

Northern Territory

Red Centre & Top End

18 Days



Explore the Centre of Australia by Coach to Darwin
Fly Home or travel home on the Ghan
All Prices Quoted are Land Only

Day 1: Home—Wagga Wagga (LD)

We will depart Thornton, picking up in Newcastle, Tuggerah, Hornsby and Strathfield then head along the Hume Highway past Goulburn and Gundagai to Wagga Wagga.

Country Comfort Wagga Wagga 02 6921 6444

Day 2: Wagga Wagga—Mildura (BLD)

Our first stop will be Narrandera and a lunch stop at Hay. We will continue across the **Hay Plains** to meet the Murray River passing through thriving orchards and grapes to Mildura.

Boulevarde Motor Inn 03 5023 5023

Day 3: Mildura—Port Augusta (BLD)

We will cross the border into South Australia. After a stop at the Riverland we head into Morgan, once a thriving river port and now a holiday town. After lunch in the historic copper mining town of **Burra**, we will head through the pretty Flinders Ranges town of Wilmington, to Spencers Gulf and Port Augusta.

Standpipe Motor Inn 08 8642 4033



Day 4: Port Augusta—Coober Pedy (BLD)

We will stop at **Woomera**, for morning tea. This town was created in the 1950's for rocket testing. Lunch will be at the little town of **Glendambo**. We arrive in **Coober Pedy** in time for a **guided tour**, visiting an underground home and church, and the chance to purchase opals.

Mud Hut Motel 08 8672 3003

Day 5: Coober Pedy—Uluru (Ayers Rock) (BLD)

Our first stop will be Marla and then we will cross into NT with lunch at Ertlunda. After a stop at **Curtin Springs** we will head past **Mount Connor** to **Uluru**. We will settle into our comfortable accommodation at Yulara before our casual buffet dinner.

Ayers Rock Resort

Outback Pioneer Hotel 08 8957 7885 (3 nights)

Day 6: Uluru Sunrise (BD)

We will enter **World Heritage Listed Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park** for a sunrise viewing of Uluru followed by breakfast back at our hotel. We will return to Uluru for a short walk or a walk around the base of the Rock (9.4kms) will be available. 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. We will have some free time in the afternoon to explore the resort, have a camel or harley ride or flight around Uluru (own expense).



Day 7: The Olgas (Kata Tjuta), Uluru Sunset (BD)

We will have the morning free to enjoy the Resort facilities including the beautiful pool areas or take an optional tour or flight. In the afternoon 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**.

Day 8: Uluru—Watarrka (Kings Canyon) (BLD)

We will depart Uluru and head through to **Watarrka** (Kings Canyon). For the energetic, an escorted climb to the rim of Watarrka will reward you with spectacular views of the towering orange walls. Along the way are the weathered buttressed domes of the '**Lost City**' and the '**Garden of Eden**', a sheltered valley with permanent water holes and lush vegetation. (21/2 hours - 6km of walking). Flights over Watarrka are available (at own expense). A relaxed walk along the creek to the base of the cliff, giving other views, will be available. We will enjoy the sunset from the balconies of our 4 star Range View Motel Units followed by a delicious buffet dinner.

Kings Canyon Resort 08 8956 7442

Day 9: Kings Canyon—Alice Springs (BLD)

We will leave the resort and head to Kathleen Springs for a relaxed walk to this mysterious water hole. At Ecluda we will join the Stuart Highway to Alice Springs. On arrival we will head to the lookout for magnificent views of the MacDonnell Ranges and the Alice Springs township.

Lasseters Hotel Casino 08 8950 7777 (3 nights)

Day 10: Alice Springs Desert Park —MacDonnell Ranges (BLD)

Our first visit will be 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 head to **Standley Chasm** at noon 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. Our last visit will be to **John Flynn's Memorial**. If we have time we will visit Emily and Jessie Gap.

Day 11: Alice Springs—Free Day (B)

A free day to relax at the resort or do some optional touring. You will receive information on options available to you closer to the date.

Day 12: Alice Springs—Tennant Creek (BLD)

Heading north from the Alice, we cross the Tropic of Capricorn and then pass Barrow Creek, originally a repeater station on the Overland Telegraph Line. We stop to explore and photograph the **Devil's Marbles**, boulders precariously balanced upon each other against a desert backdrop. We arrive at the old goldmining town of **Tennant Creek**, with time to view the town and visit the **Old Telegraph Station**.

Bluestone Motor Inn 08 8962 2617

Day 13: Tennant Creek—Mataranka—Katherine (BLD)

Our first stop will be **Renner Springs**, with our lunch stop at the **Daly Waters Hotel**. Our afternoon break will be at either Mataranka Thermal Pool (conditions permitting) where we will be able to have a relaxing swim or an easy walk along the boardwalk; or visit Elsey Cemetery.

Knotts Crossing Resort 08 8972 2511

Day 14: Katherine—Kakadu (BLD)

Onto **Katherine Gorge** (Nitmiluk) for a **breakfast cruise** along the gorge with its sheer red walls of ochre sandstone and crystal waters. Aboriginal rock art and possibly fresh water crocodiles will be glimpsed in the short walk between the gorges. We pass through Pine Creek on our way to

World Heritage Kakadu National Park with an early check in at our hotel before joining an afternoon cruise on **Yellow Waters Billabong**. This cruise shows us the immense variety of Kakadu's water lilies, bird life (Jabiru and magpie geese) and of course, salt water crocodiles.

Gagudju Lodge - Cooida 08 8979 0145

Day 15: Kakadu—Darwin (BD)

Our first stop today will be **Nourlangie Rock** then on to **Ubirr** (Obiri Rock) **Aboriginal Art Sites** which will introduce us to the culture and beliefs of the first Australians. Those who climb to the top will be rewarded with magnificent views over the flood plains. We will visit the National Park Headquarters for information, souvenirs and lunch (at own expense). We will head east towards Darwin stopping to photograph wildlife, birds and huge termite mounds. Our accommodation for the next three nights is the newly refurbished resort near the town centre.

Mirambeena Tourist Resort 08 8946 0111 (3 nights)

Day 16: Darwin Sightseeing (BLD)

We will have an easy day exploring the North's largest city, our first visit being a self guided tour of Darwin's impressive new **Parliament House**. We will then visit the fascinating **Crocodylus Park**, a world class research and education centre devoted to the world's crocodilians. We will have an opportunity to hold a baby crocodile and photograph the 'croc's' feeding at lunch. After lunch we will enjoy some free time to spend shopping or relaxing by the pool before a visit to Mindil Beach Sunset Markets (if operating) for a tremendous array of food, craft, music and of course, the sunset. We will enjoy dinner at a **local seafood restaurant** as we watch the sunset over the Bay.

Day 17: Litchfield National Park (BLD)

First up is the tranquil wilderness area of **Litchfield National Park** with its picturesque waterfalls cascading off Tabletop Range. There is an opportunity for swimming in the crystal clear pools at **Wangi Falls and Florence Falls**. Native birds and butterflies, and termite mounds should be glimpsed on the short walks available. Late afternoon we will visit **Cullen Bay** where we will join an **afternoon sunset cruise** on beautiful Darwin Harbour. Dinner is on the shore as the sun sets on Fannie Bay.

Day 18: Darwin—Home (B)

Today we will transfer you from your accommodation to the airport for your flight home, with some time for last minute sightseeing in Darwin. Once in Sydney our coach will meet the group at the airport to drop us off between Hornsby and Thornton. Alternatively you can catch the Ghan home (transfers from Sydney are not included for this option, but can be organised for you at additional cost).

