



Itinerary: 13-day Central Australia tour (Darwin to Adelaide)
Pax: 17 total

INTRO

Cross the continent from north to south following in the footsteps of the great explorers John McDouall Stuart and Edward John Eyre. Explore the history of our historic Ghan railway and the old overland telegraph line. This tour ventures through remote parts of Australia taking in spectacular desert scenery in the Painted Desert, Pedirika Desert, Central Australian Desert and Simpson Deserts. See some of the country's greatest landmarks - Katherine Gorge, Karlu Karlu (Devils Marbles), Kings Canyon, Uluru, Flinders ranges and Lake Ayre (Kati Thanda) to name a few. Full itinerary below.

Day 1

We start the day with a stop at the Adelaide River war cemetery, a reminder of our involvement in WW2 and the events that occurred.

We then travel to Pine Creek, a town with a rich gold mining history. We will stop at the old mine lookout to learn about the miners and their work before making our way to Edith falls for lunch and a refreshing swim. Once we've cooled off we'll visit Katherine Gorge where we will set up camp for the night.

Highlights: Adelaide River War Cemetery, Pine Creek and Edith Falls

Estimated hiking distance: 5km+

Meals provided: L, D

Day 2 - Please select your preferred activity on Katherine Gorge at the time of booking.

This morning we take our time to take in the sights of the magnificent Katherine Gorge. Today you have two options, to either board a relaxing cruise where you will be guided up stream to both the first and second gorge, or grab a paddle and explore the gorge via a canoe. If you chose the canoe option, you take a boat to the second gorge then paddle to both the second and third gorge at your own pace, while stopping for a swim or anything of interest. In the afternoon we'll arrive at the thermal pools known as Mataranka Springs for refreshing dip before setting up camp in Elsey National Park.

Highlights: Katherine Gorge and Mataranka Springs

Estimated hiking distance: 4km

Meals provided: B, L, D

Day 3

Make a splash as you dive into the natural thermal pools of Bitter Springs and allow the currents to take you down stream. Enjoy the idyllic setting and peaceful atmosphere.

Dry off and we'll make tracks towards Daly Waters, surprisingly home to Australia's first international airfield, used to refuel commercial flights in the 1920s and 1930s. We can not go to Daly Waters without a stop at the famous outback pub to have a look around and grab a drink if you wish.

We'll wave 'goodbye' to the small outback town and continue on to Karlu Karlu (Devils Marbles). You'll have a chance to observe and explore the unique rock formations before setting up camp.

Highlights: Bitter Springs, Daly Waters and Karlu Karlu (Devils Marbles)

Estimated hiking distance: 4km

Meals provided: B, L, D

Day 4

Today we will visit the Tropic of Capricorn, the southernmost latitude where the Sun can be seen directly overhead.

Afterwards, we make our way to Alice Springs to the historic Telegraph Station established in 1871. The site is where the first European settled when they arrived in the area and the station was set up to relay messages between Darwin and Adelaide along Australia's Overland Telegraph Line. It not only connected Australia's towns with the north, but it also connected Australia with the undersea telegraph network of the British Empire.

We'll check out the local lookout and stock up at the shops, ready for our next leg of the adventure. You will have time to have a look around the mall and the galleries, etc.

Highlights: Alice Springs Telegraph Station, Tropic of Capricorn and Alice Springs

Estimated hiking distance: 2km

Meals provided: B, L, D

Day 5

We begin by making our way towards the West Macdonald ranges stopping off at Ellery Creek big hole, the creek cuts through the gorge after thousands of years of flooding has carved the rock unlocking some amazing geology. Our next stop is Glen Helen Gorge; a stunning natural chasm offering an opportunity for a swim.

In the afternoon, we'll discover Palm Valley, named after the lofty tropical palms found in the area, the place is characterised by red rock, sandy riverbeds and native shrubs. It's also home to a diversity of native wildlife, including dingoes, goannas, kangaroos, snakes, and wallabies.

Highlights: Ellery creek big hole, Glen Helen Gorge, Palm Valley

Estimated hiking distance: 5km

Meals provided: B, L, D

Day 6

We have an early start as we make our way to Kings Canyon in Watarrka National park. The main gorge plunges 270 metres/885 feet to the canyon floor and smaller gorges, such as the Garden of Eden, are also found on route. The area is home to endemic plants and animals including some unique cycads. We have most of the day to explore the gorge before continuing on to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

Highlights: Kings Canyon

Estimated hiking distance: 6km

Meals provided: B, L, D

Day 7

Today we are up early to witness the majestic sunrise over Uluru before we embark on the base walk. A great opportunity to observe some of the Aboriginal rock art and cultural sites at the rock. Your guide will interpret some of these sites and explain the cultural importance of this place to the Anangu people.

After our walk we take a short drive to the park's second major landmark, Kata Tjuta. These large, domed rocks are very impressive. Your guide will pick the best walk in the conditions, a chance for you to explore the domes up close. We'll then make our way back Uluru for sunset.

Highlights: Uluru, Kata Tjuta (The Olgas)

Estimated hiking distance: 6km+

Meals provided: B, L, D

Day 8

Over the next few days we are going to travel through very remote areas that are well worth exploring. We'll stop along the historic Ghan railway line to see old ruins, visit the incredible Lake Ayre, to name a few. We allow for these days to be flexible so we operate according to the road conditions.

Today we venture away from standard tourist route, we make our way towards a small town Aputula (Finke) stopping at The Lambert Centre of Australia; established in 1988 this the point geographically recognised as the centre of Australia.

We pass through Aputula (Finke) and onto Charlotte Waters to explore the ruins of the old telegraph station.

Highlights: The Lambert Centre of Australia, Finke and Charlotte Waters

Estimated hiking distance: 2km

Meals provided: B, L, D

Day 9

Today our destination is Witjira National Park and our first stop is a little oasis known as Mount Dare. There's time for a beer in one of Australia's most remote pubs; a true the outback bar.

We discover Opossum waterhole which looks after a huge variety of birds and wildlife including the native hen, the Opossum.

Dalhousie Springs is our next stop; in the middle of nowhere these thermal pools offer a great opportunity to relax and bath in the warm waters. Afterwards, we'll explore the ruins of Dalhousie station viewing its date palm pictures giving you the feel of the Sahara Desert.

We then pass through the arid landscape of Pedirka Desert characterised by red sand dunes, and spinifex and acacia shrubland.

Highlights: Witjira National Park, Opossum waterhole, Dalhousie Springs, Dalhousie station, Pedirka Desert

Estimated hiking distance: 4km+

Meals provided: B, L, D

Day 10

We make our way to the outback town of Oodnadatta which holds the record for the hottest place in Australia at 50.7 degrees.

We detour through to the painted desert and make a stop to explore the impressive escarpment; the natural colours of this place need to be seen to be believed.

We will then arrive at Coober Pedy where we will take a guided tour of a working opal mine. You'll learn about the mining process and the techniques for finding the precious opals. After the tour you will have an opportunity to fossick for your own opals and shop in the galleries. We will also restock our supplies in the town and you'll be given the chance to look at a few of the other opal galleries.

After our time at Coober Pedy we stop to admire the Dingo fence; it is one of the longest structures in the world as it stretches 5,614 kilometres. We will set up camp on station country.

Highlights: Oodnadatta, Painted Desert, Coober Pedy

Estimated hiking distance: 3km

Meals provided: B, L, D

Day 11

Today we make our way through Anna Creek Station, the worlds largest Cattle station at 5851000 acres before making a stop at William Creek to see one of Australia's most remote pubs. You have the opportunity to do an optional scenic flight over Lake Arye (approx. \$400pp).

We visit some of the old Ghan sidings as well as Strangeway Springs, an old telegraph station surrounded by dozens of mound springs. Whilst in the area, we will embark on one of the walks from the old ruins to some of the springs to take in the view over the surrounding desert. The vicinity attracts a large numbers of finches and coastal plants grown here due to the numerous springs.

We then make our way to the Blanche Cup; a great place to witness the desert Goby, a extremely rare fish only found in a few small water holes.

We stop at Coward Springs for a swim before visiting Lake Eyre, officially known as Kati Thanda–Lake Eyre. This is an endorheic lake and it is the lowest natural point in Australia, at approximately 15 m (49 ft) below sea level.

Highlights: Anna Creek Station, Strangeway Springs, Blanche Cup, Coward Springs, Lake Eyre.

Estimated hiking distance: 4km

Meals provided: B, L, D

Day 12

Today we make a stop at Marree; you wouldn't expect to find a yacht club here in the desert however when Lake Ayre fills up it's surprisingly the perfect spot.

After Marree, we head to the colourful ochre cliffs. An important place for the Yandruwandha people who would come here to collect and trade their ochre.

We then continue to Brachina Gorge and Bunyeroo Gorge in the Flinders Ranges. These gorges have a huge number of yellow footed rock wallabies, emus, euros (wallaroos) as well as stunning rock formations.

Highlights: Marree, Ochre cliffs, Flinders Ranges - Brachina Gorge and Bunyeroo Gorge

Estimated hiking distance: 4km

Meals provided: B, L, D

Day 13

We explore some of the southern parts of the Flinders Ranges, we pass over the steep slopes of Razorback Ridge and explore some of the walks around Wilpena Pound, a natural amphitheater surrounded by the Flinders Ranges. We make a stop at a Adnyamthanha painting and ceremonial site, to learn about the local indigenous culture.

We continue towards Adelaide and pass through the historic town of Quorn, the original starting place of the old Ghan railway line. We then travel through the picturesque Pichi Richi Pass before making our way to Adelaide. We will finish the tour at a central meeting point (TBC) in the town centre so everyone can make their way to their accommodation.

Highlights: Wilpena Pound, southern Flinders Ranges, Adnyamthanha painting and ceremonial site, Quorn, Pichi Richi Pass,

Estimated hiking distance: 6km

Meals provided: B, L

- END OF SERVICE -