

CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN EXPLORER

DARWIN - ADELAIDE

SAMPLE ITINERARY

This is a sample itinerary and may be subject to change. We may need to alter or amend itineraries, excursions, accommodation, or sightseeing arrangements from those published, with little or no notice. This may be due to road conditions, weather, cultural considerations, safety factors and other operational considerations or government regulations. Final itineraries are sent to passengers approximately 2-3 weeks before travel.

DAY 1 – Darwin City Sights Tour

Today you are met by our friendly and professional Tour Directors. We take a city sights tour including the Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Cullen Bay and Stokes Hill Wharf before checking in to our accommodation for the first night of the tour, the Hilton Garden Inn Darwin (Formerly The Doubletree by Hilton). Enjoy premium harbour view rooms in this centrally located hotel, perfectly positioned along the Esplanade.

This evening we enjoy our first dinner together on the Charles Darwin with a delicious Territory-style sunset dinner cruise. (B,L,D)

DAY 2 – Darwin – Katherine River Gorge Cruise

This morning we depart Darwin en route to Katherine. We then head out to Nitmiluk National Park where we enjoy a two hour boat cruise on Katherine River Gorge. Tonight we will stay at Knotts Crossing Resort. (B,L,D)

DAY 3 – Katherine – Roper Bar – Savannah Way

Our travels today take us south along the Roper Highway, before we arrive at the remote village of Roper Bar, situated on the south east boundary of Arnhem Land. The Roper River was first explored by Ludwig Leichhardt in 1845 and by the 1870's was lined with paddle steamers bringing in supplies for the men building the Overland Telegraph Line. One paddle steamer, the 'Young Australian' ran aground on a rocky ledge and its ruins are still there to this day.

We then make our way south along one of the most remote sections of the Savannah Way to Lorella Springs Station. This one million acre station sits adjacent to the

Limmen National Park and stretches all the way to the shores of the Gulf. Accommodation comprises a mixture of safari tents and cabins, all with ensuite bathrooms. (B,L,D)

DAY 4 – 'Lost City' and Thermal Springs

Today we take part in an exhilarating helicopter and ground tour of the southern 'Lost City'.

After landing near these ancient sandstone structures enjoy a ground tour with your guides who'll tell you about the local geology, vegetation and birdlife. We return to Lorella mid-afternoon where the rest of the day can be spent at your leisure. Enjoy a dip in the nearby thermal springs, one of the most pristine in the Northern Territory. (B,L,D)

Please note: Weight limits apply to all scenic flights

DAY 5 – Lorella Springs – Barkly Homestead

The Barkly Tablelands are well suited to cattle grazing and economically it is one of the most important areas for pastoral production in the NT. The Mitchell and Flinders grasses provide excellent feed on the rich black soils. The largest lease (Brunette Downs) is over 12,000 square kms and runs around 65,000 head of cattle.

We enjoy some afternoon tea at the busy Barkly Roadhouse before we check in to the Barkly Homestead for our overnight accommodation, which consists of recently updated motel rooms. (B,L,D)

DAY 6 – Tennant Creek - Karlu Karlu (Devils Marbles)

This morning we arrive in Tennant Creek and visit the Battery Hill Mining Centre. We depart Tennant Creek to travel south along the Stuart Highway, before stopping off at Karlu Karlu (The Devils Marbles), a series of massive granite boulders scattered across a wide, shallow valley.

We arrive into Alice Springs later this afternoon and check into the Mercure Alice Springs Resort for our three night stay. (B,L,D)

DAY 7 – Eastern MacDonnell Ranges

Today we travel from Alice Springs and venture further east along the MacDonnell Ranges to see more of these rugged central Australian landscapes. Trephina Gorge



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Nature Park is our first destination and features a network of short walking trails that let you delve deep into the heart of this magnificent natural setting.

Trephina Gorge is known for the exceptionally large eucalyptus trees that line the sandy creek bed, and nearby we can visit the largest ghost gum in Central Australia. After our time here we make our way to Corroboree Rock Conservation Area. A short walk around the base of the rock reveals some of the geological history of the region.

Made up of ancient sediment and fine-grained rock, the structure was formed more than 800 million years ago by salt lakes. While not thought to be a corroboree site, this impressive structure is of great importance to the local Arrernte people and plays a significant role in their culture today.

This evening we head out into the East McDonnell ranges for a unique and authentic dining experience. The 'Original Outback Bush BBQ' dinner show is a fun filled evening of entertainment and outback cuisine, taking place around a large campfire under a star filled territory sky. Enjoy timeless Australian songs from a bush balladeer and gain some insight from the local cattlemen's talk. The dinner includes a sumptuous 3 course meal and all beverages. (B,L,D)

DAY 8 – Alice Springs Sightseeing

This morning there is the option of a hot air balloon flight over Alice Springs (own expense). The flight includes hotel pick-up, chilled refreshments and around 45 minutes in the air.

Today we explore 'The Alice'. Our activities include a visit to the award-winning Alice Springs Desert Park, The Royal Flying Doctor Service and a tour of the historic Telegraph Station. We arrive back at the hotel late afternoon.

Note: Those who have experienced these attractions previously can spend the day at their leisure.

DAY 9 – West Macdonnell National Park

Departing Alice Springs this morning we journey through the West MacDonnell Ranges en route to Kings Canyon. We visit Simpsons Gap, home to a number of rock wallabies and Angkerle (Standley Chasm). We then travel to historic Hermannsburg before joining the Mereenie Loop Road. We arrive at Kings Canyon Resort in Watarrka National Park, our accommodation for the evening. (B,L,D)

DAY 10 – Kings Canyon – Uluru

Kings Canyon is a majestic, must-see destination for anyone visiting the Red Centre. Its sheer sandstone walls, palm filled crevices and expansive desert vistas make for an incredible experience.

This morning you have the choice of two escorted walks, the 6km Rim Walk offering breathtaking views and descending into the 'Garden of Eden', or a shorter 2.6km walk that meanders up the centre of the Canyon floor.

After our walk we enjoy lunch at Kings Creek Station before visiting Curtin Springs, a one-million acre station owned and operated by the Severin family. Here we'll enjoy a chat with the manager and learn about the station's history and current operations.

Then continue on to Yulara. Our accommodation for the next two nights is at the 5-star Sails in the Desert Hotel, part of Ayers Rock Resort. Tonight, enjoy a sumptuous dinner at Ilkari Restaurant. (B,L,D)

DAY 11 – Kata Tjuta (The Olgas) - Uluru (Ayers Rock) - A Night at Field of Light

This morning, early risers will experience the sun rising over Uluru and the colours of dawn spreading across the landscape. After breakfast, head off to discover Kata Tjuta (The Olgas) and admire the stunning rock formations on a guided walk into Walpa Gorge. Then, return for a guided tour around the base of Uluru, which stands 348 metres above the desert plains. Learn about traditional Anangu culture as you marvel at one of the largest monoliths in the world!

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This afternoon we prepare for 'A Night at Field of Light', which combines Bruce Munro's acclaimed Field of Light installation with the award winning 'Sounds of Silence' dining experience. Departing the resort before sunset, we head to an exclusive dune top location with majestic views of Uluru. Then, enjoy a special 3-course bush tucker inspired menu as Field of Light gently illuminates. Spread across an area the size of 7 football fields, 'Field of Light' features 50,000 slender stems crowned with radiant frosted spheres. After dinner, head off to explore the stunning display via the dedicated pathways. This evening we return to the hotel for our second and final night at Sails in the Desert. (B,L,D)

Note: Voyages Ayers Rock Resort have moved to cashless transactions

DAY 12 – Uluru - Coober Pedy

This morning we depart Uluru via the Lasseter Highway and join up with the Stuart Highway at Erldunda. From here we head south, arriving in Coober Pedy late afternoon.

Due to the summer heat, most of Coober Pedy's residents live underground. The town is also known as the opal capital of the world supplying 70% of the world's precious opals.

Tonight we stay at the award winning Desert Cave Hotel. (B,L,D)

Note: Underground Rooms at the Desert Cave Hotel cannot be guaranteed.

DAY 13 – Coober Pedy – Oodnadatta Track

This morning we enjoy a guided tour of the Umoona Opal Mine and perhaps fossick for your own.

Departing Coober Pedy, we follow in the footsteps of John McDouall Stuart as we travel along the Oodnadatta Track. We pass through William Creek and Lake Eyre South before arriving in Marree. Located at the junction of the Oodnadatta and Birdsville Tracks, Marree is a true desert settlement which enjoys just 155mm of rainfall annually. We spend the night at the Marree Hotel in modern ensuited cabins. (B,L,D)

DAY 14 – Marree - Parachilna - Port Augusta

This morning we visit the Marree Museum which features the famous old mail truck E.G.Kruse used to transport mail from Marree to Birdsville. We then travel on to Parachilna where we enjoy a gourmet lunch at the Prairie Hotel.

Departing Parachilna early afternoon for Port Augusta, we visit the Wadlata Outback Centre, an award-winning multifunctional visitor centre. Step back in time and learn about the early explorers, Sturt, Eyre, Giles and Stuart and their brave expeditions into the unknown.

Later today we visit the Arid Lands Botanic Gardens before checking into the Standpipe Golf Motor Inn for the final night of our tour. Enjoy a farewell dinner to celebrate our journey through Central Australia. (B,L,D)

DAY 15 – Port Augusta - Adelaide

This morning we depart Port Augusta, following the Princes Highway to arrive in Adelaide late morning, where you will be transferred according to the details specified below. (B)

Every effort will be made by your crew to ensure that the above itinerary is followed. However, Outback Spirit reserves the right to alter the itinerary once on tour as required due to weather and track conditions or other operational considerations.