

47 DAY NORTHWESTER KIMBERLEY & SOUTH WEST

DEPARTING FRIDAY 10TH AUGUST TO TUESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2012

MOTEL ACCOMMODATION – MOSTLY SAFARI STYLE MEALS



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DAY 1: FRIDAY 10TH 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 11TH 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 12TH 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 through the township of Marla, and enter the Northern Territory. On through Kulgera, Erldunda 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

HIGHLIGHTS

COOBER PEDY # AYERS ROCK # THE OLGAS
ALICE SPRINGS # KINGS CANYON
STANDLEY CHASM # DARWIN
KATHERINE GORGE CRUISE
TENNANT CREEK
KAKADU NATIONAL PARK
YELLOW WATERS CRUISE
LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK
ORD RIVER CRUISE # HALLS CREEK
EL QUESTRO STATION
ZEBEDEE SPRINGS
FITZROY CROSSING
GEIKIE GORGE NATIONAL PARK & CRUISE
WINDJANA GORGE
BOAB PRISON TREE # DERBY
BROOME 3 NIGHTS # EIGHTY MILE BEACH
PORT HEDLAND # MT TOM PRICE MINE TOUR
KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK
HAMERSLEY RANGES # EXMOUTH
CORAL BAY # SHARK BAY
CARNARVON # MONKEY MIA DOLPHINS
KALBARRI WILDFLOWERS # PERTH 4 NIGHTS
GLOUCESTER TREE # JARRAH FORESTS
VALLEY OF THE GIANTS # ALBANY
ESPERANCE # NORSEMAN
KALGOORLIE GOLDEN MILE & MINE TOUR
GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT # CEDUNA
IRON KNOB # PORT AUGUSTA
CITY CENTRE ACCOMMODATION IN DARWIN & PERTH

DAY 4: MONDAY 13TH 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.

Accom: Desert Gardens Hotel Ph: 08 8957 7888

**DAY 5: TUESDAY 14TH AUGUST B.L.D.
ULURU 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: 03 9413 6287

**DAY 6: WEDNESDAY 15TH 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 16TH 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 17TH 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 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 18TH AUGUST B.L.D.
ALICE SPRINGS TO TENNANT CREEK**

An early start today as we continue north along the Stuart Highway crossing the Tropic of Capricorn and a quick stop at the small Central Mount Stuart Historical Reserve. The cairn commemorates the discovery in 1860 of the centre of Australia by explorer John McDouall Stuart. We visit the Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve which is located on the Sturt Highway between Alice Springs and Darwin, and set against a striking background of the Australian desert. The Devils Marbles are a group of large rounded rocks, some of which are performing a very impressive balancing act. We continue on to Tennant Creek, which is an outback town shaped by pastoralism, aboriginal culture, copper, gold and tin mining. The surrounding area is called the Barkly Tablelands, a region characterised by wide grassy plains, endless blue sky and massive cattle stations.

Accom: Bluestone Motor Inn Ph: 08 8962 2617

**DAY 10: SUNDAY 19TH AUGUST B.L.D.
TENNANT CREEK TO KATHERINE**

After breakfast, we continue further north along the Stuart Highway through the highway junction at Three Ways. Continuing on we pass Renner Springs, Elliott and Daly Waters where we visit the famous old pub. The Daly Waters Pub has a reputation as a friendly outback country pub where people from all walks of life and any country in the world can get together and enjoy a laugh and a cold drink. Many patrons leave their mark in the pub for their friends and visitors in the form of flags, currency, ID cards and anything else they might be carrying on their journey. Take in the character of this pub before making our way to Mataranka, a small settlement where you may take a swim in the warm thermal pool. Mataranka hot springs is a series of waterholes fed from underground thermal springs, and set amongst luxurious tropical vegetation. There will be time to take a swim in the warm water after a days travelling. Continue on to Katherine for our overnight stop.

Accom: Knotts Crossing Resort Ph: 08 8972 2511

**DAY 11: MONDAY 20TH AUGUST B.L.D.
KATHERINE TO KAKADU NATIONAL PARK**

Early rise this morning before making our way to Katherine Gorge for a 7.00am breakfast river cruise. The deep gorge carved through sandstone by the Katherine River is the central attraction of this National Park. The spectacle of the river, sheer cliffs and rock art make this an excellent place to explore. Photos do not do this area justice. Continuing our travels through the gold town of Pine Creek, which is also the centre of an important uranium mining district. We then join the Kakadu Highway to Kakadu National Park. Covering nearly 20,000 square kilometres, Kakadu is one of very few places World Heritage listed for both its cultural and its natural values. Kakadu is one of the few places in Australia where the original Aboriginal inhabitants maintain personal and spiritual links with their traditional lands, and it contains a wealth of archaeological and rock art sites that provide insights into Aboriginal culture. Yellow Water Billabong is located at the end of Jim Jim Creek, a tributary of the South Alligator River. This afternoon the Yellow Water Cruise provides you with a unique opportunity to

experience this diverse and sublimely beautiful area and its associated bird and wildlife. About one third of Australia's bird species are represented in Kakadu National Park, with at least 60 species found in the wetlands. We make our way to Jabiru for our overnight stop.

Accom: Gagudju Crocodile Inn Ph: 08 89799000

**DAY 12: TUESDAY 21ST AUGUST B.L.
KAKADU NATIONAL PARK TO DARWIN**

Today we visit Nouralgie Rock, famous for its Aboriginal paintings. Explore the township of Jabiru, which was established to service the nearby Ranger Uranium Mine, and now apart from the mine its most notable industry is tourism being the commercial and accommodation hub of Kakadu National Park. We leave Jabiru before joining the Arnhem Highway to Darwin, our home for the next three nights.

Accom: Travelodge Mirrambeena Resort Ph: 08 8946 0111

**DAY 13: WEDNESDAY 22ND AUGUST B.L.
LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK**

A highlight today as we visit Litchfield National Park which is an ancient landscape shaped by water. It features numerous stunning waterfalls, which cascade from the sandstone plateau of the Tabletop Range. The Park covers approximately 1500 sq km and contains representative examples of most of the Top End's natural habitats. We visit Wangi Falls, which is perhaps Litchfield National Park's most popular attraction, and see a real wonder of nature the intriguing magnetic termite mounds. On our return trip to Darwin, we visit the Darwin River Dam and Berry Springs.

**DAY 14: THURSDAY 23RD AUGUST B.
DARWIN**

Free day to just relax, or do your own exploring and be amazed by the City of Darwin. Tonight you may wish to visit the famous Mindil Beach Market, taste the many foods or watch the marvellous Mindil Beach sunset.

**DAY 15: FRIDAY 24TH AUGUST B.L.D.
DARWIN TO KATHERINE**

This morning we tour parts of the city visiting Fannie Bay Gaol Museum. The gaol was in use for nearly 100 years before the last prisoners were transferred to the Berrimah complex in late 1979. The gaol is now used as a museum, which represents a time capsule. Displays include interests such as the "Gallows" which were constructed for the last execution in the Northern Territory in 1952. Next stop is the Botanical Gardens and Christ Church Cathedral, constructed in 1977 to replace the original stone church destroyed by Cyclone Tracy, Christmas 1974. A section of the old Cathedral, the porch, has been incorporated in to the new building. Farewelling Darwin and joining the Stuart Highway travelling south, we visit the Adelaide River War Cemetery. This cemetery is the most visited war cemetery in Australia with over 1 million visitors per year. It is the site where 434 service men and women who served in the Second World War are buried. Continue south to Katherine for our overnight stop.

Accom: Knotts Crossing Resort Motel Ph: 08 8972 2511

**DAY 16: SATURDAY 25TH AUGUST B.L.D.
KATHERINE TO KUNUNURRA**

The dramatic landforms and colours of this region will surprise you at every bend as we travel the 520km Victoria

Highway between Katherine and Kununurra. This fully sealed Territory Tourism Drive meanders past spectacular ranges, escarpment country and the northwest's endemic boab trees. It is the gateway to the Kimberley, the fish-rich Victoria River, superb Gregory and Keep River National Parks and Lake Argyle. The drive passes through the Victoria River districts sprawling cattle country, and historic Timber Creek. Continue on crossing the Western Australian border and on to Kununurra, home for the next three nights.

Accom: Lakeside Resort Ph: 08 9169 1092

**DAY 17: SUNDAY 26TH AUGUST B.L.D.
EL QUESTRO-ZEBEDEE SPRINGS - WYNDHAM**

A breathtaking day today as we travel west of Kununurra and join the Gibb River Road where our first stop is Zebedee Springs. Zebedee Springs is a warm thermal spring nestled in amongst a small pocket of lush rain forest and spectacular Livistona palms. A magical place where we can go for a swim in the springs. The spring is fed from a permanent supply of water, deep within the earth's interior, which maintains a water temperature between 28 to 32 degrees Celsius all year round. Continuing on we travel the short distance to El Questro Station, a one million acre cattle station developed in 1991 to provide a truly Australian holiday destination. The Kimberley region extends from Broome in the west to Kununurra and Lake Argyle in the east, and from the sea to just south of the main Great Northern Highway. It covers about 421,000 square kilometres -- slightly larger than Japan and much larger than United Kingdom or New Zealand. The Kimberley has only three towns with a population of more than 2,000 (Broome, Derby and Kununurra). Relax and marvel at the scenery as we enjoy a leisurely cruise through the magnificent sandstone cliffs of Chamberlain Gorge. Departing El Questro wonder at the views of the Cockburn Range, which stands majestically beside the Gibb River Road and completely within the bounds of El Questro Station. Fringed by steep escarpments along the perimeter, the Cockburn Range rises to 586 metres at its highest point. We travel to Wyndham, the most northerly town in Western Australia situated off the north coast of Western Australia on the Cambridge Gulf. Although Wyndham is off the main route, it is a pleasant town with a nearby port. From the top of Mt Bastion at the Five Rivers Lookout, we will see where the five rivers, Durack River, Forrest River, King River, Ord River and Pentecost River, join the Cambridge Gulf. The view is fantastic and well worth our drive to Wyndham. After an amazing days sightseeing we will return to Kununurra.

**DAY 18: MONDAY 27TH AUGUST B.L.D.
ORD RIVER CRUISE**

Today if you wish you can take an optional early morning flight over the vast lost world of the Bungle Bungles with spectacular views of Lake Argyle and the Argyle Diamond Mine (passengers own expense). Following breakfast, we cruise the pristine waters of the Ord River System. The area is a bird watchers paradise, has varying fauna, salt and freshwater crocodiles and is a photographer's delight. During the afternoon, enjoy some free time to explore the shops in Kununurra.

**DAY 19: TUESDAY 28TH AUGUST B.L.D.
KUNUNURRA TO FITZROY CROSSING**

We join the Great Northern Highway this morning and travel via Turkey Creek to Halls Creek situated on the edge of the Great Sandy Desert. Continuing west arriving at Fitzroy

Crossing a centre for the surrounding cattle stations for our overnight stop. Fitzroy Crossing was a creation of necessity when early settlers to the Kimberley needed a place to ford the mighty Fitzroy River. The old crossing was the shortest and safest route but focus shifted from the original town site of Fitzroy Crossing when a modern stilted bridge was built downstream in 1974.

Accom: Fitzroy River Lodge Ph: 08 9191 5141

**DAY 20: WEDNESDAY 29TH AUGUST B.L.D.
FITZROY CROSSING - GEIKIE GORGE - DERBY**

Enjoy a town tour this morning before taking a short drive north to Geikie Gorge National Park. Cruising the Fitzroy River is a wonderful chance to see the gorge and wildlife up close. Fresh water crocodiles, all manner of birdlife and other native animals like dingoes and wallabies are resident at Geikie Gorge National Park. The main attraction is the multi-coloured cliffs of Geikie Gorge where the Fitzroy River, has cut through the fossil reef over millions of years. Further on to the narrow Windjana Gorge, a spectacular area where you can see the 5 km gorge containing some of the best examples of fossil reef complexes in the world. Continue via the Gibb River Road to Derby, heart of much of the state's most spectacular scenery and our home for our overnight stop. The main street of Derby is lined with boab trees as old as the town itself.

Accom: King Sound Resort Hotel Ph: 08 9193 1044

**DAY 21: THURSDAY 30TH AUGUST B.L.
DERBY TO BROOME**

Today we enjoy the sights of King Sound where the highest of all Australian tides and the second highest tide in the world happens in late March and again in late April. We see the Boab Prison Tree, large enough to hold twelve people and believed to be over 1,000 years old, before joining the Great Northern Highway to Broome, home for the next three nights. Broome's climate is something to thoroughly enjoy. After lunch, we take a drive to Willie Creek Pearl Farm. On the way, you may see some of the local wildlife. At the picturesque pearl farm, you will enjoy a tour, seeing how cultured pearls are created and the seeding of a live shell. You will have the opportunity to explore and purchase jewellery from the showroom.

Accom: The Oaks Resort Ph: 08 9192 9500

**DAY 22: FRIDAY 31ST AUGUST B.
BROOME - CABLE BEACH**

Today we explore the "Pearls of Broome". First visit is to Chinatown that was built to support the pearlers, see the wooden pearling luggers used earlier this century, Streeters Jetty where the luggers discharged their hard won treasure, and the Japanese cemetery which reminds us of the toll taken on the Japanese pearl divers in the industry. Other "Pearls of Broome" include the Dinosaur Footprints and Anastasia's Pool. Enjoy a visit to Cable Beach - the "pearl" of Australian beaches.

**DAY 23: SATURDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER B.
BROOME**

This is a free day today to put your feet up and relax by the pool, explore Broome and its great shopping or perhaps go for a stroll along famous Cable Beach. Perhaps you would like to take a scenic flight along the WA coast to the amazing Horizontal Waterfalls.

**DAY 24: SUNDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER B.L.D.
BROOME TO AUSKI VILLAGE**

Farewelling Broome with a very early start and a big day ahead we join the Great Northern Highway travelling south through some of Australia's most remote countryside. After visiting Eighty Mile Beach where the Great Sandy Desert stretches to the ocean we travel further south past Port Hedland, one of the largest ports by tonnage in Australia. The town revolves around the mining and shipping of the Pilbara's most valuable commodity; iron ore. On the Port Hedland Highway again and continuing south we arrive at Auski Village situated on the northern slopes of the Hamersley Ranges. This whole area is noted for its scenic grandeur and rugged beauty.

Accom: Auski Tourist Village Ph 08 9176 6988

**DAY 25: MONDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER B.L.D.
AUSKI VILLAGE TO MT TOM PRICE**

A much shorter day travelling today, and after passing the now ghost town of Wittenoom stop off to explore the picturesque Hamersley Gorge. The town of Mt Tom Price beckons and it is our home for the next two nights.

Accom: Tom Price Hotel/Motel Ph: 08 9189 1101

**DAY 26: TUESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER B.L.D.
TOM PRICE - MINE TOUR - KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK**

Tour Mt Tom Price mine this morning and see the huge equipment and scale of operations. The Mt Tom Price Mine produces iron ore yielding about 19-20 million tonnes of ore each year. The mine was developed in 1966, and is a massive ore body eight km long and more than one km wide. Free time for the remainder of the morning. We spend this afternoon admiring the scenery of Karijini National Park renowned for its spectacular mountains, gorges and watercourses. The Oxer Lookout offers breathtaking panoramic views of four amazing gorges. This is one of the most spectacular vantage points within the Karijini National Park. The lookout stands at the junction of the Joffre Gorge, Weano Gorge, Red Gorge and Hancock Gorge.

**DAY 27: WEDNESDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER B.L.D.
MT TOM PRICE TO EXMOUTH**

Today we travel through the stunning rich red earth and spinifex landscape of the Pilbara, passing Mt. Stuart. The Pilbara region in the north of Western Australia is known for its vast mineral deposits, in particular iron ore. Join the North West Coastal Highway and stop at Nanutarra Roadhouse before leaving the highway to travel to the coastal town of Exmouth, which is located on the tip of the North West Cape.

Accom: Potshot Court HolidayResort. Ph: 08 9949 1200

**DAY 28: THURSDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER B.L.D.
EXMOUTH TO CARNARVON**

Travel south this morning to Coral Bay, home to one of the world's major reef systems. We visit Ningaloo Marine Park where you can view life forms of the reef through a glass bottom boat. Ningaloo Reef has gained an impressive reputation as one of earth's last ocean paradises. It's one of the largest fringing reefs in the world, and unlike many others, you can get to it just by stepping off the beach. It will be hard to leave, but we travel further south and join the North West Coastal Highway to Carnarvon. Dinner tonight will be in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Fascine Lodge Ph: 08 9941 0600

**DAY 29: FRIDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER B.L.D.
CARNARVON TO DENHAM**

This morning we travel to the Shark Bay region which is the most westerly point of the Australian continent. Shark Bay with its islands and the land surrounding it has exceptional natural features. Its vast sea-grass beds, which are the largest and richest in the world; its dugong ('sea cow') population; and its stromatolites (colonies of algae which form hard, dome-shaped deposits and are among the oldest forms of life on earth). We can wander along the shores of Shell Beach and take in the dramatic views from Eagle Bluff before continuing to Denham. Dinner and breakfast will be in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Heritage Resort Shark Bay . Ph: 08 9948 1133

**DAY 30: SATURDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER B.L.D.
DENHAM - MONKEY MIA TO KALBARRI**

We visit Monkey Mia which is world famous for its dolphin interaction experience, a rare encounter with wild animals that has become a major tourism attraction. However, Monkey Mia is not just about dolphins. The area is beautiful in its own right, later this morning we continue south to Kalbarri renowned for extraordinary river gorge scenery, soaring sea cliffs, and heath wildflowers and is our home for the next two nights.

Accom: Kalbarri Beach Resort Ph: 08 9937 1061

**DAY 31: SUNDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER B.L.D.
KALBARRI SIGHTSEEING**

Kalbarri National Park is famed for its spectacular scenery and red rock gorges that were cut from the landscape by the mighty Murchison River. We experience views of the gorges from the many lookouts including the famous Nature's Window where the vista is seen through a massive red rock frame. The Loop and Z Bend, are also popular for views over the sandstone cliffs. From July to October Kalbarri National Park is ablaze with colour as wildflowers like banksias, grevilleas, kangaroo paws and feather flowers spring to life. The park is rich in bird life and other animals but many are nocturnal. The remainder of the day is free to put your feet up and relax, or discover the Kalbarri shops.

**DAY 32: MONDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER B.L.
KALBARRI TO PERTH**

There is an early start this morning as we continue south through Geraldton to Nambung National Park and the remarkable Pinnacles Desert. Nambung National Park features beautiful beaches, coastal dune systems, shady groves of tuart trees and low heath land rich in flowering plants. Here thousands of small and huge limestone pillars rise from the shifting yellow sands. After leaving the eerie landscape resembling that from a science fiction movie, we continue on to Perth, our home for the next four nights.

Accom: Kings Hotel Ph: 08 9325 6555

**DAY 33: TUESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER B.
PERTH SIGHTSEEING**

The morning is spent sightseeing in this marvellous city. You will see the very best Perth has to offer. After touring Scarborough Beach, City Beach and picturesque Kings Park featuring 400ha of gardens and views over the Swan River, we will continue the day by visiting historical Fremantle. We follow the Swan River and enjoy the spectacular views of the Perth skyline.

**DAY 34&35: WEDNESDAY 12TH & THURSDAY 13TH
SEPTEMBER B
PERTH**

Two free days for you to do some shopping, maybe an optional tour to New Norcia or Rottnest Island, or perhaps just sit back and relax.

**DAY 36: FRIDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER B.D.
PERTH TO PEMBERTON**

Farewelling Perth this morning we travel down the beautiful southwest coastline through Bunbury situated on Koombana Bay. Travel through Busseleton and on to Margaret River which is truly one of the great holiday destinations of the world. Further on to Manjimup in the heart of the timber country. Manjimup is the gateway to tall timber countryside and its attractions are linked to the magnificent jarrah and karri forests that surround it. Then on to Pemberton our stay for the next two nights. Dinner and breakfast in the motel restaurant.

Accom: The Gloucester Motel Ph: 08 9776 1266

**DAY 37: SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER B.D.
KARRI FORESTS SIGHTSEEING**

Pemberton is the pretty timber town where you feast your eyes on breathtaking forest scenery. The tall trees - Pemberton's biggest attraction are truly magnificent. Our first stop is the famous Gloucester Tree, 61 metres in height and one of the largest trees in the world. We visit Beedelup National Park to experience the beautiful Beedelup Falls. The park covers 1,590 hectares and the Beedelup Falls are best seen in winter or spring when they are in full flow. The park also offers a mix of vegetation including karri, marri and jarrah trees. This afternoon we return to Manjimup and visit the Timber Park where it is all about timber. Getting it, cutting it, transporting it and making sure it doesn't catch fire. As well, the park shows how simple life was in the early days of the district. Dinner and breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

**DAY 38: SUNDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER B.D.
PEMBERTON TO ALBANY**

Travel through the vast Jarrah and Karri Forests to Denmark and visit the "Valley of the Giants" at Walpole - Nornalup National Park where the trees dwarf the surrounding countryside. We explore the world famous forest of gigantic tingle trees and take a bird's eye view of the towering forest from the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk on a spectacular lightweight bridge through the forest canopy. The bridge gently ascends into the treetops 40 metres above the forest floor and is an experience not to be missed. Continue on to Albany, our home for the next two nights. Visit the Old Gaol, built in 1851 as a convict hiring depot and later used as a gaol before being converted to a museum. Next stop is the Patrick Taylor Cottage Museum, constructed prior to 1832; it is the oldest house in the township. Our next visit is to the Sandalwood factory. Whether its the history of sandalwood or the distillation and processing that you're interested in the tour will take you through the Mount Romance facilities to give you an inside look at how their products are made. See how the company process and distill Sandalwood oil and how they formulate this oil into their high quality cosmetic products. Dinner and breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

Accom Motel LeGrande Ph: 08 9841 3600

**DAY 39: MONDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER B.D.
ALBANY SIGHTSEEING**

This morning with Silver Star Cruises we cruise the historic and scenic waters of Albany's King George Sound. The Silver Star crew, with their friendly relaxed manner, will ensure that you have an enjoyable cruise. We view the rugged coastline from "The Gap" and "Natural Bridge", two amazing natural features, which have been carved from masses of granite over thousands of years by the many forces of nature. Visit Dog Rock and Mt. Clearance. Visit Whale World. This former whaling station ceased operation in 1978, has since been developed into a whaling museum featuring relics, and lithographs from the whaling days. See the Iron Foundry/Blacksmith Shop where you will see a qualified blacksmith at work. Free time for the remainder of the day. Dinner and breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

**DAY 40: TUESDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER B.D.
ALBANY TO ESPERANCE**

Departing Albany this morning we travel north to Stirling Range National Park. This National Heritage listed National Park protects Western Australia's only mountain range, and its unique flora and fauna with a range of over 1500 recorded species of wildflowers and terrestrial orchids which flower in Spring. We join the South Coast Highway via Ravensthorpe to Esperance. At Esperance, we visit Australia's only specialist fish and shark leather tannery, which had its origins in the Golden Outback of Western Australia. From the ocean and outback estuaries to fashion houses, Mermaid Leather produces unique, aesthetically appealing and strong fish and shark leather. Designers throughout Australia have embraced the delicate pattern of fish leather for its soft sensual texture yet robust strength. Dinner and breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Bayview Motel Ph: 08 9071 1533

**DAY 41: WEDNESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER B.D.
ESPERANCE TO KALGOORLIE**

Esperance, small yet beautiful is known as the 'Bay of Isles'. Wide sandy beaches, scenic coastlines and the panorama of offshore islands are all part of its charm. Pink Lake is a dense saltwater lake and depending on weather conditions really is pink. We tour the many attractions, visiting Twilight Beach, Rotary Lookout and a scenic drive to Observatory Point and Butly Cave. See the vast wheat and sheep properties of this area as we travel to Norseman which is regarded as the western gateway to the Nullarbor Plain. Norseman is known for its gold, quartz and other gemstones and is subsequently a magnet for prospectors and gem collectors hoping to try their luck. Although major gold mining has declined in Norseman, Central Norseman still mines the richest quartz reef in Australia. We continue on to Kalgoorlie, home for the next two nights. Dinner and breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Quality Inn Railway Motel Ph: 08 9088 0000

**DAY 42: THURSDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER B.D.
KALGOORLIE SIGHTSEEING**

A full day touring the mining city of Kalgoorlie. The Golden Mile with its expanding mining operations is an awesome backdrop to the city's modern day existence. Victorian buildings with wide verandas line the main streets, recalling the history of past eras. City tour visiting Paddy Hannon's Statue and the Miner's Monument, erected as a tribute to those mine workers who gave "The Golden Mile" its worldwide reputation. Visit Hannan's North Tourist Gold Mine. See the Goldminers Hall of Fame. Take a guided surface tour, watch a gold pour demonstration, go

underground, and view practical working demonstrations of how mines are ventilated and the methods employed in extracting valuable ore. Kalgoorlie Super Pit Tours is the leading operator in the goldfields, with a long history in providing that 'Extraordinary' touring experience that will give us the chance to be a part of the modern day gold rush by taking part in the only tour to go inside the Super Pit operations. The remainder of the day is free for you to do some shopping. Dinner and breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

**DAY 43: FRIDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER B.L.D.
KALGOORLIE TO COCKLEBIDDY**

This morning we travel to the small town of Balladonia, which is the first stop on the long Nullarbor journey from Western Australia to South Australia. The stretch from Balladonia to Caiguna (181km) boasts one of the longest stretches of straight road anywhere in the world. From here, we commence our journey across the Nullarbor, a vast limestone plateau, to the tiny settlement of Cocklebiddy for our overnight stop.

Accom: Wedgetail Inn Ph: 08 9039 3462

**DAY 44: SATURDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER B.L.D.
COCKLEBIDDY TO CEDUNA**

Travelling east, we stop at the tiny outpost of Eucla to visit the old telegraph ruins almost completely buried by shifting dunes. Cross into South Australia and marvel at the stunning views of sheer cliffs that look over the Great Australian Bight. Continue across the Nullarbor, taking in the unbelievable flat and featureless landscape that surrounds. Pause at a viewing platform on the Bight, the best spot in Australia to perhaps see the majestic Southern Right Whales who migrate to this region from June to October each year to give birth and rear their young. Many large animals live in or visit the Great Australian Bight and the most famous are the southern right whale, the Australian sea lion, the great white shark, and the southern blue fin tuna. We continue on to South Australia's most westerly town, Ceduna for our overnight stop. Dinner tonight is in the motel restaurant.

Accom: East West Motel Ph: 08 8625 2101

**DAY 45: SUNDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER B.L.D.
CEDUNA TO PORT AUGUSTA**

An early start this morning as we travel east via the Eyre Highway through Kimba which is geographically "halfway across Australia" and is well known as the "Gateway to the Gawler Ranges". Kimba is situated in sheep and wheat growing country on the edge of South Australia's outback. We continue to Iron Knob, the birthplace of the Australian steel industry. Iron ore was first discovered here in the mid 18th century, but it was not until 1899 when BHP was granted iron ore leases that the true value of the rich high grade ore deposits were recognised. Enjoy a town tour of Iron Knob and visit the mining museum and if permitted, a tour of the vast pit that was Iron Knob. Further on to Port Augusta known as the "Crossroads of Australia". Dinner and breakfast will be in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Acacia Ridge Motor Inn Ph: 08 8642 3377

**DAY 46: MONDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER B.L.
PORT AUGUSTA TO MURRAY BRIDGE**

This morning we visit the Wadlata Outback Centre a must see before the end of our tour. We walk through its Tunnel of Time, the story of an ancient land, its people and treasures. Multi-sensory displays will take you back to when dinosaurs

roamed the land. Experience the hardships of explorers and settlers, and discover the transport that opened up the outback. Depart Port Augusta and travel south to Murray Bridge, situated on the beautiful Murray River for our last night away.

Accom: Adelaide Rd Motor Inn Ph: 08 8532 1144

**DAY 47: TUESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER B.
HOMEWARD BOUND**

Depart Murray Bridge and travel via Tailem Bend and Bordertown crossing the border into Victoria and home after an amazing 47 days touring, farewelling our new found friends at each drop off point along the way.

N.B. This tour allows plenty of free time which is very important on such a long trip.

Accommodation for the above tour is motel, hotel or cabins on a twin share basis. 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.

Breakfasts while in Broome are supplied by the The Oaks Resort and in Perth are supplied by the Kings Hotel.

Lunches and Dinners while in Broome and Perth have not been included. This allows you the flexibility to try different eating places in the central city area.

**PRICE: \$15850.00 per person
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$ 4390.00
Prices include GST**

PRICE INCLUDES:

- **Luxury Coach Travel.**
- **Accommodation: Motel, Hotel, Villas or Apartments as specified. (Twin Share)**
- **Admissions to Attractions and Cruises as per the itinerary.**
- **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.



At Monkey Mia get up close and friendly with the dolphins

