

11 DAY SA OUTBACK TOUR

Embark on an unforgettable expedition to discover the raw beauty of vast stretches and empty spaces. Discover the colorful communities who call this place home and delight in the wonders of the outback's starry night sky.

Thursday 12 May, 2022 – Sunday 22 May, 2022

DAY 1: Thursday 12 May 2022

BRISBANE – ADELAIDE – PORT AUGUSTA

Welcome to our 11-day tour to discover the South Australian Outback! A journey where every day is unique and offers a special insight to a different way of life. After our included flight we Arrive into Adelaide where we begin our coach journey. Leaving Adelaide we make our way across the top of Yorke Peninsula to Port Augusta, located at the top of the Spencer Gulf. Major transcontinental rail services pass through Port Augusta as do the major east/west and north/south highways. The town was once an important base for arid land explorations to the north and later a busy shipping port. We arrive Port Augusta late afternoon.

Virgin Australia flight VA1390 Brisbane to Adelaide Direct 0950/1210

Standpipe Golf Motor Inn

(Dinner in the hotel)

DAY 2: Friday 13 May 2022

PORT AUGUSTA

This morning we embark on an historical train journey aboard the **Pichi Richi Rail**. This section of rail line is the original Port Augusta to Alice Springs line which travels through the famous Pichi Richi Pass to the historic township of **Quorn**. The railway heritage is reflected in the names of some of the old hotels - The Grand Junction and the Trans Continental. After lunch we return to Port Augusta and visit the **Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens** for a guided tour. The Gardens were opened in 1996, and

provide a national focus for arid-zone ecosystem conservation and promoting its economic importance for Australia. It also aims to increase both popular and scientific understanding of the arid-zone environment as most Australians live in densely populated coastal regions and few are familiar with the unique plant and animal life which flourishes in arid Australia.

Standpipe Golf Motor Inn

(Breakfast and Dinner in the hotel, lunch in Quorn)

DAY 3: Saturday 14 May 2022

PORT AUGUSTA TO COOBER PEDY

After breakfast, depart Port Augusta and join the Stuart Highway heading north to the tiny railway settlement of Pimba then a short distance to Woomera. The town of Woomera lies just to the south of the Defence Forces Woomera Prohibited Area – which covers a massive 122,188 square kilometres. Explore this once off limits town, including a visit to the Woomera Heritage Centre where you can gain an insight into the operation of the Woomera Rocket Range. On a drive around this purpose-built town we'll also see the many rockets on display. Later, re-join the Stuart Highway and travel to Glendambo which is named after the massive sheep station located nearby. Enjoy lunch at the Glendambo Hotel before setting sights on Coober Pedy. Arrive in this outback opal mining town late afternoon and check in to our accommodation for the next two nights.

Mud Hut Motel, Coober Pedy

(Breakfast in the hotel, Lunch at the Glendambo Hotel, dinner at John's Pizza Bar & Restaurant Coober Pedy)

DAY 4: Sunday 15 May 2022

EXPLORING COOBER PEDY

Our day starts with a visit to the **Umoona Opal Mine**. Our guide will introduce to the Mine and the fascinating history of the opal industry in Coober Pedy, revealing not only the hard-physical grind and the occasional bonanza, but also an intriguing mystery at the heart of the Mine. From here we continue our sightseeing which includes the **Big Winch Lookout**, an **underground church**, the **Coober Pedy Golf Course** (the only one in the world with reciprocal rights to Saint Andrews in Scotland!). After an eye-opening morning we take a moment to have lunch before heading to **The Breakaways**, a reserve 32kms north of Coober Pedy in the afternoon. This reserve consists of colourful low hills which have broken away from the Stuart Range.

Mud Hut Motel, Coober Pedy

(Breakfast and dinner in the hotel, lunch own expense)

DAY 5: Monday 16 May 2022

COOBER PEDY TO WILLIAM CREEK

A slightly earlier start today as we take the opportunity to visit South Australia's reputed smallest settlement, **William Creek** with a population of six and a dog. This special little town was first settled in 1887 as a support station for camel drivers building the Overland Telegraph. Situated in the centre of Australia's largest cattle station, Anna Creek Station, it became a hotel in 1943 and is the closest town to Lake Eyre North and the gateway to the Simpson Desert.

During our stay here we have the opportunity (own expense) to witness the splendour of **Lake Eyre** with **Wrights Air** scenic flights. This amazing Basin covers almost one-sixth of Australia and is one of the world's largest internally draining river systems. Our plane then turns to the **Painted Hills**, an area swathed in a variety of earthy outback colours and are only accessible and visible by air. The flight will be conducted at a height low enough to experience the intricate details of the beautifully eroded shelf that once belonged to the great inland sea.

William Creek Hotel

(Breakfast and dinner in the hotel, picnic lunch supplied)

DAY 6: Tuesday 17 May 2022

WILLIAM CREEK TO MARREE

For those taking the option of the scenic flight, now's the chance to go up, up and away! Scenic Flights- Additional Cost. For those not participating enjoy some free time for a relax or a sleep in. When ready we enjoy lunch at the pub before we're on our way again – to Marree, where we settle in to our accommodation at the **Marree Hotel**.

Marree Hotel Motel

(Breakfast and dinner in the hotel, lunch William Creek Hotel)

DAY 7: Wednesday 18 May 2022

MARREE TO RAWNSLEY PARK

Say goodbye to Marree as we continue our outback adventure. We stop at **Farina**, once a thriving town that served a huge area, with mail runs reaching as far away as Innamincka and Cordillo Downs. We'll enjoy our morning tea surrounded by the ruins and bushland with time to take a wander around the old town, walk through old rooms and read the informative storyboards. Many of the sites are now named and there is an information shelter with old images. We continue to **Leigh Creek** for lunch. Leigh Creek is a modern company town on the edge of the desert built to house the workers and their families who provide the labour force for the huge Leigh Creek open cut coal mine which exists 22km north of the town. Continuing south our next two night's accommodation is in the Flinders Ranges at **Rawnsley Park Station** set below the magnificent Rawnsley Bluff. Dinner tonight will be in the Woolshed Restaurant, where the ever-changing menu makes the best of local produce, including Rawnsley's own lamb.

Rawnsley Park Station

(Breakfast and dinner at the motel, lunch in Leigh Creek)

DAY 8: Thursday 19 May 2022

THE FLINDERS RANGES

This morning a local expert joins us for an insider's tour of this stunning National Park. The **Flinders Ranges** are well known for their wild flowers but it's the dramatic gorges and spectacular peaks that are the real highlights. We enjoy a packed lunch along the way then return to Rawnsley mid-

afternoon. Wrap up warmly as late afternoon we'll drive to **Pugilist Lookout** for **Sundowners** – nibbles and drinks as we watch the sun set.

Rawnsley Park Station

(Breakfast and dinner at the motel / packed lunch supplied)

DAY 9: Friday 20 May 2022

RAWNSLEY PARK TO CLARE

Today we drive back to **Hawker** where we have time to visit **Jeff Morgans Gallery** where we not only see but experience the “**Wilpena Panorama**”. This is a 360° view as seen from St Mary's Peak, highest point of Wilpena Pound. This “endless” painting will have us mesmerised. From Hawker, we drive south through the small towns of Cradock, Omoroo and Jamestown to Bungaree. Here, at **Bungaree Station**, we enjoy a late lunch before our tour. Established in 1841, it became the headquarters of an extensive sheep station with 100,000 merino sheep by the 1880s. Today, some 140 years later, it is an efficient mixed farm run by the descendants of the original founder, G.C. Hawker. Consequently Bungaree Station is not a museum, but rather a living record of rural Australia since 1841. Our tour will be conducted with a member of the family giving us a wonderful insight to 19th century station life. The Clare Valley is just a few clicks south of Bungaree. The **Clare Country Club** is a great place as it's a boutique resort style accommodation in the heart of “the Valley”. It's a 4 star resort with an outdoor swimming pool and spa, gymnasium, sauna, billiards table, picturesque resort grounds, tennis court and licensed restaurant & bar. *(Breakfast & dinner in motel/ lunch at Bungaree)*

Clare Country Club

(Breakfast and dinner at the motel / lunch in Peterborough)

DAY 10: Saturday 21 May 2022

CLARE TO ADELAIDE

Today's touring takes us northwest to the town of **Burra** where copper was discovered in 1845. Very quickly a town developed with a community of 5000 in 1851 (Adelaide's population was 18 000 at that time). Today the whole town is on the State Heritage Register preserving its great historical value and mining heritage. A local guide will join the coach this morning to provide us with an introduction to the town's mining history. Copper from Burra's “Monster Mine” saved South Australia from bankruptcy in the 1840's. It was the largest metal mine in the country employing 1000 people. Cornish and Welsh miners flocked to Burra to work for the South Australian Mining Association and some set up homes in dugouts hewn out of the banks of the Burra Creek. Following our tour we head to the little wine growing region of **Seven Hills**. We have a pub lunch at the **Seven Hills Hotel**. After lunch we meander our way to Adelaide for our last night on tour.

Adelaide Royal Coach

Breakfast and dinner at the motel / lunch at the Seven Hills Hotel

Day 11: Sunday 22 May 2022

ADELAIDE - HOME

The South Australian Outback is truly a most enchanting place, with breathtaking scenery, intriguing history and wonderfully warm welcomes. Know that you will be returning home with everlasting memories, new friends and a true understanding what makes the South Australian outback such a

remarkable place. We make our way to Adelaide airport to join our mid-afternoon flight to Brisbane where we will meet our airport transfers.

*Virgin Australia flight VA140 Adelaide to Brisbane 1610/1905 Direct Flight
(Breakfast in the Hotel/ Lunch own arrangements and cost)*

All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions in opening times/days of some attractions, e.g. churches, wineries etc. We cannot be held responsible for any changes due to closures, inclement weather etc.

Tour Inclusions

- 10 night's motel accommodation
- 10 cooked motel breakfasts
- 8 motel dinners
- Return Airfares and Airport Transfers
- 2 Restaurant dinners Coober Pedy
- 9 included lunches – see below
- Pitchi Ritchi Rail - Port Augusta to Quorn
- Great Northern Lodge - Group lunch - homemade sausage rolls, pies & pasties, cakes & tea/coffee
- Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens - Entry and a guided tour for senior group
- Woomera Heritage & Visitor Information Centre - Senior coach group entry to heritage centre including entry to both museums & light lunch including tea/coffee
- Glendambo Roadhouse - Lunch - slice quiche, sandwich, home-made cake, tea and coffee
- Umoona Opal Mine & Museum - Seniors group guided tour including entry to mine, town tour, breakaways and morning tea
- John's Pizza Bar and Restaurant 2 x Group dinners
- William Creek Hotel Lunch
- Leigh Creek Tavern - Group lunch - soup, a slice crusty bread and a slice with tea/coffee
- Rawnsley Park Station guide
- Rawnsley Park Station - Packed lunch includes wraps, fruit, cake, drink
- Rawnsley Park Station - Sundowners per person (approx 2hrs with guide, drinks, canapes, chairs, tables)
- Jeff Morgan Art Gallery - Group Entry
- Bungaree Station - Baker's light lunch (Clare Valley lamb and rosemary pies served with salad, homemade pudding and tea/coffee)
- Burra Visitors Centre – guide - Group 1 hour guided tour
- Sevenhill Hotel - Group 2 course lunch (weekday)

<i>Costing</i>		
<i>\$4750 P/P T/S</i>	<i>\$670 Single Supplement</i>	<i>\$150 Deposit is required P/P to secure your booking</i>
<i>Bookings Close 11th March 2022</i>		<i>Final Payment Due 11th March 2022</i>
<i>Limited places Available</i>		