



From
€13,054 EUR

Single Room
 €15,338 EUR

Twin Room
 €13,054 EUR

Prices valid until
 30th December 2023

30 days
 Duration

**New South Wales,
 Northern Territory**
 Destination

Level 2 - Moderate
 Activity

Small group tour of Eastern and Central Australia

Mar 26 2023 to Apr 24 2023

Small group tour of Eastern and Central Australia for Seniors.

Travel can be a challenge, when you leave the major cities of Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane on a trip by car or an escorted tour by coach, the sheer scale of the outback Australia begins to reveal itself as the journey unfolds. This 30 day tour across Australia seeks to introduce and further enhance the traveller appreciation of this unique land. Odyssey has prepared a small group tour that covers much of Eastern,



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27-Jan-2023

central, Southern Australia to Victoria and return to Sydney. With our other long tour programs Odyssey has sought to offer a program that is comfortable and introduces to the country allowing you should you with to explore areas of interest further at your leisure and we trust with Odyssey.

The scheduled departures are in the dry season, the days are dry and in the low 20's, the nights in the centra and the desert are cold, less than 10 degrees Celsius. But it is a reasonable climate for travel with high sunshine hours.

The scale often unrecognised on the road, when travelling through the outback, this journey is an adventure, that will run for more than a few days. A road trip that requires planning and destinations selected in advance. The scale of the outback and the hidden history can often be missed on a journey in a car. When you travel as part of a small group tour of Australia with Odyssey, your tour guide, whether on Kangaroo Island, in the Northern territory or on a day tour within Western Australia deep in the Kimberley, will be sharing stories with you about the Australian wildlife and some of world's most beautiful dreamtime stories from the indigenous Australian community as you journey through the outback at time immersed in Aboriginal culture. For you, our client, this long tour of Australia small group tour seeks to create a program of learning as you travel. That learning with your program leader is about the history, the landscapes and biodiversity and then the culture of the place. This long seniors small group tour of outback Australia provides a great platform with two departures a year.

The small group tour of outback Australia.

For the mature and senior traveller taking this touring program the itinerary is a balance of distances travelled with a break and time to explore. The program travels North, reaching Cairns on day 8 after exploring, Bourke, Longreach, Winton, Charters towers and other significant places in-between. From Cairns we move towards the Gulf of Carpentaria following the coast and the history through to Borroloola and onto to Kakadu National park and Jaibru. Transitioning over some 14 days from the Agricultural landscape of New South Wales, to the outback desert and then wet and dry tropics all resonating with deep history of Aboriginal mobs and the colonial overlay of the last 2 centuries.

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From Darwin, after Kakadu, the group goes South, following Stuart. The days and kilometres have to be long, this is the central desert! But the experiences and vision shared each day is memorable. And the mind wanders envisaging humanity in such environments an appreciation of Outback Australia should evolve. Certainly stops at side places like Newcastle Waters, Attack creek or the WWII places along the way create more time to think about what has been before our journey. Alice Springs we pause and then into South Australia to Adelaide to explore this fascinating historic city with its relationship to Britain as a source of agricultural produce. From here we travel south to Naracoorte to see the World Heritage listed Megafauna and think how these creatures may have appeared in the landscapes as a small group we have just visited. Finally we return into the agricultural landscapes of northern Victoria, New South Wales to reach the historic town of Hay for our last night and cross back in the reverse direction of the British settlers to Sydney town where the small group tour ends.

For this escorted small group tour, Odyssey and its program leader has sought to show you the traveller whether as a couple or solo traveller the diversity of landscapes and Australian history that is being appreciated in the second decade of the 21st century. The tour cannot cover all places but it should provide the stimulus to return and explore in greater detail parts of this continent seen from the road over the last 30 days on this small group tour of Outback Australia.

Travel in a business class style seat in a premium coach for a maximum of 14 travellers

The coach selected to take you on a tour of Outback Australia is a purpose built, 21 seater, complete with single row business style reclining leather chair seating, complete with USB ports, and folding dining table, wifi (when available), on board Kitchenette, complete with espresso machine and tea making facilities, microwave and fridge as well entertainment system and a on board toilet. Each traveller really does have their own semi private space to enjoy the road less travelled from. Travelling into the outback of Australia means a greater responsibility to the group, so this coach tour is also equipped with all that is required to manage all the emergency scenarios we could envisage with satellite communication, emergency flares, and winches to tow the coach out if stuck on a unsealed road should an unfortunate

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situation arise. These are small group tours of Australia within our peace of mind policy for a group of up to 14 travellers. We have selected this kneeling coach for ease of access for mature and senior travellers to get on and off the vehicle.

A truly Australian tour for mature couples and solo travellers.

This is not an adventure Australia tour but it is a history, cultural and wildlife Australia tours, a travel experience across Australia. Coach tours in Australia for seniors that track the stunning scenery.

This is a fascinating country and this collection of a discovery Australia escorted tour(s) will seek to show how its geographical isolation has allowed for an incredible biodiversity record unlike any of other place on the planet, in its Australian wildlife from the monotreme, to the Kangaroo, platypus, wombat, quokka, echidna and koala, to its plant diversity expressed in the desert. Not all our tours are wildlife Australia tours, but once tours of Australia leave the built up environment then there will be a wildlife experience at some time on your Australia vacation.

The Aborigines have been present here for some 120,000 years+. They developed not only incredible storytelling to pass on from generation to generation but had the ability to manage world's most arid continent on a sustainable basis. The Aboriginal people also represented their life and understanding through rock art and painting which we explore in the Kimberley region also on these Western Australia tours. In South Australia, Europeans made their mark in the Flinders ranges, but long after geologic processes have commenced. Wilpena Pound represents the stumps of Mountains once believed to be as tall as the Himalayas. Coober Pedy yielded opals to miners as other British settlers sought to develop Agriculture, train lines and the telegraph through the Flinders ranges.

These Australian outback small group tour programs also explore and learn about the importance of the National park network and its unique endemic biodiversity. And finally the Australian outback tours itinerary means we stop at places of importance in the European history of Australia, primarily the outback adventure that was the

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catastrophic Burke and Wills expedition out of Melbourne and the mapping work of Charles Sturt and his search for the “inland sea”. By the time this guided tour returns to Broken Hill our appreciation and understanding of this part of the central outback Australia will have been extended as a result from what we have heard from the expert custodians in Aboriginal culture in the indigenous community and local guides who have a perspective and respect for the European history of the last two centuries.

Because of the intensity of the environment that these outback Australia tours travels through, Odyssey Traveller offers just a maximum of two departures a year in the Winter and Autumn.

Articles about Australia published by Odyssey Traveller:

We visit the Stockman’s hall of fame, a escorted tour with a local guide of Longreach and a visit to the Qantas founder’s museum.

Longreach was one of the founding centres for Qantas, technically QANTAS was founded in Winton.

- [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 tour

- [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 map is indicative only. Itinerary is subject to change depending on local conditions and availability.

Highlights

1. Experience the Birdsville track to Marree.
2. Learn about the history of Broken hill and Silverton.
3. Explore the Kimberley including the Bungles.
4. Learn about the wildflowers of Southern coast of WA.
5. Spend time in Arnhem land with the local community.

Itinerary

Day 1

Locations: Sydney

Overview:

The group comes together in the late afternoon for a tour briefing and introductions.

There is a group welcome dinner this evening.

Accommodation:

Sydney - TBA (Paramatta)

Day 2-3

Locations: Bourke

Overview:

Today, we depart from Sydney very early, (hence our selection of hotel for the first night) after breakfast we head to Dubbo, via Mudgee or Orange along the Mitchell Highway via Narromine and Nyngan. In the afternoon we'll continue west to Bourke where we'll spend the next two nights.

Dinner tonight will be in a local restaurant.

Bourke today is a town with an outback spirit, on the edge of the wilderness, and with a great sense of Australian adventure in its historical, cultural, and geographic significance on the Darling river

In the morning of day three, the group spends time in Brewarrina, we stop off to see one of the world's oldest surviving man-made structures: the [Brewarrina Fish Traps](#). The Ngemba people are the custodians of the fish traps, a [complex aquaculture network](#) estimated to be over 40,000 years old. An elaborate network of rock weirs and pools form a series of complex dry-stone walls and holding ponds, stretching for around half a kilometre along the Barwon riverbed. For the Aboriginal people of western and northern New South Wales, the fish traps and surrounds are extremely significant for their spiritual, cultural, traditional and symbolic meanings. The creation of the fish traps, and the laws governing their use, helped shape the spiritual, political, social, ceremonial and trade relationships between Aboriginal groups from across the greater landscape. Brewarrina was one of the great

Aboriginal meeting places of eastern Australia.

In the afternoon we return to Bourke for a walking tour of the town to learn more about its history.

Accommodation:

The Riverside motel or similar

Day 4

Locations: Charleville

Overview:

This small group tour spends a night in Charleville. Whilst here the group have the opportunity to go star and planet gazing, take time to tour the historic town and understand the value of wool to a town like Charleville in the early 20th century period. Take a private tour of the heritage listed Hotel Corones with a rags to riches story linked to Qantas, Greek islands, Brisbane and Sydney.

This afternoon we explore the town and its history, we will visit the Charleville Historic House Museum and its building that dates back to 1887. We'll also learn more about the time the local airport became temporarily part of the USA in 1942 on a secret WWII tour. In the evening we will star gaze at the magnificent outback sky at the Charleville Cosmos Centre & Observatory. Charleville was the home to the stagecoach company Cobb and Co for many years. With the main coach building factory based in Charleville.

Accommodation:

Hotel Corones or similar

Day 5

Locations: Longreach

Overview:

We pause at Barcaldine as this small group tour continues North. Barcaldine is home to the Tree of Knowledge, which marks the birth of the labour movement in Australia . The tree grew outside the Railway Station for around 180 years until 2006, when sadly, it was poisoned by

an unknown culprit. Today, the famous tree has been preserved and placed under an award-winning structure that gives the illusion of a canopy over the Tree.

We continue onto Longreach, where we overnight. This afternoon we visit the Stockman's hall of fame, a escorted tour with a local guide of Longreach and a light show visit to the Qantas founder's museum. Longreach was one of the founding centres for Qantas, technically QANTAS was founded in Winton.

Accommodation:

Longreach TBA

Day 6 & 7

Locations: Winton

Overview:

We depart after breakfast and drive to Winton arriving late morning and begin exploring this outback town.

We visit the North Gregory Hotel, known as the 'Queen of the Outback', which has an impressive history. The first public performance of 'Waltzing Matilda' was here on April 6, 1895 (the story of which is told at the Waltzin' Matilda centre, the world's only museum dedicated to a song) and in the 1920s clandestine meetings helped launch a little airline known as QANTAS ...

During World War II, future American president Lyndon Johnson was forced to stay here in Winton, when forced to ditch his plane. The dining room – where you can enjoy a traditional outback dinner – features original etchings by acclaimed artist Daphne Mayo. Winton is also home to the red-browed pardalote, found across Queensland and the Northern Territory, and the elusive rusty grasswren, a small, long-tailed bird with reddish-brown upper parts (related to the Kalkadoon Grasswren, found in the Mt Isa region). We have a walking tour in the late afternoon to identify heritage buildings and more stories of the

history of Winton before a group meal.

Winton is also the dinosaur capital of Australia .

Accommodation:

Winton-TBA.

Day 7

Locations: Charters Towers

Overview:

From Winton we travel north-east to Charters Towers, an outback town that was established in 1871 after the discovery of a gold nugget.

Accommodation:

Charters Towers - TBA.

Day 8-9

Locations: Cairns

Overview:

The group has a tour in the morning after arriving the previous afternoon into Cairns. We stay in a central city location allowing you the afternoon to explore.

Accommodation:

Cairns Hilton or similar

Day 10

Locations: Georgetown

Overview:

Today we visit the Undalla lava tubes. A unique geologic experience created by the gases during the active period of Volcanism. We carry onto to Georgetown for the night.

Accommodation:

Georgetown - TBA

Day 11 & 12

Locations: Karumba beach

Overview:

The pace slows and the group explores this old trading post and beach. Unspoilt Australia, we take an adhoc tour of the area where we pause for two days.

Accommodation:

Karumba Beach -TBA

Day 13

Locations: Nicholson

Overview:

We depart Karumba and continue our drive west towards the Northern Territory. We have a rest stop in Nicholson for our overnight.

Accommodation:

Nicholson - TBA

Day 14

Locations: Borroloola

Overview:

We cross the border to the Northern Territory and make way to Borroloola, a remote fishing community situated on the banks of the McArthur River in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Accommodation:

Borroloola - TBA

Day 15

Locations: Katherine

Overview:

On our way to Kakadu National Park we'll stop overnight at Katherine to break up the drive.

Accommodation:

Katherine - TBA

Day 16

Locations: Jabiru, Arnhem Land

Overview:

The well laid out Territory Wildlife Park displays only Top End wildlife in its natural habitat & this affords us a chance to familiarise ourselves with the highly specialised animals of the Kakadu/Arnhem region before we get there. There is much to see and learn and this will take us the best part of a day.

We then drive out along the Arnhem Highway to Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve. Here as the sun sets, many kinds of water birds can be seen in close proximity to the road. A little over an hour will get us to the Aurora Kakadu South Alligator for evening meal.

Early river bird-watching walk, with the possibility of seeing crocodiles, then on to Jabiru via Mangarre Forest Walk, Mamukala Bird Observation Hide and Bowali Visitor Centre.

The township of Jabiru was built in 1980 to accommodate staff and families of the Ranger Uranium Mine, but is now the centre of tourism in Kakadu. The Kakadu Park HQ and Bowali Visitor Centre on the Kakadu Highway are a five minute drive from the town. There is quite a bit of wildlife to be seen around the town as a result of a prohibition on cats. The rare Partridge Pigeon can often be seen feeding along the roadsides while the Black-footed Tree-rat and Sugar Glider are also frequently seen.

This will be our introduction to the unique sandstone ecosystems that have made Kakadu famous. Many of the endemic wildlife, such as Chestnut-quilled Rock Pigeons, Banded Fruit-doves, Black Wallaroos

and Oenpelli Pythons call this escarpment country home. In addition to this, we are visiting one of the most amazing human history sites in northern Australia. We learn how the art galleries & occupation sites here bear witness to one of the world's oldest continuous cultures.

We will be driving to a valley in central Kakadu and walking 3kms to a rainforest clad stream where we will see for the first time the amazing Gondwanan Manbinik Trees *Allosyncarpia ternata*. These giants are seen nowhere else in the world, but have relatives in Malaysia, New Caledonia and South America. They are of great significance to the Bininj people, but have mystified biogeographers with their very limited distribution.

The walk takes us along an almost level, rocky track, fording creeks as we go. At the end of the walk there will be time to relax and have a swim in a series of flowing escarpment pools.

On our return, we may have time to walk (approx 1.6kms) into another famous rock art gallery at Nangaluwurr.

Accommodation:

Gagadju Crocodile Holiday Inn Hotel or similar

Day 17-18

Locations: Darwin

Overview:

Arriving in Darwin. The group has a tour on the first day then a leisure day following.

Accommodation:

Hilton Doubletree for two nights or similar

Day 19

Locations: Katherine

Overview:

We depart around lunchtime/early afternoon for Katherine. This morning the group has a organised tour with the local guide.

Accommodation:

Katherine -TBA

Day 20

Locations: Katherine

Overview:

Today we tour and explore Katherine including the Victoria River.

Accommodation:

Katherine - TBA

Day 21

Locations: Renner Springs

Overview:

It is a full day from Katherine to Renner Springs.

Two week on, the landscape continues to grow in size in front of the group as we travel further South today along the original line of the Stuart highway passing and occasionally pausing at the historic telegraph stations along our way. Time permitting we stop at places such as Newcastle waters and attack hill.

Now for the traveller, the landscapes appear to gather the views to infinity. We know where to stop for good coffee or tea, and the best place for lunch as we travel the Stuart highway.

the road house at Renner Springs for the night. Community life could be observed up close if the shearers and hands from the local stations decide tonight is the night to blow off steam at the roadhouse.

Contemporary history is on show of past travellers here, who are possibly scattered to the four winds.

Accommodation:

Renner Springs Roadhouse

Day 22-23

Locations: Alice Springs

Overview:

As well as the telegraph stations we stop at Devils Marbles and anywhere else that appeals as we travel onto

We reach Alice Springs, via Kings Canyon where we are based for up to 3 nights. Day 12 we explore the region around Alice.

Participants have the opportunity to travel on a flight to Uluru from Alice Springs or Coober Pedy to then re-join the group.

Day 23 is a rest day.

Accommodation:

Hilton Doubletree for two nights or similar

Day 24

Locations: Coober Pedy

Overview:

This morning we head further south still in the Australian outback, to Coober Pedy to the opal mining settlement. We spend a night 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 Underground Hotel or similar

Day 25

Locations: Port Augusta

Overview:

Travel down the Stuart highway to Port Augusta.

Accommodation:

Port Augusta - TBA

Day 26-27

Locations: Adelaide

Overview:

The group has 2 days in Adelaide. There are tours with knowledgeable local guides scheduled for the afternoon and following morning. The afternoon is at your leisure on day 27.

Accommodation:

Adelaide - TBA

Day 28

Locations: Naracoote

Overview:

Travel across South Australia to Naracoote.

Here we visit the Wonambi Fossil Centre at the Naracoote Caves and learn about Australia's iconic Megafauna.

Accommodation:

Naracoote - TBA

Day 29

Locations: Hay

Overview:

Today we drive across the border to NSW and continue on to the historic town of Hay, on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River the town

is one of Australia's major wool growing areas.

There is a farewell group dinner this evening.

Accommodation:

Hay - TBA

Day 30

Locations: Hay - Sydney

Overview:

After breakfast we start our last long drive and make our way back to Sydney, arriving late afternoon. The tour concludes on arrival in Sydney.

Inclusions / Exclusions

What's included in our Tour

- 29 nights accommodation.
- 29 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 18 dinners.
- Coach or other vehicle suitable for the journey.
- Entrances and sightseeing as specified.
- Services of Tour Leader for the duration of tour.
- Detailed Preparatory Information.

What's not included in our Tour

- Return transport to/from Sydney, Australia.
- 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

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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.