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Wilpena Pound

FIRST LIGHT TRAVEL
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Outback Explorer

10 DAYS **ADELAIDE → ALICE SPRINGS**

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Adelaide • Flinders Ranges • Port Augusta • Coober Pedy • Uluru • Kings Canyon • Alice Springs

This journey takes you into the very heart of Australia. The ancient and awe-inspiring Flinders Ranges and Kings Canyon provide a dramatic introduction to the rugged landscapes of the continent's interior – and the jewels in its crown, magnificent Uluru (Ayers Rock) and Kata Tjuta (the Olgas). Close encounters with local people add an enriching layer to your outback experience.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tour Adelaide Central Market with a local foodie
- Tastings at Sevenhill Cellars in the Clare Valley
- Explore Wilpena Pound
- Experience unique underground Coober Pedy
- Red Centre sunsets with sparkling wine
- Discover Indigenous culture at Uluru (Ayers Rock)
- Once-in-a-lifetime 11km walk around the base of 'The Rock'
- Explore the 36 domes of Kata Tjuta (the Olgas)
- Hike the Rim Walk at Kings Canyon
- Learn about Aboriginal culture and native wildlife at Alice Springs Desert Park
- Dine with the Falzon family at Earth Sanctuary

Day 1 Welcome to Adelaide

On arrival in Adelaide today, explore the major sights of the city before joining a local food expert for a guided tour of the vibrant Adelaide Central Market. Meet the traders and share the history and secrets of this 140 year-old icon. This evening, relax with your Travel Director and fellow travellers at a Welcome Reception and dinner at La Boca Bar and Grill. **Hotel: Stamford Plaza, Adelaide. DW**

Day 2 Adelaide – Flinders Ranges

Travel to the Clare Valley for a wine tasting at Jesuit-owned Sevenhill Cellars, the region's oldest existing winery. Explore the picturesque grounds and St. Aloysius Church, and take a stroll through the vines before stopping in Clare at lunchtime. Later, travel through the spectacular Flinders Ranges to Wilpena Pound, a remarkable natural amphitheatre covering nearly 8,000 hectares. As you head to the Flinders Ranges, passing the ruins of deserted pastoral leases, don't forget to keep an eye out for mobs of emu on the plains as dusk draws near. **Hotel: Wilpena Pound Resort, Flinders Ranges. B DW**

Day 3 Flinders Ranges – Port Augusta

Take a walk with your Travel Director this morning to the faithfully-restored

Hills Homestead, then enjoy panoramic views over Wilpena Pound from Wangarra Lookout. Later, journey through Pichi Richi Pass and the historic town of Quorn, known for its beautiful historic railway station, on your way to Port Augusta, a natural harbour on the Spencer Gulf. Visit Wadlata Outback Centre before dining at a local restaurant. **Hotel: Majestic Oasis Apartments, Port Augusta. B DW**

Day 4 Port Augusta – Coober Pedy

Visit Woomera, a remote site used for testing space rockets during the 1950s and 60s. Then travel through salt-lake country and observe the transformation to a stark, barren landscape as you near the settlement of Coober Pedy, regarded by many as the opal capital of the world. Coober Pedy is also renowned for its underground shops and dwellings, called 'dugouts', which provide shelter from the extreme daytime heat. View an opal demonstration with a local expert, who'll then lead you through some of the town's iconic underground buildings, including a church and a private residence. **Hotel: Desert Cave Hotel, Coober Pedy. B DW**

Day 5 Coober Pedy – Uluru

Cross the border into the Northern Territory and continue to dual World Heritage listed Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park. Uluru is sacred to the

local Aboriginal inhabitants and is thought to have begun forming around 550 million years ago. Sparkling wine is served this evening as you watch the sun set behind Australia's most recognised natural landmark and witness the spectacular phenomenon of the changing colours on the massive sandstone monolith. **Hotel: Desert Gardens Hotel, Ayers Rock Resort, 2 nights. B**

Day 6 Uluru Sunrise – Kata Tjuta

Rise early this morning to experience a majestic Red Centre sunrise. After a tour of the base of Uluru, you may like to take either a self-guided stroll around its full eleven-kilometre perimeter, or a guided walk to Mutitjulu Waterhole, a pool so calm and still that it looks like glass, clearly reflecting the monumental sandstone walls behind it. Your Travel Director will explain the significance of Uluru's ancient Aboriginal rock paintings, and you'll also learn about the area's flora and fauna and the culture of its traditional owners, the Anangu people. This afternoon's journey takes you to Kata Tjuta, a stunning series of thirty-six magnificent domes of red-hued sedimentary rock, where you can toast a magnificent sunset with a glass of sparkling wine. **B**

Day 7 Uluru – Kings Canyon

Awe-inspiring Kings Canyon is your destination today. Stop for a lunch break at Kings Creek Station, a cattle station which is also the largest exporter of wild camels in Australia, and hear the intriguing story of owners Ian and Lynn Conway and their dedication to Aboriginal children in the region's remote communities. Continue to Kings Canyon, a spectacular natural formation whose sheer sandstone walls soar to a height of over 100 metres. A 6km 'rim walk' around the canyon will reward you with marvellous views of Watarrka National Park. An easier walk along the canyon's boulder-strewn creek bed is another option. **Hotel: Kings Canyon Resort. B DW**

Day 8 Kings Canyon – Alice Springs

Travelling past vast cattle properties today, you'll develop a true appreciation of the enormous magnitude of the Australian outback. On arrival in Alice Springs, visit the historic Telegraph Station established in 1872, which revolutionised communications on the island continent. Then drive to Anzac Hill for panoramic views over 'The Alice' before returning to your hotel for an evening at leisure. **Hotel: Mercure Alice Springs Resort, 2 nights. B**

Day 9 Alice Springs

After breakfast this morning, join a local Aboriginal guide to learn about the culture and traditions of the local Arrernte People at the Alice Springs Desert Park. Gain an insight into the endangered animals of the Red Centre, then visit the headquarters of the Royal Flying Doctor Service to see how this iconic facility provides lifesaving medical assistance in the outback. This evening, join the Falzon family at Earth Sanctuary World Nature Centre for a home-cooked Be My Guest barbecue dinner. Afterwards, hear from the Falzon brothers, Tom and Danny, about the sustainable lifestyle they have established. **B BG**

Day 10 Farewell from Alice Springs

Say farewell to your fellow travellers when your holiday comes to an end this morning after breakfast. **B**



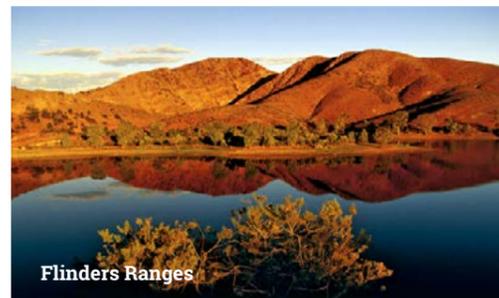
Kata Tjuta



Adelaide



Alice Springs Telegraph Station



Flinders Ranges



Uluru



Kings Canyon

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