



From  
**\$8,822** USD

Single Room  
 \$10,170 USD

Twin Room  
 \$8,822 USD

Prices valid until  
 30th December 2023

**18 days**

Duration

**South Australia**

Destination

**Level 2 - Moderate**

Activity

# Small group tour of Australia's Flinders ranges

Oct 01 2023 to Oct 18 2023

## Small group tour of the Oodnadatta track and Flinders Ranges.

Small group Flinders ranges tours including the Oodnadatta track now extended to 19 days to include Marla, Mt Dare, Dalhousie springs and then the entire length of Oodnadatta track, including 2 nights in Oodnadatta.

Odyssey Traveller is pleased to announce our small group Outback



Small group tour of Australia's Flinders ranges

<https://www.odysseytraveller.com.au>

23-Sep-2023

Australia tours of the Flinders Ranges, South Australia. Our Outback Australia tours of the Flinders Ranges are a eighteen-day outback Odyssey, starting and finishing in the city of Adelaide. We take you on a small group outback tour with a maximum of 15 travellers, through the rugged, weathered peaks and rocky gorges of the Flinders Ranges in outback South Australia. Some of the most dramatic spectacular scenery and beautiful landscapes in all of Australia with an amazing sunset often at the end of each day. Fortunately, the majority of this lies within South Australia 's magnificent Ikara Flinders ranges, extensive and acclaimed National Park networks, providing easy access to the outback by day tour, our article that covers things to do in Ikara Flinders ranges will assist with your tour planning.

***This, like all Odyssey Traveller small group tours is limited to 15 people.***

This outback adventure takes you to the well-known sights along the Oodnadatta track including Curdiminka and Farina in such an arid land as well as a in-depth tour of the majestic Flinders ranges – Wilpena Pound and Flinders Ranges National Park – but also to lesser-known gems, including Brachina Gorge, Parachilna Gorge, Bunyeroo Gorge, which we see and explore on a collection of day trips through the the majestic Flinders ranges regions. Our small group Australian Outback Flinders Ranges tours allows you to see and explore an ancient flinders ranges landscape which is more than 600 million years old. We learn about the Aboriginal culture and history, dating back 60,000 years, and reflect on the history of European settlement in the 18th and 19th centuries along the way at Oodnadatta, William Creek, Marree where the Birdsville track ends as well as the ghost towns of Curdimurka and Farina where the legendary stockman Stanley Kidman brought his cattle out from the Channel country. We also see not just a diversity of natural wildlife but abundant wildlife all in their natural habitat including the yellow footed rock wallaby in South Australia's extraordinary vast ancient landscape of the Australian outback.

Leaving Adelaide, our escorted tour into the outback first explores Port Augusta, stopping briefly in Port Wakefield, a historic port that extracted copper ore and livestock in the Victorian era. Port Augusta is regarded as the crossroads of Australia, where rail, road, and sea intersect and is

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the gateway to the Flinders Ranges. Before we head deep into the Australian outback, we spend time at the 250-hectare Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden to prepare ourselves for our Flinders journey by understanding with our tour guide the natural habitats of the Australian outback.

On a road trip through the outback, the times between destinations are typically large – so it's good to have some understanding to make the most out of the many extraordinary landscape settings you will see from our bus. Hopefully, through our time in Port Augusta, we will have set the scene for our two-hour trip to Woomera, and four-hour trip to the opal mining settlement of Coober Pedy on the third day of our tour.

## Journey into the Australian outback

After Port Augusta, this trip spends two nights in Coober Pedy as part of our trip through the outback. Described by writers in the British Telegraph as the 'world's strangest town', Coober Pedy is a fascinating place where half the town's residents live under the earth. Built around opal mining, the town's residents dealt with the arid climate by moving their residences underground. Today, residents can even play golf underground! Sure, the course has no grass and is played on in the dark — but it offers reciprocal golf course rights with Scotland's ancient Royal golf course at St Andrews. Coober Pedy has also been the background for many Australian films, so you may recognise the scenery! Today, Coober Pedy is a thriving town, home to some fifty different nationalities.

These Australian outback tours are where you will see the world's largest continuous construction – a 5600 km dingo fence spanning Queensland's east coast to the cliffs of the Nullarbor Plain – can be seen near Coober Pedy. It was built in order to protect sheep from dingo attack.

After a tour of Coober Pedy, during which we explore the opal mining activity that made the town famous, we visit the John McDouall Stuart Monument. Stuart (1815-1866) was the most accomplished and most famous of all Australia's inland explorers. Stuart completed the first

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European crossing of Australia from Adelaide to Van Diemen's Gulf in the Northern Territory in 1862, charting new territory and routes into the outback. His explorations eventually resulted in the building of the Adelaide- Darwin telegraph through the town of Oodnadatta, and the establishment of the main route from Port Augusta to Darwin, now known as the Stuart Highway in his honour. Despite his fame, he never made the fortune he aspired to through pastoral leases in South Australia, and returned to his native London, where he lived out his remaining days.

From Coober Pedy, we make a day tour to the Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park, which covers almost 15,000 hectares of majestic arid desert scenery. The park is home to almost 60 native flora species, including acacias, mallee and eremophila. It is also home to a variety of wildlife, including the red kangaroo, echidnas, rock wallabies, numerous bird species, and the fat-tailed Dunnart, a mouse-like marsupial. The group's tour guide and local guides share with us their knowledge of the park along the walking trail as we take a short hike in the park.

After Coober Pedy, our small group tour of the Flinders Ranges pushes North to Marla, Finke, Mt Dare and then the Oodnadatta track heading further into the Australian outback, with most sections of road being unsealed, especially between Marla and Wilpena. After two nights at Oodnadatta the small group tour travels south to William Creek and then we head to Lake Eyre (North) National Park (and yes – there is also a Lake Eyre (South)). Lake Eyre itself – known by local indigenous people as Kati Thanda – covers an area of 11,000 square km, and the surrounding National Park covers 13.5 thousand square km. A unique salt lake, the lakebed is recorded as being the lowest part of The Australian continent, 15 metres below sea level. Lake Eyre is normally dry, filling completely on average twice a century – though partial, minor fillings happen much more often. When filled completely (as happened in 1950, 1974, and 1984), the lake takes about two years to dry up again. To explore the northern part of Lake Eyre, we base ourselves in William Creek, and explore the southern part of the lake on our way to Marree. The group takes a scenic flight over Lake Eyre to understand the vast size of the lake system, putting it into perspective within the national parkland, Australian outback, as the landscape rolls away

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underneath the plane revealing the Australian river system.

Our Outback Australia tours for small groups then proceeds to the Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary and the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park. The National Park forms the traditional country of the Adnyamathanha people, and retains a cultural importance for the local Aboriginal communities. The spectacular terrain can be explored on many hiking trails leading into spectacular gorges, including Italowi Gorge, Mount McKinlay Spring, and the Weetootla Gorge, taking you deep into the heart of the rugged landscapes of the Flinders Range outback. The Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary is a privately-owned 610 square kilometre (236 square mile) wilderness sanctuary at the far northern tip of the Flinders Ranges National Park. The scenery is impressive: soaring granite peaks, deep gorges, and waterholes – and the sanctuary is one of the best places to see the rare yellow-footed rock wallaby. On our visit, we have a guided tour and understand the diversity of plants and animals observed, discussing those that are rare and endangered and their conservation within the network of Flinders Ranges National Parks.

From the Arkaroola Wilderness sanctuary, your small group tour visits the Ediacaran fossil site at Nilpena Station, and then makes the trip on to Wilpena in the Flinders Ranges National Park, stopping off at Brachina Gorge on the way.

Brachina Gorge is one of the Flinders Ranges National Park's most popular and spectacular tourist attractions. The Brachina Gorge Geological Trail is a 20-kilometre self-guided trail that passes through 130 million years of natural history. Trail signage provides an insight into past climates, the formation of the ranges, and the evolution of early life forms, making the gorge one of the highlights of the Flinders Ranges national park network.

Wilpena Pound (Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park) is our last overnight stop in the outback. Some six hundred kilometres away from Adelaide, Wilpena Pound (also known by the Adnyamathanha people's name of Ikara, meaning 'meeting place') is a truly extraordinary landscape, a natural amphitheatre of mountains. Geologists believe

that this landscape is the remains of a mountain range that was once as high as the Himalayas.

After Wilpena the small group tour of the Flinders range makes the trip to Adelaide via Hawker, Wilmington, Orroroo, and Burra. On our return to Adelaide, we enjoy a final dinner at the group's selected hotel.

**On our return journey, the group passes through mallee country.**

'Mallee woodlands' have been listed by the Australian Department of Environment and Energy as one of the 32 'Major Vegetation Groups' of Australia. Mallee country is defined by the predominance of the mallee eucalyptus, a stocky eucalyptus with several stems, which grows on semi-arid soil. Mallee country spreads in a belt across the south of Australia, centering around the Murray River in western Victoria and eastern South Australia, the Eyre Peninsula west of Adelaide, and the 'wheat belt' of Western Australia.

For European settlers, the mallee was a 'dreadful country', desolate and inhospitable, but Aboriginal Australians made a home in these areas for at least 40,000 years. In South Australia, Aboriginal people lived by the Murray River, which provided fish, meat, and plant life, including the *kumpung*, which had an number of uses, with the roots used to create a carbohydrate starch akin to flour, and the leaves to create twine, used to construct fishing nets and accessories. In more remote and arid areas, Aboriginal groups such as the Ngargad dealt with a lack of surface water by digging soaks into impervious clays that collected underground water.

For all the articles Odyssey Traveller has published for mature aged and senior travellers, click through on this link.

**Odyssey Traveller acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.**

## Articles about Australia published by Odyssey Traveller:

- [The Kimberley: A Definitive Guide](#)
- [Uncovering the Ancient History of Aboriginal Australia](#)
- [Aboriginal Land Use in the Mallee](#)
- [Understanding Aboriginal Aquaculture](#)
- [Mallee and Mulga: Two Iconic and Typically Inland Australian Plant Communities](#) (By Dr. Sandy Scott).
- [The Australian Outback: A Definitive Guide](#)

For all the articles Odyssey Traveller has published for mature aged and senior travellers, click through [on this link](#).

## External articles to assist you on your visit to the Flinders Ranges and South Australia:

- [Flinders Ranges and Outback \(South Australia tourism\)](#)
- [Essential Guide to the Flinders Ranges](#)
- [Flinders Ranges things to do: 20 reasons to visit South Australia's largest mountain range](#)
- [Guide to the Flinders Ranges](#)

## Tour Notes

- Tour itinerary is subject to be adjusted, pending local accommodation availability
- Map is indicative only

## Highlights

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1. Visit the unusual towns of Coober Pedy, Marree, Oodnadatta and Woomera.
2. See, learn and develop an understanding about Indigenous Aboriginal culture in the Flinders Ranges management.
3. Visit and explore Lake Eyre North and South.
4. Appreciate the difficulty of early British explorers venturing into the outback of the Flinders and beyond
5. Visit and learn about Wilpena pound and its geological history.

## Itinerary

### Day 1

**Locations:** Adelaide

**Overview:**

The group meets in the afternoon at the hotel for a tour briefing and group introductions. This evening there is a group welcome dinner.

**Accommodation:**

Adelaide. TBA

### Day 2

**Locations:** Port Augusta

**Overview:**

Leaving Adelaide, our escorted tour into the outback first explores [Port Augusta](#), stopping briefly in Port Wakefield, a historic port that extracted copper ore and livestock in the Victorian era.

[Port Augusta](#) is regarded as the crossroads of Australia, rail, road, and the sea intersect and is a place of importance today as it has been for almost 200 years. In the afternoon the group tours Port Augusta by



small coach.

Port Augusta is also the gateway to the Flinders Range.

**Accommodation:**

Port Augusta - TBA

**Day 3**

**Locations:** Port Augusta

**Overview:**

This morning we spend time at the 250-hectare Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden to prepare ourselves for our Flinders journey by understanding with our tour guide the natural habitats of the Australian outback that are presented in this park.

**Accommodation:**

Port Augusta - TBA

**Day 4**

**Locations:** Coober Pedy

**Overview:**

This morning we head deep into the Australian outback, to Coober Pedy. Our initial journey is a two-hour trip to [Woomera](#) where we stop and explore with a short exploratory tour. We continue on for a further four-hours to the opal mining settlement of [Coober Pedy](#). We spend two nights here.

A late afternoon tour of Coober Pedy, during which we explore the opal mining activity that made the town famous, we then visit the John McDouall Stuart Monument. Stuart (1815-1866) was the most accomplished and most famous of all Australia 's inland explorers we learn about his stories of exploration. Stuart completed the first European crossing of Australia from Adelaide to Van Diemen's Gulf in the Northern Territory in 1862, charting new territory and routes into the outback

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**Accommodation:**

Coober Pedy -TBA

**Day 5**

**Locations:** Coober Pedy

**Overview:**

From Coober Pedy, we make a day tour to the Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park, which covers almost 15,000 hectares of majestic arid desert scenery.

The park is home to almost 60 native flora species, including acacias, mallee and eremophila. It is also home to a variety of wildlife, including red kangaroo, echidnas, rock wallabies, numerous bird species, and the fat-tailed dunnart, a mouse-like marsupial. The groups tour guide and local guides share with us their knowledge of the park.

We return to Coober Pedy overnight.

**Accommodation:**

Coober Pedy - TBA

**Day 6**

**Locations:** Marla

**Overview:**

Leaving Coober Pedy in the afternoon, this small group heads north to pause at Marla.

Our journeys from here until Wilpena Pound will be mostly on unsealed roads, and depending on weather or road conditions we may need to occasionally detour from our original path to reach our next destination.

**Accommodation:**

Marla roadhouse or similar

## Day 7

**Locations:** Mt Dare

**Overview:**

Today we travel to Mt Dare. Along the way we take time to inspect the physical centre of Australia – the Lambert Centre of Australia, named in honour of Dr. Bruce Lambert, one of the nation’s top cartographers. We’ll then make a stop at the small town of Finke before we continue our journey to Mt Dare.

**Accommodation:**

Mt Dare Hotel. Possibly shared accommodation at Mt Dare.

## Day 8

**Locations:** Oodnadatta

**Overview:**

From Mt Dare this small group tour heads towards Dalhousie Springs where we stop. There are some 20 hot springs bubbling up from the Artesian basin here. The springs have been enjoyed for all sorts of reasons for centuries. From the Witjira national Park where the springs are located we carry on to join the Oodnadatta track.

We enjoy 2 nights in Oodnadatta. exploring the history and probably helping with the mail run!

**Accommodation:**

Oodnadatta Roadhouse

## Day 9

**Locations:** Oodnadatta

**Overview:**

Our second day exploring the old rail head and historic settlement as well as the possibility of helping deliver the mail. Or just relaxing in the

Pink roadhouse.

**Accommodation:**

Oodnadatta Roadhouse

**Day 10**

**Locations:** William Creek

**Overview:**

Our base overnight is William Creek.

From William Creek in the afternoon, we head to Lake Eyre (North) National Park (and yes – there is also a Lake Eyre (South)). Lake Eyre itself – known by local indigenous people as Kati Thanda – covers an area of 11, 000 square km, and the surrounding National Park covers 13.5 thousand square km.

The group takes a scenic flight over Lake Eyre to understand the vast size of the lake system, putting it into perspective within the national park and Australian outback, as the landscape rolls away underneath the plane.

**Accommodation:**

William Creek Hotel or similar

**Day 11**

**Locations:** William Creek

**Overview:**

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**Accommodation:**

William Creek Hotel or similar

## Day 12

**Locations:** Marree

**Overview:**

From William Creek we head to Lake Eyre (South) to further explore and learn about Lake Eyre. In the early afternoon we arrive in the small township of Marree.

Marree is the end of the line for the rail from Port Augusta and the long journey from channel country for the cattle driven down the Katherine track. This historic town is explored in the afternoon. We take a walk to tour the township with our guide, enjoying the stories from the towns history.

**Accommodation:**

Marree Hotel or similar

## Day 13

**Locations:** Arkaroola

**Overview:**

The small group heads from Marree to the Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary and the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park. We spend two nights in Arkaroola. On our way we pause to visit the ruins of Farine, a ghost town today.

The National Park forms the traditional country of the Adnyamathanha people, and retains a [cultural importance for the local Aboriginal communities](#) . The spectacular terrain can be explored on many hiking trails leading into spectacular gorges, including Italowi Gorge, Mount McKinlay Spring, and the Weetootla Gorge, taking you deep into the heart of the rugged landscapes of the Flinders Range outback.

We spend the afternoon learning about the wilderness sanctuary.

**Accommodation:**

Arkaroola Sanctuary or similar

## Day 14

**Locations:** Arkaroola

**Overview:**

Arkaroola wilderness sanctuary is explored by the group for a full day with a guide today. There will be a short hike to key parts of the sanctuary as we explore using our coach.

**Accommodation:**

Arkaroola wilderness sanctuary or similar

## Day 15

**Locations:** Wilpena

**Overview:**

From the Arkaroola Wilderness sanctuary, this small group tour visits the Ediacaran fossil site at Nilpena Station.

The small group continues towards Wilpena. Stopping off at Brachina Gorge on the way to Wilpena. Brachina Gorge is one of the Flinders Range National Park 's most popular and spectacular tourist attractions. The Brachina Gorge Geological Trail is a 20-kilometre self-guided trail that passes through 130 million years of natural history. Trail signage provides an insight into past climates, the formation of the ranges, and the evolution of early life forms, making the gorge one of the highlights of the Flinders Ranges national park network.

We continue on to Wilpena in the Flinders Ranges National Park.

**Accommodation:**

Wilpena TBA

## Day 16

**Locations:** Wilpena Pound

**Overview:**

Today we spend the day exploring Wilpena pound with a local guide.

[Wilpena Pound](#) (also known by the Adnyamathanha name of Ikara, meaning 'meeting place') is a natural amphitheatre of mountains.

Geologists believe that this landscape is the remains of a mountain range that was once as high as the Himalayas. There is an opportunity to take a private flight over Wilpena as part of the tour program.

**Accommodation:**

Wilpena- TBA

**Day 17**

**Locations:** Wilpena - Adelaide

**Overview:**

After Wilpena the small group tour of the Flinders range makes the trip to Adelaide via Hawker, Wilmington, Orroroo, and [Burra](#). We arrive in Adelaide mid afternoon or thereabouts. On our return to Adelaide, we enjoy a final dinner at the group's selected hotel.

**Accommodation:**

Adelaide-TBA

**Day 18**

**Locations:** Adelaide

**Overview:**

Tour concludes after breakfast.

## Inclusions / Exclusions

**What's included in our Tour**

- 17 nights accommodation.
- 17 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 15 dinners.
- Transport by modern and comfortable 4wd or other vehicle suitable for the highway conditions.
- Entrances and sightseeing as specified.
- Sightseeing flight over Lake Eyre.

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- Sightseeing flight over Wilpena Pound.
- Services of Tour Leader for the duration of tour.
- Detailed Preparatory Information.

#### **What's not included in our Tour**

- Return airfares to Adelaide.
- Comprehensive travel insurance.
- Items of a personal nature, such as telephone calls and laundry

#### **Level 2 - Moderate**

Participants must be able to carry their own luggage, climb and descend stairs, be in good health, mobile and able to participate in 3-5 hours of physical activity per day, the equivalent of walking/hiking up to 8 kilometres on uneven ground.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for further information about this tour or any others offered by Odyssey Travel.