

Red Heart:

Explore the Red Centre

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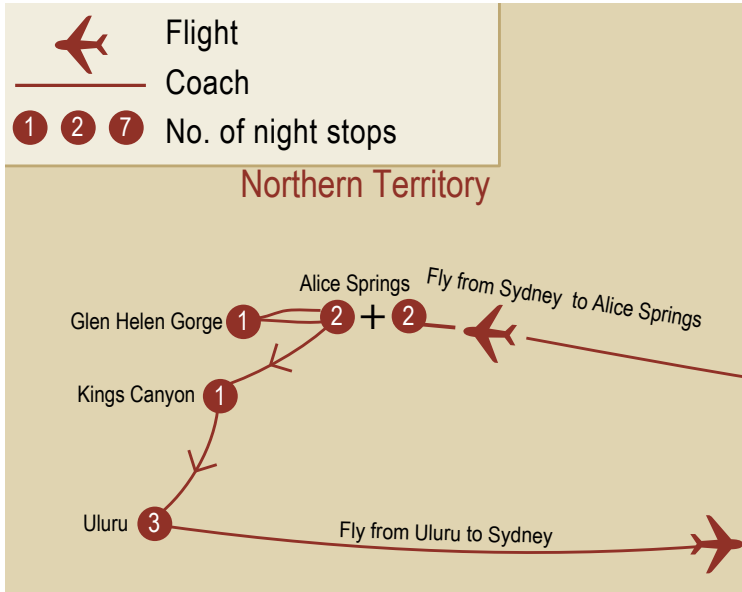
31 July 2010
10 Days

~ **Highlights** ~ Includes Air Fare!



Uluru and Alice Springs Sightseeing, Palm Valley, Glen Helen Gorge, MacDonnell Ranges, Serpentine Gorge, Ellery Creek Big Hole, Hermannsburg, Kings Canyon.

New
Tour!



Day 4: MacDonnell Ranges—Standley Chasm, Simpson's Gap, Ellery Creek Big Hole, Serpentine Gorge, Ormiston Gorge—Glen Helen Gorge and Resort (BLD)

Our first stop today, as we make our way through the many gorges of the MacDonnell Ranges, is Standley Chasm to see the narrow natural cleft lit by sunshine. We will call in at Simpson Gap to walk along the dry river bed which allows a glimpse of the Black Footed Wallabies before taking in Ellery Creek Big Hole, Serpentine Gorge and Ormiston Gorge where we will enjoy lunch. This afternoon we will explore Glen Helen Gorge which has been created by the brief parting of the West MacDonnell Ranges, to make way for the Finke River. The Ranges are of pacoota sandstone and form steep, broken ridges and it is here that the permanent Finke River waterhole is an important refuge in the hot summer months. It provides shelter for all nine species of fish recorded for the Finke River and is an important stop over for waterbirds migrating along its course. From here the Finke River continues and makes its way to the Simpson Desert. This afternoon will be free to enjoy what this remote resort has to offer.
[Glen Helen Gorge Motel 08 8956 7489](tel:089567489)

Day 1 : Home—Alice Springs (meals on flights)

We will make our way to the Airport via the Hunter, Tuggerah and Hornsby for our Qantas flight to Alice Springs with airline meals included. In Alice Springs we will meet any passengers who have taken the option of catching the Ghan to Alice Springs (please call for a quote). This evening we have the option of enjoying Sounds of Light. Please call the office for a quote on doing this optional extra.
[Lasseters Hotel 08 8950 7777 \(3 nights\)](tel:0889507777)

Day 2: Overland Telegraph Station, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Alice Springs Desert Park (BLD)

This morning we will explore the Alice Springs Desert Park to explore the three different Australian desert habitats, their plants and animals. We will watch birds of prey circle our vantage points, with the magnificent backdrop of the MacDonnell Ranges. We will then make our way to Alice Springs School of Air and the Alice Springs Royal Flying Doctor Service, the outback's lifesaving health service. We then visit the Overland Telegraph Station, one of the early means of communication between Australia and the rest of the world. We will make our way to Anzac Hill Lookout, for a scenic photo of Alice Springs. This evening we will visit Heavitree Tavern, for dinner and a show.

Day 3: Alice Springs—Free Day (B)

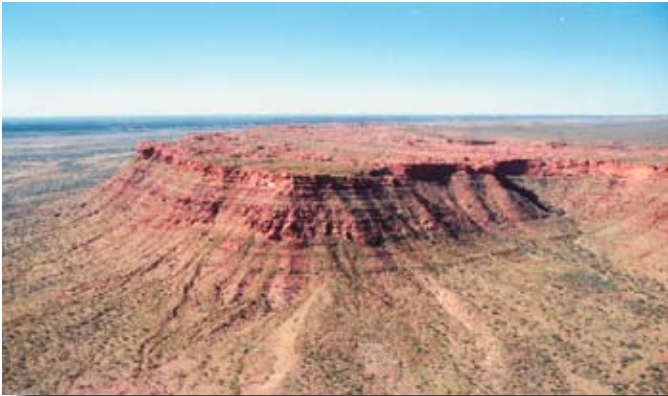
This morning we spend some time at the Gorge (maybe do some walks etc. After this there will be some free time to relax at the resort or visit the shops, museums and galleries.



Day 5: Palm Valley 4WD Experience (BLD)

This morning we will take our specially chartered 4WD to enjoy the stunning scenery as we travel along the West MacDonnell Ranges to **Hermannsburg Mission** home of the famous Aboriginal artist Albert Namatjira. Here we will enjoy freshly made morning tea before exploring the mission's grounds, pioneer buildings and aboriginal art gallery, including some Namatjira originals. We will depart the mission and drive along the ancient **Finke Riverbed** to amazing **Palm Valley**, famous for its red cabbage palms which are not found growing naturally anywhere else in the world. We take a walk up to **Kalaranga Rock Lookout** and marvel at the natural Amphitheatre and incredible landscape. We travel through **Cycad Gorge** and enjoy a guided walk along the rim of the valley and a delicious lunch. We then travel back to Alice while enjoying the Ranges change colours as the sun sinks in the sky.

Lasseters Hotel 08 8950 7777



Day 6: Alice Springs—Watarrka (Kings Canyon) (BLD)

This morning we will leave Alice Springs, making our way to Erdunda and then to Kings Creek Station, for lunch and a walk through their garden. We will then make our way to **Kings Canyon Resort**. For those who wish you can pre-book at Scenic Flight over the Canyon. At sunset, we will watch the changing colours as they reflect back on the rock.

Kings Canyon Resort 08 8956 7422

Day 7: Watarrka (Kings Canyon)—Uluru Sunset (BLD)

We will enjoy an early morning walk in Kings Canyon with two options, either the **Rim walk**, which takes about 3-4 hours, (recommended for reasonably fit walkers, 6km) or the **Kings Creek Walk** (a 2.6km walk of approximately 1 hour). The Creek Walk meanders along Kings Creek, ending at a lookout point. Half of this walk has wheel chair access. We continue on our way, having lunch at Kings Creek Station, and view the camels, with an opportunity to have a ride if you wish.



We will then make our way to **Uluru**, with the opportunity to stop for a photo of **Mount Connor**. We arrive in **World Heritage Listed Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park** for a sunset viewing of the rock from Kata Tjuta. We stay at Ayers Rock Resort, at the 4 star Outback Pioneer Motel. For those who wish to, there is the opportunity to upgrade their accommodation to Sails in the Desert (additional cost, please call for quote).

Outback Pioneer Motel 08 8957 7888 (3 nights)



Day 8: Uluru Free Day (B)

Today is free to enjoy the Resort facilities including the beautiful pool, and the many optional activities at Uluru. These include Sunrise or sunset flights, camel rides, harley rides, or Sounds of Silence Dinner at the Rock. Your entry ticket into the park will cover you for entrance into the park for any of these activities, so please ensure you take it with you if you do any optional touring. There is also a shuttle bus, ⁵⁹ The Uluru Express, that runs from the resort to Uluru.

Day 9: Uluru & the Olgas (Kata Tjuta) (BD)

We will enter the park for a **sunrise viewing of Uluru**. Short walks or a walk around the base of the Rock (9.4kms) will be available when we return to Uluru after breakfast at our resort. We will see rock art and learn about Aboriginal Law & Culture. At the **Cultural Centre and Maruka Arts & Crafts Cooperative** we will be able to purchase original artefacts. After lunch at own expense, we will visit **Kata Tjuta (the Olgas)**, made up of 36 domes of conglomerate rock, with an opportunity to do the easy walk into **Walpa Gorge**. We will enjoy the changing colours of an **Uluru sunset** from any of the many lookouts at our resort.



Day 10: Uluru—Home (B)

We will enjoy a wildflower walk through the Desert Gardens, before morning tea. We will then make our way to the airport for our flight back to Sydney. A coach will be waiting to take those from Hornsby, the Central Coast and the Hunter back to their pick up points.