

13 days camping/accommodated

After fifty two years as an outback guide, operating my own safari business, this itinerary highlights my home state of South Australia (the Desert State), and offers a great variety of outback experiences. It is designed and priced for six people (private charter ** or individuals), using two 4WD vehicles, with a window seat for all. Driving hours are kept as low as possible. As in all of my itineraries, wildlife is a priority, as well as meeting outback people, in their own environment. This is a general interest journey, but like all my trips, wildlife is a major focus.

Accommodation varies from an underground motel, station accommodation (from huts to homesteads), bush pubs, to my own Flinders Ranges 'mountain hideaway'. There are two flights (optional) included, with bush pilots, and boat trips on desert rivers. Catering, both accommodated and lunches, is of the highest standard possible, with good South Australian wines in the evenings. For six person private charters, the itinerary offers a fair degree of flexibility at the requests of the group.

On 'camp outs', cosy swags, mounted on stretchers are supplied, with hot shower and camp toilets available. These will probably be your most memorable nights (for the right reasons!). Should 'private charter' groups require an 'all accommodated' trip, the itinerary can be altered to achieve this.

** Private Charter (six persons) booking have priority.

Day Prior to Charter

Clients with own transport can drive (or fly to nearby airstrip) to Rex Ellis' 'Old Murray River Camel Farm', located between Morgan and Waikerie in South Australia's Riverland, arriving by 1:30pm. Those with their own transport can travel to Port Augusta from Adelaide by air, coach, or rail. We can give advice on transport and/or accommodation.

Day 1

Ex Port Augusta to Mt Ive Station. Overnight stone unit accommodation. The colourful granite domes of the Gawler Ranges, and the most scenic of SA's large salt lakes (Lake Gairdner), and the 'organ pipe' rock formations.

Day 2

O/night camp at spectacular granite rock hole in the Great Victoria Desert (Australia's largest), Gawler Ranges, hairy-nosed wombats, Lake Everard Station, dingo-proof fence, and Great Victoria Desert.

Day 3

Great Victoria Desert camp, including the highest feature, Mt Finke.

Day 4

Old gold-mining town of Tarcoola, then station mining tracks to opal mining town of Coober Pedy. O/n underground motel (optional). Dinner in private 'dug-out', and opportunity to purchase reasonably price opal.

Day 5

Through remote semi-desert via world's largest cattle station to the tiny outback town of William Creek. Flight over a filling Lake Eyre, and the amazing 'painted desert'. Dinner and accommodation at one of the outback's most iconic pubs.

Day 6

Down the Oodnadatta Track to o/night camp in Cobbler 'Desert' on the Strzelecki Track. Overnight camp with dingoes. See artesian mound springs, 'desert sculptures', Marree & Lyndhurst.

Day 7

Up the old Strzelecki Track to o/night at the Innamincka hotel/motel. See many Innamincka features, including Aboriginal rock carvings, the Bourke & Wills Dig Tree, and boat trip on Cooper Creek (if operating).

Day 8

To the desert oasis of Coongie Lakes. O/night Innamincka hotel/motel.

Day 9

North through Sturts Stoney Desert to o/night Birdsville Pub (once owned by Rex Ellis).

Day 10

Down Birdsville Track to iconic Mungerannie Pub. Then out west to Cowarie Station. If enough water available, overnight boat trip on the Warburton River (currently flowing into Lake Eyre).

Day 11

Back to Mungerannie and down Birdsville Track to overnight camp in Cooper Creek.

Day 12

To Marree, Lyndhurst, Copley, then through the widest part of the Flinders Ranges to Arkaroola. Possible Aboriginal cultural walk (if available). Yellow-footed rock wallabies, astronomy, and o/night Arkaroola Motel. Flight over Flinders Ranges with motel owner, Doug Sprigg.

Day 13

Down the east side of the Flinders, then back through ranges to Blinman (South Australia's highest town). A unique tour of the old Blinman copper mine, and then overnight at Rex Ellis' Flinders Ranges 'hideaway' of Warragundi. O/night camp.

Day 14

Through Flinders, past Wilpena Pound to Hawker. Visit Jeff Morgan's famous gallery, and back to the Old Murray River Camel Farm.

Price: \$7,785 per person