



From
€5,382 EUR

Single Room

€6,163 EUR

Twin Room

€5,382 EUR

Prices valid until
 30th December 2023

18 days

Duration

South Australia

Destination

Level 3 - Moderate to
 Challenging

Activity

Small group Motorcycle tour of South Australia

Oct 01 2023 to Oct 18 2023

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

Odyssey Traveller is pleased to announce our small group Outback Australia Motorcycle tours of South Australia that includes the Oodnadatta track and the Flinders ranges. **This is for senior**



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

26-Sep-2023

motorcycle riders, typically aged 55 years and over.

Our Outback Australia tours of the Flinders Ranges are an 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 8 riders, through the rugged, weathered peaks and rocky gorges of the Flinders Ranges in outback South Australia. Some of the most dramatic 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 Flinders ranges, extensive and acclaimed National Park networks, providing easy access to the outback by day tour.

*The tour supplement for a BMW GS850 Adventure or equivalent is \$7,000 which covers the transfer of bike and riding equipment to and from Sydney to Adelaide. **This option of renting a bike for this and any other tours is available to International riders and domestic travellers.***

***This, like all Odyssey Traveller small group Motorcycle tours is limited to 8 people.** This Motorcycle tour can be offered as a private tour guided or unguided, for these enquiries please email us for details and pricings.*

You can also join this tour as a Motorbike rider on a scheduled small group tour whilst you partner/travelling companion is with the rest of the tour group in the coach. Contact us to discuss.

This outback adventure takes you to the well-known sights – Wilpena Pound and Flinders Ranges National Park – but also to lesser-known gems, including Brachina Gorge, Parachilna Gorge, Bunyerroo Gorge, which we see and explore on a collection of day trips through the Flinders regions. Our small group Australian Outback tour of the Flinders Ranges allows you to see and explore an ancient landscape 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. We also see not just a diversity of natural wildlife but abundant wildlife all in their natural

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habitat in this extraordinary 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 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

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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 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 makes its way via the Painted Desert to Oodnadatta, where we start the track heading further into the Australian outback, with most sections of road being unsealed, especially between Oodnadatta and Wilpena. After a night 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 lake bed 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

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(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 underneath the plane.

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.

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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

- The order of the itinerary is subject to change depending on local accommodation availability and road conditions.

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. Ride the length of the Oodnadatta track.
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. This afternoon we have a session including tuition about riding in the outback and on unsealed roads.

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

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: Coober Pedy

Overview:

Today is a rest day and as we prepare to travel to Oodnadatta early next day.

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:

Coober Pedy - TBA

Day 7

Locations: Oodnadatta

Overview:

Depending on the road conditions we'll detour via the Painted Desert a region that has taken over 80 million years to evolve from the time of the ancient inland sea. This area has eroded away over time, and combined with the leaching of minerals from the soil, create this magical area where colours change during the day. Oodnadatta's crossroads were once thronged with drovers, cameleers, goldminers and Aboriginal people and the outpost became a rollicking railhead when the transcontinental railway ceased its construction in 1891. Until completed in 1929, mail, freight and travellers were carried six days on camel back to Alice Springs.

Accommodation:

Pink Roadhouse

Day 8

Locations: William Creek

Overview:

In the morning we visit the Railway Museum (the museum is not staffed, but a key is available at the Pink Roadhouse). The museum contains a series of interesting photographs chronicling the history of the town, local Aboriginal artefacts, an exhibit of the role of Oodnadatta in the history of the Australian Inland Mission and much more. You and your Leader can then decide if you will stay around Oodnadatta for a bit longer people watching and resting or proceed to William Creek,

located about 200km south on the Oodnadatta track. We pause at the half-way mark in the Algebuckina region and view the Neales River and the railway bridge, the longest in South Australia spanning 578m.

Accommodation:

William Creek Hotel

Day 9**Locations:** William Creek**Overview:**

Today we'll enjoy morning scenic flight over Lake Eyre followed by free time to rest from our travels so far. We meet again in the evening for a group dinner at our hotel. The scenic flight over Lake Eyre will show us the vast size of the lake system, putting it into perspective within the national park and the Australian outback, as the landscape rolls away underneath the plane.

Accommodation:

William Creek Hotel

Day 10**Locations:** Marree**Overview:**

After breakfast we continue on to Marree, with a short trip to Curdimurka as we travel South.

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

Day 11

Locations: Parachilma

Overview:

From Marree we head south to Parachilna, with a stop at the ghost town of Farina on the way.

Accommodation:

Paraire Hotel.

Day 13

Locations: Arkaroola

Overview:

After an early breakfast we depart for Nilpena Station to explore the Ediacaran fossil site on a guided tour.

The small group heads from Parachilna to the Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary and the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park. We spend two nights in Arkaroola.

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 Wilderness Sanctuary

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.

Accommodation:

Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary

Day 15**Locations:** Wilpena**Overview:**

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.

Day 16**Locations:** Wilpena Pound**Overview:**

Today we spend the morning 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.
- Entrances and sightseeing as specified.
- Sightseeing flight over Lake Eyre.
- 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.

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- Items of a personal nature, such as telephone calls and laundry
- Motorcycle rental, GPS, suitable rider jacket and pants, helmet, gloves, boots, airbag inner jacket, Panniers X 2 plus top box or roadside assistance.

Level 3 - Moderate to Challenging

Participants must be in excellent health, extremely mobile and live an active lifestyle. Program activities may include up to 6 hours of continuous strenuous, moderate to fast paced activity per day over varied terrain.

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