

Australian Guided Tours

Top End and Red Centre

Operator: AAT Kings

Days: 11

Start: Darwin

Finish: Ayers Rock

Our price: Check www.experienceaustralia.com

Enquiries: Email tours@experienceaustralia.com



Overview

This highlights tour will take you to Darwin, Kakadu National Park, Katherine Gorge, Mataranka Thermal Springs, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, Kings Canyon and The Olgas. You will be well looked after by a driver and a tour director and comfortably transported in a luxury coach with 2-door access, restroom, reclining seats, and panoramic windows.

Accommodation for this **low cost escorted tour** is in twin share rooms (with private facilities) in centrally located hotels. All breakfasts and seven dinners are included in the price. Airport transfers are also included (subject to timing).

This tour also operates in the opposite direction. Please contact us for details.

Highlights

- Ancient Aboriginal rock art
- Saltwater crocodile spotting
- Yellow Water Billabong cruise
- Cruise on Katherine Gorge
- Mataranka Thermal Springs
- Battery Hill at Tennant Creek
- Karlu Karlu (Devils Marbles)
- Royal Flying Doctor Service
- Sights of Alice Springs
- Climb Kings Canyon
- Walk through Walpa Gorge
- Kata Tjuta (The Olgas)
- Sunset at Uluru (Ayers Rock)

Tour itinerary

B = Breakfast **L** = Lunch **D** = Dinner

Day 1: Arrive Darwin

On arrival in Darwin you will be transferred to your hotel. This afternoon join a city orientation tour of Darwin including Parliament House, the Chinese Temple, Fannie Bay Gaol and the Botanic Gardens. Enjoy a welcome drink and dinner with your Tour Director and travelling companions this evening. **D**

Accommodation: Travelodge Mirambeena Resort, Darwin.

Day 2: Kakadu National Park

We depart Darwin and travel deep into Kakadu National Park. We visit Ubirr and view Aboriginal rock art dating back some 20,000 years. **B D**

Accommodation: Aurora Kakadu, South Alligator, 2 nights.

Day 3: Kakadu National Park

Our first stop is at Nourlangie Rock where we view ancient Aboriginal rock art. We travel on to the Bowali Visitor Centre. The displays here will take you on a journey through Kakadu's varied habitats and landscapes. Join an afternoon cruise on the famous Yellow Water Billabong. See a variety of birdlife and with luck we may also see the feared estuarine crocodile basking in the muddy shallows. There is time for an optional scenic flight over the Kakadu wetlands this afternoon. **B D**

Day 4: Kakadu – Katherine

Departing Kakadu we travel south through the town of Pine Creek to Katherine, where we cruise through Katherine Gorge as it winds its way through Nitmiluk National Park. **B D**

Accommodation: Knotts Crossing Resort Motel, Katherine.

Day 5: Mataranka Thermal Springs

We stop at Mataranka where there is time for a dip in the thermal springs, which maintain a constant temperature of 34-35°C. We have the opportunity to mix with the locals at the historic Daly Creek Hotel. This afternoon enjoy a tour of the historic gold mining precinct of Battery Hill. Join a local guide on an underground mine tour and experience the life of an early miner. **B D**

Accommodation: Bluestone Motor Inn, Tennant Creek.

Day 6: Tennant Creek - Alice Springs

As we travel south there is time for a walk around the precariously balanced Karlu Karlu (Devils Marbles) that have been worn smooth by the harsh elements of nature over many thousands of years. Later this afternoon we cross the Tropic of Capricorn and arrive in 'The Alice'. **B D**

Accommodation: All Seasons Oasis, Alice Springs, 2 nights.

Day 7: Alice Springs 'Free Time'

You have the day free to relax or explore Alice Springs. You may wish to join an optional 4WD Safari to Palm Valley. You'll travel through the West MacDonnell Ranges to Hermannsburg, renowned for its Aboriginal art collection and then to Palm Valley to see rock formations, white sands and an oasis of rock pools and palm trees. Or perhaps visit the Alice Springs Desert Park and learn about Australia's unique desert marsupials and reptiles. **B**

Day 8: Kings Canyon Resort

This morning we'll tour the sights of 'The Alice' including the School of the Air, which provides an educational service for children living in remote areas. Stop at the historic Telegraph Station and the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Learn how this marvellous facility operates to provide a 'mantle of safety' to the people of the outback. Conclude with a panoramic view of Alice Springs and the surrounding ranges from the top of Anzac Hill. Later we depart for Kings Canyon. **B D**

Accommodation: Kings Canyon Resort, Kings Canyon.

Day 9: Kings Canyon - Ayers Rock (Uluru)

In the cool of the morning you can make the rocky climb with your Guide to the rim of Kings Canyon to be rewarded with breathtaking views of Watarrka National Park. The climb may take up to three hours and is recommended for those with a good level of fitness. Alternatively, you may wish to explore the boulder-strewn canyon floor, an easier walk. The sheer red rock face of the canyon soars over 100 metres above lush palm forests, sheltering them from the surrounding desert conditions. The park is a conservation area whose rock holes and gorges provide refuge for over 600 species of plants and many native animals. While the Luritja Aboriginal people have called the area their home for over 20,000 years, it was little known to Europeans until recently. This evening enjoy complimentary wine and nibbles as we watch the sunset change the colours of Uluru (Ayers Rock). **B**

Accommodation: Outback Pioneer Hotel, Ayers Rock Resort, 2 nights.

Day 10: Kata Tjuta (the Olgas)

Early this morning you may wish to join a tour to view sunrise at Uluru. Later travel through the desert plains to Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) to see these massive 36 domes of red conglomerate rock. Continue on to the base of Walpa Gorge. The walking trail through the gorge follows the natural creek bed between two of the tallest domes of Kata Tjuta. Marvel at the unique flora and fauna that has survived in this harsh environment. Then take in a magnificent outback sunset at Kata Tjuta while enjoying a complimentary glass of sparkling wine. **B**

Day 11: Depart Ayers Rock

Your tour concludes this morning after breakfast. You will be transferred to Ayers Rock Airport to connect with your onward flight. **B**

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