

# 9 DAY CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

## COOBER PEDY, AYERS ROCK, ALICE SPRINGS

DEPARTING FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST TO SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2012

MOTEL ACCOMMODATION – MOSTLY SAFARI STYLE MEALS



3 CLARKE ST. ARARAT. VIC 3377

PH: 03 5352 7928

email: [brendanstours@bigpond.com](mailto:brendanstours@bigpond.com)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- # ADELAIDE
- # PORT AUGUSTA
- # COOBER PEDY
- # UMOONA OPAL MINE
- # AYERS ROCK
- # THE OLGAS
- # KINGS CANYON
- # ALICE SPRINGS
- # ALICE SPRINGS SIGHTSEEING
- # ALICE SPRINGS REPTILE CENTRE
- # ALICE SPRINGS DESERT CENTRE
- # WEST MACDONNELL RANGES
- # STANDLEY CHASM

#### DAY 1: FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST D. HOME TO ADELAIDE

The first day of our trip is spent travelling via the Western Highway through Bordertown and Murray Bridge to Adelaide for our first overnight stop. Dinner tonight will be in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Manhattan Motor Inn Ph: 08 8262 2748

#### DAY 2: SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST B.L.D. ADELAIDE TO COOBER PEDY

Early start this morning as we head north through Port Augusta the seaport located on the east coast of the Eyre Peninsula and at the head of the Spencer Gulf. Continue on to Woomera which once was a secret town closed to the outside world, but the village now welcomes visitors wishing to experience the extraordinary history of Woomera. The final leg of today's journey takes us to Coober Pedy, South

Australia's biggest opal mining town. Coober Pedy has evolved in to one of the most unique places in Australia and perhaps the world. It is a town with a population of 3,500 and over 45 different nationalities.

Accom: Mud Hut Motel Ph: 08 8672 3003

#### DAY 3: SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST B.L.D. COOBER PEDY TO AYERS ROCK

This morning we visit the remarkable Umoona Opal Mine and Museum, which is completely underground and contains a museum including all aspects of opal mining and Aboriginal Culture. Enjoy a guided tour through an underground home and an opal mine before departing Coober Pedy. Travelling north we cross the dog fence, continue on through the township of Marla, and enter the Northern Territory. On through Kulgera, Eriunda continuing across the vast cattle stations of Mt. Ebenezer and Curtain Springs and arrive at Ayers Rock

Accom: Desert Gardens Hotel Ph: 08 8957 7888

#### DAY 4: MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST B.L.D. AYERS ROCK

Ayers Rock (Uluru) standing 348 metres high and with a circumference of 8.8km is an awesome spectacle rising from seemingly nowhere in the deep centre of Australia. It is one of the world's great natural wonders dominating this otherwise flat, dry terrain. Nothing prepares you for the impact of Uluru, as its sheer immensity dwarfs everything around it. Uluru has acquired its reputation not just because it is such a unique landform, but also because of the effect the sun has on its colours and appearance. Sunrises and Sunsets cause changes to its colour from browns through oranges, reds to finally grey. Our first stop is the visitors centre before we begin our drive around the base of the rock. After lunch, we travel west to visit Kata Tjuta which is a highlight of any visit to the Red Centre. Kata Tjuta is a cluster of rounded massive rocks, which are dramatic and vividly coloured. We can walk through the fascinating domes, gorges and valleys before returning to Sunset Strip to take the important photographs of the sunset at Uluru.

#### DAY 5: TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST B.L.D. AYERS ROCK TO KINGS CANYON

Uluru and Kata Tjuta are just the points showing of an immense bed of sedimentary rock now almost entirely covered by sand, and both have great spiritual significance to their Aboriginal owners. For those passengers wishing to experience climbing the rock it is an early rise, and there is time for optional flights (passengers own expense) over Uluru and Kata Tjuta should you wish. After lunch, we depart Uluru and travel north to take in the spectacular

beauty of Kings Canyon, which is part of the Watarrka National Park situated at the western end of the George Gill Range. Kings Canyon is 323 km southwest of Alice Springs. There will be time to settle into our motel before dinner.  
Accom: Kings Canyon Resort Ph: 08 8956 7442

**DAY 6: WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST B.L.D.  
KINGS CANYON TO ALICE SPRINGS**

This morning we are explorers, the flat face and sheer drop of the canyon walls are inspiring in their size and stark natural beauty. We walk the canyon floor, as it follows Kings Creek where ancient plant life thrives, and through the Lost City filled with eerie domed rocks. Kings Canyon really is an unforgettable destination. We leave Kings Canyon and travel to Alice Springs and our home for the next three nights. Framed by the magnificent MacDonnell Ranges and an intense desert landscape, the township of Alice Springs is Australia's most famous outback town. "The Alice" lies almost geographically as the centre of the Australian continent. Tonight we enjoy a visit from "Rex the Snake Man", and learn about many of the reptiles found in Central Australia.

Accom: Heavitree Gap Outback Lodge Ph: 08 89504444

**DAY 7: THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST B.L.D.  
WESTERN MACDONNELL RANGES**

Today we visit the West MacDonnell Ranges which run due west from Alice Springs. The mountain ranges contain many spectacular gaps and gorges and interesting geological features. We see Simpsons Gap that is a dramatic gap in the range, which is also home to the shy Rock Wallaby. Next stop is Standley Chasm with its vertical red walls that glow in the midday sun, gives the impression of some sort of giant fracture in the rock. At midday when the sunlight reaches the floor of the chasm turning the walls a blazing red, it is a memorable sight. We also visit John Flynn's Grave Historic Reserve and the Twin Ghost Gums. This afternoon we visit the Alice Springs Desert Park to learn about the flora and fauna found in Central Australia. We see the Birds of Prey Show which is a real highlight. Afterwards we return to Alice Springs in time to relax before dinner at the Alice Springs Memorial Club.

**DAY 8: FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST B.L.D.  
ALICE SPRINGS SIGHTSEEING**

Alice Springs is a nice place to stay, and it has despite its flock of tourists been able to maintain its authentic character. The town itself has many interesting sights and places for us to visit such as the old Telegraph Station Reserve, the Royal Flying Doctors Base that is the medical service that lends medical assistance to those that live at remote outback locations. We visit the School Of The Air where you are able to view the workings of this vital "education by radio" facility. There is free time for the remainder of the afternoon and tonight we enjoy dinner at the Heavitree Gap Tavern.

**DAY 9: SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST B.  
ALICE SPRINGS TO HOME**

This morning you will be transferred to Alice Springs Airport for your flight back to Tullamarine where you will once again be met by Brendan's Australian Tours staff and transferred to your home town after a memorable nine days touring Central Australia.

**OPTION 2:** With this tour, you have the option of not flying home from Alice Springs but staying with the coach to Darwin, travelling through Katherine Gorge and the breathtaking Kakadu. With either of these options, you would be taken to your home town on your return. Should you be interested in either of these options, please enquire with your travel agent or contact Brendan's Australian Tours on: Freecall 1800 981 187

**Accommodation** for the above tour is motel, hotel or villas on a twin share. All linen is provided.

**Meals** as per the itinerary are prepared outdoors by our specially trained tour cook out of our fully equipped safari trailer with on board fridge/freezer which ensures an abundant supply of fresh food is always available.

You will be surprised at the quality of the meals. The day begins with a cooked breakfast, picnic lunches with fresh salads, dinner is always a three course meal and supper is always available. Enjoy the camaraderie and fun social atmosphere of dining together outdoors (weather permitting) or you may take your meal to your own room if you feel like some privacy.

**PRICE:** \$3840.00 per person  
**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:** \$1050.00  
Prices include GST

**PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Luxury Coach Travel.
- Accommodation: Motel, Hotel, Villas or Apartments as specified. (Twin Share)
- Admissions to Attractions as per the itinerary
- Air Fare Alice Springs to Melbourne.
- All Meals as Specified.  
**B: Breakfast**  
**L: Lunch**  
**D: Dinner**
- Pick up & return to your home.

Travel Insurance is highly recommended and is the responsibility of each passenger.

