

# DARWIN-15 DAYS

## INCLUDING CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

DEPARTING MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY TO MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024

*MOTEL ACCOMMODATION – RESTAURANT MEALS*



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### HIGHLIGHTS

- # COOBER PEDY # ULURU # KATA TJUTA
- # ALICE SPRINGS # KINGS CANYON
- # ALICE SPRINGS SIGHTSEEING
- # STANDLEY CHASM # DARWIN
- # KATHERINE GORGE CRUISE
- # TENNANT CREEK
- # KAKADU NATIONAL PARK
- # YELLOW WATERS CRUISE
- # LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK
- # CITY CENTRE ACCOMMODATION IN DARWIN

#### DAY 1: MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 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: Ibis Styles Adelaide Manor Ph: 08 8349 4999

#### DAY 2: TUESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY 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: WEDNESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 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, 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

#### DAY 4: THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST B.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: FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST B.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: SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</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. Dinner tonight at the Gillen Club.  
Accom: Desert Palms Resort Ph: 08 8952 5977

**DAY 7: SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST B.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 Casino.

**DAY 8: MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST B.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 which is the medical service that lends medical assistance to those that live at remote outback locations. We also visit "Rex The Snake Man", and learn about many of the reptiles found in Central Australia. 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 Double Tree by Hilton Hotel.

**DAY 9: TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> 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 Stuart 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 characterized by wide grassy plains.

Accom: Bluestone Motor Inn Ph: 08 8962 2617

**DAY 10: WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> 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 during our lunch stop 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: THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST B.L.D.  
KATHERINE TO KAKADU NATIONAL PARK**

This morning we make our way our way to Katherine Gorge for an 8.00am 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 back to Cooina for our overnight stop.

Accom: Cooina Lodge Ph: 08 89791500

**DAY 12: FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST B.L.  
KAKADU NATIONAL PARK TO DARWIN**

Today we visit Nourlangie 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: Mirambeena Resort Ph: 08 8946 0111

**DAY 13: SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> 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.

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

**DAY 14: SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST B.  
DARWIN**

Morning tour 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 the Botanical Gardens and Christ Church Cathedral, constructed in 1977 to replace the original stone church destroyed by Cyclone Tracy, Christmas 1974. The only section of the old Cathedral, the porch, has been incorporated in the new building. The remainder of the day is free for you to do your own exploring. Tonight we will visit the famous Mindil Beach Market, taste the many foods or watch the marvellous Mindil Beach sunset.

Please note with this tour  
**PREMIUM ACCOMMODATION** is provided at:  
**Desert Gardens Hotel - Ayers Rock**  
**Kings Canyon Resort**  
**Cooina Lodge - Kakadu**  
**Mirambeena Resort - Darwin**

**DAY 15: MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST B.  
DARWIN TO HOME**

This morning you will be transferred to Darwin Airport for your flight back to Tullamarine with Qantas where you will once again be met and transferred to your home after a memorable fifteen days touring.



**OPTION 2: With this tour, you have the option of not flying home from Darwin, but staying with the coach and touring down the West Coast with the option of flying home from Perth or again, continuing with the coach home via the beautiful South West Coast and the Nullarbor Plain. 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 contact Brendan's Australian Tours on: Free call 1800 981 187**

The shy Black Footed Rock Wallaby  
at Simpsons Gap

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

**PRICE: \$8950.00 per person**  
**SINGLE SUPP: \$2180.00**  
**Prices include GST**

**PRICE INCLUDES:**

- **Luxury Coach Travel.**
- **Brendan's Australian Tours Travel Bag & Wallet**
- **Accommodation: Motel, Hotel, Villas or Apartments as specified. (Twin Share)**
- **Admissions to Attractions and Cruises as per the itinerary.**
- **Air Fare Darwin to Melbourne with Qantas.**
- **All Meals as Specified.**  
**B: Breakfast**  
**L: Lunch**  
**D: Dinner**
- **Pick up & return to your home.**



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