



The Red Centre to Darwin Tour

11 Days / 10 Nights

\$5695.00 **p.p.t.s.**

- Includes:** *Return Airfares Sydney / Uluru / Darwin / Sydney
*10 Nights ensuite Accommodation
*3 Meals on most Days (including Morning Teas)
*Entrance Fees to all Tourist Attractions & Tours as per Itinerary.
*Luxury air-conditioned coach travel

Tour Highlights:

Explore Uluru & Kata Tjuta, Desert “Sounds of Silence” Dinner & Stargazing Show, Western MacDonnell Ranges, Standley Chasm, Simpson’s Gap, visit Devil Marbles, Anzac Hill, Ormiston & Glen Helen Gorges, Daly Waters Hotel, Mataranka Thermal Springs, Cruise Katherine Gorge in Nitmiluk NP, Tour Litchfield NP, Magnetic Termite Mounds, Florence & Wangi Falls, Darwin’s Military Museum, Sunset Dinner Cruise plus lots more.

Day 1

Sydney-Uluru

Leave Sydney Airport for our morning flight to Uluru arriving around noon. Our coach will meet us as we make our way to the Ayers Rock Resort (a township made up of many motels, a shopping centre & the various community services).

There will be an opportunity to pick up any supplies before we proceed to our accommodation for the next 2 nights at Curtin Springs Station. The property is over 1 million acres in size & is predominantly run on British Breed cattle (not brahmans) serviced by Murray Grey bulls.

This afternoon you will have time for a rest before we depart for our special “Sounds of Silence” dinner and stargazing talk at a destination under the stars in the Outback of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

Accommodation: Curtin Springs Station



Day 2

Uluru & Kata Tjuta

After breakfast, we leave for Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park as we travel to Kata Tjuta (the “Olgas”) to explore and wander the mystical domes. Enjoy a moderate walk into Walpa Gorge. Morning tea before leaving for the Cultural Centre at Uluru.

We’ll have lunch before joining the coach for a base tour of the rock including Mutitjulu Waterhole and learn the many Aboriginal Dreamtime legends, mythology & significance of Uluru and its unique flora & fauna.

We complete the day mid afternoon and travel back to our accommodation. Tonight we enjoy our dinner al fresco style at Curtin Springs Station.

Accommodation: Curtin Springs Station.



Day 3

Curtin Springs – Mt Connor-Erldunda-Alice Springs

We farewell Curtin Springs Station after breakfast around 8.30am & travel east along the Lasseter Highway with a stop at Mt Connor Lookout. Continuing east we have morning tea at 10.15am at the Junction of the

Stuart & Lasseter Highway at the Erldunda Desert Oaks Resort. Our lunch stop will be around 12 noon at Stuart Well Roadhouse.



After lunch we continue north as we pass through the McDonnell Ranges arriving at Simpsons Gap around 2.15pm to stretch our legs. The gap is home to various plants and

wildlife, including the black-footed rock-wallaby. It is the site of a permanent waterhole. It is also an important spiritual place for the Arrernte people, who have inhabited the Arrernte area since before European discovery.

We leave here at 3.30pm for Alice Springs to visit Anzac Hill. This observation point gives panoramic views over the township of Alice Springs. Anzac Hill is also a Geodetic Fundamental Point for Surveyors, and levels are taken from a marker on the hill. We then check in to our accommodation for the next 2 nights. Dinner is in the Hotel's Restaurant.

Accommodation: Double Tree Hilton Hotel, Alice Springs .

Day 4

Standley Chasm – Ormiston Gorge – Glen Helen Gorge



Breakfast at leisure. We leave Alice at 8.30am & tour into the Red Earth Country where we explore part of the ancient weathered West MacDonnell Ranges.

We visit the majestic Standley Chasm with its towering walls and prehistoric cycads. We'll have morning tea here. Leaving around 10.45am we then visit Ormiston Gorge 12.15pm & take the easy walk through to the gorge admiring the glittering rock faces of the cliffs.

A BBQ lunch will be ready upon return around 1.00pm. We will then visit the Glen Helen Gorge.

There is an opportunity for those who may wish to have a helicopter flight over the gorges.

We return 3.00pm to Alice Springs, via the "Twin Ghost Gum" an inspiration for Namatjira's painting and stop at "Flynn of the Inland's" grave, a monument to his life and work in creating the "Mantle of Safety" over outback Australia, to our motel for a well earned rest before dinner in the Resort's Restaurant.

Accommodation: Double Tree Hilton Hotel .

Day 5

Alice Springs-Devils Marbles -Tennant Creek

We say farewell to Alice as we follow the Stuart Highway north towards the Top End with morning tea at the Aileron Roadhouse, home of the striking giant figure of the 'Anmatjere Man' - a sculpture by Mark Egan that stands at 17m high and weighs a massive 8 tonnes! There is also a collection of original Albert Namatjira watercolour paintings – one of the most famous Aboriginal Artists from the Northern Territory. A stop at the Stuart Memorial before lunch at the Barrow Creek Hotel around 12.30pm.

Next we explore the mysterious Devils Marbles. The Reserve is a protected area & is of great cultural and spiritual significance to the Aboriginal traditional owners of the land. Karlu Karlu is the local Aboriginal term that translates as 'round boulders' and refers to the large boulders found mainly in the western side of the reserve. The English name for the boulders derives from a quote by John Ross during the 1870 Australian Overland Telegraph Line expedition, where he said "This is the Devil's country" he's even emptied his bag of marbles around the place.



We leave here around 3.30pm arriving at our overnight accommodation at 4.30pm in Tennant Creek. Dinner is in the Motels Restaurant.

Accommodation: Bluestone Motor Inn

Day 6

Tennant Creek - Mataranka



An early departure after breakfast as we head north with a stop at John Flynn's Memorial at the "Three Ways". Morning tea stop at Renner Springs where it owes its origins to the Australian Overland Telegraph Line. It was named after Dr. Frederick Renner, who was dispensing medical advice to the team working on the telegraph line in 1872.

Leaving here for the famous Daly Waters Hotel for our lunch stop around 1.00pm. The Daly Waters Pub, which is decorated throughout with banknotes and other memorabilia left by visitors from every corner of the globe was licensed back in 1938 to service passengers and crew from the nearby airfield.

After lunch continuing north through the town of Larrimah. The town was officially established in 1940 as the rail terminus of the North Australia Railway from Darwin. It became the site of an army transit camp. The railway transported troops and materials to and from the northern Australia war zone and was a vital link with Darwin for those living in remote communities. Larrimah became a military town and the transfer point for army personnel and supplies. In 1942, a repeater station was built from two Sydney Williams huts to provide direct communications with other sites including Tennant Creek and Newcastle Waters.

We reach our overnight accommodation at Mataranka Springs Homestead around 4pm.



After checking in you may wish to venture down to the Hot Springs Thermal Pools (approx 34 degrees all year round) for a swim before Dinner.

Accommodation: Mataranka Homestead.

Day 7

Mataranka- Katherine Gorge- Batchelor

Breakfast at 7.00am as we depart here at 8.00am for Katherine Gorge in Nitmiluk National Park. This morning we will enjoy a 2 hour Gorge Cruise as we see the mist rising above the smooth water's surface, hear the wildlife stirring from the night and breathe the crisp clean air. The cruise will allow passengers to discover the unspoiled beauty of the morning – a truly memorable start to the day and a photographer's dream as our guide will provide informative commentary on the extensive flora and wildlife in the fascinating gorges.



On return we lunch in the Café (at your own expense). We depart at 1.15pm for another stop at Pine Creek around 2.40pm for a stretch of the legs. Pine Creek is one of the oldest towns in the Northern Territory and it is named for the pine trees that once grew by the creek in the centre of the town and although it was originally and officially called Playford, it was never known by this name and it was officially changed to Pine Creek on 20 September 1973.

We leave here for the Adelaide River War Cemetery which was created for the burial of servicemen and women who died in this area of Northern Australia during World War II. The cemetery was opened in February 1942 in the immediate aftermath of the first Japanese air raids on Darwin. We arrive at our accommodation in Batchelor for the next 2 nights (main town next to The Litchfield National Park) around 5.00pm. The town was also known as Rum Jungle in its early days when Uranium was discovered & mining started operating in the 1960's.

Accommodation: Litchfield Outback Resort.

Day 8

Litchfield National Park

Today we discover the beauty of Litchfield National Park, a huge sandstone plateau where cascading waterfalls descend into crystal-clear rock pools. First up we will visit the Cathedral Termite Mounds that stand about 4 metres high and can be around 100 years old. They're unique to the Northern parts of Australia particularly in the Litchfield National Park. Boasting thin edges that point north to south & broad backs facing east to west they minimize their exposure to sun in order to keep the resident termites cool inside.



We leave here with our next stop at Florence Falls, a stunning cascading waterfall offering spectacular views and a cooling pool to kick back and relax in.

We then visit Wangi Falls where there is an opportunity for a swim in this natural pool.

We will have a BBQ lunch here before leaving for Tolmer Falls, our last stop before heading back to our accommodation in Batchelor for a well earned rest.

Dinner in the Resort's restaurant.

Accommodation: Litchfield Outback Resort.

Day 9

Litchfield National Park-Darwin

Breakfast at leisure as we depart here around 9.00am for our short drive into Darwin, passing through some of the new outer suburbs of the Capital. We will arrive at the East Point Military Museum at 10.30am for morning tea followed by a self guided tour of the Museum. The museum exhibits exhibit photographs and artefacts from Darwin's history during World War II.

The museum now has a large exhibit of items from the war, including Navy, Army and Air Force items from Australian, US and other armed forces. It is set amongst concrete gun emplacements and other fortifications in an area that was one of the most heavily fortified parts of Australia during the war. At the peak around 1943, there were over 110,000 armed forces personnel based in Darwin and nearby areas. It was from Darwin that General Douglas MacArthur launched his campaign to liberate Manila and more generally to reclaim the Philippines from Japanese occupation.

We leave here for the Darwin Trailer Boat Club for lunch (at your own expense). After lunch we then head to our accommodation right in the City for the next 2 nights.

The rest of the afternoon is free as tonight we enjoy a 2.5 hour Sunset Dinner Cruise (approx 6pm - 8.30pm) enjoying Australian Seafood & local produce on Darwin Harbour.

Accommodation: Travelodge Resort Darwin.



Day 10

Darwin Touring

After a leisurely breakfast we will meet our coach for a half day City Tour visiting Fort Hill & the Harbour precinct, Government & Parliament House, Darwin Museum & Art Gallery, Cullen Bay & The George Brown Botanical Gardens.

You will have options on how to spend the afternoon in the City for further shopping or sightseeing.. Lunch is at your own expense.

Our farewell dinner tonight will be at the Resort's Restaurant.

Accommodation: Travelodge Resort Darwin.

Day 11

Homeward Bound

Breakfast at your own time this morning as we check out for Darwin Airport at 11.00am to connect with our direct flight to Sydney arriving around late afternoon.



Phone: 0414 665 747

