



## **Tour 6: In the Red Heart of Australia**

Especially Prepared by Down Under Answers for Essential Downunder Travel

*Meals included indicated by:*

*(B) Full Breakfast*

*(L) Lunch*

*(D) Dinner*

### **Day 1 Welcome to Alice, the Heart of Central Australia / City Sights & Private Art Galley Tour En Route to Hotel**

Upon arrival on board your flight, please collect your luggage and meet your TailorMade Tours representative in the arrivals hall for your private city sights tour en route to the hotel.

Framed by the MacDonnell Ranges and an intense desert landscape, the township of Alice Springs is Australia's most famous outback town. Called Mpwante by the traditional owners, the Arrernte people, and situated just 200 kilometres south of the geographic centre of Australia, the town of Alice Springs began as a repeater station along the Overland Telegraph Line. Get to know "The Alice" with your knowledgeable driver. Highlights may include The Royal Flying Doctor Base, The School of the Air, Anzac Hill, The Historic Telegraph Station - Central Australia's first settlement and the site of the Original Alice Springs. Your driver will stop in at the Aranda Aboriginal Art Gallery for a private 20 minute gallery tour and art movement background information.

Accommodation: Alice Springs Resort x 1 night (Deluxe River Gum Room)

### **Day 2 60 Minute Balloon Flight / Ooraminna Homestead at Deep Well Station**

(CB/D)

Your ballooning adventure begins in the cool pre dawn darkness as you are picked up from your accommodation in Alice Springs. Once floating gently in the air you will appreciate the vast remoteness of the Australian Outback. Wildlife, particularly big red kangaroos are seen nearly every day as the balloon crosses spinifex grasses, mulga scrub and cattle stations.

After landing you may become involved in assisting the crew or taking photographs as we pack the nylon balloon back into its bag. Our buses will then travel along remote tracks to our bush campsite where you will be served a fresh

cooked breakfast. This is accompanied by champagne and tropical fruit juice cocktails.

After breakfast, you will be transferred to nearby Ooraminna Homestead, where you will be welcomed by one of the family members or staff at the homestead and shown to your accommodation. Settle in, wander and explore the beautiful, untamed bush and rocky outcrops that surround you.

The station encompasses a half million acres of cattle country in central Australia, the 6th generation of the Hayes family live at Ooraminna, amidst the craggy sandstone outcrops of the MacDonnell ranges. Accommodation is in 'cottages' designed with wooden and corrugated iron exteriors in Australian outback style. Furnishings are simple but stylish - wooden floors, 4-poster beds made from local timber. Each has an en suite bathroom and a verandah with views of the bush.

Whilst at Ooraminna Jan will co-ordinate your activities to ensure that you are as active or a lazy as you prefer - your time is your own. If you do wish to keep busy, the options are endless! From walking to station activities, or relaxing on your own verandah with its outback view, or simply lying back on your "home-grown" four-poster bed!



At sunset join the other guests, family and staff at the Ooraminna Hotel for a pre dinner drink and nibbles. A hearty country style dinner is complemented with Australian wine and an informal, friendly atmosphere and conversation. Conclude the evening with a cuppa tea and adjourn to the patio to listen to the silence and be mesmerised by the star filled ink black skies. Try your hand at finding some constellations.

Accommodation: Ooraminna Homestead x 2 nights  
(Luxury Bush Cabin)  
Alice Springs Northern Territory 0871

### **Day 3 Cattle Station Tour / Activities at Your Leisure**

(B/D)

This morning your guide will pick you up in a comfortable 4WD for a tour of Deepwell Station – the property has been in the Hayes family for six generations. The tour will take you to bores, dams and other points of interest on the property to gain an insight into the history, management practices and workings of a traditional outback cattle station. Along the way learn about the unique flora, fauna and landforms of Central Australia.

The remainder of the day can be taken at your pace. Activities at Ooraminna Homestead are designed to be casual and relaxing yet informative and interesting.

- Take a wander to the Pub and Township site, a film set for the movie "The Drovers Boy" and now a location for functions and events.
- Climb one of the many rocky outcrops that dot the landscape to gain a new perspective on the outback.
- Follow the station tracks by foot or roam through the beautiful Ooraminna Ranges. While out bushwalking you may view native Australian animals, birds and insects such as kangaroos, lizards.
- Birdwatchers will enjoy the variety of bird life seen at Ooraminna. From Finches and Honeyeaters to Australian Ringneck Parrots and possibly sight the spectacular Wedge Tail Eagle.
- Artists find Ooraminna a perfect place to paint or sketch or sum up the peacefulness and landscape in a few poetic words.
- Photographers make the most of the striking sunsets to capture the colours of the outback on film.
- If all these seem little too energetic, grab a good book, your travel diary and a drink ready to relax on the verandah and wonder at the timeless and ancient landscape that surrounds you.
- By night you listen to the silence and be mesmerised by the star filled ink black skies. Try your hand at finding some constellations.



#### **Day 4                    4WD Transfer to Town / Afternoon at Leisure**

(B/D)

Sometime today transfer by 4WD back to Alice Springs. Alternatively, for an additional expense we can arrange for a helicopter to collect you. Fly from Deep Well Station over the East MacDonnell Ranges passing along the way Jessie Gap, 'red ranges' to the sheer quartzite cliffs of Trepina Gorge, Ruby Gap, N'Dhala Gorge, and Corroboree Rock landing in town. You will then be transferred to your hotel.

Accommodation:     Alice Springs Resort x 2 nights  
                                   (Deluxe River Gum Room)  
                                   34 Stott Terrace  
                                   Alice Springs, Northern Territory 0870

#### **Day 5                    4 Day Around Alice & The Rock (Medium Group Tour)**

(D)

*\*\* Tour departs Tuesday, Thursday and Sundays at 1:00 pm \*\**

This morning is free for you to spend at leisure.

Meet your Alice Springs Holidays representative in the hotel foyer who will transfer you to the Alice Springs Desert Park.

Be introduced at your own pace to the many interesting facets of some of the world's oldest deserts. The informative film depicts the evolution of Central Australia - an apt introduction to the many displays representing some 70% of the Australian mainland. Stroll through the 3 major desert habitats, complete with walk through aviaries. The Desert Park is home to the world's largest nocturnal house and breeding programmes for many endangered species of the Australian bush. Be enthralled by the free flying raptor display's aerial supremacy and on ground antics at Nature's Theatre.

## **Day 6 Alice Springs to Kings Canyon via Gosse Bluff & Mereenie Loop Rd**

(L)

This morning, head due west avoiding the hustle and crowds of the main highway, our outback adventure begins with a first hand insight into Aboriginal culture and their relationship to the land at Wallace Rock hole. Further on, we navigate the track into the comet impact crater called Gosse Bluff to enjoy a picnic lunch beneath the torn battlements of this 140 million year old phenomena. After our leisurely lunch we venture by outback dirt road into the Mereenie Wilderness Area before arriving late afternoon at the foot of George Gill Range.



An optional Sounds of Firelight Dinner is available (subject to numbers).  
Accommodation: Kings Canyon Resort x 1 Night (Deluxe Spa Room)

## **Day 7 Kings Canyon to Uluru**

(L)

Your guide will introduce you to the many wonders and options of the Kings Canyon area. For the energetic a climb to the rim encompassing vast horizons and unusual sandstone formations. Alternatively experience at close quarters the flora and fauna of the most bio diverse park in the region on the Canyon floor.

Enroute to Uluru enjoy a picnic lunch in the Australian Outback. This afternoon visit the Uluru Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre before exploring the base of Uluru, inspiring and yet intimidating by it's very size. Feel the ambience of the world's largest monolith; it's rock art, shapes and colours. Enjoy sunset of tantalising Australian cuisine overlooking Uluru.

Accommodation: Sails in the Desert x 3 nights (Standard Room)

## **Day 8 Kata-Tjuta / Afternoon Free**

Rise early this morning to catch the first rays of light on Kata Tjuta (The Olgas). A chance to escape the crowds, and enjoy the peace and quiet as the day dawns. Explore on foot with your guide, learning the fascinating story of this intriguing formation before returning to the resort for lunch (own expense). This afternoon, is free for you to relax.

## Day 9 Cave Hill Tour (Small Group Tour)

(L)

*\*\* This Tour requires a minimum of 4 adults to run \*\**

Please meet in the hotel foyer to depart on your tour this morning.

For thousands of years the Traditional Owners of Cave Hill have nurtured a deep and spiritual bond with their land. Travelling 2½ hours from Ayers Rock Resort in a custom built luxury 4WD, through the Central Australian desert and across the border into South Australia, this unique journey will introduce you to an ancient chapter of the Seven Sisters creation story. Upon arrival at the Cave Hill community your Aboriginal Guides will explain the significance of the surrounding landscape and how it relates to Tjukurpa – their system of values, beliefs and lore.



The story of the Seven Sisters is translated from Yankunytjatjara to English and brought to life through the spectacular rock art that has been dated at over 20,000 years old. You will learn how the physical features of the region relate to different stages in the story. Your return journey follows narrow desert tracks, past native flora and fauna (some of which you may encounter up close). The final stage of your journey winds its way past the magical sight of Uluru before arriving back at Ayers Rock Resort.

## Day 10 End of Central Australian Tour Arrangements

This morning, transfer by hotel shuttle to the airport for your departing flight.

End of arrangements.

### Cost Per Person from including GST (May 2010 Until March 31, 2011)

based on double occupancy: **USD \$4,759.\***

*\*based on the exchange rate as of May 2010 and subject to change. Subject to confirmation of all arrangements.*

#### Inclusions:-

- Accommodation based in 4 star properties with private facilities
- Meals only as indicated by (B) Full Breakfast, (L) Lunch, and (D) Dinner
- Transfers as indicated above
- AUD\$25 per person Insurance Fee for the Balloon Flight
- Entry fees & touring to attractions as specified in the itinerary
- Emergency phone assistance
- Australian Goods & Services Tax

#### Exclusions:-

- Rates not valid during all Australian Special Events (including New Years Eve in all cities etc) - all dates yet to be confirmed
- International and Domestic Airfares

- Meals not indicated on the itinerary
- Beverages with meals
- Items of a personal nature i.e. phone calls, liquor, and laundry
- Use of hotel rooms before/after normal check in/out times or pre-registration
- Costs of optional touring
- Any services not mentioned in the itinerary
- Hotel/Airport Porterage
- Personal travel insurance (baggage/medical/tour cancellations)
- Tips or gratuity
- Unforeseen expenses due to last minute airline rescheduling or delays (inclusive of baggage delay, missed departure and loss of passport & cabcharge vouchers)
- Medical or hospital expenses