



PLATINUM JOURNEYS

FLINDERS RANGES, RED CENTRE & TOP END

17 Days - Wednesday 10th April to Monday 26th April 2021

Wander the most dramatic and beautiful landscapes in the country!



DAY 1: MELBOURNE TO MILDURA Wed 10 Apr 21 (D)

Welcome to our tour to the remarkable Flinders Ranges and iconic Red Centre and the amazing Top End. Our incredible tour will include Wilpena Pound, Uluru, Kakadu and Darwin. We hit the road to Mildura, passing Lake Tyrrell and Ouyen. We arrive in Mildura for our welcome dinner at our hotel. Lunch at own expense | dinner at the hotel

Overnight: Best Western Chaffey International Motor Inn, Mildura (PH: 03 5023 5833)

DAY 2: MILDURA TO FLINDERS RANGES Thu 11 Apr 21 (BD)

This morning we cross the South Australian border and travel through the Riverland region. The next leg of our journey is through the railway town of Peterborough. It became hugely important as a railway link between the iron ore mines in Broken Hill and the iron and steel processing in Port Pirie. In its peak, over one hundred trains passed through the town a day. We experience Magnetic Hill, famous for its ability to make vehicles feel as though they are rolling uphill, before arriving at Wilpena Pound Resort. Wilpena Pound, set in Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park, is a natural amphitheatre of mountains, covering eight times the area of Uluru and is 300 metres higher, such an awe-inspiring vision to be held! Tomorrow we'll have the chance to discover the extraordinary landscape that is over 600 million years old. Breakfast and dinner at hotel | Lunch at own expense

Overnight: Wilpena Pound Resort, Flinders Ranges (PH: 08 8648 0004)

DAY 3: FLINDERS RANGES Fri 12 Apr 21 (BLD)

Uncover the dramatic gorges and spectacular peaks of the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park. We meet our local guide who will take us on an insider's tour of this stunning national park. Our touring will include Brachina Gorge and Razorback Lookout (subject to weather conditions). We enjoy a visit to Gumcreek Station for lunch before returning to Rawnsley mid-afternoon. Breakfast and dinner at hotel | Lunch at Gumcreek Station

Overnight: Wilpena Pound Resort, Flinders Ranges (PH: 08 8648 0004)

DAY 4: FLINDERS RANGES TO MARREE Sat 13 Apr 21 (BD)

Travelling via the Moralana Scenic Drive through Parachilna and Leigh Creek, we stop in Farina, once a thriving town that served a huge area of meal runs reaching as far away as Innamincka and Cordillo Downs. We have time to wander the old town, walk through the old rooms and read the informative storyboards. We continue to Marree the town famous for being the junction of the illustrious Oodnadatta and Birdsville Tracks. Once a thriving centre for transport and communication, relics of a bygone era remain. The local Marree Pub – like to many in remote parts of Australia – is the social centre of this community and is where we'll be staying. Tonight, make sure you look into the night sky, it's like a blanket of stardust and twinkly stars. It's a true outback experience. Breakfast and dinner at hotel | Lunch at own expense

Overnight: Marree Hotel Motel (PH: 08 8675 8344)

DAY 5: MARREE – LAKE EYRE – COOBER PEDY Sun 14 Apr 21 (BLD)

Today we follow the legendary Oodnadatta Track to the tiny town of William Creek. The track itself has a rich history and is regarded as one of the best outback drives in Australia. As we arrive in William Creek, have your camera handy as we take to the skies! We have an incredible chance to witness the magnificent Lake Eyre from above on our scenic flight. Our incredible flight will include Belt Bay, the lowest point below sea level in Australia, Warburton Inlet and the Channel Country, giving a fantastic overview of the lake, bird life and amazing colours and patterns. We continue to Coober Pedy, where many residents of this opal-mining town live underground to escape the extreme heat in summer and stay cosy in winter. Its also known as the opal capital of the world so you may like to browse the gift shops. Breakfast and dinner at hotel | Lunch at William Creek Hotel

Overnight: Opal Inn Motel Coober Pedy (PH: 08 8672 5054)

DAY 6: COOBER PEDY Mon 15 Apr 21 (BD)

Our day begins with a visit to the Umoona Opal Mine. Our local guide will introduce us to the region's history of Aboriginal and European settlement, view the story of the opal in an underground theatre and see fossil remains from the inland sea that once covered the area. Golf enthusiasts will enjoy the tour as we visit Coober Pedy Opal Fields Golf Course, the only course in the world with reciprocal rights to Saint Andrews (the home of golf) in Scotland. Our sightseeing continues with the Big Winch Lookout and an underground church. After an interesting morning, we have time to wander the town and purchase lunch before heading to the Breakaways. This reserve consists of spectacular flat-topped, colourful mounds that have risen from the desert floor. Breakfast and dinner at hotel | Lunch at own expense

Overnight: Opal Inn Motel Coober Pedy (PH: 08 8672 5054)

DAY 7: COOBER PEDY TO YULARA Tue 16 Apr 21 (BD)

We have a long travel day as we head across the border into the Northern Territory. Look out the window at the seemingly endless horizon where you truly get a sense of how vast this area is. We make our way to Yulara, the gateway to the World Heritage Listed Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park. The rock itself rises 348 metres from the desert floor and has a girth of 9.4km. It's the most famous monolith with at least two thirds of the rock lying beneath the surface. As we arrive late, we'll spend the next two days discovering the incredible National Park. Breakfast and dinner at hotel | Lunch at own expense.

Overnight: Voyages Outback Pioneer Hotel, Yulara (PH: 08 8957 7605)

DAY 8: ULURU Wed 17 Apr 21 (BD)

The Uluru Base Walk is the best way to soak up the beauty and get up close to Uluru. Wander the 9.4km base and relax beside peaceful waterholes, magnificent Sheoak trees and peer into hidden caves. With our local guide, we'll learn about the Aboriginal perceptions of Uluru, its powerful spiritual significance and how Anangu traditional owners and local rangers are looking after the area together. We spend some time at the Cultural Centre to learn about the ancient Aboriginal culture and the role of Tjukurpa (their creation stories and laws). At the award winning Maruku Arts, get involved and take part in demonstrations and workshops with local artists. We have free time this afternoon where you might like to travel through the red sand on the back of a camel or see the incredible views from above on a scenic flight. We meet up again at the hotel to travel to the viewing area, where we watch the changing colours on this magnificent rock as the sun sets of the horizon. Uluru puts on a remarkable light show as it changes from red to orange to lilac in a matter of minutes. We enjoy this special experience with a glass of sparkling wine. Breakfast and dinner at hotel | Lunch at own expense.

Overnight: Voyages Outback Pioneer Hotel, Yulara (PH: 08 8957 7605)

DAY 9: KATA TJUTA / OLGAS Thu 18 Apr 21 (BLD)

This morning we head to Kata Tjuta or The Olgas and witness the ancient red rock formations that rise from the dusty land. We'll take a walk through Walpa Gorge. The area is like a desert refuge for plants and animals as you may see wallabies hopping around or rare plants rise. Breakfast and dinner at hotel | Packed lunch included

Overnight: Voyages Outback Pioneer Hotel, Yulara (PH: 08 8957 7605)

DAY 10: YULURA TO KINGS CREEK STATION Fri 19 Apr 21 (BLD)

Stopping off at Curtain Springs Station, we embark of a paper making demonstration. We join the incredible tour of the production process in the Old Abattoir and learn how they harvest produce the diverse range of papers from native grasses. The detail can only be witnessed to understand how truly amazing it is. We arrive at Kings Creek Station where some of us may like to walk to the nearby viewing point to watch the sun set behind Carmichaels Crag and the George Hill Range. Breakfast and dinner at hotel | Lunch at Curtain Springs Station

Overnight: Kings Creek Station (PH: 08 8956 7474)

DAY 11: KINGS CREEK STATION TO ALICE SPRINGS Sat 20 Apr 21 (BD)

Rise and shine as hike to the top of Kings Canyon on the iconic Rim Walk. The 6km circuit transcends down into the Garden of Eden and back to the top to wonder at the 360-degree views. Take your time and absorb the amazing scenery. This afternoon we travel the Mereenie Loop, taking in the majestic Western MacDonnell Ranges. The natural beauty of this area is outstanding! See the towering walls of Standley Chasm glow from reflected sunlight to create a breathtaking display of colour, making it a must-see experience. We also stop at Simpson Gap, featuring the soaring cliffs and enduring water hole, before continuing to Alice Springs, the thriving and spirited outback centre. Breakfast and dinner at hotel | Lunch at own expense

Overnight: Crowne Plaza Alice Springs Lasseters (PH: 08 8950 7777)

DAY 12: THE ALICE Sun 21 Apr 21 (BD)

Today we uncover the highlights of Alice Springs. Our first stop is at ANZAC Hill for panoramic views of the town and surrounding area. We take a look at School of the Air, a service to educate students in remote areas before visiting the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS). We hear the incredible history of one of the largest and most comprehensive aeromedical organisations in the world. Using the latest aviation, medical and communications technology, the RFDS delivers extensive primary health care and 24-hour emergency service to those who live, work and travel throughout Australia. Early afternoon, we visit the Old Telegraph Station and the original Alice Springs. With incredible indoor and outdoor displays, the story of the connection of Australia and the rest of the world through telegraph communication unfolds. Breakfast and dinner at hotel | Lunch at own expense

Overnight: Crowne Plaza Alice Springs Lasseters (PH: 08 8950 7777)

DAY 13: ALICE SPRINGS TO TENNANT CREEK Mon 22 Apr 21 (BD)

Sit back and relax as we have a full day's drive to Tennant Creek. On our travels, we cross the Tropic of Capricorn and pause at Central Mount Stuart, the geographical centre of Australia. We stop to visit Karlu Karlu Devils Marbles, steeped in Aboriginal legend as the eggs of the Rainbow Serpent. We have time to marvel at the collection of massive granite boulders, that formed millions of years ago, before continuing to Tennant Creek. Breakfast and dinner at hotel | Lunch at own expense.

Overnight: Bluestone Motor Inn, Tennant Creek (PH: 08 8962 2617)

DAY 14: TENNANT CREEK TO KATHERINE Tue 23 Apr 21 (BD)

We have an early start as we have a travel day seeing the vast spaces of Central Australia stretch from horizon to horizons. Tonight, we are in for a real treat as Golden Guitar winner and horseman extraordinaire, Tom Curtain, delights and entertains us with his Katherine Outback Experience. The dinner and show celebrate the life in the outback through real horse-starting, working dog demonstrations, live music and storytelling.

Overnight: Knotts Crossing Resort, Katherine (PH: 08 8972 2511)

DAY 15: KATHERINE TO KAKADU Wed 24 Apr 21 (BD)

We travel to Nitmiluk to enjoy a journey of discovery through the magnificent Nitmiluk George. Be transported to the spiritual world of Jawoyn culture and history as we cruise down the tranquil waters. We then experience the magic of World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park. Kakadu is one of the world's greatest wonders with remarkable scenery and unique flora and fauna. This afternoon we explore Australia's 50,000-year Aboriginal heritage through the incredible natural rock art galleries. Our first stop is Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) rock art site, which has served as a shelter and canvas for thousands of years, providing windows into a rich spiritual tradition. Breakfast and dinner at hotel | Lunch at own expense

Overnight: Kakadu Lodge Cooida (PH: 08 8979 1500)

(B) Breakfast. (L) Lunch. (D) Dinner. Alterations to the itinerary may occur – a final confirmed itinerary will be provided with your travel documentation approximately 3 weeks prior to departure. Some lunches on this tour are “picnic style” with meats, salads and rolls.

DAY 16: KAKADU TO DARWIN Thu 25 Apr 21 (BD)

We make our way to board our wonderful Yellow Water Cruise. Look out at the vast range of native wildlife and maybe a crocodile or two. At the Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre, we discover the stories of the traditional owners through displays, artefacts and exhibitions. As we make our way to Darwin, witness the fabulous Spectacular Jumping Crocodile Cruise. See powerful saltwater crocodiles as they propel themselves high out of the water to snatch their prey. With the help from our experienced guides, we'll learn more about these magnificent creatures while watching the crocs jump for food from the safety of our boat. We continue to Darwin for our final night on tour.
Breakfast and dinner at hotel | Lunch at own expense.

Overnight: DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade Darwin (PH: 08 8980 0800)

DAY 17: DARWIN TO MELBOURNE Fri 26 Apr 21 (B)

We have a free morning in Darwin before boarding our flight back to Melbourne. We arrive home from an incredible holiday to the Flinders Ranges, Red Centre and Top End.
Breakfast at hotel | Lunch at own expense

**Tour cost Twin Share/Double per person \$6495
Solo Traveller \$7895**

Tour cost based on a minimum of 14 passengers.

TOUR COST INCLUDES:

Air conditioned, restroom equipped vehicle travel with experienced crew
Twin share accommodation with ensuite facilities
Meals as per the itinerary
All entry fees to sightseeing activities as listed in the itinerary

TOUR COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

Flight from Darwin to Home Port at the end of the tour
Travel insurance – please enquire for a quote or to purchase a policy
Items of a personal nature eg laundry/phone and any optional extras/trips
Alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages plus meals not listed in the itinerary

CONDITIONS OF BOOKING

All bookings must be accompanied by a deposit of \$600.00 per person
The balance and final payment must be received 90 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATION POLICY

More than 90 days notice : full refund less \$600.00 deposit
90 - 60 days before tour : 50% refund
Less than 60 days: no refund

ALTERNATIVE CREDIT OPTION

For cancellations with more than 30 days notice
75% credit towards a future tour

Platinum Journeys strongly recommend all passengers take out travel insurance at the time of booking, in case of unexpected illness or accident