

LAKE EYRE & FLINDERS RANGES REVERSE

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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.

A passenger weight limit of 125kg applies to flights included in this tour. If your weight exceeds this amount, please contact us prior to booking to discuss.

DAY 1 – Adelaide – Monarto

Today you will be greeted by our friendly Tour Director, before we depart Adelaide and head into the hills to the quaint village of Hahndorf. Enjoy time for a quick wander before continuing to the Monarto Safari Resort. This afternoon check into your room with some time at leisure before our afternoon Sunset Safari tour. We get up close and personal to free-roaming animals such as cheetah, zebra, giraffe, rhinos and more. Compare sightings over dinner on-site which will feature locally sourced ingredients and produce. **L.D.**

Stay; 1 night at Monarto Safari Resort.

Pick ups are available from Stamford Plaza or Majestic M Suites.

DAY 2 – Monarto – Wilpena Pound

Head off this morning via Burra and Peterborough before joining the RM Williams Way and travel north to the Flinders Ranges. Framed by ancient towering ramparts Wilpena Pound is one of South Australia's most striking geological features and home to nearly half of the state native plant species. We enjoy a visit to the Old Wilpena Station precinct, one of South Australia's oldest and best-preserved pastoral settlements. Check-in in at the Wilpena Pound Resort late afternoon. Take some time to freshen up before dinner in the restaurant. **B.L.D.**

Stay: 1 night at Wilpena Pound Resort

DAY 3 – Wilpena Pound – Flinders Ranges

This morning, there is a guided walk through the tranquil Pound Gap into Wilpena Pound (easy grade 2 - 3 hours return). Follow Wilpena Creek past ancient River Red Gums and pines to arrive at the historic Hills Homestead. For the more energetic, there is optional extension to the walk that leads to the Wangarra Hill lookout, which offers panoramic views of Wilpena Pound (good level of fitness and mobility required.)

We continue north with a scenic drive through Brachina and Bunyeroo gorges, stopping at several vantage points to admire the views of the Flinders Ranges. Enjoy a picnic lunch along the way before arriving in Lyndhurst or Marree for our overnight stay. **B.L.D.**

Stay: 1 night Lyndhurst Hotel or the Marree Hotel

DAY 4 – Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre - Goyder Lagoon - Birdsville - Simpson Desert - William Creek

Please Note: Today your tour will split into 2 groups. Group 1 will take the scenic flights/tour as per the itinerary below, while Group 2 travels up to William Creek by road following the Old Ghan rail line. On Day 5, group 2 enjoys the scenic flight and tour, while Group 1 travels back down to Marree by road.

This morning, we head to the Marree Aerodrome to prepare for our scenic flights. Meet your experienced pilot and board our Cessna Grand Caravan (subject to availability). Once airborne, our morning flight will take us over Lake Eyre South before crossing over to Lake Eyre North, the larger of the two lakes. We continue north over Clifton Hills Station and Goyder Lagoon on the Diamantina River floodplains. Located at the junction of the Diamantina River and Eyre Creek, this large ephemeral swamp consists mainly of shallow braided micro-channels which look stunning from the air.

From Goyder Lagoon we fly further north to Birdsville where we land and enjoy a leisurely lunch at the iconic Birdsville Hotel. This is followed by a town tour taken by a local guide to close points of interest and the Waddi Waddi trees.

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This afternoon we'll re-board the plane for our second flight today. Heading southwest over the mighty Simpson Desert, admire the endless red sand dunes that stretch to the horizon, before once again flying over Lake Eyre North. After another close inspection of this breathtaking natural spectacle where we'll fly over Belt Bay, the lowest point on the Australian continent at 15 metres below sea level, and head for William Creek, where we rendezvous with the rest of the tour group. We spend the night here in modern ensuite accommodation and enjoy dinner in one of the most atmospheric outback pubs in Australia - the William Creek Hotel. **B.L.D.**

Stay 1 night at William Creek Hotel

Important Note: Maximum passenger weight limits apply to all scenic or transfer flights.

DAY 5 – Old Ghan Line - Coward Springs - Lake Eyre North - Flinders Ranges

Today group 2 enjoys the scenic flights to Birdsville and Lake Eyre, while Group 1 travels down the Oodnadatta Track to Marree.

Later this morning we travel south along the Oodnadatta Track, following the Old Ghan line – one of the great historic railway lines in the world. Construction began in 1878 and it eventually reached Oodnadatta in 1891. The line only reached Alice Springs in 1929, so the journey from Oodnadatta at this time was still made by camel. The old line was eventually closed in 1980, and the new line takes a different route to Alice Springs. Some of the old sidings that refilled the steam engines with water, such as Coward Springs, are incredibly interesting and well preserved. Today we'll visit a few of them on our way down to Marree.

Upon our arrival in Marree, we'll meet up with Group 2 and check in to the Marree Hotel or Lyndhurst hotel for our overnight stay. **B.L.D.**

Important Note: Maximum passenger weight limits apply to all scenic or transfer flights.

Stay 1 night at Lyndhurst hotel or The Marree Hotel

DAY 6 – Flinders Ranges - Parachilna - Port Augusta

Our journey continues south to Parachilna, enjoy a gourmet lunch at the Prairie Hotel before heading to the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens. Established in 1993 to research, conserve and promote the wider appreciation of Australia's arid zone flora, the centre is home to thousands of highly evolved plant communities that are specially adapted to thrive in an environment where temperatures are extreme, and drought can last for decades. The garden showcases a diverse collection of arid zone habitats in a picturesque setting of more than 250 hectares. We head to Port Augusta for our overnight stay. **B.L.D.**

Stay: 1 night at Majestic Oasis Apartment, Port Augusta.

DAY 7 – Port Augusta – Adelaide

Take in a brief tour of Port Augusta, before we heading south through Port Germain and Port Wakefield. After lunch, we head to Adelaide where our tour concludes mid-afternoon. **B.L.**

Note: If arranging onward domestic flights, please plan these for any time after 4.30pm.

Drop-offs are available at the airport, Majestic M Suites and the Stamford Plaza Adelaide.

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.