



5 Day Flinders Ranges and Arkaroola Tour

Day 1 (L,D)

You will be collected from your Adelaide accommodation at 7am this morning for your 5 day 4WD tour to the Flinders Ranges and Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary.

We travel north, following the coast and after a brief stop en-route, we continue to the town of Port Germein, whose historic wooden jetty is the longest in the southern hemisphere.

Turning east now, we enjoy a scenic drive through Port Germein Gorge, with its deep ravines and magnificent gum trees to picturesque Melrose, the oldest town in the Flinders Ranges lying at the foot of Mount Remarkable Summit.

Our lunch stop today is at Alligator Gorge in Mount Remarkable NP, which is in the Southern Flinders Ranges. You also have the option to take a short walk through the narrow gorge which cuts through the old quartzite rocks. Or you can view the gorge from one of the lookouts.

Heading through Quorn, we continue into the Central Flinders Ranges. The Flinders Ranges are known for their unique beauty, indigenous history, ancient geological formations, rich colours and textures and abundant wildlife. Home to a huge array of plant species, birds, reptiles and mammals, the vibrant colours of the 800 million-year-old quartzite and limestone outcrop that is the Flinders, are truly spectacular.

We finish the day at Arkaroo Rock, where the walk offers us views of the Chace Range and Adnyamathanha Aboriginal rock paintings. These are ochre and charcoal images that tell of the creation of Wilpena Pound.

Overnight accommodation- Wilpena Pound Resort- standard room with en-suite (2 night stay)

Day 2 (B,L,D)

This morning you have the option of taking a walk into Wilpena Pound or take a scenic flight (at own expense). Walk along the beautiful Wilpena Creek, framed by huge river red gums, into Wilpena Pound and on to the Old Hills Homestead where you can learn about the hardships the Hills family had to face at the turn of the century. You also have the option of walking up to the Wangara lookout where you can see the mystical heart of the Flinders Ranges with stunning views over Wilpena Pound. There is a shuttle available to shorten the walk.

After lunch we travel through the ABC and Heysen Ranges to nearby Bunyeroo Gorge and a stop for photos at Razorback Lookout. This leads onto the Brachina Gorge Geological Trail, a trail that passes through 130 million years of earth history, including meteorite debris, stromatolites and fossilized plant and animal life. It offers an insight into past climates, the formation of the ranges and the evolution of early forms of life. It's also an important refuge for the rare and endangered Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby.

We finish the day at Stokes Hill Lookout, with spectacular panoramas of Wilpena Pound, Mt Patawarta, and the Druid, Chace, Elder, Heysen and Bunker Ranges.

Overnight accommodation- Wilpena Pound Resort- standard room with en-suite

Day 3 (B,L,D)

Departing Wilpena this morning, we head north through the heart of the Flinders, turning east near Blinman and travelling along the unsealed back roads towards Arkaroola.

En-route we visit the Great Wall of China- yes, really ! After viewing this unusual rock formation we continue to the beautiful Chambers Gorge, for a walk and a look at the Petroglyphs (rock engravings).

Heading north now, we drive through the Gammon Ranges, to Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary. The privately owned sanctuary was founded in 1969 by Reg Sprigg, Biologist, Oceanographer, Conservationist, scientist and pioneer of eco-tourism.

Many minerals are found on Arkaroola, including gold, sapphires, rubies, amethyst, several forms of quartz, uraninite and malachite (among others) and evidence of early mining is scattered about Arkaroola and the Gammon Ranges.

Arkaroola is also famous for its clear night skies and offers some of the best viewing conditions in Australia.

Overnight accommodation- motel room with en-suite, Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary (2 night stay)

Day 4 (B,L,D)

This morning you'll take the famous Ridgetop tour, through some of the most spectacularly rugged country on earth. Your Arkaroola guide will share their knowledge of Arkaroola's 1600-million year geological history as they navigate the steep slopes and hair raising ascents of the famous Ridgetop Track.

Inspiring images of red granite mountains and golden spinifex covered hillsides give way to a breath-taking view across the Freeling Heights, Lake Frome and the desert beyond.

Take in the 360-degree panorama as you enjoy morning tea at Sillers Lookout - a lofty pinnacle at the end of the Track.

This morning we take a drive through the sanctuary including the historic Bolla Bollana Waterhole, Nooldoonooldoona Waterhole and the amazing Pinnacles which are an outstanding feature of the Mawson Valley.

Overnight accommodation- motel room with en-suite, Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary

Day 5 (B,L)

This morning we depart Arkaroola and make our way west to Leigh Creek. Now we travel south, stopping en-route at Parachilna, a tiny township with a population in single digits ! It's a favourite among film makers thanks to the beautiful landscape. The road from Beltana to Parachilna runs beside the old railway line, with many remnants of old railway stations, bridges across creeks and straight stretches where the railway used to run.

We continue to Hawker, the hub of the Flinders Ranges and a thriving railway town until the line was relocated west in 1956. Just south of Hawker, we'll visit the Kanyaka Ruins. The ruined farmhouse is all that remains of a farmer's dream to provide for his family in this unforgiving landscape. It's a harsh reminder of the hardships the first European settlers endured.

The last leg of our journey takes us through Quorn, back onto the highway and from here we continue south to Adelaide

We arrive in Adelaide at approximately 6pm and you will be dropped off at your accommodation.

END OF TOUR

B= Breakfast L= Lunch D= Dinner

Departs Adelaide in 2015 on demand with a minimum of 4 people during the summer months of Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb and March

AUD \$2455 per adult, twin share.

\$2295 per child (aged 8 -15 years), twin share.

\$2795 per person, single room.

****solo travellers must have single room****

Maximum 10 passengers

Prices include GST

Inclusions:

- Seat in purpose built OKA 4WD vehicle, with professional driver guide & purpose built heavy duty trailer
- All Meals as stated, including 4 restaurant breakfasts and 4 restaurant dinners
- Accommodation, as listed
- Entry fees and permits
- Ridgetop Tour at Arkaroola

Exclusions:

- Arrival/departure flights
- Pre & Post tour accommodation
- Travel Insurance
- Alcohol
- Any optional activities such as Wilpena Pound scenic flight (Please request flight when booking, to avoid disappointment). 1 hour is approx. \$299pp, 30 mins is approx. \$199pp and 20 mins is approx \$169pp.

Itinerary is exclusive to Sacred Earth Safaris and subject to availability, road, weather and cultural conditions.