfortable motel in Mildura. We'll have dinner at a local restaurant where we can get to know each other and talk about the rest of the great journey that lies ahead of us. L.D.



Day 2

After breakfast we will visit some of the sights around Mildura before heading into South Australia and the beautiful township of Clare. On our way we will stop in the Riverina district and pick up some fresh and dried fruit to enjoy on our journey.

We will also visit a winery and taste some of their product. Our second night will be spent on a sheep station where we will enjoy a great Aussie BBQ for dinner. B. L. D



Day 3

We will be travelling through many country and outback towns today on our way to the Flinders Ranges. These wonderful old townships have some of the best examples of pioneer buildings I have seen and I'm sure you'll agree with me as we enjoy the trip.

At Hawker we stop to visit a local art gallery with its magnificent Panorama Gallery and then head into the Flinders Ranges National Park and Wilpena Pound. Here we will visit ancient Aboriginal rock carvings before enjoying our nights rest at the Wilpena Pound Resort. B. L. D

Day 4

Today is a fantastic opportunity to experience something really special. As we leave the resort we travel through ancient gorges carved through these mountains millions of years ago. With luck we might see the rare and hard to find yellow footed rock wallaby as it basks in the morning sun.

We travel to Parachilna and visit the town's old pub for refreshments and from there head for 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 5

Having experienced the hospitality of the Couthards at Iga Warta it is now time to travel to Maree along the famous Oodnadatta track and onto William Creek. Along the way we will stop at old ruins and ancient mound springs before arriving at the most "out of the way" pub 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 6

After breakfast we leave William Creek behind and head along outback tracks to the town of Coober Pedy, famous for its opal mining. We'll pass through the dog fence which stretches 5,614 klms 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



Once in Coober Pedy we'll check into our accommodation, which is carved into the hillside. Before dinner we will take a tour of an opal mine and you will have the chance to purchase a souvenir to take home with you. B. L.D.



Day 7

We are heading into an incredible landscape today, even if you've heard of the Painted Desert, until you actually stand in the middle of it you won't appreciate its beauty. 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.

We will take a walk to a number of lookouts to maximize the experience and minimize our impact on the environment. After we recover from this exhilarating experience we will travel onto Cadney Park and enjoy our evening meal and stay the night. B. L. D.



Day 8

We leave Cadney Park after breakfast and travel along the Stuart Highway as we make our way to one Australia's greatest icons, Uluru.

We'll pass through the outpost town of Marla in South Australia before crossing the border into the Northern Territory. We will stop for refreshments at Kulgera. Then it's onto Eridunda where we say goodbye to the Stuart Highway for now and head along the Lasseter Highway to Uluru.

On the way to Uluru we will stop at Mt Ebenezer 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.

Your first glimpse of Uluru as we drive over a sand dune will leave a lasting impression. We'll finish the day watching the sunset over Uluru, a fantastic experience for all. B. L. D.



Day 9

Breakfast today is enjoyed whilst we gaze at Uluru and are amazed by the range of colours it displays as the sun rises above the horizon behind us.

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. We'll experience the amazing changing colours as the sunsets on Uluru

Tonight you will have a treat as we enjoy the [Sounds of Silence Dinner](#). Here you will enjoy a



wonderful meal under the desert skies then a startalker will take you on a tour of the spectacular southern night sky. B. L. D.

Day 10

This morning we head off to Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) viewing area. Kata Tjuta is a local Pitjantjatjara word meaning 'many heads' and from the viewing area you will understand why.

We will then head off to the "Valley of the Winds Walk". On the walk we will visit 2 magnificent lookouts, Karu and Karingana, both of which provide amazing views. The walk is approx 7.4kms and takes about 3 hours.

After lunch we head off to Kings Canyon. We will stay at Kings Creek Station and after dinner enjoy hearing the stories about 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 11

Another Aussie breakfast to help us through the day then it's off to Kings Canyon for 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.

A quick stop to refuel, then we travel along the Mereenie Loop and through the West MacDonnell

Ranges. On our way we'll stop at lookouts and we'll take the short 4WD track into Gosse Bluff. This crater is of great significance to the Western Arrernte people and also to scientists. You'll hear why both find it so interesting as we park in the middle of the crater.

From here we head to Glen Helen Gorge where we will stay the night. B. L. D.



Day 12

The drive into Alice Springs lies before us today. Namatjira Drive runs alongside the Macdonnell Ranges and has many interesting places for us to visit.

Redback Gorge, Ormiston Gorge and Serpentine Gorge are all worth visiting as are the Ochre Pits where you can see the range of colours the Aboriginals use in their artwork. The Ochres taken from these pits were used as a trading commodity with other Aboriginal clans for hundreds of kilometers.

If it's hot we'll take a dip at Ellery Creek Big Hole to cool us down before we visit Standley Chasm and Simpsons Gap then it's into "Alice" for a bit of city life. You will be dropped at your accommodation and we will meet later for dinner to celebrate the end of our journey. B. L. D.

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.