



7 Day Adelaide to Alice Springs 4WD Safari

Day 1 (L,D)

You will be collected from your Adelaide accommodation at 7.30am for your 7 day 4WD Safari to Alice Springs.

The first leg of our journey takes us to Port Augusta and from here we turn east to Quorn, home to the famous Pichi Richi Railway and many heritage buildings.

Our lunch stop is in Quorn at the Quandong Café, located in the oldest stone building in Quorn, at 130 years old. The café is also home to the famous Quondong Pie.

Heading north now, we depart Quorn and make our way to Kanyaka Ruins. The ruined farmhouse is all that remains of a farmers dream to provide for his family is this unforgiving landscape. It's a harsh reminder of the hardships the first European settlers endured.

We continue north to towards Hawker, the hub of the Flinders Ranges and a thriving railway town until the line was relocated west in 1956. At Jarvis Hill Lookout, we take in the panoramic views of the Hawker area, including the Worumba Hills to the east, Wilpena Pound, Elder Range and Wonoka Hill to the north and Yourambulla Range to the south.

Our destination today is the Flinders Ranges and our accommodation tonight is a working sheep station. One of the first station leases in the Flinders Ranges, Rawnsley Park Station is 4th generation, family owned and operated.

The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure to have a look around the station, which is a good place to see native flora and fauna.

Dinner tonight will be cooked by your guide.

Overnight accommodation – Self contained rooms with en-suites at Rawnsley Park Station

optional upgrade to eco-villas may be available for an extra charge- please enquire when booking

Day 2 (B,L,D)

We spend today in the Flinders Ranges, known for it's unique beauty, indigenous history, ancient geological formations, rich colours and textures and abundant wildlife. The Flinders Ranges are home to a huge array of plant species, birds, reptiles and mammals and the vibrant colours of the 800 million-year-old quartzite and limestone outcrop that is the Flinders, are truly spectacular.

We start today by taking the Moralana Scenic Drive, which connects the Wilpena and Leigh Creek Roads and is known as one of the best drives through the Flinders Ranges. We'll see stunning scenery featuring the southern wall of Wilpena Pound, Black Gap Lookout, red Range, Elder Range and more.

We arrive at Wilpena Pound and take a walk along the beautiful Wilpena Creek, framed by huge river red gums, into Wilpena Pound. We walk 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 and you have the option of walking up to the Wangara lookout where we can see the mystical heart of the Flinders Ranges with stunning views over Wilpena Pound. There is a shuttle available to shorten the walk.

Next we travel through the ABC and Heysen Ranges to Bunyeroo Gorge and a stop for photos at Razorback Lookout. We also visit nearby Brachina Gorge, an important refuge for the rare and endangered Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby. The Brachina Gorge Geological Trail is a 20km 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. Brachina Gorge is well known for it's towering rock faces. In the foreground the many sedimentary layers which make up this part of the ranges can be clearly seen.

Departing the Flinders Ranges, we continue north to Parachilna, with a population in single digits ! It's a favourite among film makers thanks to the beautiful landscape.

The road from Parachilna to Beltana (and tonight's accommodation) 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.

Beltana Station is a working sheep and cattle station. The station was the starting point for expeditions including one made famous by Ernest Giles in 1875 to Western Australia. Station owner Thomas Elder imported some of the first camels to South Australia and Beltana Station became one of the most successful breeding studs and largest depot for camels in Australia. Camels were the mainstay for transport to remote areas, with expeditions and also building the overland telegraph line in the 1860s. Today Beltana Station is 1876 sq km in area (460,000 acres).

A 2 course camp dinner will be served tonight at Beltana.

Overnight accommodation- 1860's Shearer's Quarters (which have been renovated) at Beltana Station.

Day 3 (B,L,D)

This morning we have a look at the Leigh Creek lookout. Leigh Creek is home to a massive open cut coal mine and the lookout offers views over the mine.

Over the next 2 days we'll be travelling on the unsealed Oodnadatta Track, which follows the Old Ghan Railway line and the Overland Telegraph. We travel through the ghost town of Farina, abandoned in the late 1920's when the town's silver and copper mines closed and onto Marree, which is situated at the crossroads of the Oodnadatta and Birdsville Tracks. The town also has a rich Aboriginal, Afghan and European heritage and the Afghan cameleers, with their long strings of camels, were the supply link to the inland settlements in the Outback for over 50 years.

Passing the famous dingo fence, we stop at the Lake Eyre South lookout and then travel to the natural artesian springs within Wabma Kadarbu Mound Springs Conservation Park. The Blanche Cup and The Bubbler mound springs are created from water deep within the Great Artesian Basin which filters to the surface forming mounds and bubbling ponds. The wetlands created by the spring's overflow provide habitat to a variety of waterbirds.

Tonight our accommodation is at William Creek, the smallest settlement in South Australia with a population of 3 humans and a dog ! It's located 165km's from the nearest town and sits in the largest cattle station in Australia (Anna Creek).

This afternoon we have the option of taking a scenic flight over Lake Eyre, which is Australia's lowest point, the largest inland lake in Australia and the largest salt lake in the world ! The Lake contains 400 million tonnes of salt and is 15 metres below sea level. Donald Campbell set a land speed world record of 649 kmh in his turbine car "Bluebird" on its dry bed back in 1964.

Dinner tonight will be served in the restaurant.

Overnight accommodation - William Creek Hotel, middle of nowhere, Outback South Australia

Day 4 (B,L)

This morning, we travel to Halligan Bay at Lake Eyre North for another look at the magnificent lake with its incredible colours and patterns.

Then we hit the dirt again and drive along the William Creek Road, past Lake Cadibarrawirracanna (longest placename in Australia, Lake Caddi for short) to Coober Pedy. Coober Pedy, as famous for its underground homes as it is its opals ! Coober Pedy is the opal capital of the world and after the first opal was found in 1913, miners from all over the world have come to the town to find their fortune. 50% of the population live underground (in homes called "dugouts"), as well as using underground shops and churches.

We arrive mid-afternoon and the rest of the afternoon and evening is at your own arrangement and expense. You may like to have a wander through the town, visit the Old Timers Mine and Museum, The Umoona opal mine and museum (also home to the "Footsteps in time" fossil display) or visit one of the underground churches in the town.

Dinner tonight is at your own arrangement and expense and meals are available at our hotel as well as a variety of other restaurants in the town.

Overnight accommodation- underground motel room, Coober Pedy

Day 5 (B,L)

We cross into the Northern Territory today and make our way to the Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park. The park is world heritage listed for the importance of it's natural phenomena and it's cultural significance.

After checking into our accommodation, we make our way to the sunset viewing area for the world famous Uluru sunset. Enjoy champagne and nibbles as you watch the remarkable changing colours of Uluru as the sun sets over the desert landscape. Reflections from the rock and clouds in the sky enhance the vivid colours.

Dinner tonight is at your own arrangement and expense and the resort has a variety of dining options.

Overnight accommodation- Budget motel room with bathroom at the Outback Pioneer Hotel

Day 6 (B,L,D)

We have an early start (but it's well worth it !) today for sunrise at Uluru. The giant monolith emerges from the inky landscape, changing from purple through to rusty browns and red in the golden sunlight.

We then have the choice of climbing Uluru or taking the base walk around, which includes the Mala Walk and Mutitjulu waterhole, home of a wanampi, an ancestral watersnake.

Back to the hotel for a cooked breakfast and then we make our way to Kata Tjuta meaning "many heads". The enormous domes, 36 in total, rise out of the sand and weathered over millions of years they are now rounded peaks. The tallest, Mt Olga, is higher than Uluru !

Experience the sheerness of the domes and the vastness of the landscape on the Walpa Gorge walk, which is a rocky track that follows the natural creek between two of the tallest domes of Kata Tjuta to a viewing platform.

This afternoon we make our way north towards Kings Canyon and to our accommodation at Kings Creek Station, which is a working cattle and camel station, owned by the pioneering Conway family.

Dinner tonight will be cooked by your guide.

Overnight accommodation- Tented safari cabin with power & shared bathrooms, at Kings Creek Station.

Day 7 (B,L)

This morning we travel to Kings Canyon. The sheer red rock face of Kings Canyon soars over 100 metres above dense forests of palms, ferns and cycads; sheltering them from the surrounding desert conditions. The rim walk takes in magnificent views of the Canyon rim, the weathered, buttressed domes of 'The Lost City' and the 'Garden of Eden' - a sheltered valley with permanent waterholes and lush vegetation. An alternative option is the shorter and easier Kings Creek Walk leads into the centre of the Canyon.

Late morning we depart Kings Canyon and join the unsealed Mereenie Loop road. The trip along this road is an adventure in itself and is a lovely drive through some beautiful desert country. Keep your eye out for wildlife too.

En-route, we stop at the lookout to Gosse Bluff crater (Tnorala) formed 142.4 million years ago when a huge comet slammed into earth. The crater was originally 20km's in diameter but due to millions of years of erosion, now only the 5km's diameter rim is left.

Our last stop for the day is Simpsons Gap where we walk to the permanent pool and possibly catch sight of the rock wallabies that live in the gap's rocky ridges.

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

END OF TOUR

B= Breakfast L= Lunch D= Dinner

Departs Adelaide in 2014 on 23rd April only

AUD \$3225 per adult, twin share.
\$3125 per child (age 6-15 years), twin share.
\$3725 per person, single room.

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

Maximum 10 passengers

Prices include GST and are valid until March 31st 2015

Inclusions:

- Seat in purpose built OKA 4WD vehicle, with professional driver guide & purpose built heavy duty trailer
- Meals as stated, including all lunches, 11 dinners and 12 breakfasts, Iced water, fruit and some snacks
- Accommodation, as listed
- Uluru/ Kata Tjuta Park entry fee
- Mereenie loop pass
- Desert Parks Pass for South Australia

Exclusions:

- Arrival/departure flights
- Pre & Post tour accommodation
- Travel Insurance
- Alcohol
- Any optional activities such as scenic flights and optional accommodation upgrades

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