

## LAKE EYRE SPECTACULAR

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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.*

#### DAY 1 – Adelaide – Port Augusta

Today meet your friendly and professional Tour Directors at the time and location specified. Departing Adelaide, we journey north along the Princes Highway, bound for the coastal hub of Port Augusta. Nestled on the shores of the Spencer Gulf, this natural harbour and former seaport is considered to be the 'Crossroads of Australia.'

The Standpipe Golf Motor Inn, established in 1883, is our lodgings for the night. (L,D)

#### DAY 2 – Parachilna – Marree

This morning, wander down the paths of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens, which showcases a diverse collection of arid zone habitats in a picturesque setting of more than 250 hectares. 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.

Afterwards, will start heading through the Pichi Richi pass to the town historic town of Quorn, home to the heritage Pichi Richi Railway and multiple heritage listed buildings. The town has also long been the backdrop of several popular films including Gallipoli, The Lighthorsemen and Sunday Too Far Way and a vital service point for troops heading to Darwin and Papua New Guinea during WWII.

We travel further north through the Flinders Ranges to Parachilna and enjoy a gourmet lunch, before heading to Lyndhurst, arriving in Marree late afternoon. This historic settlement lies at the junction of the Birdsville and

Oodnadatta Tracks and was once one of the busiest towns in Outback Australia. Tonight, we stay at the Marree Hotel in comfortable motel units. (B, L, D)

#### DAY 3 – Lake Eyre – Goyder Lagoon – Birdsville – 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 to William Creek by road following the Old Ghan rail line. On Day 4, Group 2 enjoys the scenic flight and tour, while Group 1 travels back down to Marree by road.*

At the Marree Aerodrome, we prepare for our scenic flights. Meet your experienced pilot and board our aircraft.

Once airborne, our morning flight will take us via the Marree Man, Lake Eyre South, 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.

A local guide will take you on a tour of the town, talking to the history and local attractions. We'll pass by the Waddi Waddi trees before returning to the hotel. This afternoon we'll re-board the plane for our second flight of the day.

Heading southwest over the mighty Simpson Desert, admire the endless red sand dunes that stretch to the horizon, before flying over Lake Eyre North. After another close inspection of this breathtaking natural spectacle where we'll fly over Halligan Bay and Belt Bay which is the lowest point on the Australian continent at 15 metres below sea level. We then head for William Creek, where we rendezvous with the rest of the tour group. We spend the night here and enjoy dinner in one of the most atmospheric outback pubs in Australia - the William Creek Hotel. (B, L, D)

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### **DAY 4 – Old Ghan Line – Coward Springs – Lake Eyre North – Marree**

*Please Note: today Group 2 enjoys the scenic flights to Birdsville and Lake Eyre, while Group 1 travels down the Oodnadatta Track to Marree.*

Travelling south along the Oodnadatta Track, our route follows 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 we'll meet up with the rest of the tour group in the now familiar Maree Hotel.

(B, L, D)

### **DAY 5 – Maree – Monarto Safari Resort**

An early start today will see us trekking south through the beauty of the Flinders Ranges. We travel along the R.M Williams Way down through Orroroo, and the Clare Valley wine region before passing through the Adelaide Hills.

It's a long day on the road which will be rewarded with our arrival at the recently opened Monarto Safari Resort, a patch of wild paradise not far from Murray Bridge. Tonight, we'll enjoy our last night together and reflect upon outback adventures shared. (B, L, D)

### **DAY 6 – Monarto Safari Park & Adelaide**

This morning, we embark on an exciting Dawn Wildlife Safari which is exclusive to Resort guests. Our guided safari tour sees us immerse in the vast parklands with free roaming herds of African animals. As we explore the parklands from the comfort of the Safari Truck, there will be an opportunity to see and photograph animals including Southern White Rhinos, Giraffes, Cheetahs, Eland, Ostriches, and Zebras. You'll be served light refreshments along the way, so you won't miss a minute of the action.

Every visit to Monarto Safari Park contributes to the Conservation Fund, directly promoting the conservation efforts of Zoos SA.

On return there is time to enjoy the beautifully appointed pool and surrounds with a late check out. 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, Stamford Plaza Adelaide and the Stamford Grand Glenelg.*

*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.*